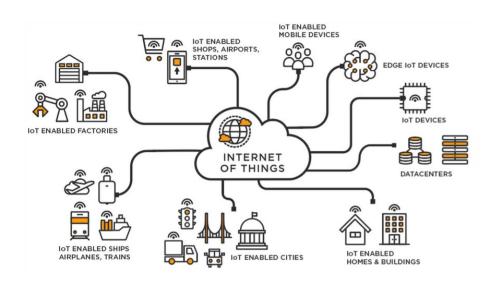


Anomaly detection on network traffic from Internet of Things (IoT) devices

Ourania Sidiropoulou

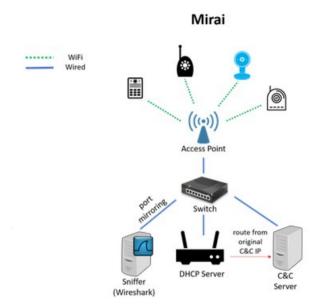
Capstone project defense 21/07/2022

Introduction



Facts:

- provide great level of automation and information sharing to enhance usability and functionality
- rapid growth the last years



The problem:

- · number of threats and cyber-attacks is constantly growing
- concerns related to network security and data privacy as most of these networks are not usually well protected.

Project Goal:

Can we distinguish with high confidence the different type of flows, benign or malicious, in network activities?

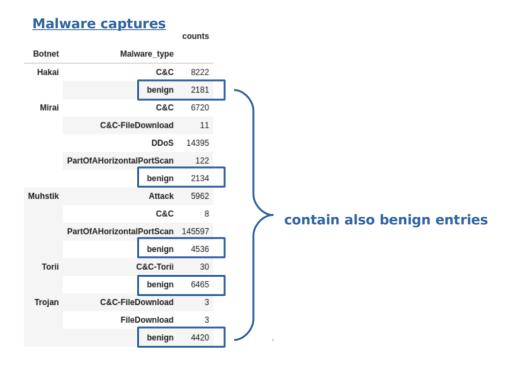
Data Availability & Processing



A publicly available **labeled dataset**¹ of network traffic from IoT devices with:

- 3 benign captures → all processed merged into a
- 20 malware captures \rightarrow processed: 7/20 \int single csv file

for binary and/or multi-class classification scenarios → focused only on multi-class



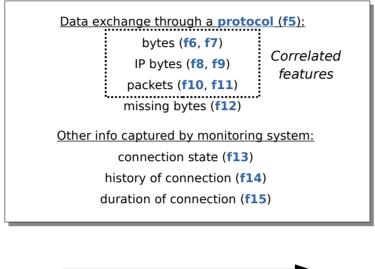


EDA: Data Overview

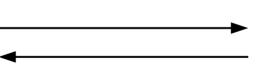
- # entries: 202,765
- # initial features: 23 but ...
 - **3** → NaNs
 - 1 → 94% NaNs
 - 2 → not useful for ML task (uid & timestamp)
- # features: 17
 - 7 categorical 2 targets (binary/multi-class classification)
 - 10 numerical
- Missing values in 7 features:
 - easy to be replaced, will not be discussed (in back up slides)

	#	Column	Non-Null Count	Dtype	
	0	timestamp	202765 non-null	datetime6	4[ns] not useful
	1	uid	202765 non-null	object	not useful
	2	origin address	202735 non-null	object	
	3	origin port	202765 non-null	int64	
	4	response address	202765 non-null	object	
	5	response port	202765 non-null	int64	
	6	protocol	202765 non-null	object	
	7	service	13235 non-null	object	~94% NaNs
	8	duration	101394 non-null	object	
	9	orig_bytes	101394 non-null	object	wrong encoding
	10	resp_bytes	101394 non-null	object	as object type
7	11	conn state	202765 non-null	object	•
	12	local_orig	0 non-null	float64	All empty values
	13	local resp	0 non-null	float64	All ellipty values
	14	missed bytes	202765 non-null	int64	•
	15	history	201422 non-null	object	
	16	orig_pkts	202765 non-null	int64	
	17	orig_ip_bytes	202765 non-null	int64	
	18	resp pkts	202765 non-null	int64	
	19	resp ip bytes	202765 non-null	int64	
	20	tunnel parents	166506 non-null	object	Non-null = (empty)
	21	label	202765 non-null	object	(3)
	22	detailed_label	181073 non-null	object	
			co	ount unique	top freq
			tunnel_parents 166	5506 1	(empty) 166506

EDA: Features and target values



f: input features t: target values





IP address (IPv4 or IPv6):port number **f1:f2**

Type of traffic:

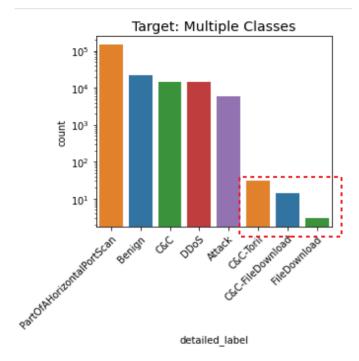
t1: benign or malicious (label)

t2: type of malware when malicious (detailed label)



IP address (IPv4 or IPv6):port number **f3:f4**

EDA: Type of Classes



Classes are highly imbalanced:

- Horizontal port scans: more than half of total entries
- C&C-Torii
- C&C-FileDownload
- FileDownload

47 entries in total \rightarrow **dropped** as they will cause ill-

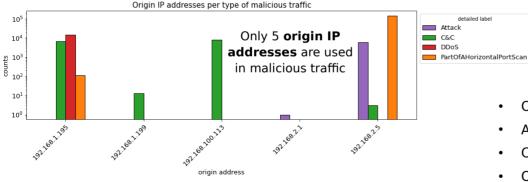
conditioned input matrices when splitting the dataset

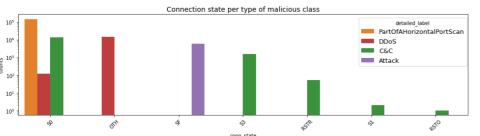
Type of malware:

- 1) Horizontal port scans (PartOfAHorizontalPortScan)
- 2) Command and Control (C&C)
- 3) Distributed Denial-of-Service (DDoS)
- 4) FileDownload (either connected through a CC server or not)
- 5) Torii (characteristic of Torii botnet)
- 6) Attack (some type of attack from infected device to another host)

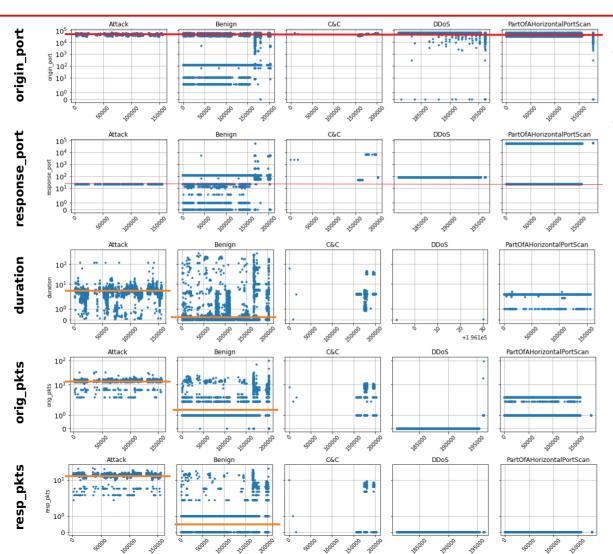
Summary Table: #uniques per categorical feature

Class	#unique IP's Originator (total=1000)	#unique IP's Responder (total = 64,420)	Protocol (#uniques = 3)	#unique History (total = 105)	#unique connection state (total = 12)
Benign	1,000	~3,000	TCP, UDP or ICMP	65	12
HPortScan	2	64,420	ТСР	1	1
C&C	4	8	ТСР	11	5
Attack	2	200	ТСР	30	1
DDoS	1	2	ТСР	4	2



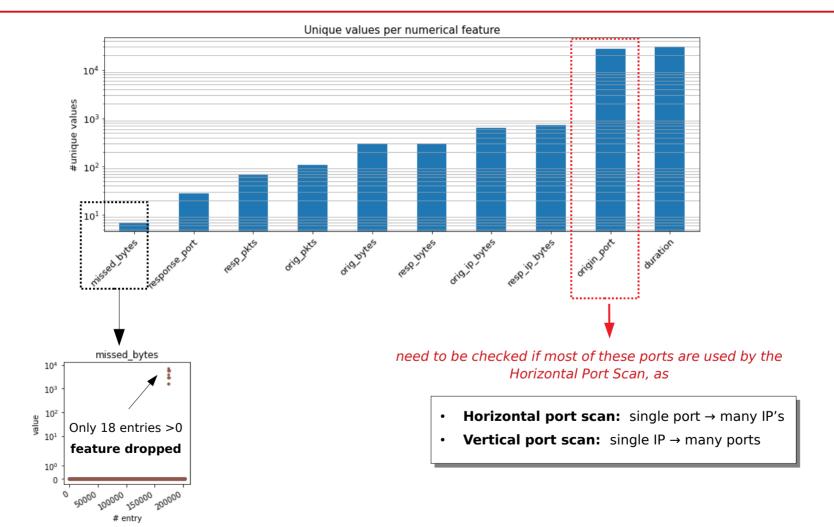


- Only 5/1000 origin IP's are used for malicious traffic
- All response IP's are used by H.PortScan
- Common protocol for all classes is the TCP
- Only 6/105 type of histories used for both benign & malicious traffic
- Only 1 type of connection state is common for H.PortScan, DDoS and C&C

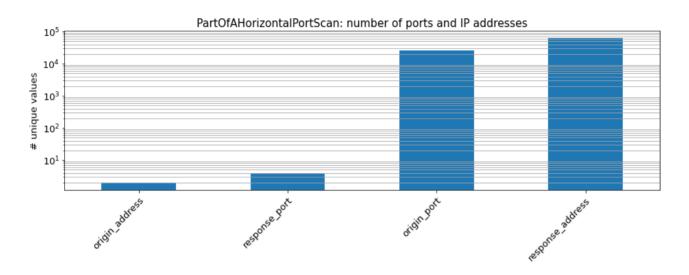


- There is a common range of **origin ports** used by all classes except the DDoS (mainly 65,000 not used by others) but the **response ports** are quite unique.
- A classifier could be confused among Attack, Benign and H.Port scans wrt the response ports alone but:
 - the duration of connection is unique for the H.Port Scans.
 - in between Attack and Benign though the median of duration differs, as well as the packets send by both originator and responder.

no derived features are necessarily needed to ease the classifiers as we will also see later

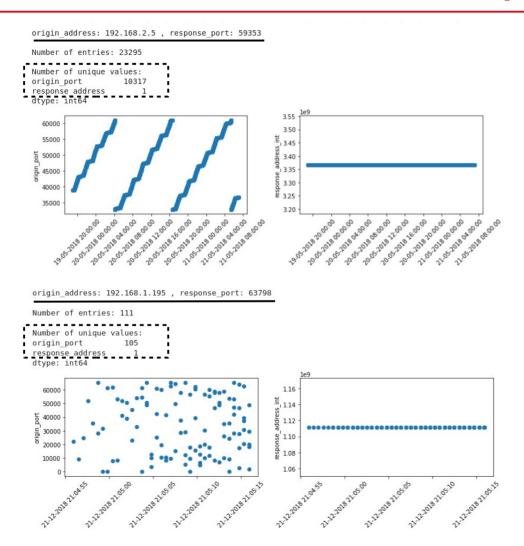


EDA: PartofAHorizontalPortScan Investigation



- From the above is clear that we have both type of port scans
- To be able to check the scans, we can get the **combination of** the features **origin_address** and **response_port** which have only a few entries:

EDA: PartofAHorizontalPortScan Inspection



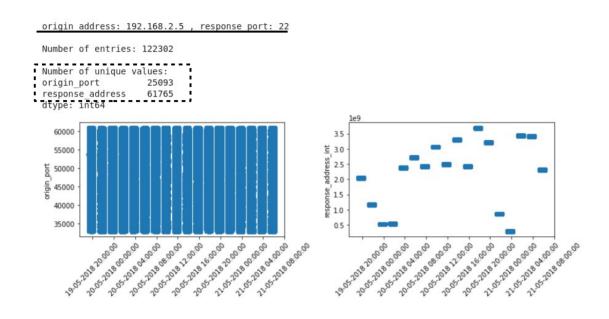
- Horizontal: single port → many IP's
- **Vertical**: single IP → many ports

In 2 out of the 3 combinations:

single response IP → many ports = Vertical Scans!

Defined a <u>correction</u> with these combinations of origin addresses and response ports <u>called "1st correction"</u>

EDA: PartofAHorizontalPortScan Inspection

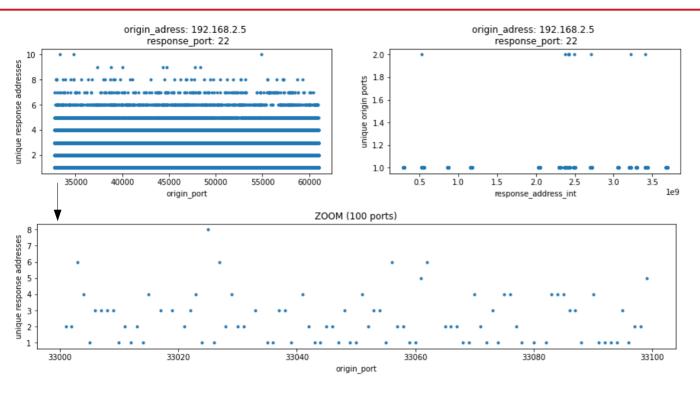


- **Horizontal**: single port → many IP's
- **Vertical**: single IP → many ports

For the 3rd combination there are 11 distinct captures:

- for each one it seems that there is a single response IP address and many different ports which would imply vertical scans
- BUT #unique response_address = $61,765 \neq 11$ as it seems at a first glance
- either horizontal scans OR a mix of horizontal and vertical

EDA: PartofAHorizontalPortScan Inspection



- Horizontal: single port → many IP's
- **Vertical**: single IP → many ports

From the above we see that:

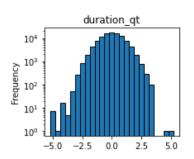
- for each origin port there might be 1 or 2 or ... or 10 unique response addresses and
- for each response address there might be 1 or 2 different origin ports

One could assume when:

- single origin port \rightarrow #unique response address $> 1 \rightarrow$ Horizontal Scans
- #unique response address = 1 → Vertical Scans (<u>"2nd correction")</u>

Feature Engineering

- Numerical features → all except ports, pick close to zero and are skewed towards their max values
 - Log, power and quantile transformations → none of them distributes features in a better way
 except the quantile transformation of the feature duration which is normally distributed.



- Binary features from ip address lib as for e.g. if an IP address is:
 - 1) private
 - 2) global
 - 3) unspecified → False for responder
 - 4) reserved
 - 5) loopback → False for both originator and responder
 - 6) multicast → False for originator

- 4/12 have only False values → not useful
- the others might be correlated with the target

Encoding IP addresses into octets

- According to E.Shao¹, the best way of encoding IP addresses for network intrusion detection is to split them in pairs of bits
 - e.g. 192.168.1.1 $\rightarrow x_1 = 192$, $x_2 = 168$, $x_3 = 1$, $x_4 = 1$
- IPv6 addresses which are in 211 total and used only for benign traffic were dropped since they will create 4 additional features with 0 values for all the IPv4

¹⁴

Correlation of Features with Target

The linear correlation among all features has been checked with the pearson method after encoded rest of categorical features (connection state, history & protocol) as enumerated.

Correlations with the target:

- **High** (0.7 0.9): 4 features → **2** from added features
- **Medium** (0.3 0.5): 7 features → **2** from added features
- **Low** (-0.2 0.2): 11 features → **6** from added features

No.	Feature	Correlation w	ith target	
1	orig_address_oct4	0.9		
2	orig_pkts	0.8		
3	history	0.7	high	
4	resp_address_oct1	0.7		
5	origin_port	0.5	- 13	
6	response_port	0.5		
7	origin_address	0.4		
8	orig_address_oct3	0.4	medium	
9	resp_address_oct4	0.4		
10	response_adress	0.3		
11	protocol	0.3		
12	orig_ip_bytes	0.2		
13	resp_pkts	0.2	low	(
14	origin_is_private	-0.1		
15	origin_is_global	-0.1		
16	duration	-0.2		
17	orig_bytes	-0.2	8	
18	conn_state	-0.2	low	
19	resp_is_private	-0.2		
20	resp_is_global	-0.2		
21	resp_address_oct2	-0.2	8	
22	resp address oct3	-0.2		-

Next Step

Tests performed with a classifier in order to understand:

- 1) what is the best encoding of the IP addresses, integers or octets? → integer encoding is performed entry by entry with the ip address library and it takes quite some time, slowing down the pre-processing
- 2) rest of categorical features encoded as enumerated or dummies? $\rightarrow PCC_{history} = 0.7$ with history as enumerated
- 3) if the transformed numerical features and binary features improve the classification task → not really expected to see an improvement as PCC where quite low.
- 4) if disentangling vertical from horizontal port scans does not confuse a classifier and improves the classification task

For these tests, a non-linear classifier was used to be able to generalize them and take a decision for the final pre-processing steps.

- Random Forest → a bagging ensemble method that tries to reduce the variance of several decision tree (DT) classifiers and uses
 averaging to improve the predictive accuracy and control over-fitting of DT's:
 - weights → associated with each class can be adjusted to tackle the imbalance of the classes.
 - number of trees → set to 10
 - max_features → set to None in order for all the features to be taken into account
 - bootstrap flag → turned off in order for the whole dataset to be taken into account → DT's are always the same in this case
 - random state → set to 0

Dataset splitting with $train_test_split$ and stratify = y to preserve the percentage of samples for each class:

- initially 70-30 for training and testing (random state=0) → always like that
- training set split into 4 different pairs (80-20, 70-30, 60-40, 50-50) for training and validation over 10 different random states

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Pre-processing steps

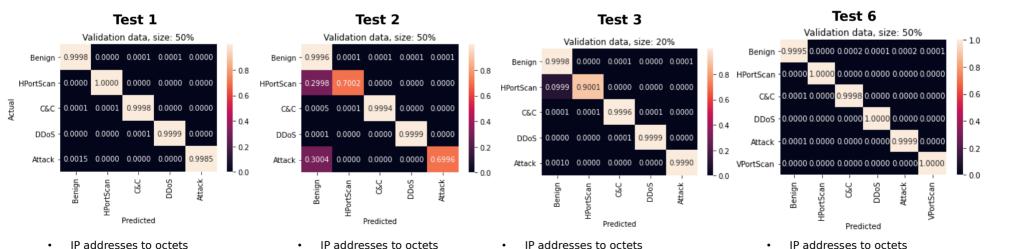
- Pre-processing steps have been implemented with custom transformers, inheriting from BaseEstimator and TransformerMixin classes
- Pipeline defined once, parameters of steps were changed accordingly to the test

```
from sklearn.pipeline import Pipeline
from sklearn.ensemble import RandomForestClassifier
# Categorical Features for transformation
cols to dummies = ['protocol', 'conn state', 'history']
                                                               Replace their 'nulls' [-, :] with np.nans
# Define the pipeline
                                                                  pipe = Pipeline([('recover nulls', pre.RecoverNansPreprocessor()),
               ('cleaning preprocessor', pre.CleaningPreprocessor()).
               ('categorical preprocessor', pre.CategoricalPreprocessor(cols to dummies = cols to dummies,
                                                                 cols to numeric = [])),
               ('numerical preprocessor', pre.NumericalPreprocessor(cols to logs = [],
                                                              cols to pt = [].
                                                                                                  Steps for testing
                                                              cols to quantile = [].
                                                              replace = False)),
               ('add binaries', pre.AddBinariesPreprocessor(has ip address features=False)),
              ('ip encoding', pre IPEncodingPreprocessor(ip to octets = True)).
               ('clf', RandomForestClassifier(n estimators=10, class weight='balanced subsample',
                                          max features=None, bootstrap=False, random state=0))
```

Tests over EDA & Feature Engineering

Categorical as dummies

No.	Test	Results	
1	Encoding of IP addresses as octets or integers ($PCC_{(some octets, target)} = 0.4-0.9$)?	same	
2	Categorical encoded as enumerated?	high miss-classification of HportScan and Attack as Benign	
3	Only history as enumerated (PCC _(history, target) = 0.7), rest to dummies	a bit of miss-classification of HportScan as Benign on 80-20 splitting	
4	Add Transformed numerical features (logs, pt, qt)	same as Test 1	
5	Add Binary features from ip address lib (PCC _(some binaries, target) = -(0.10.2))	same as Test 1	
6	Disentangle horizontal from vertical scans - 1^{st} correction	~same as Test 1	
7	Disentangle horizontal from vertical scans – 2 nd correction	high miss-classification for ~all classes	



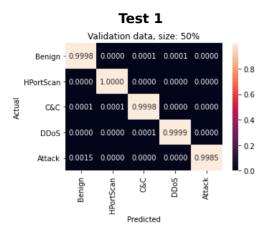
History as enumerated, rest as dummies

Categorical as enumerated

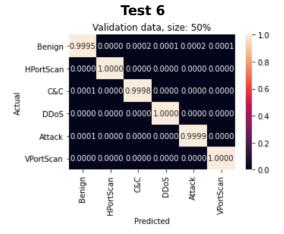
Categorical as dummies

Disentangle port scans - 1st correction

Disentangling horizontal from vertical scans - 1st correction



- IP addresses to octets
- Categorical as dummies



- IP addresses to octets
- Categorical as dummies
- Disentangle port scans 1st correction

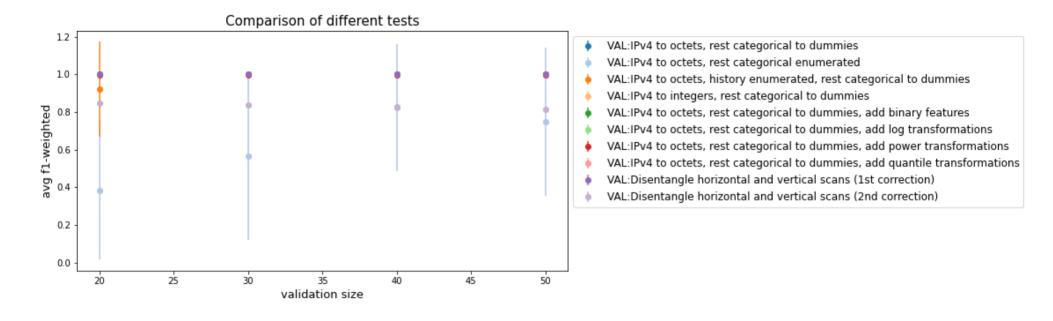
By disentangling the horizontal from the vertical scans only with the 1st correction:

- No confusion btw vertical & horizontal port scans
- · DDoS miss-classification improved to maximum
- Attack entries miss-classified as benign were reduced
- improvement of malicious traffic

but a bit of increase of benign entries miss-classified as C&C, Attack and vertical port scans

This correction is helpful if one wants to catch up all the malware that runs on a network traffic and does not bother to have benign entries miss-classified as malware and needs to check them.

Comparison of Tests over EDA & Feature Engineering



- IP addresses to octets
- Categorical as dummies
- Disentangle port scans 1st correction

reached highest f1-weighted score (~1) across all different splittings

Continue with:

- this encoding and correction
- train-validation splitting 60-40 with 10 random state

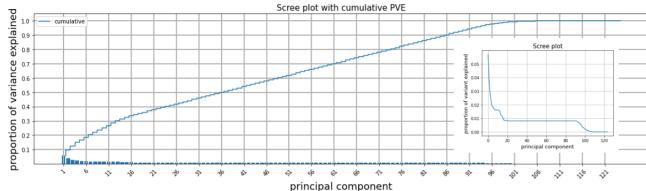
Feature Reduction

- Since after pre-processing there are more than 100 features, the **PCA** and the **SelectKBest** algorithms were explored in order to decide for a potential reduction of the them.
- For both algorithms, the features are scaled with the Min-Max and Standard scalers.
- The classifier used to select the number of top features is again the Random Forest with the same parameters mentioned earlier.
- The pipeline is predefined with the steps for testing initially set to None and changed accordingly to the tests performed.

```
from sklearn.pipeline import Pipeline
from sklearn.ensemble import RandomForestClassifier
# Define the pipeline
pipe = Pipeline([('recover nulls', pre.RecoverNansPreprocessor()),
                ('cleaning preprocessor', pre.CleaningPreprocessor()),
                ('categorical preprocessor', pre.CategoricalPreprocessor(cols to dummies = ['protocol', 'conn state', 'history'])),
                ('ip_encoding', pre.IPEncodingPreprocessor(ip_to_octets = True)),
               ('scaler', None),
                ('ft', None),
                                      Steps for testing
                ('clf', None)
               1)
# Define the classifier
rf clf = RandomForestClassifier(n estimators=10, class weight='balanced subsample',
                               max features=None, bootstrap=False, random state=0)
```

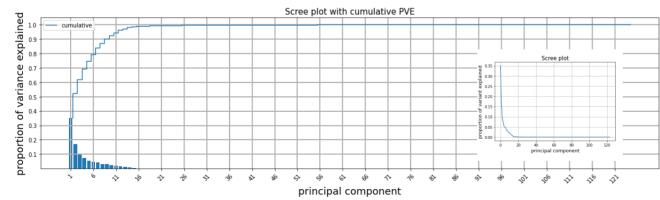
PCA

Standard Scaler

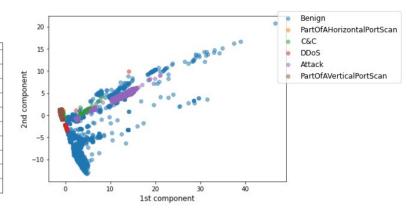


• The cumulative pve reaches about $\sim\!95\%$ with $\sim\!95$ principal components.

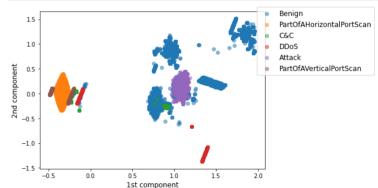
MinMax Scaler



• With only \sim 16 pr. components we have about \sim 98% of the variance in the data explained.



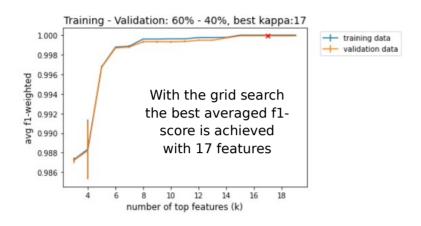
- With only the first 2 pr. components → pve<10%
- benign traffic not distinguishable from malicious



With the first 2 p.c, there are clusters of benign entries and about half of the DDoS entries that are quite distinguishable from the other classes.

Feature Reduction

SelectKBest

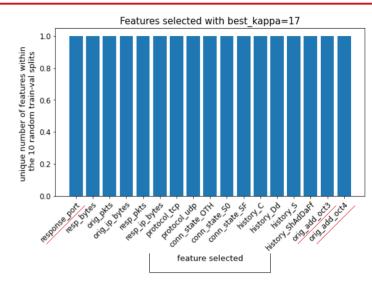


W/o feature reduction

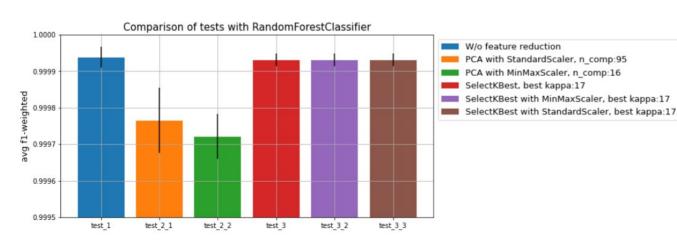
SelectKBest, best kappa:17

PCA with StandardScaler, n comp:95 PCA with MinMaxScaler, n comp:16

SelectKBest with MinMaxScaler, best kappa:17



PCA & SelectKBest comparison



#Binary features = 9

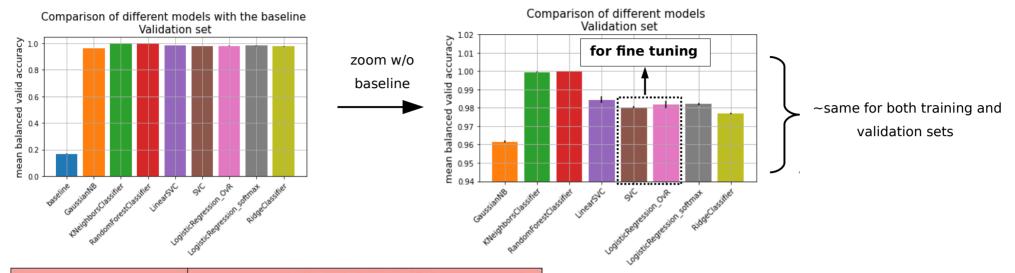
- The difference between the dimensionality reduction and the feature selection is subtle.
- Data do not need to be scaled before using the SelectKBest
- For the final preprocessing step → SelectKBest

Tests with Different Models w/o fine tuning

- 1) Baseline → dymmy classifier with uniform strategy
- 2) Gaussian Naive Bayes → since binary features are only 7 out of the 17
- 3) Kneighbors Classifier
- 4) Random Forest Classifier → bootstrap flag is on, max features to default ='sqrt'
- 5) SVC: LinearSVC, SVC with rbf kernel → strategy for multiclass: one-vs-rest
- 6) Logistic Regression one-vs-rest and softmax
- 7) Ridge Classifier

In models 4-7 there is a weight parameter for the classes to tackle imbalancing.

Comparison of Different Models



	Miss-classification [%]			
Model	Benign as C&C	Benign as H. Port Scans	Benign as H. Port Scans	
Gaussian NB	20	-	1 7 6	
LinearSVC	7		-	
SVC, kerbel=RBF	10	9	1	
Logistic Regression ovr	7	-	1	
Logistic Regression softmax	8	-	1	
Ridge Classifier	10	2	1	

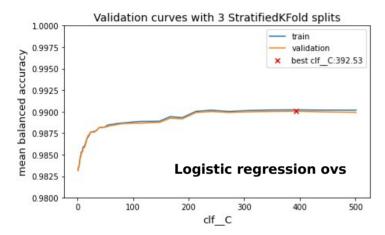
Mean balanced accuracy:

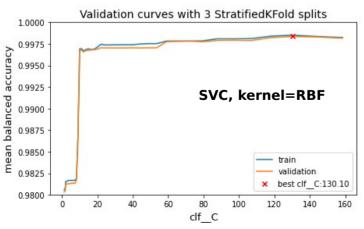
- Kneighbors and Random Forest ≈ 100%
- LinearSVC ≈ 98.5%
- SVC_rbf, Logistic Regressions ≈ 98%
- Ridge ≈ 97.5%
- GaussianNB ≈ 96%

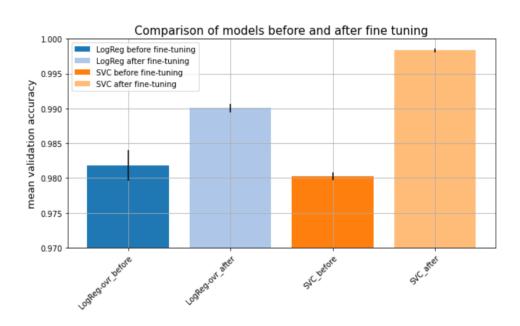
In all of them, miss-classification of Benign entries as C&C

Fine Tuning

- Fine Tuning of regularization strengths performed using the GridSearchCV
- Training sample is split into 3 folds using the **StratifiedKFold** cross-validator in order to preserve the percentage of samples for each class





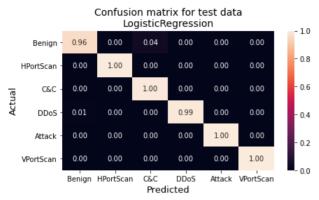


After fine tuning, the mean validation accuracy was increased for both models:

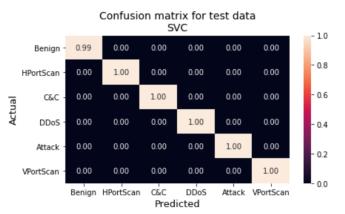
- ~1% for the Logistic Regression
- ~1.5% for the SVC

Evaluation on Test Data

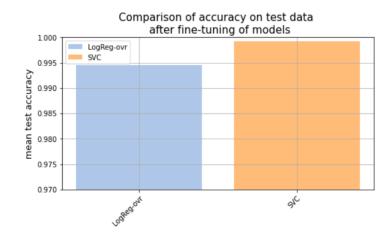
The classifiers with the best regularization strengths found were evaluated on the test data



- 4% of Benign entries miss-classified as C&C
- no miss-classification of C&C as benign, as was the case before fine tuning



Only 1% of Benign entries miss-classified as C&C



Mean test accuracy:

- ~99.5% for the Logistic Regression ovr
- ~99.9% for the SVC with RBF kernel

Comparison of all Models



The results shown here are after finding the best regularization strength for the Logistic Regression ovr and the SVC

The overall performance of all classifiers except the GaussianNB is >97.5% with the KNeighbors & the RandomForest classifiers, as well as the SVC with rbf kerner reaching excellent scores and accuracy close to 1. While the GaussianNB reaches a mean accuracy of 96%.

The fact that the accuracy for all models except the Kneigbors & Random Forest Classifiers and SVC is $\sim 1\%$ lower than the scores is because of the miss-classification of the Benign entries (TN) as C&C (TP) as we saw earlier.

$$\frac{TP + TN}{TP + TN + FP + FN} < \frac{2TP}{2TP + FP + FN} \Leftrightarrow \\ (TP + TN) \cdot (2TP + FP + FN) < 2TP \cdot (TP + TN + FP + FN) \Leftrightarrow \\ 2TP^2 + TP \cdot FP + TP \cdot FN + 2TP \cdot TN + TN \cdot FP + FN \cdot TN < 2TP^2 + 2TP \cdot TN + 2TP \cdot FP + 2TP \cdot FN \Leftrightarrow \\ TN \cdot FP + FN \cdot TN < TP \cdot FP + TP \cdot FN \Leftrightarrow \\ TN \cdot (FP + FN) < TP \cdot (FP + FN) \Leftrightarrow \\ TN < TP$$

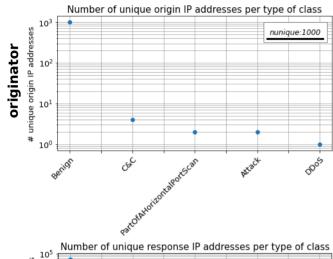
Conclusions and Further Discussion

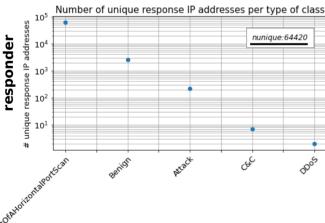
- As we saw, the features provided by the monitoring system of the network are enough to reach a very good accuracy with different supervised models even without fine tuning.
- There are of course other models that could be tried like for e.g. other ensemble methods such as BaggingClassifier, ExtraTreesClassifier etc or Dense Networks and even Neural Networks.
 - One could also try to downsample the majority class and check if for example the Naive Bayes improves.
- In general though, I think it would be more interesting as a next step to approach the anomaly detection in this kind of networks in a semisupervised way, because examining all the log files of the monitoring system and labeling them requires quite some time and manpower.

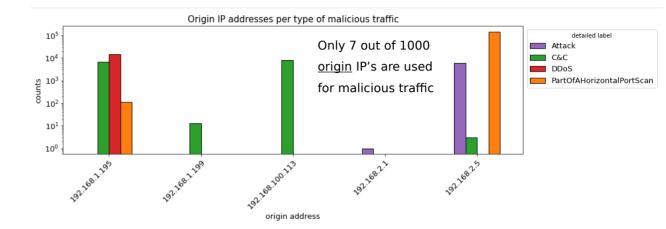
Thank you!

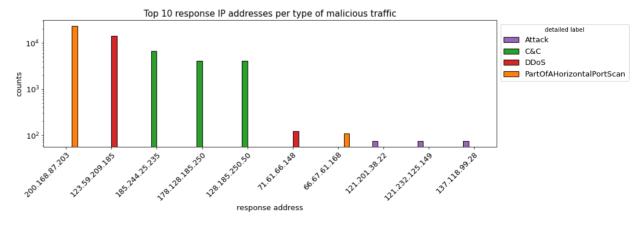
Additional Slides

IP addresses:



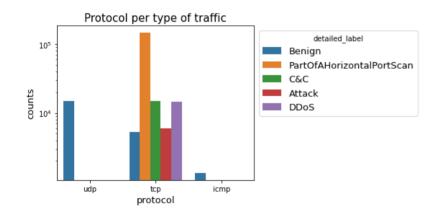






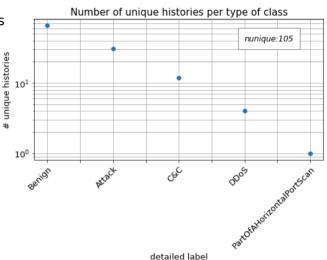
Protocol:

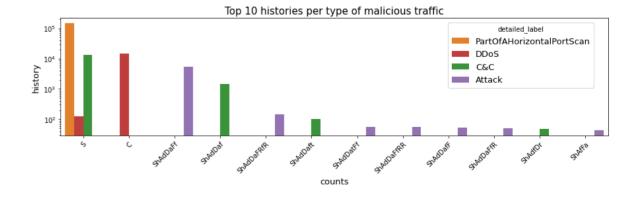
- 3 unique values:
 - TCP → all type of traffic
 - UDP, ICMP → only benign



History:

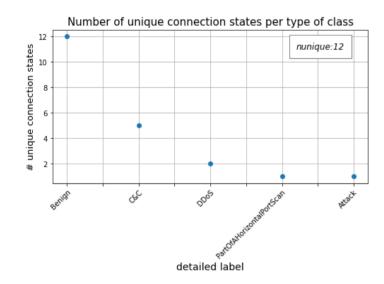
- represents the state of protocols used to perform connections between devices or servers
- encoded as single letter or combination of letters
- 105 unique values
 - Benign:~65
 - Attack: 30
 - **C&C**: ∼11
 - DDoS: 4
 - PartofAHorizontalScan: 1

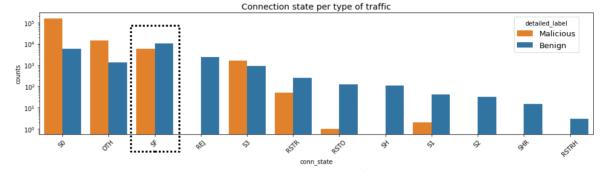


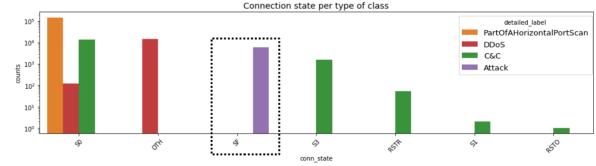


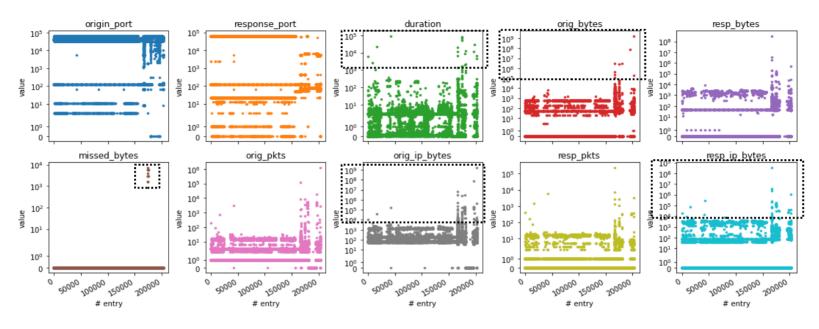
Connection state:

- 12 unique values:
 - only 1 indicates a normal establishment and termination (SF) while the rest indicate a specific problem during the connection.
 - · all of them used by benign traffic
 - 7 used by malicious traffic



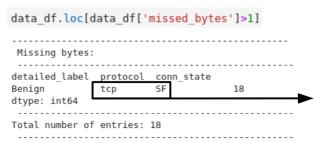






Outliers - Case 1:

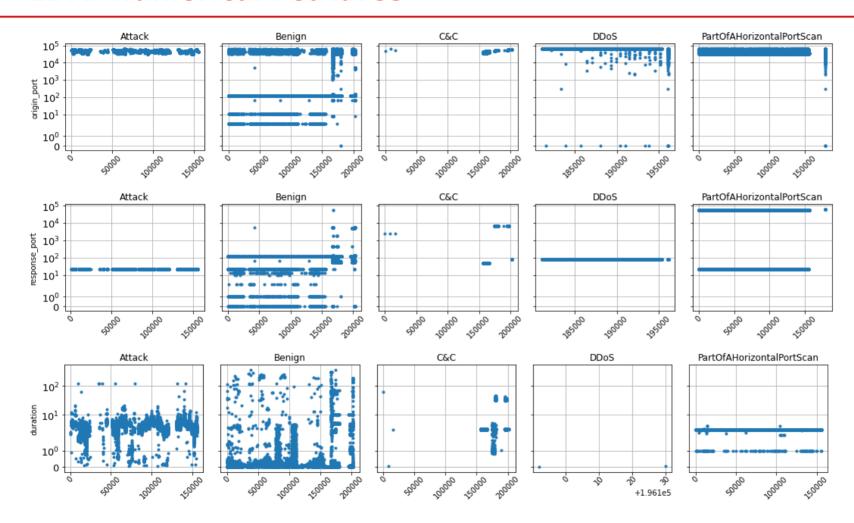
Outliers - Case 2:

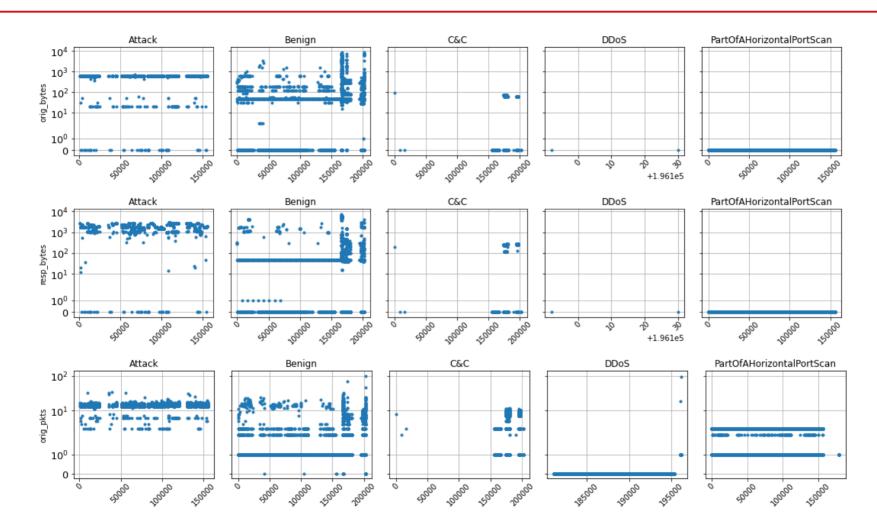


Since:

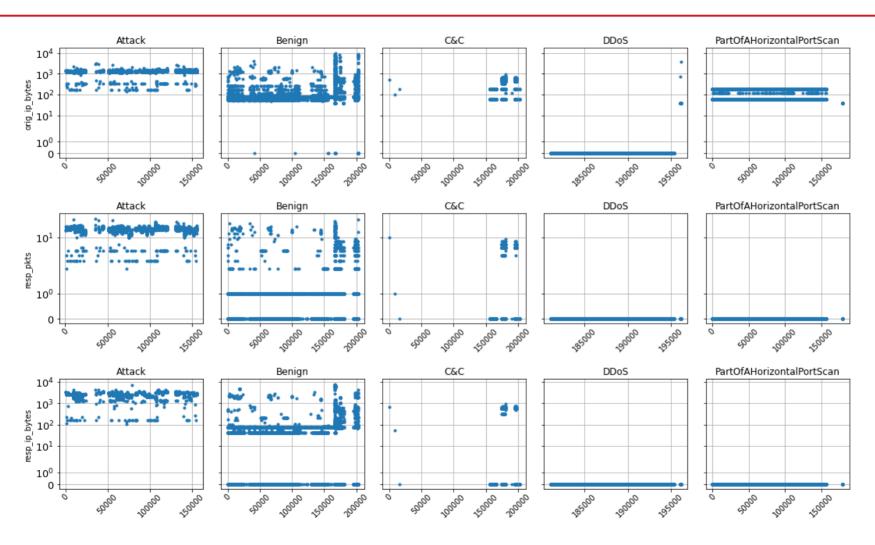
- the TCP protocol ensures re-transmission of data packets and
- the connection state is normal establishment and termination there shouldn't be any missing bytes.

Feature can be dropped as all the rest of values are only 0.



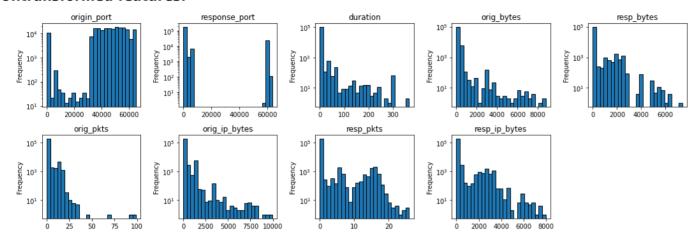


EDA: Numerical Features

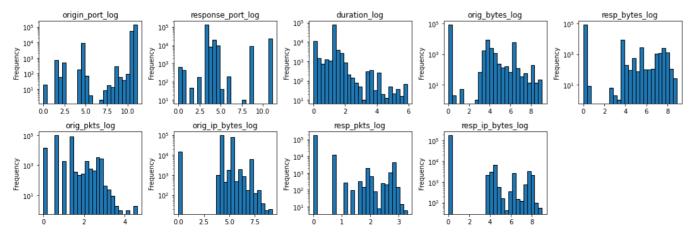


EDA: Feature Engineering

Untransformed features:

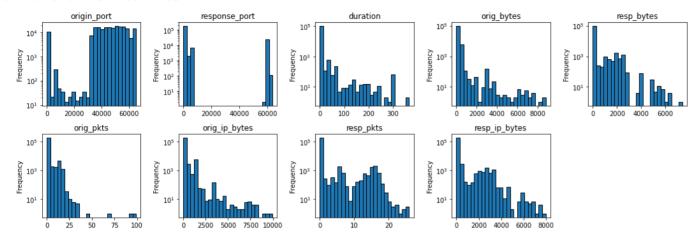


Log transformed features:

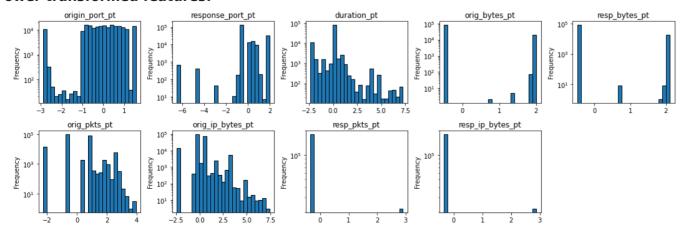


EDA: Feature Engineering

Untransformed features:

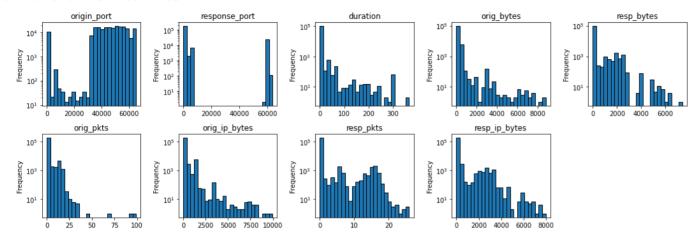


Power transformed features:

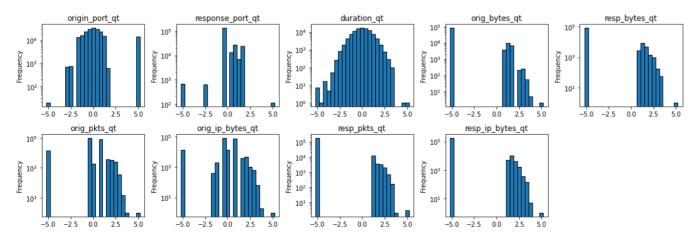


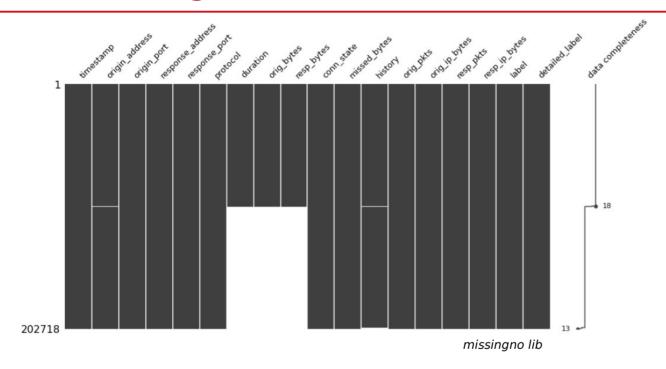
EDA: Feature Engineering

Untransformed features:



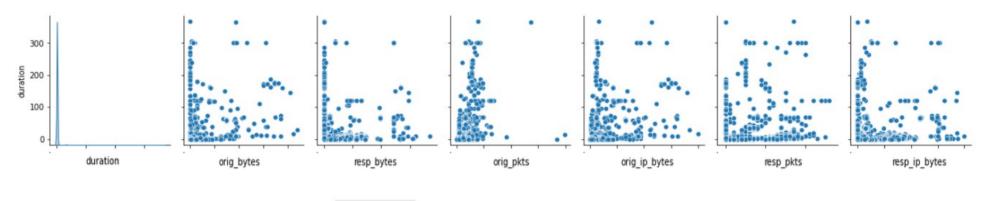
Quantile transformed features:

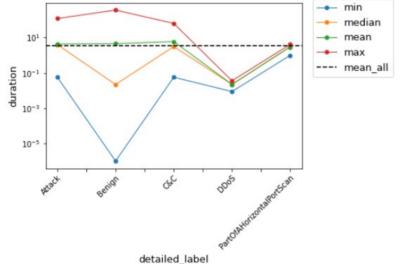




- origin_address: missing only IPv6 (211 entries in total from benign traffic) → can be replaced by the most common used or dropped.
- **history:** missing only from benign traffic using the ICMP protocol. Since the history represents only the state of protocols used to perform connections between devices or servers, like the TCP or UDP protocols → can be replaced by "no history"
- **duration**, **orig_bytes** & **resp_bytes**: missing values from same entries

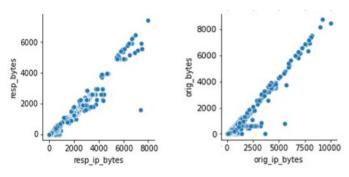
Duration:



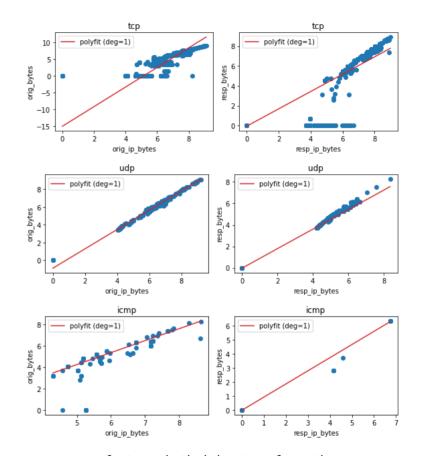


- No correlation with other numerical features
- Can be replaced by "mean_all"

Origin and response bytes:

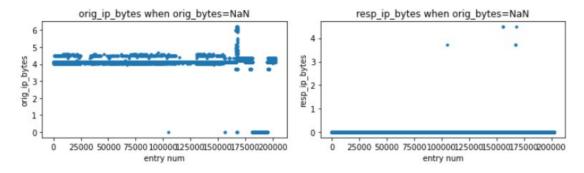


- There is a linear correlation btw bytes and ip_bytes from both originator and responder
- Should be separated according to the protocol as:
 - data transmitted through UDP are not encapsulated within an IP frame → ip_bytes = bytes.
 - data transmitted through ICMP or TCP are usually encapsulated →
 ip bytes ≠ bytes.
 - not a good idea though as:
 - from originator through TCP → linearity fails and in log transformed values there are negative values
 - through ICMP there are only few entries → fit will fail after splitting the data for training, validation and test

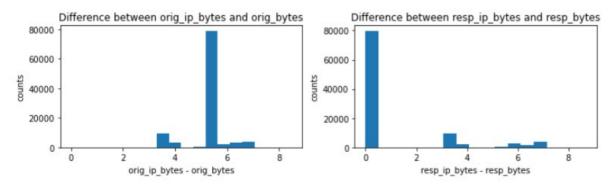


features in their log transformation

Instead look the corresponding ip bytes (in their log transformation)



And try to find the size of ip header and footer

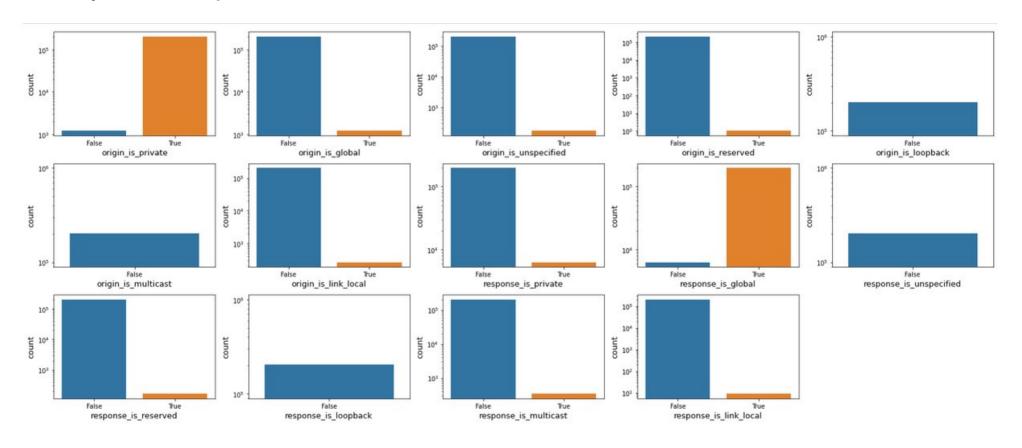


Replacement of missing values:

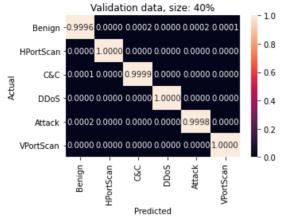
- for the originator, since the ip_bytes have values between 4-6 when the corresponding bytes are missing, instead of subtracted 5 and ending up with negative values we can fill in the missing entries with zeros.
- for the responder, we can fill in the missing values with the corresponding ip_values.

Feature Engineering

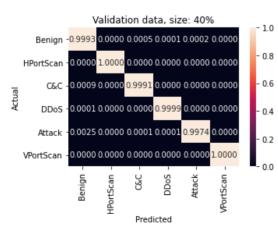
Binary features from ip address lib:



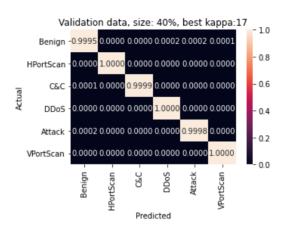
Feature Reduction - Confusion Matrices



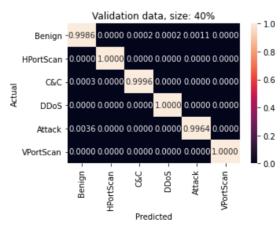
W/o feature reduction



PCA - Standard Scaler n_components = 95

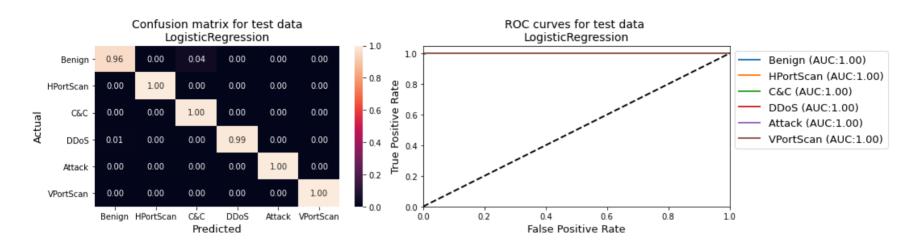


SelectKBest, k=17



PCA - MinMax Scaler n_components = 16

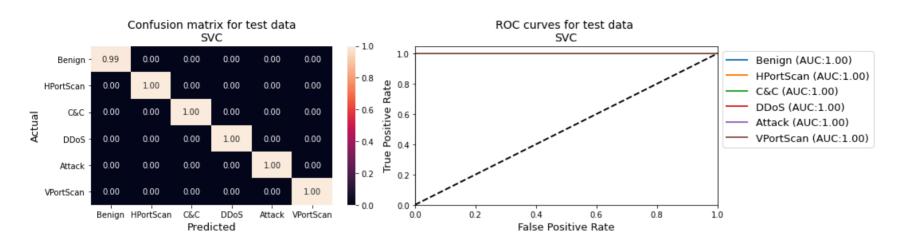
All results from fine tuning of Logistic Regression ovr



Classification report for test data (LogisticRegression)

	precision	recall	f1-score	support
Benign HPortScan C&C	0.99 1.00 0.94	0.96 1.00 1.00	0.97 1.00 0.97	6424 36691 4481
DDoS Attack VPortScan	1.00 0.99 1.00	0.99 1.00 1.00	1.00 1.00 1.00	4315 1788 7022
micro avg macro avg	0.99 0.99 0.99	0.99 0.99 0.99	0.99 0.99 0.99	60721 60721 60721

All results from fine tuning of SVC with RBF kernel



Classification report for test data (SVC)

	precision	recall	f1-score	support
Benign HPortScan	1.00	0.99	1.00	6424 36691
C&C	1.00	1.00	1.00	4481
DDoS Attack	0.99 0.99	1.00	1.00	4315 1788
VPortScan	1.00	1.00	1.00	7022
micro avg	1.00	1.00	1.00	60721
macro avg weighted avg	1.00 1.00	1.00 1.00	1.00	60721 60721