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Multi-scale Memory Residual Network Based Deep Learning Model for Network Traffic Anomaly Detection

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Abstract Models for detecting network traffic anomalies based on deep learning usually exhibit weak generalization, confined representative capacity, and low real-world adaption. In light of this, a multi-scale memory residual network-based model for identifying network traffic anomalies is proposed. The distribution analysis of the three-dimensional feature space illustrates the efficiency of the network traffic data preprocessing technique. The deep learning algorithm enhances the model's capacity to represent data by coupling multi-scale 1DCNN-LSTM networks. The realization of the residual network is shown using the residual network notion as a foundation. Deep feature extraction accelerates model convergence to detect network traffic anomalies accurately and effectively while preventing gradient disappearance, explosion, over fitting, and network damage. The experimental findings show how the multi-scale 1DCNN-LSTM network can improve the model's representational competence and generalization ability. Performance indicators for the model in this study are also superior to those for other deep learning models.

Keywords Deep learning · Feature extraction · Network traffic anomaly detection · Network degradation · One-Hot encoding · CNN · LSTM

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1 Introduction

With the development of network technology and the expansion of network scale, network traffic is increasing exponentially, and network security threats and risks are becoming more and more prominent. Intrusion Detection System (IDS) [1] is a network security monitoring system. Network traffic is one of the main network states. When network intrusions occur, network traffic anomalies usually occur. Therefore, network traffic anomaly detection is the current network Research focus of the Network Intrusion Detection System (NIDS).

However, the continuous change of network attack patterns has increased the difficulty of network traffic anomaly detection [2]. Based on the empowerment effect of artificial intelligence, cyberspace security is facing new risks, including network attacks becoming more and more intelligent, and large-scale attacks becoming more and more difficult. Network attacks are becoming more and more frequent, the concealment of network attacks is getting higher and higher, the game-fighting nature of network attacks is becoming stronger and stronger, and important data is becoming easier to steal, etc. [3]. Maintaining network security is a process of attack and defense games. Network traffic Anomaly detection, as a prerequisite for ensuring network security, has received more and more attention because it can identify unknown network attacks.

The representational capacity is constrained and the false alarm rate is high [4]. It is challenging for classical machine learning to accomplish the goal of analysis and prediction due to the increase in huge data on the network [5–7], the improvement of network capacity [8–11], the complexity of data [12–15], and the diversity of features [4]. Large-scale network traffic data can be processed successfully using the deep learning approach [16–19]. Deep learning [20–22] offers better representation performance when compared to conventional machine learning techniques, which can significantly increase the effectiveness [23, 24] and precision of network traffic anomaly identification [25, 26]. The identification of network traffic anomalies is a powerful tool for thwarting contemporary network attacks. The network traffic anomaly detection model is the main topic of this study, which also suggests a multi-scale memory residual network-based network traffic anomaly detection model.

2 MSMRNet Based IDS Model

Since standard recurrent neural networks have an issue with gradient disappearance, the long-short-term memory neural network (LSTM) has been presented as a solution (RNN).Its basic unit is a structure containing multiple groups of neurons, called a cell (cell), as shown in Fig. 1.

Combining the idea of the residual network and long-term short-term memory network, this paper proposes a network traffic anomaly detection model based on MSMRNet.
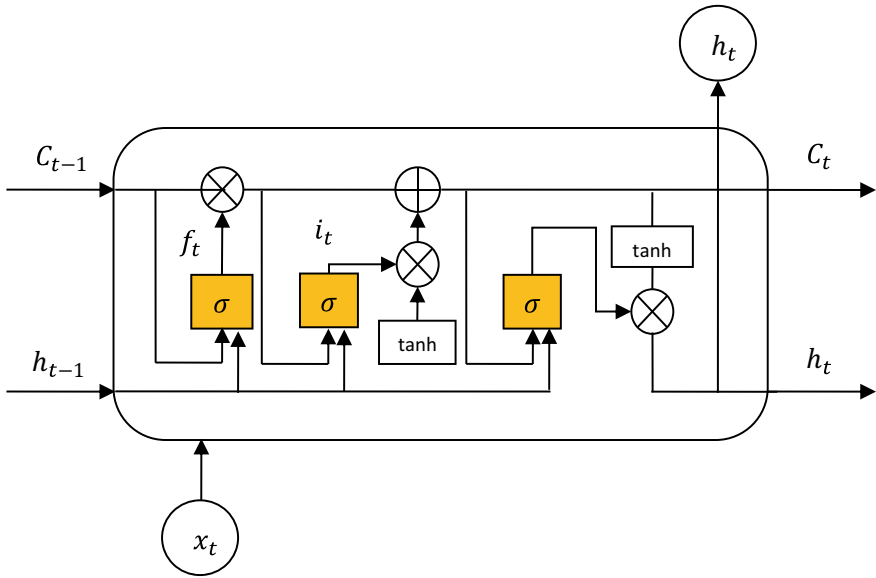
Fig. 1 Long short-term memory network

There are non-numeric data such as protocol type and service type in the network traffic data, and the machine learning model cannot handle non-numeric data, so the network traffic data needs to be processed numerically. At the same time, the network traffic data is different, and the characteristic attributes. There is a large difference in magnitude between [4], so it is necessary to carry out dimensionless processing on the network traffic data. The initial network traffic data $X_0 = \{x_1, x_2, \cdots, x_n\}$, where $f = |X_0|$ represents the characteristic dimension of the initial traffic data, and $n = |X|$ represents the characteristic dimension of the network traffic data after data preprocessing.

Input the preprocessed network traffic data X to MSMRNet for deep feature extraction, that is, the initial input of MSMRNet $X_1 = X$. MSMRNet is formed by stacking several multi-scale memory residual modules, and its l multi-scale memory residual the difference module takes Xl as input and generates output X_{l+1}, where the input X_l and output X_{l+1} have the same dimension. The multi-dimensional output Y_0 is one-dimensionalized by the Flatten layer to obtain the output Z_0. The local features are comprehensively processed through the fully connected layer [5] Obtain the output Z. Use the softmax function as the classifier to realize the network traffic classification, and obtain the network traffic classification result Y. Each element in Y represents the probability of each network traffic category, and the maximum probability category is the classification result. The calculation formula as shown in formula (1), where W_d and b_d represent the weight matrix and bias item respectively.

$$Y = softmax(Z) = softmax\left(W_d^T Z_0 + b_d\right) \ldots \ldots \tag{1}$$

The implementation method of the network traffic anomaly detection model based on MSMRNet is shown in Algorithm 1.

Algorithm 1 Implementation method of network traffic anomaly detection model based on MSMRNet
Input: Training set X_{train}, Test set X_{test}, label set Y.
Output: network traffic classification result Y_D

Steps 1 Data preprocessing

1. Perform numerical processing on the training set X_{train} and the test set X_{test} to obtain $X_{\_train\_num}$ and $X_{\_test\_num}$
2. Perform dimensionless processing on the training set $X_{\_train\_num}$ and test set $X_{\_test\_num}$ to obtain X_{train} and X_{test}

Step 2 Build the model

3. Add several multi-scale memory residual modules
4. Add Flatten layer and fully connected layer, use softmax function as the classifier step 3 training model
5. Set the experimental hyper-parameters: optimizer, the number of single training samples batch_size, the learning rate , the number of training rounds epoch. Set the experimental verification set
6. While it did not reach the preset number of training rounds epochs do
7. While the training set is not empty
8. Take the mini-batch data set batch as the model input
9. Calculate the cross-entropy loss function, C represents the number of network traffic categories
10. Update model parameters using Adam optimizer
11. end while
12. Use the validation set to validate the model and perform parameter fine-tuning
13. end while

Step 4 Save the model

14. Save the Fine-Tuned Model

Step 5 Test the model

15. Load the saved model, test the model with the test set
16. return test set network traffic data classification results

3 Experiment

In order to obtain an effective data preprocessing method, this experiment uses the PCA two-dimensional visualization method to analyze the feature space distribution of the experimental data set after data preprocessing. The PCA two-dimensional
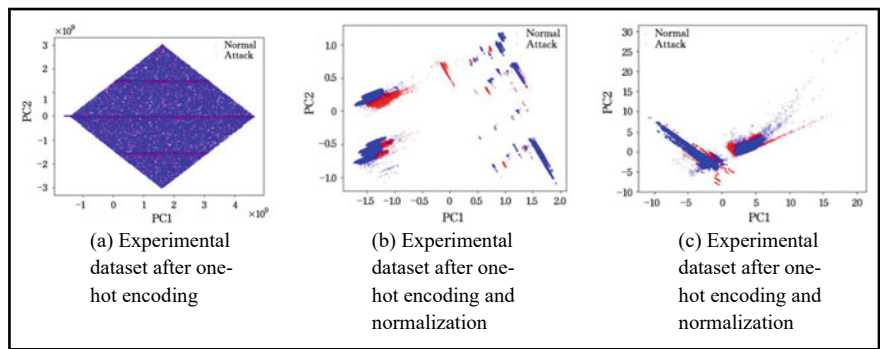
(a) Experimental dataset after one-hot encoding

(b) Experimental dataset after one-hot encoding and normalization

(c) Experimental dataset after one-hot encoding and normalization

Fig. 2 Visualization of data set after preprocessing using PCA

visualization results of the experimental data set after one-hot encoding are shown in Fig. 2. As shown in (a), it can be seen that the normal flow data points overlap with the abnormal flow data points in a large area. The PCA two-dimensional visualization results of the experimental data set after one-hot encoding and standardization processing are shown in Fig. 2b, which can be It can be seen that the normal flow data points and the abnormal flow data points have been partially separated, but there are still some overlapping areas. The PCA two-dimensional visualization results of the experimental data set after one-hot encoding and normalization processing are shown in Fig. 2c, it can be seen that compared with the results after one-hot encoding and normalization, normal flow data points and abnormal flow data points have been effectively separated. Therefore, this experiment uses one-hot encoding to deal with.

3.1 Validity Verification Experiment

In order to verify the effectiveness of MSMRNet in solving the problem of network degradation, this paper constructs a multi-scale memory network (Multi-Scale Memory Network-work, MSMNet) of different depths and compares it with MSMRNet. The experimental model is as follows.

MSMNet-5: It is stacked by 5 multi-scale memory modules, including 20 training parameter layers, 10 non-training parameter layers and 1 fully connected layer.

MSMRNet-5: It is stacked by 5 multi-scale memory residual modules, including 20 training parameter layers, 10 non-training parameter layers and 1 fully connected layer.

MSMNet-10: It is stacked by 10 multi-scale memory modules, including 40 training parameter layers, 20 non-training parameter layers and 1 fully connected layer.
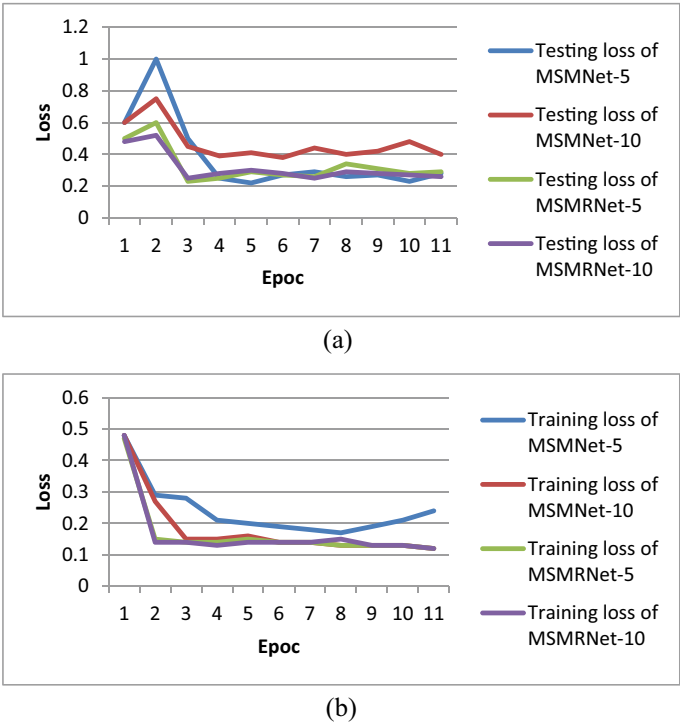
(a)

(b)

Fig. 3 **a** Comparison of loss rates between MSMNet and MSMRNet. **b** Comparison of loss rates between MSMNet and MSMRNet

MSMRNet-10: It is stacked by 10 multi-scale memory residual modules, including 40 training parameter layers, 20 non-training parameter layers and 1 fully connected layer.

Figure 3a, b show the comparison of the loss rate between MSMNet and MSMRNet during training and testing.

4 Conclusion

This work proposed a network traffic anomaly detection model based on the multi-scale memory residual network to address the issues of poor environmental adaptation, restricted representation ability, and weak generalization ability of the network traffic anomaly detection model based on deep learning. This essay is based on crediblity The effectiveness of the network traffic data preprocessing method is demonstrated by the analysis of the three-dimensional feature space distribution; the multi-scale one-dimensional convolution is combined with the long short-term memory network, and the model representation ability is enhanced through the deep

learning algorithm; based on the idea of the residual network, there is realization of in-depth feature extraction, while preventing gradient disappearance, gradient explosion, and over fitting. The results of data preprocessing visualization demonstrate that following one-hot encoding, the results of validity verification experiments and performance evaluation experiments show that adding identity mapping can accelerate model convergence, improve network traffic anomaly detection performance, and effectively solve the problem of network degradation; comparative experimental results show that normalization processing can effectively separate normal traffic and abnormal traffic data. Performance metrics have improved.

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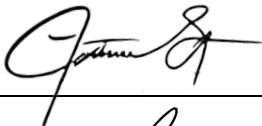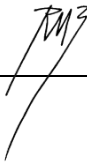
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