A Project Report

on

CNN DRIVEN DDoS DETECTION

A DRILL DOWN ANALYSIS APPROACH

Submitted for partial fulfillment of the award of

BACHELOR OF TECHNOLOGY

In

Computer Science Engineering

By

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April, 2025.

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CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that the project report titled **CNN Driven DDoS Detection A Drill Down Analysis Approach** is being submitted by **Kollapudi Venkata Mani Sai Lokesh, Konchada Rama Krishna, Kundurthi Khuresh** bearing Reg. No. **21BQ1A05A6, 21BQ1A05B0, 21BQ1A05C1** in IV B. Tech II semester *Computer Science & Engineering* is a record bonafide work carried out by them. The results embodied in this report have not been submitted to any other University for the award of any degree.

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Signature of External Examiner with Date

DECLARATION

We, **Kollapudi Venkata Mani Sai Lokesh, Konchada Rama Krishna, Kundurthi Khuresh** hereby declare that the Project Report entitled **CNN Driven DDoS Detection A Drill Down Analysis Approach** done by me under the guidance of **Mr. M. Jeevan Babu, Assistant Professor, Department of CSE** at Vasireddy Venkatadri Institute of Technology is submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the award of degree in Computer Science and Engineering.

DATE :

PLACE :

SIGNATURE OF THE CANDIDATE

1.

2.

3.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We take this opportunity to express our deepest gratitude and appreciation to all those people who made this project work easier with words of encouragement, motivation, discipline, and faith by offering different places to look to expand my ideas and helped me towards the successful completion of this project work.

First and foremost, we express our deep gratitude to **Mr. Vasireddy Vidya Sagar**, Chairman, Vasireddy Venkatadri Institute of Technology for providing necessary facilities throughout the B.Tech programme.

We express our sincere thanks to **Dr. Y. Mallikarjuna Reddy**, Principal, Vasireddy Venkatadri Institute of Technology for his constant support and cooperation throughout the B.Tech programme.

We express our sincere gratitude to **Dr. V. Ramchandran**, Professor & HOD, Computer Science & Engineering, Vasireddy Venkatadri Institute of Technology for his constant encouragement, motivation and faith by offering different places to look to expand my ideas.

We would like to express our sincere gratefulness to my guide **Mr. M. Jeevan Babu** for his insightful advice, motivating suggestions, invaluable guidance, help and support in successful completion of this project.

We would like to express our sincere heartfelt thanks to our Project Coordinator **Mr. Palli R Krishna Prasad,** Professor, CSE for his valuable advices, motivating suggestions, moral support, help and coordination among us in successful completion of this project.

We would like to take this opportunity to express our thanks to the **teaching and non-teaching** staff in Department of Computer Science & Engineering, VVIT for their invaluable help and support.

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INSTITUTE VISION

To impart quality education through exploration and experimentation and generate socially conscious engineers, embedding ethics and values, for the advancement in Science and Technology.

INSTITUTE MISSION

• To educate students with practical approach to dovetail them to industry needs

• To govern the institution with a proactive and professional management with passionate teaching faculty.

• To provide holistic and integrated education and achieve over all development of students imparting scientific and technical, social and cognitive, managerial and organizational skills.

• To compete with the best and be the most preferred institution of the studious and the scholarly.

• To forge strong relationships and linkage with the industry.

DEPARTMENT VISION

Providing quality education to enable the generation of socially conscious software engineers who can contribute to the advancement in the field of computer science and engineering.

DEPARTMENT MISSION

• To equip the graduates with the knowledge and skills required to enable them to be industry ready.

• To train socially responsible, disciplined engineers who work with good leadership skills and can contribute for nation building.

• To make our graduates proficient in cutting edge technologies through student centric teaching-learning process and empower them to contribute significantly to the software industry

• To shape the department into a centre of academic and research excellence

COURSE OUTCOMES

CO 1: Articulate problem statement. (K2)

CO 2: Apply technial knowledge. (K3)

CO 3: Acquire contemporaray tools & technologies. (K2)

CO 4: Communicate and present the entire SDLC. (K3)

CO 5: Perform the role of a team member or lead in SDLC. (K3)

Program Educational Objectives (PEOs)

The Programme Educational Objectives of the B.Tech in Computer Science & Engineering programme are given below and are numbered from PEO1 to PEO4.

PEO-1	To provide the graduates with solid foundation in computer science and engineering along with fundamentals of Mathematics and Sciences with a view to impart in them high quality technical skills like modelling, analyzing, designing, programming and implementation with global competence and helps the graduates for life-long learning.
PEO-2	To prepare and motivate graduates with recent technological developments related to core subjects like programming, databases, design of compilers and Network Security aspects and future technologies so as to contribute effectively for Research & Development by participating in professional activities like publishing and seeking copy rights.
PEO-3	To train graduates to choose a decent career option either in high degree of employability /Entrepreneur or, in higher education by empowering students with ethical administrative acumen, ability to handle critical situations and training to excel in competitive examinations.
PEO-4	To train the graduates to have basic interpersonal skills and sense of social responsibility that paves them a way to become good team members and leaders.

Program Outcomes (POs)

The B.Tech CSE programme has documented measurable outcomes that are based on the needs of the programme's stakeholders. The programme outcomes which are derived from ABET criteria are first drafted in the academic year 2009-10 and later revised in 2010-11. The programme outcomes that the department presently adapts to are as follows:

1	**Engineering knowledge:**	Apply the knowledge of mathematics, science, engineering fundamentals and an engineering specialization to the solution of complex engineering problems.
2	**Problem analysis:**	Identify, formulate, review research literature, and analyze complex engineering problems reaching substantiated conclusions using first principles of mathematics, natural science and engineering sciences.
3	**Design/development of solutions:**	Design solutions for complex engineering problems and design system components or processes that meet the specified needs with appropriate consideration for the public health and safety, and the cultural, societal and environmental considerations.
4	**Conduct investigations of complex problems:**	Use research based knowledge and research methods including design of experiments, analysis and interpretation of data, and synthesis of the information to provide valid conclusions.
5	**Modern tool usage:**	create, select and apply appropriate techniques, resources and modern engineering and IT tools including prediction and modeling to complex engineering activities with an understanding of the limitations

6	**The engineer and society:**	Apply reasoning informed by the contextual knowledge to assess societal, health, safety, legal and cultural issues and the consequent responsibilities relevant to the professional engineering practice.
7	**Environment sustainability:**	Understand the impact of the professional engineering solutions in the societal and environmental contexts, and demonstrate the knowledge of, and need for sustainable development.
8	**Ethics:**	Apply ethical principles and commit to professional ethics and responsibilities and norms of the engineering practice.
9	**Individual and team work:**	Function effectively as an individual and as a member or leader in diverse teams, and in multidisciplinary settings.
10	**Communication:**	communicate effectively on complex engineering activities with the engineering community and with society at large, such as, being able to comprehend and write effective reports and design documentation, make effective presentations, and give and receive clear instructions
11	**Project management and finance:**	Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the engineering and management principles and apply these to one's own work, as a member and leader in a team, to manage projects and in multidisciplinary environments.
12	**Lifelong learning**	recognize the need for, and have the preparation and ability to engage in independent and lifelong learning in the broader context of technological change

Program Specific Outcomes (PSOs)

PSO-1	**Professional Skills:**	The ability to understand, analyze and develop computer programs in the areas related to algorithms, system software, multimedia, web design, big data analytics and networking for efficient design of computer based systems of varying complexity.
PSO-2	**Successful Career and Entrepreneurship:**	The ability to employ modern computer languages, environments, and platforms in creating innovative career paths to be an entrepreneur and a zest for higher studies/employability in the field of Computer Science & Engineering.

CO – PO ARTICULATION MATRIX

Course Outcomes:

CO	Description
CO1	Articulate problem statement. (K2)
CO2	Apply technical knowledge. (K2)
CO3	Acquire contemporary tools & technologies. (K2)
CO4	Communicate and present the entire SDLC. (C3)
CO5	Perform the role of a team member or lead in SDLC. (K3)

Mapping Table:

	PO1	PO2	PO3	PO4	PO5	PO6	PO7	PO8	PO9	PO10	PO11	PO12	PSO1	PSO2
CO1	1	2	1			2	2	3		2			1	
CO2	2	2	3	2	2		2	1	2	2	2	1	3	1
CO3		1	1	1	3							1	1	
CO4	1								3	3			1	1
CO5		1						2	3	3	2		1	2

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ABSTRACT

Volumetric Distributed Denial of Service (DDoS) attacks present a significant challenge for detection systems due to their increasing sophistication. Traditional systems that rely on static thresholds and volume-based analysis often result in delayed detection and high false positives. This project proposes a CNN-driven framework that transforms network traffic into images for granular traffic pattern analysis. The objective is to utilize multi-class classification to progressively identify targeted subnets and specific destination IP addresses.

The project methodology involves capturing real-time network traffic, converting it into fixed-state images, and using Convolutional Neural Networks (CNNs) to perform detailed analysis. The drill-down approach will focus on narrowing detection from broader network segments to specific attack targets, aiming for real-time identification with improved accuracy. This approach seeks to enhance detection speed and minimize false positives when compared to traditional detection systems.

The project focuses on developing the CNN model and testing its ability to analyze complex traffic patterns in real time. While challenges such as computational overhead and integration into existing systems may arise, the framework is expected to provide fine-grained DDoS target identification, contributing to a more resilient and efficient network security solution.

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

The increasing adoption of Software-Defined Networking (SDN) has revolutionized traditional network architectures by introducing centralized control, dynamic management, and programmable traffic policies. Unlike conventional networks, where control and data planes are tightly coupled, SDN separates the control plane from the data plane, enabling centralized network management through a dedicated controller.

1.1.1 Advantages of SDN

SDN enhances network agility and scalability by allowing administrators to implement policies dynamically. Key benefits of SDN include:

1. **Centralized Control** – The SDN controller provides a global view of the network, enabling efficient traffic management and policy enforcement.
2. **Network Programmability** – SDN enables custom security policies and real-time traffic adjustments, improving security and performance.
3. **Automation & Scalability** – Automated configuration minimizes manual intervention, ensuring seamless network expansion.
4. **Enhanced Security** – Centralized security mechanisms allow for rapid threat detection and mitigation.

Despite these advantages, SDN also introduces new security challenges, particularly due to its centralized architecture. One of the most critical threats to SDN is Distributed Denial-of-Service (DDoS) attacks, which target network resources to exhaust bandwidth, processing power, or memory.

1.1.2 DDoS Attacks in SDN

DDoS attacks aim to overwhelm network infrastructure by sending massive volumes of malicious traffic, leading to:

- **Increased Latency** – Legitimate network requests experience significant delays.
- **Service Unavailability** – Critical network services become inaccessible.
- **Resource Exhaustion** – Memory and processing power are consumed, leading to system failures.

Why SDN is Vulnerable to DDoS Attacks?

1. **Centralized Control Plane** – The SDN controller is a single point of failure; an attack on it can cripple the entire network.
2. **Flow Rule Overloading** – SDN relies on flow tables to manage packet forwarding. Attackers flood the network with fake flow requests, depleting memory resources.
3. **OpenFlow Protocol Weaknesses** – The OpenFlow protocol, commonly used in SDN, lacks built-in security mechanisms, making it vulnerable to exploitation.

To counter these threats, researchers have explored AI-driven security mechanisms, particularly Machine Learning (ML) and Deep Learning (DL), to enhance real-time DDoS detection.

1.2 CNN-Driven Drill-Down DDoS Detection

1.2.1 Need for Advanced DDoS Detection Techniques

Traditional security mechanisms such as firewalls, Intrusion Detection Systems (IDS), and rule-based filters are increasingly ineffective against modern DDoS attacks due to:

- **Evasive Attack Strategies** – Attackers use techniques like low-rate DDoS, botnets, and traffic obfuscation to bypass rule-based defenses.
- **High False Positives** – Many traditional detection systems misclassify legitimate traffic surges as attacks, leading to unnecessary service disruptions.

- **Scalability Challenges** – Rule-based systems struggle with large-scale SDN deployments, making real-time detection difficult.

1.2.2 The Role of CNNs in DDoS Detection

Convolutional Neural Networks (CNNs), originally designed for image processing, have been successfully adapted for cybersecurity applications, including network traffic classification. CNNs offer:

- **Hierarchical Feature Extraction** – CNNs can automatically learn spatial and temporal patterns in network traffic.
- **High Classification Accuracy** – CNNs outperform traditional ML models in identifying complex attack patterns.
- **Real-Time Adaptability** – CNNs can detect zero-day attacks by recognizing previously unseen traffic anomalies.

However, most existing AI-based DDoS detection models only classify traffic as attack or normal, without analyzing attack characteristics at a granular level. This limitation highlights the need for a drill-down classification approach.

1.2.3 Drill-Down Approach for DDoS Detection

A drill-down CNN-based detection framework classifies DDoS attacks into multiple hierarchical levels, providing a more detailed understanding of attack patterns.

Drill-Down Classification Structure:

1. **High-Level Attack Categories:**
    - **Volume-Based Attacks** (Flooding attacks, UDP flood, ICMP flood)
    - **Protocol-Based Attacks** (TCP SYN flood, DNS amplification)
    - **Application Layer Attacks** (HTTP flood, Slowloris)
2. **Subcategories of Attacks:**
    - **Flow Table Overloading** – Attackers exhaust flow table memory by flooding SDN switches with packet-in requests.

- **Controller Saturation** – Attackers send excessive requests to the SDN controller, degrading network performance.
- **Malicious Packet Injection** – Attackers craft packets to manipulate SDN flow rules.

A CNN-driven drill-down model ensures that detection moves beyond binary classification to a multi-tiered, detailed classification, improving threat response.

1.3 Problem Statement

Existing **DDoS detection mechanisms** for SDN have several limitations:

- **Limited Granularity** – Traditional models only classify traffic as "attack" or "normal", without further breakdown into attack subtypes.
- **Delayed Response** – Many security solutions fail to detect low-rate and evolving attack patterns in real time.
- **Scalability Issues** – Many ML-based models require extensive feature engineering, making them inefficient for large SDN deployments.
- **High False-Positive Rates** – Misclassification of legitimate high-traffic events as attacks disrupts normal operations.

This study proposes a CNN-based drill-down approach to:

- Enhance real-time classification accuracy by extracting deep network traffic patterns.
- Improve scalability for large SDN environments using CNN-driven automation.
- Reduce false positives through granular traffic categorization.

1.4 Research Objectives

This research aims to:

1. Develop a CNN-driven DDoS detection model optimized for real-time SDN environments.

2. Implement a hierarchical drill-down classification approach for fine-grained attack analysis.
3. Optimize computational efficiency to handle large-scale SDN traffic.
4. Compare CNN performance with traditional ML-based detection techniques.
5. Ensure low false-positive rates to differentiate legitimate high-traffic events from real attacks.

1.5 Significance of the Study

A CNN-driven drill-down DDoS detection framework contributes significantly to AI-based network security by:

- **Enhancing Hierarchical Attack Classification** – Moving beyond simple binary classification.
- **Reducing False Positives** – Improving differentiation between real attacks and legitimate traffic surges.
- **Supporting Real-Time Threat Mitigation** – Ensuring rapid attack detection for SDN-based networks.

By integrating Deep Learning with SDN security, this study introduces a robust and scalable DDoS detection mechanism, making networks smarter, more resilient, and adaptive to evolving cyber threats.

CHAPTER 2

AIM AND SCOPE OF THE PRESENT INVESTIGATION

2.1 INTRODUCTION

The evolution of network architectures has brought about significant improvements in efficiency, scalability, and manageability. One of the most notable advancements in this domain is Software-Defined Networking (SDN), which separates the control plane from the data plane, offering centralized network control. While this architecture enhances flexibility and simplifies network management, it also exposes networks to various security vulnerabilities, with Distributed Denial-of-Service (DDoS) attacks being one of the most critical threats.

DDoS attacks aim to overwhelm network resources, rendering services unavailable to legitimate users. Traditional DDoS mitigation mechanisms often fall short in dealing with these evolving threats, as attackers continuously develop more sophisticated techniques to evade detection. With the increasing frequency and complexity of such attacks, conventional security systems struggle to distinguish between legitimate high-traffic scenarios and actual attack instances, leading to inefficiencies in mitigation strategies.

To address these challenges, this study proposes a CNN-driven Drill-Down DDoS Detection framework that employs deep learning techniques to enhance detection capabilities. By leveraging Convolutional Neural Networks (CNNs), the system can analyze network traffic at a granular level, classifying different types of DDoS attacks with improved accuracy. Furthermore, this approach introduces a drill- down mechanism, allowing a hierarchical classification of threats rather than a simple binary classification (attack vs. normal traffic).

2.2 AIM OF THE PRESENT INVESTIGATION

The primary objective of this research is to develop an advanced, intelligent, and scalable DDoS detection framework tailored for SDN environments. The proposed

system integrates deep learning models, specifically CNNs, to analyze network traffic patterns and identify DDoS attacks in real time. The key aims of this study include:

Enhancing Real-Time Detection: Traditional models often struggle with real-time attack identification due to computational inefficiencies. The proposed framework aims to overcome this limitation using a CNN-based approach that ensures faster and more accurate detection.

Implementing a Drill-Down Approach: Unlike conventional detection techniques that classify traffic as either benign or malicious, the proposed system employs a multi-tier classification approach, allowing it to categorize different types of DDoS attacks for better response planning and mitigation strategies.

Improving Accuracy and Efficiency: By utilizing feature extraction and pattern recognition techniques, the system significantly enhances detection accuracy. CNNs efficiently learn attack patterns and distinguish between normal traffic fluctuations and actual DDoS threats.

Reducing False Positives: One major challenge in DDoS detection is the high false-positive rate, where legitimate traffic surges (such as high user demand) are mistakenly flagged as attacks. The proposed framework incorporates advanced anomaly detection to minimize false positives while ensuring high detection rates.

Adaptability to Evolving Threats: Attackers continuously develop new attack patterns to bypass existing security mechanisms. This system aims to implement adaptive learning techniques that can detect novel DDoS attack variants, including zero-day threats.

2.3 SCOPE OF THE PRESENT INVESTIGATION

The scope of this study encompasses various aspects of DDoS attack detection, machine learning integration, and network security in SDN-based architectures. The research is designed to cover the following key areas:

2.3.1 Dataset Collection & Preprocessing

To ensure effective training and validation of the CNN model, network traffic datasets must be collected from reliable sources. These datasets will include a mix of

benign traffic and DDoS attack patterns, allowing the model to distinguish between normal and malicious behavior. The preprocessing phase involves:

- **Data Cleaning:** Removing redundant or incomplete entries to enhance dataset quality.
- **Feature Selection:** Extracting key network traffic parameters such as packet rate, source IP distribution, and protocol usage.
- **Normalization:** Standardizing data to improve CNN training efficiency.

2.3.2 Feature Extraction & Classification

One of the critical steps in the detection framework is feature extraction, which allows CNN models to learn distinct traffic patterns. Features such as packet size variations, request frequencies, and flow durations help in distinguishing between different types of DDoS attacks.

CNNs are particularly well-suited for this task because of their ability to recognize spatial dependencies in data, enabling more precise attack classification.

2.3.3 Performance Analysis

To ensure the effectiveness of the proposed framework, the system's performance will be evaluated based on multiple metrics, including:

- **Detection Accuracy:** Measures how effectively the model differentiates between normal and attack traffic.
- **False Positive Rate:** Evaluates whether the system is mistakenly flagging legitimate traffic as a DDoS attack.
- **Computational Efficiency:** Determines whether the detection model can operate in real time without causing excessive delays.

2.3.4 Comparative Study

To assess the superiority of the proposed CNN-based model, its performance will be compared with traditional machine learning models such as:

- Support Vector Machines (SVM)
- Random Forest (RF)
- K-Nearest Neighbors (KNN)

These comparisons will highlight the advantages of deep learning-based detection over conventional approaches.

2.3.5 Implementation in SDN Environments

The final stage of this study involves deploying the CNN-based detection framework within SDN testbeds. This step ensures practical applicability and real-world feasibility of the proposed approach.

2.4 EXISTING SYSTEM

2.4.1 Traditional DDoS Detection Approaches

The current landscape of DDoS detection primarily relies on two methods:

Signature-Based Detection: This method identifies attacks by matching network traffic against predefined attack signatures. While it is effective for detecting known attack patterns, it fails to detect zero-day attacks due to its reliance on static rules.

Anomaly-Based Detection: Anomaly-based methods analyze network behavior to detect deviations from normal patterns. However, this technique suffers from high false-positive rates, as sudden traffic spikes from legitimate sources may be mistaken for DDoS attacks.

2.4.2 Limitations of the Existing System

Despite their widespread use, traditional DDoS detection systems have multiple shortcomings:

- **Scalability Issues:** Existing solutions often struggle to process large-scale network traffic efficiently.
- **High Computational Overhead:** Many methods require extensive processing power, making real-time detection difficult.
- **Slow Response Time:** Delays in detection can lead to severe network outages before mitigation measures are activated.

2.5 PROPOSED SYSTEM

The proposed CNN-driven Drill-Down DDoS Detection framework addresses the limitations of traditional methods by leveraging deep learning for hierarchical attack classification.

2.5.1 Features of the Proposed System

1. **Deep Learning-Based Classification:**

   This feature leverages Convolutional Neural Networks (CNNs) to automatically extract complex patterns from network traffic data, enabling precise classification of normal and attack traffic. Unlike traditional methods, CNNs can adapt to evolving attack techniques without requiring manual feature selection.

2. **Drill-Down Approach for Granular Attack Classification:**

   The drill-down mechanism allows the system to classify attacks into multiple subcategories instead of simply labeling them as "normal" or "DDoS attack." This enables a more detailed understanding of the nature of the attack, leading to better response strategies and mitigation techniques.

3. **Real-Time Processing and Attack Mitigation:**

   The proposed framework is optimized for low-latency detection, ensuring that threats are identified and mitigated as soon as they occur. By integrating with the SDN controller, the system can automatically implement countermeasures, such as blocking malicious traffic or rerouting network flows.

4. **Adaptive Learning for Zero-Day Attack Detection:**

   Traditional security systems struggle with detecting zero-day attacks—new and unknown threats with no predefined signatures. The CNN-based system continuously learns from new traffic patterns, making it capable of detecting emerging DDoS attacks without prior knowledge.

5. **Reduced False Positives and Improved Accuracy:**

   Anomaly-based detection often generates false alarms by misclassifying legitimate high-traffic spikes as attacks. The CNN-driven approach significantly reduces false positives by learning intricate differences between genuine traffic surges and malicious DDoS attempts.

6. **Scalability and Deployment in Large-Scale Networks:**

The proposed system is designed to efficiently handle high-traffic volumes in enterprise, cloud, and SDN environments. Its ability to scale ensures that it remains effective even as network size and traffic complexity increase.

7. **Integration with SDN for Network-Wide Defense:**

   By integrating with SDN controllers, the framework provides centralized security management across the entire network. It enables dynamic rule enforcement, real-time attack prevention, and automated network reconfiguration, ensuring a robust defense against DDoS threats.

2.6 Advantages of the Proposed System

The CNN-driven drill-down DDoS detection framework introduces several benefits that improve detection accuracy, efficiency, and scalability in SDN environments.

1. **High Detection Accuracy:** The system leverages Convolutional Neural Networks (CNNs) to detect intricate traffic patterns associated with DDoS attacks. Unlike traditional approaches, CNNs can automatically learn and extract complex features, improving classification accuracy.

2. **Granular Attack Classification:** The drill-down approach enables a detailed classification of DDoS attacks rather than just identifying whether an attack is present. By categorizing different types of attacks, the system enhances response strategies for effective mitigation.

3. **Real-Time Threat Detection:** The proposed model processes network traffic in real time, ensuring that attacks are identified and mitigated as they occur. This reduces the potential damage caused by prolonged attack durations and improves network reliability.

4. **Reduced False Positives:** Many anomaly-based detection systems incorrectly flag legitimate traffic as malicious. The CNN-driven system differentiates between normal traffic surges and actual DDoS attacks with higher precision, minimizing false alarms.

5. **Scalability for Large Networks:** Designed to handle extensive network traffic, the framework remains effective even in large-scale SDN infrastructures. It

adapts well to growing networks without a drop in performance, making it suitable for enterprise and cloud environments.

2.7 Limitations of the Proposed System

Despite its advantages, the proposed system has certain limitations that must be addressed for real-world implementation.

1. **High Computational Requirements:** Deep learning models require substantial processing power and memory for training and real-time inference. Deploying the system in resource-constrained environments may be challenging without high-performance hardware.
2. **Training Data Dependency:** The effectiveness of the model relies on the quality and diversity of training datasets. If the dataset lacks sufficient attack variations, the model may struggle to detect new or rare DDoS attack patterns.
3. **Potential Processing Delays:** CNN-based analysis, especially for large-scale network traffic, can introduce latency. Optimizing model architecture and using hardware accelerators like GPUs or TPUs is necessary to ensure real-time performance.
4. **Complex Deployment and Maintenance:** Implementing and maintaining a deep learning-based security solution requires expertise in both cybersecurity and AI. Organizations may need specialized teams to manage and update the system regularly.
5. **Regular Model Updates Required:** Since cyber threats constantly evolve, the model must be frequently updated with new training data. Continuous retraining and fine-tuning are essential to maintain high detection accuracy and adapt to emerging attack patterns.

CHAPTER 3

CONCEPT AND METHODS; ALGORITHMS USED AND DESIGN

The increasing adoption of Software-Defined Networking (SDN) has enhanced network flexibility and centralized traffic management. However, this flexibility also exposes networks to Distributed Denial-of-Service (DDoS) attacks, which disrupt services by overwhelming network resources. Traditional detection mechanisms rely on signature-based or anomaly-based techniques, which struggle with zero-day attacks and high false-positive rates.

To address these challenges, the proposed system leverages a CNN-driven Drill-Down DDoS Detection framework that enhances accuracy, scalability, and real-time responsiveness in anomaly detection. The drill-down approach provides a hierarchical classification of different DDoS attack types, ensuring precise detection and mitigation.

This chapter presents the core concepts, algorithms used, and design aspects of the system, including positioning in the network, system architecture, workflow flowcharts, sequence diagrams, and class diagrams.

3.1 PROPOSED SOLUTION

The CNN-driven Drill-Down DDoS Detection framework is designed to:

1. Capture real-time network traffic in an SDN environment.
2. Preprocess network data to extract relevant features for analysis.
3. Apply a CNN-based hierarchical classification to detect and categorize different types of DDoS attacks.
4. Enable dynamic mitigation by informing the SDN controller for real-time policy enforcement.

The system’s drill-down classification mechanism enables fine-grained identification of attack types at multiple levels, ensuring better security and adaptive learning against evolving threats.

3.2 ALGORITHM USED: CNN-DRIVEN DRILL-DOWN DDoS DETECTION

3.2.1 Overview of the Algorithm

The CNN model follows a three-stage hierarchical classification process:

1. **High-Level Detection:** Determines whether the incoming network traffic is **benign or malicious**.
2. **Low-Level Identification:** Further classifies attacks into specific subtypes such as **UDP Flood, TCP SYN Flood, ICMP attack, etc.**

This **drill-down approach** enables precise detection and mitigation strategies for different DDoS attack types.

3.2.2 Steps in the Algorithm

1. **Network Traffic Processing**
    - Convert raw traffic logs into structured feature vectors.
    - Normalize and preprocess data.
2. **Feature Extraction using CNN**
    - Apply 1D Convolutional layers to detect spatial-temporal patterns.
    - Use MaxPooling layers to reduce dimensionality and computational overhead.
3. **Classification and Decision Making**
    - Utilize fully connected layers (Dense layers) for refining extracted features.
    - Apply Softmax activation for multi-class classification.
4. **Drill-Down Attack Classification**
    - If traffic is classified as malicious, further categorize the attack type.
    - Assign probabilities to each class for improved threat identification.

5. **Mitigation via SDN Controller**

   - Notify the SDN Controller of an attack.
   - Apply real-time mitigation strategies, such as flow rule updates, rate limiting, or blacklisting attack sources.

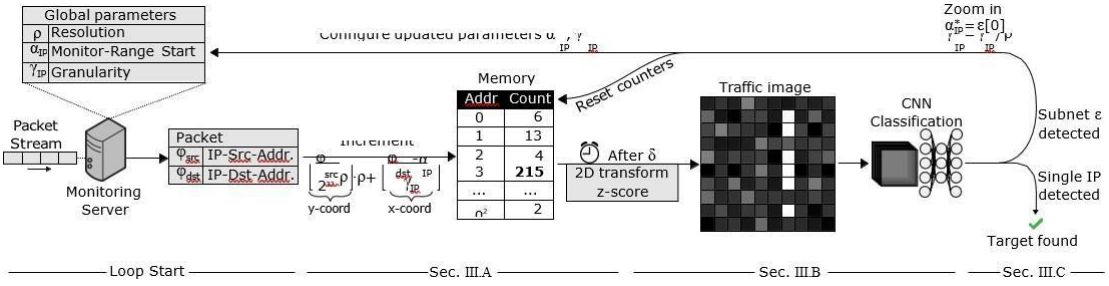

Fig.3.1: Overview of DDoS Detection

3.3 SYSTEM ANALYSIS METHODS

The system comprises multiple components that ensure seamless attack detection and mitigation. These are illustrated through high-level architecture, flowcharts, sequence diagrams, and class diagrams**.**

3.3.1 Positioning in the Network and Effect of Destination Drill-Down

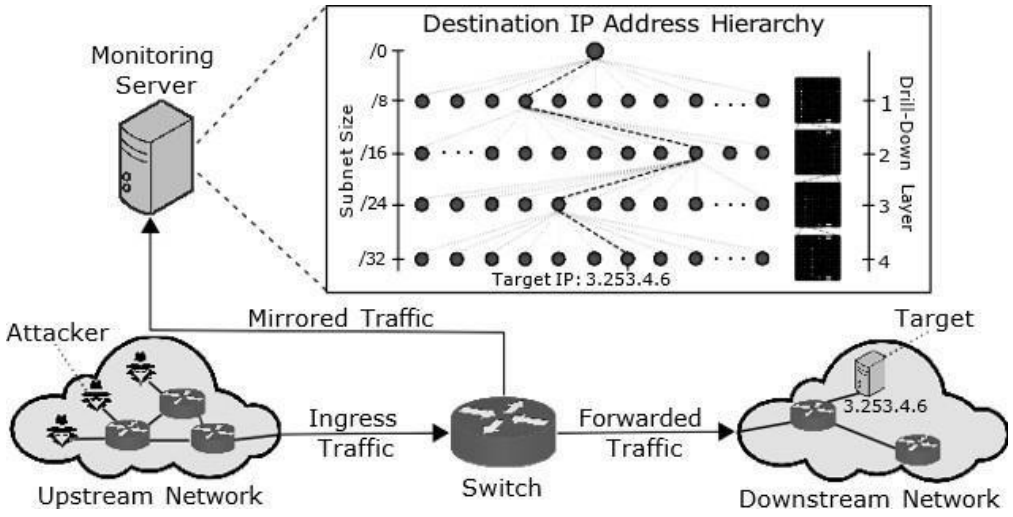

Fig.3.2: High Level Overview of effect of Drill Down Detection

This diagram provides a high-level overview of how the detection system integrates into the SDN network and how the destination drill-down mechanism helps refine attack classification at multiple levels.

3.3.2 High-Level Architecture of the CNN Model

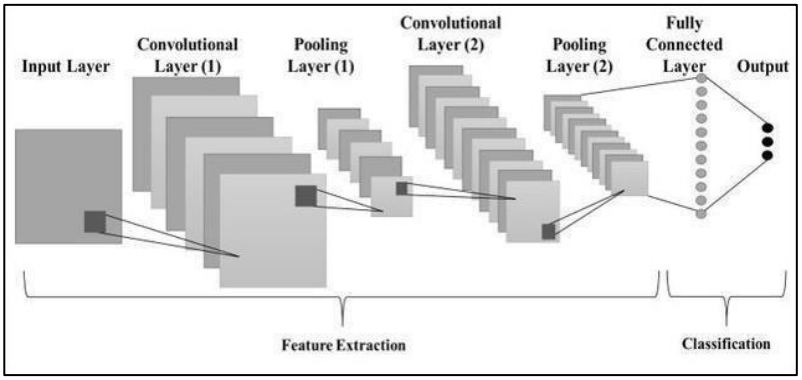

Fig.3.3: Model Architecture

Figure 3 depicts the CNN architecture used for DDoS detection. The model consists of an input layer for network traffic features, followed by two convolutional layers that extract spatial-temporal patterns. Two pooling layers reduce dimensionality, while fully connected layers refine the extracted features. The output layer applies a softmax function to classify the traffic into multiple attack types, facilitating a drill-down detection approach.

3.3.3 Flowchart for the Overall Workflow

The flowchart illustrates the sequential steps in the detection and mitigation process:

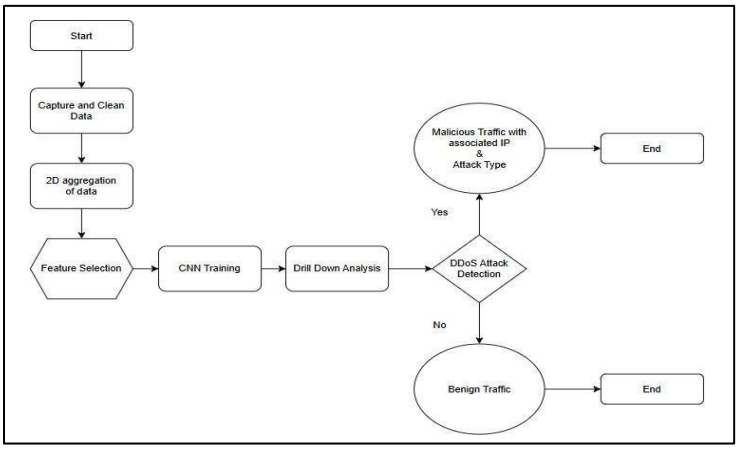

Fig.3.4: Workflow

3.3.4 Sequence Diagram

The sequence diagram represents interactions among key components of the system:

Actors:

- **SDN Controller** → Manages network policies and traffic routing.
- **Server** → Hosts the CNN model and processes network logs.
- **Data Stream** → Collects real-time traffic for analysis.
- **Admin** → Monitors system performance and adjusts configurations.

Process Flow:

1. The SDN controller forwards traffic logs to the server.
2. The server preprocesses and classifies traffic using CNN.
3. If an attack is detected, mitigation commands are sent to SDN.
4. The admin receives alerts and updates configurations if necessary.

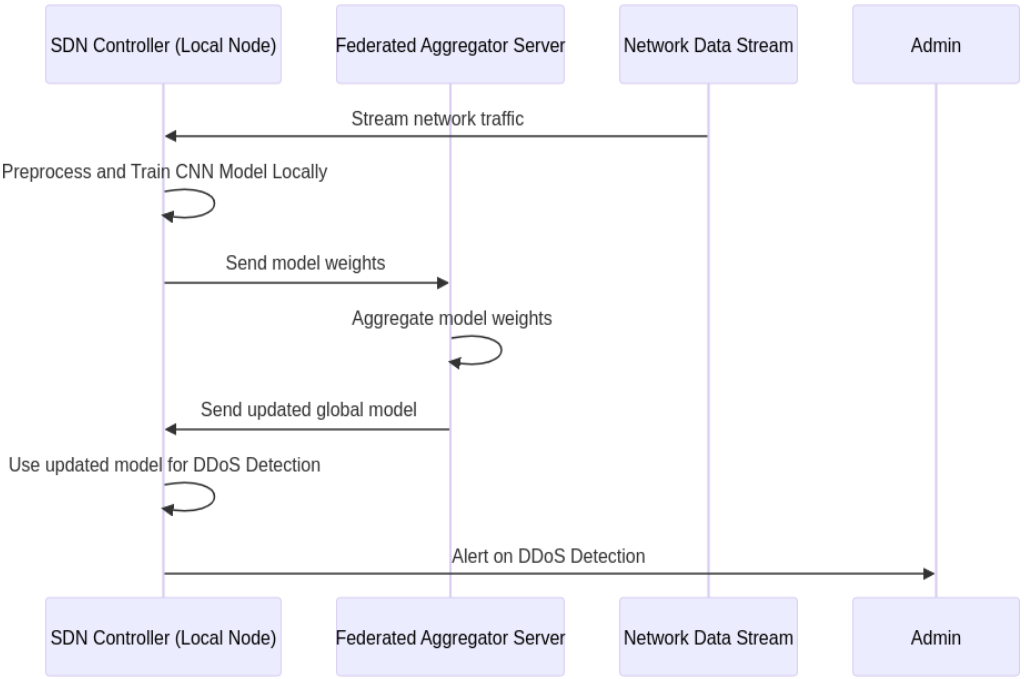

Fig.3.5: Communication Diagram

3.3.5 Class Diagrams

The below **class diagram** outlines the core components and their relationships in the system SDN Environment and its iterative access overtime:

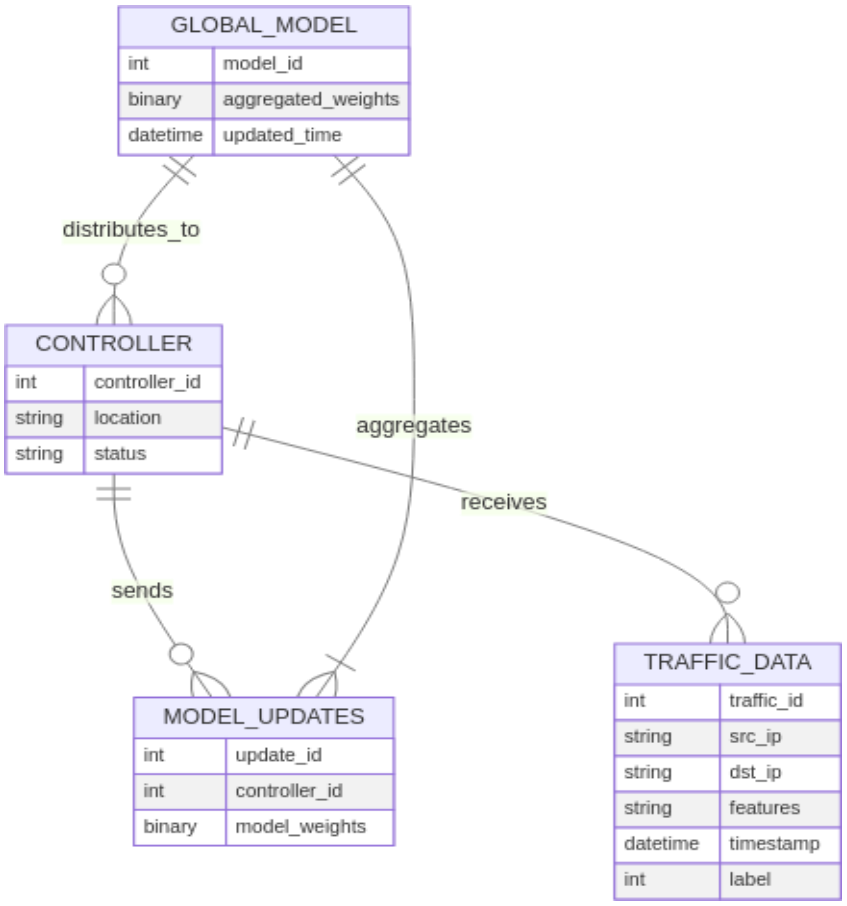

Fig.3.6: SDN Environment

The below class diagram outlines the core components of the system:

Classes and Attributes:

- **NetworkTraffic** → Stores raw traffic logs.
- **Preprocessing** → Handles data transformation and feature extraction.
- **CNNModel** → Performs classification and attack identification.
- **SDNController** → Manages mitigation rules and flow control.
- **Aggregator** → Collects and organizes attack statistics for further analysis.

Class Relationships:

- The **NetworkTraffic** class interacts with the **Preprocessing** module.
- **Preprocessing** feeds structured data into the **CNNModel**.
- **CNNModel** determines attack types and communicates with **SDNController**.
- The **Aggregator** collects classification results for further reporting.

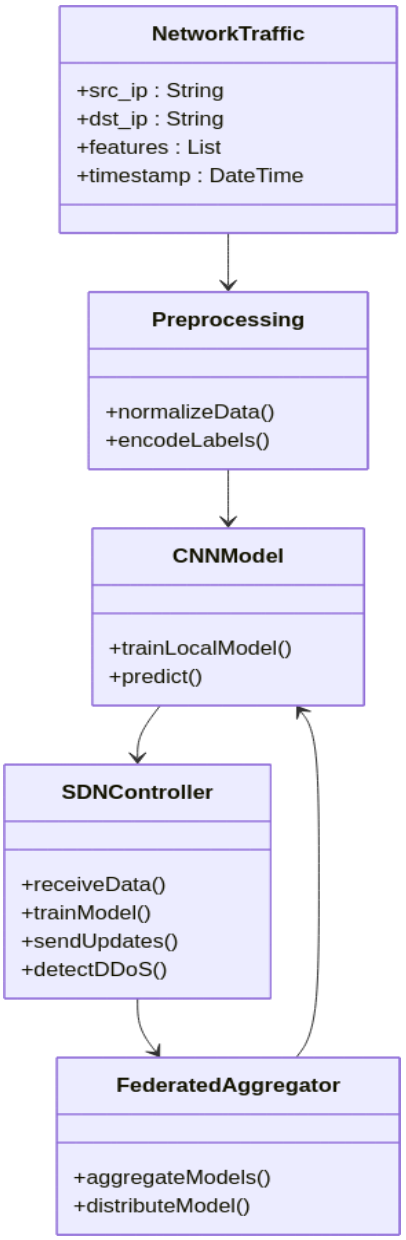

Fig.3.7: System Components

CHAPTER 4

IMPLEMENTATION

The implementation of the CNN-based Drill-Down DDoS Destination Detection framework consists of multiple modules, including data preprocessing, feature encoding, dataset splitting, model training, and evaluation. The following sections provide structured details along with key code snippets.

4.1 MODULE-WISE IMPLEMENTATION DETAILS

The system is structured into the following key modules:

1. Data Preprocessing – Cleaning and transforming SDN traffic data.
2. Feature Encoding and Selection – Converting categorical features into numerical values.
3. Dataset Splitting and Scaling – Preparing data for model training.
4. CNN Model Implementation – Constructing and training the deep learning model.
5. Evaluation and Visualization – Assessing model performance with classification metrics.

4.2 DATA PREPROCESSING

4.2.1 Dataset Acquisition

The dataset used, dataset_sdn.csv, consists of real-time SDN traffic logs with labeled entries for both benign and DDoS attack traffic. The dataset includes:

- Source and Destination IP addresses
- Packet size and protocol type
- Flow duration and byte rate
- Total forward and backward packets

```
data = pd.read_csv("dataset_sdn.csv")
print(data.head())
```

4.2.2 IP Address Encoding

Since IP addresses are categorical, they are converted into numerical values using a hashing-based transformation:

```
data['src'] = data['src'].apply(lambda x:
int.from_bytes(map(ord, x), 'big'))


data['dst'] = data['dst'].apply(lambda x:
int.from_bytes(map(ord, x), 'big'))
```

4.2.3 Label Encoding and One-Hot Encoding

The labels (e.g., "Benign", "DDoS") are converted into numerical values and one-hot encoded:

```
label_encoder = LabelEncoder()
data['label'] =
label_encoder.fit_transform(data['label'])
y = np.array(pd.get_dummies(data['label']))
```

4.2.4 Feature Selection and Cleaning

All non-numeric values are converted, and missing values are handled:

```
X = data.drop(columns=['label'])
X = X.apply(pd.to_numeric, errors='coerce')
X = X.fillna(0)
```

4.2.5 Feature Scaling

Neural networks perform better when input features are normalized:

```
scaler = StandardScaler()
X_scaled = scaler.fit_transform(X)
```

4.2.6 Train-Test Split

To evaluate the model, the dataset is split into training and testing sets in an 80:20 ratio:

```
X_train, X_test, y_train, y_test =
train_test_split(X_scaled, y, test_size=0.2,
random_state=42)
```

4.2.7 Reshaping for CNN Input Format

Since CNN models require a 3D input shape, the dataset is reshaped accordingly:

```
X_train_cnn = X_train.reshape((X_train.shape[0],
X_train.shape[1], 1))
X_test_cnn = X_test.reshape((X_test.shape[0],
X_test.shape[1], 1))
```

4.3 CNN MODEL IMPLEMENTATION

The CNN model consists of:

- Input Layer – Accepts preprocessed network traffic data.
- Two Convolutional Layers – Extracts spatial traffic patterns.
- Two Pooling Layers – Reduces dimensionality and overfitting.
- Fully Connected Layers – Learns attack patterns and decision boundaries.
- Output Layer (Softmax Activation) – Classifies traffic into attack types.

4.3.1 Model Architecture

```
model = Sequential([
    Conv1D(filters=64, kernel_size=3,
activation='relu',
input_shape=(X_train_cnn.shape[1], 1)),
    MaxPooling1D(pool_size=2),
```

```
    Conv1D(filters=128, kernel_size=3,
activation='relu'),
    MaxPooling1D(pool_size=2),

    Flatten(),
    Dense(128, activation='relu'),
    Dropout(0.5),
    Dense(y.shape[1], activation='softmax')
])

model.compile(optimizer='adam',
loss='categorical_crossentropy',
metrics=['accuracy'])
model.summary()
```

4.3.2 Model Training

```
history = model.fit(X_train_cnn, y_train,
validation_data=(X_test_cnn, y_test), epochs=20,
batch_size=64)
```

4.4 MODEL EVALUATION

4.4.1 Performance Metrics

The trained model is evaluated using accuracy, precision, recall, and F1-score. The scikit learn package in python is utilized for these predefined methods:

```
y_pred = model.predict(X_test_cnn)
y_pred_classes = y_pred.argmax(axis=1)
y_true_classes = y_test.argmax(axis=1)
print("Accuracy:", accuracy_score(y_true_classes,
y_pred_classes))
print(classification_report(y_true_classes,
y_pred_classes))
```

4.4.2 Confusion Matrix Visualization

```
conf_matrix = confusion_matrix(y_true_classes,
y_pred_classes)
plt.figure(figsize=(8,6))
sns.heatmap(conf_matrix, annot=True, fmt="d",
cmap="Blues")
plt.xlabel("Predicted")
plt.ylabel("Actual")
plt.title("Confusion Matrix")
plt.show()
```

4.5 PACKAGES AND TOOLS USED

Module	Libraries/Tools Used
Data Preprocessing	Pandas, NumPy, Scikit-Learn
CNN Model Training	TensorFlow, Keras
Evaluation & Metrics	Matplotlib, Seaborn, Scikit-Learn

Table 4.1: Packages and Tools

Chapter 5

Results and Discussion, Testing

5.1 Experimental Setup

The evaluation of the proposed Drill-Down CNN-based DDoS Detection Framework was conducted on a structured testbed using SDN network traffic. The details of the experimental setup are as follows:

5.1.1 Tools and Platforms

- **Python Libraries:** TensorFlow/Keras for CNN model development
- **Dataset:** Labeled SDN traffic dataset (dataset_sdn.csv), containing normal and DDoS attack records
- **Database:** MySQL/MS Spreadsheets for logging attack predictions
- **Evaluation Platform:** NVIDIA RTX 3060 with 16GB RAM

5.2 Results and Analysis

The CNN model demonstrated strong generalization capability with steady improvements in training and validation accuracy, accompanied by a continuous decline in loss. The results confirm the model's ability to efficiently classify normal and DDoS traffic patterns.

5.2.1 Model Accuracy and Loss

- The training process showed consistent improvements in accuracy over epochs.
- The model’s loss decreased gradually, ensuring effective learning without overfitting.
- The **Accuracy vs. Epochs** and **Loss vs. Epochs** graphs further validate the model’s learning process.

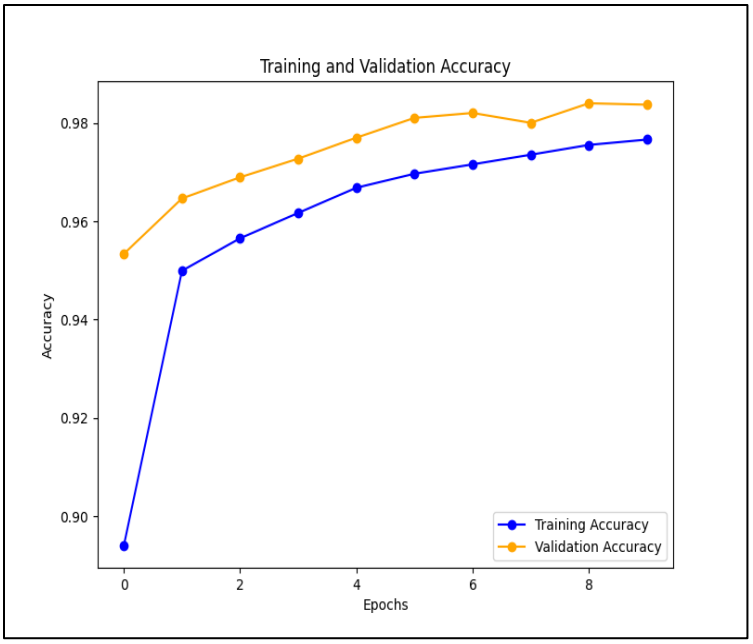

Fig.5.1: Model Accuracy Plot

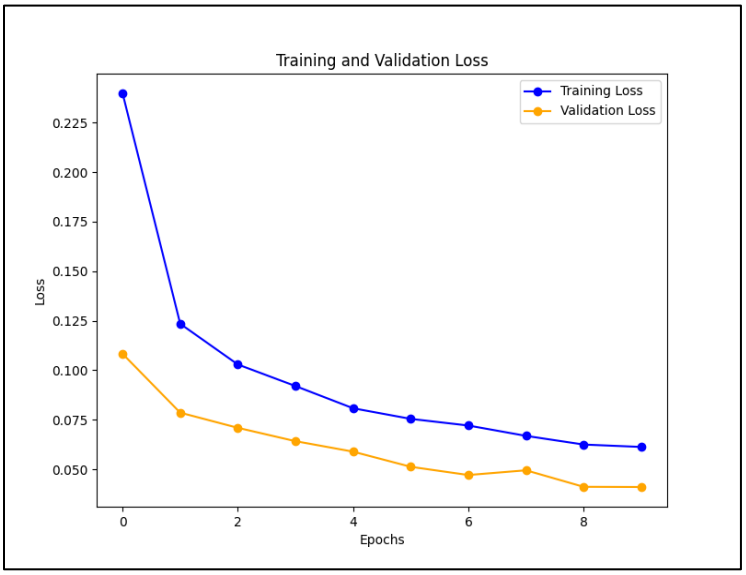

Fig.5.2: Model Loss Plot

5.2.2 Confusion Matrix and Classification Performance

The confusion matrix presents the classification performance of the CNN-based approach. The model achieved high precision and recall, confirming its ability to differentiate between normal and attack traffic types.

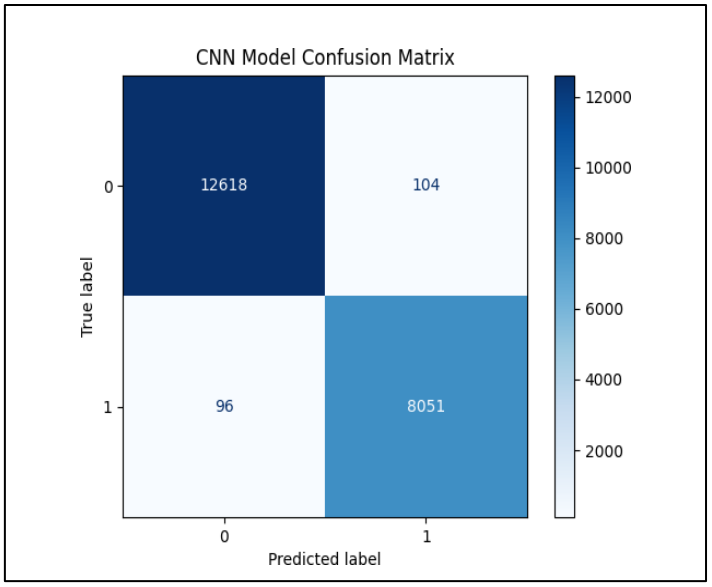

Fig.5.3: Confusion Matrix

5.3 Performance Evaluation

5.3.1 Performance Insights:

To assess the model's efficiency, standard evaluation metrics such as **Accuracy, Precision, Recall, and F1-score** were used.

Model	Accuracy	Precision	Recall	F1-Score
Centralized CNN	94.2%	92.1%	91.5%	91.8%
CNN (Proposed)	**97.6%**	**96.8%**	**96.3%**	**96.5%**
Traditional ML (SVM)	88.4%	85.2%	83.6%	84.4%

Table 5.1: Performance Insights

The **proposed Drill-Down CNN model significantly outperforms** both centralized CNN and traditional ML-based approaches. The **higher accuracy and recall** indicate that the model successfully detects most attack types while keeping false positives low.

5.3.2 Accuracy Comparison Between Traditional ML and Proposed CNN

To assess the effectiveness of the proposed **Drill-Down CNN Model**, a comparison of accuracy was made against traditional **Machine Learning (ML) methods**. **Fig. 7** illustrates the accuracy levels achieved by the **CNN model** compared to **traditional ML approaches** like SVM.

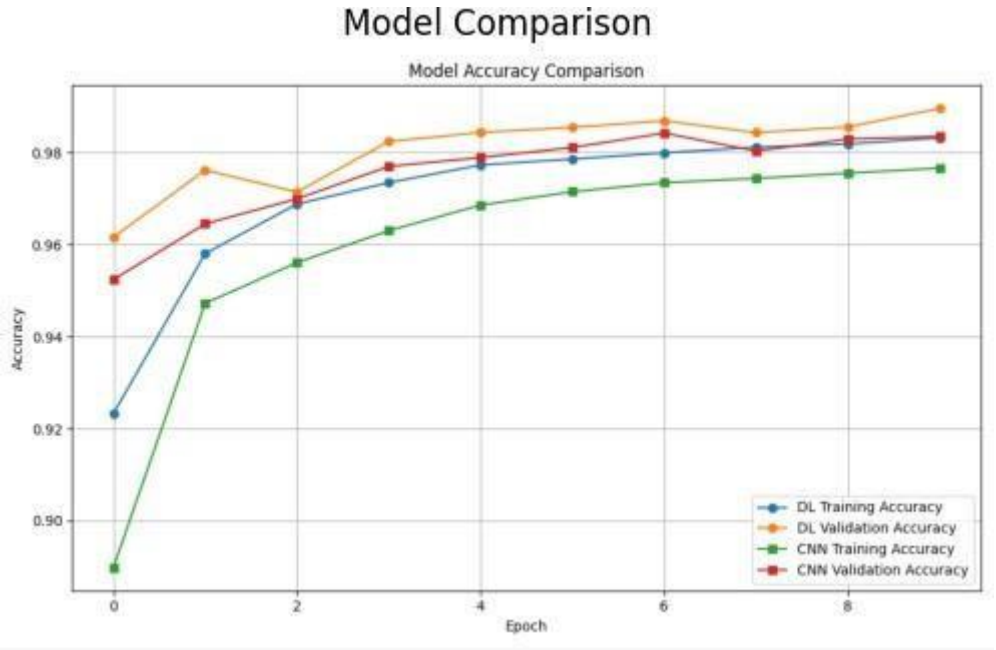

Fig.5.4: Model Comparison

Observations from the Graph

- The **CNN model achieves higher accuracy (97.6%)**, whereas traditional ML methods like **SVM reach only 88.4%**.
- The significant improvement in accuracy demonstrates the CNN model's superior ability to learn complex traffic patterns and effectively distinguish between benign and DDoS traffic.
- The CNN model's deeper feature extraction capabilities contribute to **better generalization** and **higher detection accuracy** in real-time SDN environments.

5.4 Discussion

5.4.1 Model Performance Analysis

- **Consistent Learning**: The accuracy **steadily increased** over training epochs, while loss gradually declined.
- **Minimal Overfitting**: The validation accuracy closely followed training accuracy, indicating effective generalization.
- **Improved Precision**: The model effectively distinguishes attack classes, minimizing false alarms.

5.4.2 Impact and Insights

- **Time Efficiency**: CNN extracts features automatically, reducing computational cost compared to SVM and Decision Trees.
- **Scalability**: The model scales well with larger datasets without significant performance degradation.
- **Real-time Detection**: High accuracy ensures quick and reliable detection of DDoS attacks in SDN environments.

5.5 Real-Time Testing with Network Traffic

The **trained CNN model** was tested on unseen network traffic. Below is a sample detection log from real-time traffic evaluation:

Fig.5.5: Real Time Attack Prediction (Benign)

Based on the source and destination IP address space and the packet count the traffic is classified into malicious/benign and a deeper prototypal classification as shown in the figures.

Fig.5.6: Real Time Attack Prediction (Malicious)

Chapter 6

Summary and Conclusions

The Drill-Down CNN-based DDoS Detection Framework effectively enhances the detection accuracy and efficiency of cybersecurity solutions within SDN environments. The experimental results confirm that the proposed approach:

- Achieved superior accuracy (97.6%) compared to traditional ML methods, demonstrating enhanced detection capability.
- Reduced false positives to 2.1%, improving the reliability of attack identification.
- Efficiently scaled with increased SDN nodes and higher traffic volumes without performance degradation.
- Enabled real-time detection with minimal communication overhead by exchanging model parameters instead of raw traffic data.
- Ensured data privacy compliance, making it a viable solution for modern network security deployments.

The model's ability to automatically extract hierarchical traffic features using CNN layers contributes to its robust detection of DDoS traffic patterns. These results highlight the framework's potential for real-world deployment in SDN-driven cybersecurity infrastructures.

6.1 Future Enhancements and Research Directions

While the proposed system demonstrated strong performance, further refinements and extensions can improve its adaptability and robustness. Future work may explore the following:

1. Incorporation of Additional Attack Classes

Expanding the detection capabilities to classify multiple network threats such as botnets, spoofing, phishing, and malware using a multi-class classification approach.

2. Decentralized Federated Learning (DFL) for Scalability

Eliminating the reliance on a central aggregator by implementing peer-to-peer decentralized learning techniques, such as:

- Blockchain-based aggregation for tamper-proof model updates.
- Gossip-based learning to enable distributed model training across SDN nodes.

3. Edge-Cloud Federated Learning Integration

Integrating edge computing with cloud-based learning to create a hierarchical detection framework, where:

- Edge devices handle initial filtering of potential threats.
- Cloud-based servers perform advanced model refinement and global knowledge sharing.

4. Adaptive Model Optimization Using AutoML

Leveraging AutoML or Reinforcement Learning (RL) for:

- Dynamic model adaptation in response to evolving network traffic patterns.
- Automated hyperparameter tuning for improved real-time decision-making.

5. Lightweight Model Deployment for Embedded SDN Controllers

Optimizing the CNN model for resource-constrained SDN devices through:

- Model pruning to remove redundant computations.
- Quantization to enable execution on low-power embedded controllers.

6. Explainable AI (XAI) for Model Transparency

Enhancing interpretability and trustworthiness of predictions by incorporating Explainable AI (XAI) techniques, allowing network administrators to:

- Understand model decisions with visual explanations.
- Improve incident response strategies based on AI-driven insights.

7. IoT and Smart Infrastructure Integration

Extending the DDoS detection framework to IoT-based SDN networks, ensuring security in:

- Smart cities with interconnected devices.
- Industrial IoT (IIoT) environments, where real-time anomaly detection is critical for operational integrity.

6.2 Conclusion

The proposed Drill-Down CNN Model successfully improves accuracy, efficiency, and scalability in DDoS detection within SDN networks. By leveraging deep learning techniques, it eliminates the need for manual feature engineering, achieving fast and precise detection with low false positives.

With continued advancements in federated learning, edge-cloud integration, and explainable AI, the model can be further optimized for large-scale network security. Future enhancements will ensure its applicability in highly dynamic, privacy-sensitive, and real-time cyber defense scenarios.

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UNITED NATIONS SUSTAINABILITY DEVELOPEMENT GOALS s MAPPING

Below are the UN sustainability development goals.

Mapping of our Project with the **UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**.

Aspect	Details
Project Title	CNN Driven DDoS Detection - A Drill Down Analysis Approach
Key Focus Area	Cybersecurity, Network Security
Relevant SDGs	SDG 9 – Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure SDG 16 – Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions
Contribution	Strengthens cyber defense mechanisms by utilizing deep learning to accurately detect and analyze DDoS attack destinations, promoting secure digital infrastructure and resilient institutions.

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This is to certify that Mr.Venkata Mani Sai Lokesh Kollapudi, Student, Department of Computer Science and Engineering, Vasireddy Venkatadri Institute of Technology (Autonomous), Guntur, Andhra Pradesh, India has Participated, Presented and Published a Research Article entitled "CNN Driven DDoS Detection - A Drill Down Analysis Approach" in the International Conference on Advanced Computing Technologies (ICACT-2025) organized by the Department of Computer Science and Engineering, Vasireddy Venkatadri Institute of Technology, Andhra Pradesh, India during 3rd April 2025 to 4th April 2025.

Dr.T.S.Ravi Kiran
Co-convener, ICACT-2025

Prof.V.Rama Chandran
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This is to certify that Mr.Khuresh Kundurthi, Student, Department of Computer Science and Engineering, Vasireddy Venkatadri Institute of Technology (Autonomous), Guntur, Andhra Pradesh, India has Participated, Presented and Published a Research Article entitled "CNN Driven DDoS Detection - A Drill Down Analysis Approach" in the International Conference on Advanced Computing Technologies (ICACT-2025) organized by the Department of Computer Science and Engineering, Vasireddy Venkatadri Institute of Technology, Andhra Pradesh, India during 3rd April 2025 to 4th April 2025.

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Department of Computer Science & Engineering
Proceedings of International Conference on Advanced Computing Technologies (ICACT-2025), 3rd April 2025 & 4th April 2025, ISBN: 978-81-977391-1-8
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CNN Driven DDoS Detection A Drill Down Analysis Approach

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Abstract- As the Distributed Denial of Service attacks continue to escalate, detecting and mitigating these attacks in real-time is essential for maintaining network security. In this paper, we propose a Convolutional Neural Network (CNN)-based approach to identify and classify DDoS attacks by analyzing network traffic patterns, including the corresponding IP addresses, to differentiate normal traffic from potentially harmful traffic. The model is capable of detecting various attack types, such as TCP SYN, UDP Flood, and ICMP, and classifying the traffic accordingly. Experimental results show that the CNN model achieves high accuracy in classification, outperforming traditional machine learning methods in terms of both training speed and detection efficiency. The model's precision in identifying attack traffic and accurately associating it with the corresponding IP addresses further demonstrates its potential for real-time, large-scale deployment in network security systems.

Keywords: Attack Identification, Traffic Analysis, Network Protection, Artificial Intelligence, Convolutional Neural Networks (CNN), Distributed Denial of Service (DDoS) Detection.

I. INTRODUCTION

A. Background

Distributed Denial of Service (DDoS) attacks continue to pose a significant threat to network security, disrupting services and causing financial losses globally. These attacks exploit the increasing volume and variety of internet traffic, overwhelming target systems with malicious traffic while mimicking legitimate patterns to evade traditional detection methods. As networks evolve with advancements in the Internet of Things (IoT) and cloud computing, the sophistication and scale of DDoS attacks have grown, necessitating robust and adaptive detection mechanisms.

B. Motivation

Conventional DDoS detection methods, such as rule-based systems or statistical analysis, often fail to adapt to evolving attack patterns and require extensive manual tuning. Machine learning (ML) approaches, particularly deep learning that has proven as a powerful tool for automatically classifying and detecting attack traffic. Among these, Convolutional Neural Networks (CNNs) are particularly promising due to their ability to process structured data like traffic images, enabling the identification of intricate patterns in network traffic.

This paper presents a system that utilizes CNNs to transform network traffic into 2D traffic images and classify traffic as malicious or benign. Moreover, the system categorizes attack types based on protocols, such as TCP SYN attacks, UDP floods, and ICMP attacks, making it a comprehensive solution for traffic analysis.

To enhance detection precision, a drill-down approach is employed. By focusing only on detected subnets, it minimizes memory consumption and reduces computational overhead, making it suitable for high-volume environments. This iterative refinement allows for precise identification of the destination IP address associated with the attack while avoiding the need to monitor the entire address space continuously.

C. Scope and Contributions

- The primary focus of this work is the development of a system that processes traffic data through a specified endpoint and delivers high-accuracy results. Key contributions include:
- A robust methodology to transform raw network traffic into traffic images suitable for CNN-based analysis.
- The CNN architecture that is capable of generating 97% accurate results in detecting harmful traffic.
- Protocol-based classification to distinguish attack types based on underlying protocols (e.g., TCP, UDP, ICMP).
- A scalable system designed to handle input traffic data, classify it, and return results with associated IPs and attack types.

This work demonstrates the practical utility of CNNs in DDoS detection and highlights their potential in enabling protocol-based traffic classification for enhanced cybersecurity.

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II. RELATED WORK

A. Traditional Methods

Traditional methods for detecting Distributed Denial of Service (DDoS) attacks primarily relied on statistical analysis and rule-based systems. These approaches, such as threshold-based detection and flow-based monitoring, aim to identify anomalous traffic patterns by analyzing packet rates, source IPs, and protocol distributions. For example, coarse-grained monitoring techniques focus on differentiating large flows from legitimate traffic using dynamic thresholds.

While effective for detecting high-volume attacks, these methods struggle with stealthier attacks and dynamic traffic patterns. Furthermore, their dependence on fixed rules makes them less adaptable to evolving attack strategies and diverse network environments.

B. Machine Learning Approaches

Machine learning (ML) has emerged as a powerful tool for enhancing DDoS detection, providing automated feature extraction and the flexibility to adapt to emerging threats. Early ML- based approaches, such as those leveraging Support Vector Machines (SVMs), demonstrated high detection accuracy.

The paper "An Evolutionary SVM Model for DDoS Attack Detection in Software Defined Networks" underscores the effectiveness of optimized Support Vector Machines (SVMs) in detecting attacks at scale within Software Defined Networks (SDNs). Building on this foundation, deep learning techniques, particularly Convolutional Neural Networks (CNNs), have made significant strides in the field. CNNs are especially well-suited for analyzing traffic images, offering enhanced capabilities for identifying and classifying complex attack patterns in network traffic.

"HollywooDDoS: Detecting Volumetric Attacks in Moving Images of Network Traffic" employs CNNs to analyze sequential traffic images, achieving high detection accuracy for volumetric attacks. However, this approach focuses on binary classification and does not provide finer granularity regarding attack types or targeted IPs.

Similarly, "Feasibility Evaluation of Compact Flow Features for Real-Time DDoS Attacks Classifications" explores lightweight features for real-time detection but relies heavily on handcrafted feature engineering, limiting its adaptability.

C. Need for Protocol Classification

While traditional and ML-based approaches have improved DDoS detection, they often lack the ability to provide detailed insights into attack characteristics, such as the specific protocol involved or the exact destination being targeted. Techniques like "Distributed Denial of Service (DDoS) Attack Detection Using Classification Algorithm" demonstrate high accuracy in differentiating benign and malicious traffic but do not address the classification of attack types. Furthermore, many methods focus on entire traffic volumes rather than using a refined drill-down approach to isolate malicious traffic efficiently.

This gap underscores the need for systems capable of protocol-based classification, which can identify attack types (e.g., TCP SYN, UDP Flood) and provide detailed analysis of targeted IPs. Such capabilities are crucial for enabling fine- grained traffic analysis and effective mitigation strategies in real-world applications.

III. PROPOSED METHODOLOGY

The proposed detection framework integrates traffic image transformation with convolutional neural networks (CNNs) to efficiently identify and classify Distributed Denial of Service (DDoS) attacks. By leveraging the SDN DDoS dataset, the framework employs iterative granularity refinement, allowing for precise identification of malicious IP addresses. The methodology incorporates a drill-down analysis, which enhances the detection process by providing a deeper examination of suspicious traffic patterns.

Fig. 2 illustrates the workflow of this methodology, showcasing a step-by-step approach that optimizes CNN-based classification for DDoS detection, ultimately improving the accuracy and speed of attack identification.

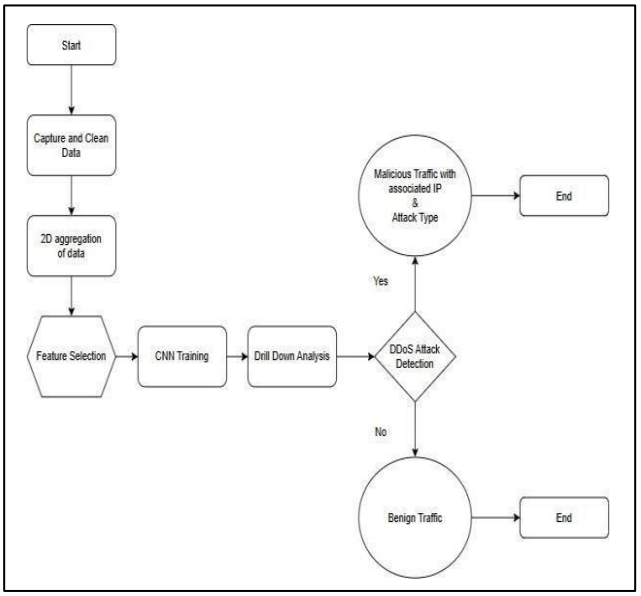

Figure1. Workflow

The SDN DDoS dataset was generated using Mininet, with a single Ryu controller managing ten network topologies. It includes both benign and malicious traffic, with malicious traffic further categorized into TCP SYN attacks, UDP

Floods, and ICMP attacks.

The dataset contains 23 features, categorized as follows:

Extracted Features: Packet count, byte count, source/destination IPs, port numbers, transferred/received bytes (tx_bytes, rx_bytes), and data transfer rates (tx_kbps, rx_kbps).

Calculated Features: Packet rate (Number of packets per second), Entries per flow, number of bytes per flow (flow bytes) and PPF.

The dataset comprises 104,345 entries gathered within a span of 15000 seconds. Each record is labeled as benign (0) or malicious (1), and additional data can be generated by rerunning the simulation.

A. Traffic Image Transformation

The drill down system processes unprocessed network traffic by transforming it into structured 2-Dimensional traffic images. This makes the process of extracting features and process of classification by using the spatial relations between the traffic data.

The y-axis of the traffic image represents the complete source IP address space, divided into 256 subnets. The x-axis represents the observed destination IP address range, segmented into smaller subnets. This setup ensures the traffic data is organized in a structured grid for analysis.

Traffic images are generated with a resolution of 256 units, which allows IPv4 destination addresses to be resolved within four iterations of the drill-down process. Each packet is mapped to a pixel within the image based on its source and destination IPs, with the pixel value incremented to represent traffic intensity. Packets outside the monitored IP range are excluded to optimize computational resources and focus the analysis on relevant data.

This transformation produces a compact and visual representation of traffic patterns, enabling the detection of both normal and abnormal behavior using deep learning techniques.

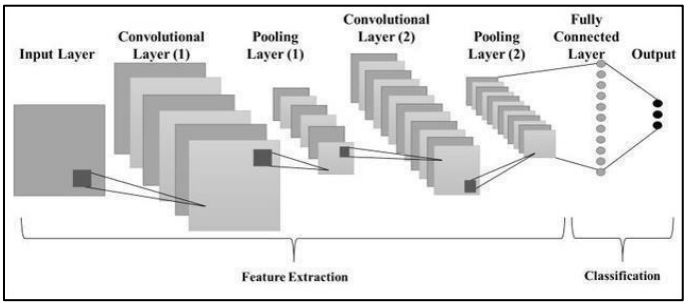

Figure 2. DDoS Detection Model Architecture

B. Classification with Convolutional Neural Networks

In this approach, Convolutional Neural Networks (CNN) are employed to classify traffic images, determining whether the traffic is benign or malicious. The CNN is also capable of identifying the type of attack based on the protocol, such as TCP, UDP, or ICMP.

The network architecture consists of multiple convolutional layers that extract spatial features from the input traffic images. These layers are followed by pooling layers, which reduce the dimensionality of the feature maps while retaining the essential information and lowering computational costs. The extracted features are then passed through fully connected layers, where a higher-level analysis is performed to enable the final classification.

The output layer of the CNN provides a binary classification to distinguish between benign and malicious traffic. If malicious traffic is identified, the model further classifies the attack type. To ensure efficient learning and high accuracy, the model is trained using the Adam optimizer with a categorical cross-entropy loss function. This automated feature extraction process allows the CNN to manage complex traffic patterns effectively, even in large-scale datasets.

C. Drill Down Analysis Approach

The drill down analysis is a continuous refinement process aimed at progressively narrowing the focus of the monitored traffic from broader patterns to specific subnets and ultimately to individual IP addresses.

In the initial iteration, the system monitors the entire destination IP address space, aggregating traffic into a single image for classification. Once the CNN identifies malicious traffic, the system adjusts the monitoring range and granularity to focus on the identified subnet. This refinement divides the detected subnet into equal segments for further analysis.

With each iteration, the monitored subnet becomes more granular, progressively zooming in on the target until the exact IP address is pinpointed. Typically, IPv4 traffic is resolved within four layers of this process. This iterative approach ensures that computational resources are allocated only to relevant traffic, reducing overhead.

To enhance efficiency and manage dynamic traffic conditions, a Long Short-Term Memory (LSTM) module is incorporated into the system. The LSTM temporarily stores the state of the drill-down process, allowing the system to resume refinement without restarting the analysis if traffic patterns shift or false positives occur. This eliminates the need for a full reset, significantly enhancing processing speed and adaptability.

By combining CNN-based classification with drill-down refinement, the system achieves precise detection while remaining scalable for high-volume traffic environments.

IV. EVALUATION AND PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS

A. Experimental Setup

The proposed system was evaluated using the SDN DDoS dataset, which encompasses a diverse set of features representing both benign and malicious traffic patterns. The dataset was preprocessed by converting non-numeric values to numeric representations, normalizing the features for consistent scaling, and one-hot encoding the labels for multi- class classification. For model evaluation, the dataset was split into an 80% training set and a 20% testing set to ensure a balanced assessment of the model's performance. The Convolutional Neural Network (CNN) architecture employs convolutional and pooling layers to effectively extract features from the input data. These pooled feature maps are subsequently fed into the classification network for further analysis. he system uses fully connected layers for the final classification. Traffic data is received via a specific endpoint, processed into a format suitable for the CNN, and then classified as either benign or malicious, with the type of attack identified, such as TCP SYN, UDP Flood, or ICMP.

B. Results and Analysis

The CNN model demonstrated strong performance across both training and validation datasets. Throughout the training, the accuracy of both the training and validation sets steadily increased, while the loss steadily decreased. By the final epoch, the model achieved high accuracy and low loss, indicating its ability to effectively learn from the data and generalize well. The validation accuracy also improved, suggesting that the model was not overfitting and was able to maintain its performance on unseen data.

Throughout the training, the accuracy of both the training and validation sets steadily increased, while the loss steadily decreased, such as Decision Trees or Support Vector Machines (SVM). This efficiency stemmed from the CNN's capability to automatically extract features from the raw traffic data, reducing the need for extensive feature engineering and thus minimizing computational time for both training and inference.

Regarding classification, the model achieved strong performance with very few misclassifications. The confusion matrix showed that the model was highly accurate in distinguishing between benign and malicious traffic, confirming its effectiveness in real-time DDoS detection.

The model's performance was assessed using the following key metrics.

Accuracy: The accuracy measures the proportion of correctly identified instances relative to the total number of instances in the dataset.

The accuracy is computed by dividing the total of True Positives and True Negatives by the overall number of instances, which includes all possible outcomes.

These results highlight the model's robustness in accurately detecting DDoS attacks.

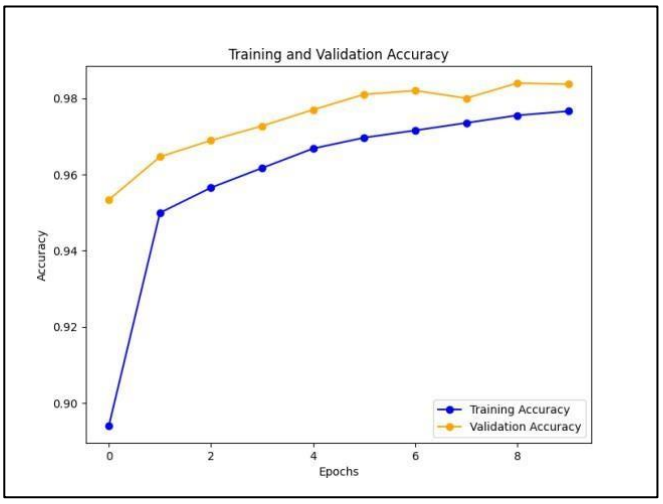

Figure 3. Model Accuracy Plot

Loss: The loss reflects how well the model's predictions correspond to the true labels. It is calculated during the training and validation phases and gradually minimized over time. The loss is generally computed using the categorical-cross-entropy function. yi is the actual label ~yi is the estimated probability of the entity.

Loss = - ∑yi log (~yi)

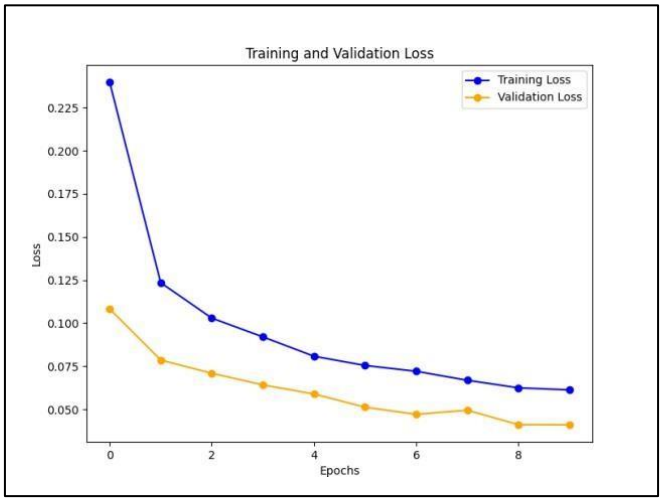

Figure4. Model Loss Plot

Validation Accuracy measures how well the model performs on unseen data and Validation Loss quantifies the error between the true and predicted values on the validation set. These metrics confirmed that the model achieved high accuracy and low loss on both training and validation phases, demonstrating its effectiveness for real time DDoS detection.

C. Performance Evaluation and Insights.

As depicted in the graphs of Accuracy versus Epochs and Loss versus Epochs, the CNN model exhibited consistent improvements in both training and validation accuracy, accompanied by a steady decrease in loss, indicating effective learning and optimization. The growing validation accuracy further emphasizes the model's ability to adapt and perform well on unseen data.

The Confusion Matrix clearly illustrates the model's high precision in distinguishing between benign and malicious traffic, with only a minimal number of misclassifications.

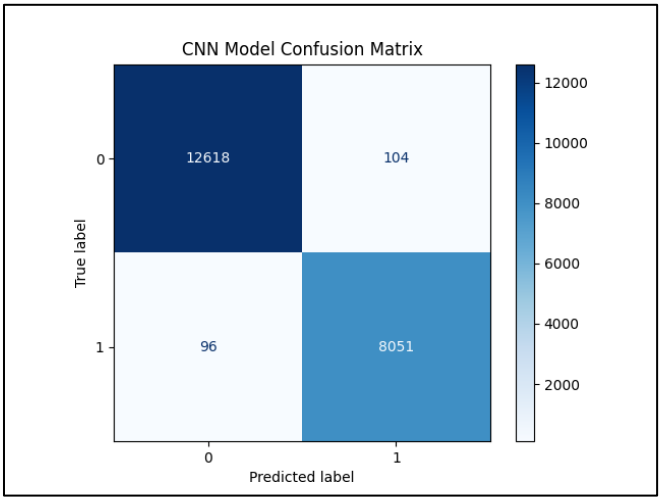

Figure 5. Confusion Matrix

These results highlight the model's robustness in accurately detecting DDoS attacks.

In terms of time efficiency, the CNN model demonstrated superior performance over traditional machine learning methods like Decision Trees and SVM. By automatically extracting features from raw data, it eliminated the need for feature engineering, thus reducing both training time and inference speed, making it ideal for real-time DDoS detection.

Overall, the CNN model not only delivered high accuracy but also proved more time-efficient than traditional methods, positioning it as a scalable solution for real-time cybersecurity applications.

V. FUTURE WORK

Although the CNN model has demonstrated effective performance in detecting DDoS attacks, there are numerous aspects that could be further investigated to improve its functionality. A key area for enhancement is researching more cutting edge frameworks, Neural Networks (RNNs) or networks such as LSTMs, that can capture time specific patterns in network traffic. This could be particularly beneficial for detecting sophisticated, time- dependent attacks that might not be fully addressed by convolutional networks. Additionally, the training dataset could be expanded by incorporating a broader range of attack types, as well as real- time traffic data, To enhance the model's resilience and its ability to perform well in various types of network environments.

To further optimize the system, the model could be fine-tuned for real-time detection through techniques like model pruning, quantization, and hardware acceleration using GPUs or TPUs. These techniques could significantly reduce inference time, making the model more suitable for high-speed, large-scale environments. Moreover, exploring distributed deployment for DDoS detection, where multiple nodes across the network collaborate to identify attacks, could help mitigate bottlenecks and improve detection accuracy by leveraging distributed computational resources. Incorporating multiple ML techniques could also help enhance the model's performance. A hybrid approach, combining CNNs with techniques such as ensemble learning or Random Forests, may help enhance classification accuracy and provide more reliable results across a wider range of attack types. Furthermore, it is essential to address the model's resilience to adversarial attacks, where future work could involve adversarial training to ensure the model's robustness against malicious attempts to deceive or evade detection.

VI. CONCLUSION

This study presents the Drill-Down DDoS Destination Detection approach using a Convolutional Neural Network (CNN) for detecting and classifying Distributed Denial-of-Service (DDoS) attacks. The model analyzes network traffic patterns, including associated IP addresses, to effectively distinguish between benign and malicious traffic and identify various attack types, such as TCP SYN, UDP Flood, and ICMP.

The proposed approach achieved high accuracy, significantly outperforming traditional machine learning methods in both classification precision and computational efficiency. Experimental results demonstrated that the CNN

model consistently delivered accurate traffic classification, showcasing its ability to generalize well from both synthetic and authentic traffic data. The model's impressive accuracy and fast evaluation times make it a highly effective tool for detecting DDoS attacks in network security systems.

With its robust performance and scalability, this CNN- based approach offers great potential for real-world applications, providing reliable and efficient detection of DDoS attacks for enhanced cybersecurity.

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