

# Intrusion Detection Using KDD Dataset

GROUP 20

Divya Chaganti  
Saili Sahasrabuddhe  
Ashwin Viswanathan  
Vignesh Miriyala  
Sanil Sinai Borkar

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## 1 Introduction

Our project is to use a data mining approach to develop an intrusion detection system (IDS) using the KDD dataset [1].

## 2 Dataset

The KDD dataset [1] is a simulated dataset that was generated as part of The 1998 DARPA Intrusion Detection Evaluation Program with the objective of surveying and evaluating research in intrusion detection [2]. Raw TCP dump data for a local-area network (LAN) simulating a typical U.S. Air Force LAN was collected for nine weeks. The LAN was operated as if it were a true Air Force environment, but was peppered with multiple attacks.

The dataset contains normal packets along with attack packets. The attacks that are included in the dataset can be broadly classified into 4 categories [2]. The types of attacks present in the dataset are included in each category below:

1. DOS - denial-of-service  
E.g.: back, land, neptune, pod, smurf, teardrop

2. R2L - unauthorized access from a remote machine  
E.g.: ipsweep, portsweep, nmap, satan
3. U2R - unauthorized access to local superuser (root) privileges  
E.g.: ftp\_write, guess\_passwd, map, ultihop, hf, py, arezclient, arez-master
4. Probing - surveillance and other probing  
E.g.: buffer\_overflow, loadmodule, perl, rootkit,

The dataset contains 42 features out of which 34 are continuous, 7 are nominal, and the last feature field is the class label indicating the nature of the packets - either 'normal' or the type of attack, as specified in Table 1.

The total number of records for each attack are given in Table 2.

### 3 Literature Review

Since this is an old dataset, significant research has been done in this area. Kuchimanchi et al. [3] perform dimensionality reduction using Principal Component Analysis (PCA) and considered 19 principal components using Eigen value decomposition and decreasing standard deviations. We have performed only PCA present in R libraries and selected 11 out of the 42 features.

Some significant research using the KDD dataset is done on anomaly-based and misuse-based detection techniques [4]. By statistically analyzing the entire KDD data set, the analysis showed that there are two important issues in the data set which highly affects the performance of evaluated systems and results in a very poor evaluation of anomaly detection approaches. A new data set NSL-KDD is proposed, which consists of selective records of the complete KDD data set as a solution to the said problem.

We have used decision trees in our project to classify and predict the results while this project uses different methods like Naïve Bayes. Also, Weka's default values are as the input parameters of these methods.

Machine learning algorithms also have been applied to the KDD 1999 Cup intrusion detection dataset resulted in dismal performance for user-to-root and remote-to-local attack categories [5]. Nine distinct pattern recognition and machine learning algorithms were tested on the KDD dataset. These

Table 1: Dataset Feature Set

Feature	Type
duration	continuous
protocol_type	symbolic
service	symbolic
flag	symbolic
src_bytes	continuous
dst_bytes	continuous
land	symbolic
wrong_fragment	continuous
urgent	continuous
hot	continuous
num_failed_logins	continuous
logged_in	symbolic
num_compromised	continuous
root_shell	continuous
su_attempted	continuous
num_root	continuous
num_file_creations	continuous
num_shells	continuous
num_access_files	continuous
num_outbound_cmds	continuous
is_host_login	symbolic
is_guest_login	symbolic
count	continuous
srv_count	continuous
serror_rate	continuous
srv_serror_rate	continuous
rerror_rate	continuous
srv_rerror_rate	continuous
same_srv_rate	continuous
diff_srv_rate	continuous
srv_diff_host_rate	continuous
dst_host_count	continuous
dst_host_srv_count	continuous
dst_host_same_srv_rate	continuous
dst_host_diff_srv_rate	continuous
dst_host_same_src_port_rate	continuous
dst_host_srv_diff_host_rate	continuous
dst_host_serror_rate	continuous
dst_host_srv_serror_rate	continuous
dst_host_rerror_rate <sup>3</sup>	continuous
dst_host_srv_rerror_rate	continuous
attack_type	symbolic

Table 2: Number of records for each attack

Type of attack	Number of records
back	2203
buffer_overflow	30
ftp_write	8
guess_passwd	53
imap	12
ipsweep	1247
land	21
loadmodule	9
multihop	7
neptune	107201
nmap	231
normal	97278
perl	3
phf	4
pod	264
portsweep	1040
rootkit	10
satan	1589
smurf	280790
spy	2
teardrop	0
warezclient	1020
warezmaster	20
total	494021

algorithms were selected so that they represent a wide variety of fields: neural networks, probabilistic models, statistical models, fuzzy-neuro systems, and decision trees.

In our project, we predict whether the given request is an attack or legitimate request. In contrast to this, the authors have tried to identify whether it belongs to any particular attack category like user-to-root etc.

## 4 Feature Extraction

The original KDD dataset contains 42 features including the label. Since working this size of data may not be feasible always from the perspective of a real-time IDS, we had to reduce the number of features used. This was achieved by using PCA. 34 of the 42 features of the dataset were continuous on which PCA was applied.

Out of all the 34 continuous features, we picked up the principal components that contained positive weights for most of the *error rate* indicating features. Out of the 34 candidate principal components, we narrowed down it to 2 principal components, and selected the one that had more positive weights. This led us to finalize our principal component which is specified below:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Comp23} = & 0.124 * \text{num\_access\_files} - 0.131 * \text{error\_rate} + 0.141 * \text{srv\_error\_rate} - \\ & 0.490 * \text{srv\_error\_rate} + 0.107 * \text{same\_srv\_rate} + 0.126 * \text{diff\_srv\_rate} - \\ & 0.154 * \text{dst\_host\_diff\_srv\_rate} + \\ & 0.263 * \text{dst\_host\_srv\_diff\_host\_rate} - 0.122 * \text{dst\_host\_error\_rate} + 0.162 * \\ & \text{dst\_host\_srv\_error\_rate} + 0.717 * \text{dst\_host\_error\_rate} \end{aligned}$$

Based on this principal component, 11 features were selected out of the available 41 as shown in Table 3 as per the description given in [2].

**Note:** PCA was used only to give us an insight on the variations that are exhibited by the various features and to determine which features account for what percentage of the entire dataset. The ‘Comp23’ contains a linear combination of features which accounts for a major portion of the dataset. Hence, these only these features were considered. All the algorithms were not run on the principal components, but on the original data containing only the said features.

Table 3: Final Feature Set  
Description

Feature	Description
num_access_files	number of operations on access control files
serror_rate	% of connections that have “SYN” errors
srv_serror_rate	% of connections that have “SYN” errors
srv_rerror_rate	% of connections that have “REJ” errors
same_srv_rate	% of connections to the same service
diff_srv_rate	% of connections to different services
dst_host_diff_srv_rate	
dst_host_srv_diff_host_rate	
dst_host_serror_rate	
dst_host_srv_serror_rate	
dst_host_rerror_rate	

## 5 Classification

### 5.1 Methods and Materials

#### 5.1.1 Package Used

*J48* - RWeka [6]

#### 5.1.2 Feature Selection

We tried running classification on the entire dataset but obtained the following results:

1. Classification
  - Accuracy: 76.87%
  - Time Taken: 36 seconds
2. Prediction
  - Accuracy: 76.28%
  - Time Taken: 0.5 seconds

Although this is not a very bad degree of accuracy, it is unacceptable for an IDS. Moreover, the prediction time is a bit on the higher side. Hence, the

11 features obtained by using PCA in Section 4 was used.

### 5.1.3 Classifier

Decision Tree classifier was used to classify the instances. Out of the 494022 packets, 80% of it was used as training data (395218 records), and the remaining 20% was used for testing (98803 records).

Since the IDS needs to tag each network packet as either malicious (attack packet) or benign (normal packet), the type of attack is not significant but only the presence of an attack packet is. Therefore, as a pre-processing step for classification, the normal packets were labeled as 'normal' and everything else was tagged as an 'attack' packet.

## 5.2 Results

### 5.2.1 Training

The time taken to train a decision tree classifier model was around **14 seconds** on an average, and accuracy was **95.5318%**. The summary of the classifier model is given below:

=== Summary ===

Correctly Classified Instances	377559	95.5318 %
Incorrectly Classified Instances	17659	4.4682 %
Kappa statistic	0.8471	
Mean absolute error	0.083	
Root mean squared error	0.2037	
Relative absolute error	26.2432 %	
Root relative squared error	51.2282 %	
Coverage of cases (0.95 level)	99.8133 %	
Mean rel. region size (0.95 level)	81.0894 %	
Total Number of Instances	395218	

=== Confusion Matrix ===

a	b	<-- classified as
316384	1011	a = attack.
16648	61175	b = normal.

### 5.2.2 Prediction

The prediction for the 98803 records was done in **0.2 seconds** with an accuracy of **95.46%**. The confusion matrix for the prediction is given below:

Confusion Matrix and Statistics

	Reference	
Prediction	attack.	normal.
attack.	79084	4223
normal.	264	15232

Accuracy : 0.9546  
95% CI : (0.9533, 0.9559)  
No Information Rate : 0.8031  
P-Value [Acc > NIR] : < 2.2e-16

Kappa : 0.8445  
McNemar's Test P-Value : < 2.2e-16

Sensitivity : 0.9967  
Specificity : 0.7829  
Pos Pred Value : 0.9493  
Neg Pred Value : 0.9830  
Prevalence : 0.8031  
Detection Rate : 0.8004  
Detection Prevalence : 0.8432  
Balanced Accuracy : 0.8898

'Positive' Class : attack.

## 6 Association

### 6.1 Methods and Materials

Our dataset contains packet information for 24 attack types. The goal of the association analysis task was to find out relevant rules for each attack with the attack type in the RHS. In other words, rules stating the presence of certain values for different packet fields which lead to different attacks.



### 6.1.1 Packages Used

arules [7], arulesViz [8], Matrix [9]

### 6.1.2 Feature Selection

There are 43 features in the dataset out of which 34 attributes were used based on domain knowledge and results of PCA.

### 6.1.3 Data preparation

Since only 7 out of the selected 34 attributes were discrete, remaining 27 attributes had to be discretized. We used ‘discretize’ method from the package ‘arules’ and chose the method of discretization for each attribute by looking at the value distribution. As an example, there are 14 attributes which provide the percentage error rate and have values in the range 0 - 1, these were discretized into 10 intervals with fixed interval of 0.1.

### 6.1.4 Rule generation

The support value was chosen based on the number of records for each attack and the total number of attacks in the dataset to ensure that some rules are found and the confidence used was 0.9 and max length of rules was restricted to 5. Also redundant rules were removed to find unique rules for each attack.

## 6.2 Results

Some of the interesting rules found were as follows:

- If the packet is for ‘telnet’ service on the destination, root shell is obtained and the number of connections to same service on destination is between 90 to 100 percent, then the attack is buffer overflow.
- The presence of urgent indicator in packet and targeted towards ‘login’ service on destination and number of operations on access control files equal to 1 indicate a ftp\_write attack.

- If number of failed login attempts is greater than zero and flag is set to reset connection then the attack is guess password.
- If the packet is targeted for 'imap' service on the destination and the number of connections to same service on destination is between 90 to 100 percent, then the attack is imap.
- If the number of connections to different hosts is between 40-50% and the packet is for 'eco\_i' service on destination then the attack is ip-sweep.
- If the attribute land is 1 i.e. if connection is from/to the same host/-port then the attack is land.
- If the number of shell prompts obtained is 2 and number of operations on access control files equal to 1 then the attack is loadmodule.
- If the wrong fragment is 1 then attack is ping of death.
- If the root shell is obtained and the urgent indicator is 1 then the attack is rootkit.

```
# Back attack

lhs                               rhs               support   confidence lift
1 {hot=2}                         => {attack_type=back} 0.004305485 0.9703467 217.5995
2 {num_compromised=[1,884]} => {attack_type=back} 0.004309533 0.9572842 214.6702

# Buffer overflow

lhs                               rhs               support   confidence lift
1 {service=telnet,
   root_shell=1,
   num_shells=0,
   dst_host_same_srv_rate=[0.9,1.0]} => {attack_type=buffer_overflow} 3.238729e-05 1.0000000 16467.37
2 {service=telnet,
   num_compromised=[1,884],
   num_shells=0,
   dst_host_same_srv_rate=[0.9,1.0]} => {attack_type=buffer_overflow} 3.643570e-05 0.9473684 15600.66
3 {service=telnet,
   root_shell=1,
   num_root=0}                       => {attack_type=buffer_overflow} 3.238729e-05 0.9411765 15498.70

# ftp_write

lhs                               rhs               support   confidence lift
1 {urgent=2}                       => {attack_type=ftp_write} 2.024205e-06 1 61752.62
2 {service=login,urgent=2}         => {attack_type=ftp_write} 2.024205e-06 1 61752.62
3 {urgent=2,num_access_files=1}    => {attack_type=ftp_write} 2.024205e-06 1 61752.62

# guess_password

lhs                               rhs               support   confidence lift
1 {hot=1,
   num_failed_logins=1}            => {attack_type=guess_passwd} 9.513766e-05 1.0000000 9321.151
2 {flag=RST0,
   num_failed_logins=1}            => {attack_type=guess_passwd} 9.108925e-05 1.0000000 9321.151
3 {num_failed_logins=1,
   dst_host_rerror_rate=[0.9,1.0]} => {attack_type=guess_passwd} 8.299242e-05 1.0000000 9321.151

# imap

lhs                               rhs               support   confidence lift
```

```

1 {service=imap4,dst_host_same_srv_rate=[0.9,1.0]} => {attack_type=imap} 2.226626e-05 1 41168.42
2 {service=imap4,flag=SF} => {attack_type=imap} 1.214523e-05 1 41168.42
3 {service=imap4,same_srv_rate=[0.9,1.0]} => {attack_type=imap} 2.429047e-05 1 41168.42

# ipsweep

lhs                                rhs                                support confidence    lift
1 {service=eco_i,
  dst_host_srv_diff_host_rate=[0.4,0.5]} => {attack_type=ipsweep} 0.001333951 0.9939668 393.7775
2 {srv_diff_host_rate=[0.9,1.0],
  dst_host_srv_diff_host_rate=[0.4,0.5]} => {attack_type=ipsweep} 0.001311685 0.9863014 390.7406
3 {wrong_fragment=0,
  dst_host_same_src_port_rate=[0.9,1.0],
  dst_host_srv_diff_host_rate=[0.4,0.5]} => {attack_type=ipsweep} 0.001333951 0.9441261 374.0322

# land

lhs      rhs      support      confidence lift
1 {land=1} => {attack_type=land} 4.250831e-05 0.9545455 22455.5

# loadmodule

lhs                                rhs                                support confidence    lift
1 {num_shells=2,
  dst_host_srv_rerror_rate=[0.1,0.2]} => {attack_type=loadmodule} 2.024205e-06 1 54891.22
2 {num_shells=2,
  num_access_files=1} => {attack_type=loadmodule} 2.024205e-06 1 54891.22
3 {num_shells=2,
  dst_host_srv_diff_host_rate=[0.2,0.3]} => {attack_type=loadmodule} 2.024205e-06 1 54891.22

# multihop

lhs                                rhs                                support confidence    lift
1 {hot=15} => {attack_type=multihop} 2.024205e-06 1 70574.43
2 {hot=3,
  num_shells=2} => {attack_type=multihop} 2.024205e-06 1 70574.43
3 {num_shells=1,
  num_access_files=2} => {attack_type=multihop} 2.024205e-06 1 70574.43

# neptune

lhs                                rhs                                support confidence lift
44 {protocol_type=tcp,logged_in=0} => {attack_type=neptune} 0.2169968 0.9175968 4.228618
1 {service=private} => {attack_type=neptune} 0.2050864 0.9136465 4.210414
2 {dst_host_same_srv_rate=[0.0,0.1]} => {attack_type=neptune} 0.2143350 0.9081677 4.185166

# nmap

lhs                                rhs                                support confidence    lift
1 {flag=SH} => {attack_type=nmap} 0.0002084932 0.9626168 2058.671
2 {service=eco_i,
  srv_diff_host_rate=[0.9,1.0],
  dst_host_srv_diff_host_rate=[0.2,0.3]} => {attack_type=nmap} 0.0002003963 0.9339623 1997.389
3 {protocol_type=icmp,
  srv_diff_host_rate=[0.9,1.0],
  dst_host_srv_diff_host_rate=[0.2,0.3]} => {attack_type=nmap} 0.0002003963 0.9339623 1997.389

# perl

lhs                                rhs                                support confidence    lift
1 {num_shells=1,
  dst_host_rerror_rate=[0.6,0.7]} => {attack_type=perl} 2.024205e-06 1 164673.7
2 {root_shell=1,
  dst_host_rerror_rate=[0.6,0.7]} => {attack_type=perl} 2.024205e-06 1 164673.7
3 {num_file_creations=[1,28],
  dst_host_rerror_rate=[0.6,0.7]} => {attack_type=perl} 2.024205e-06 1 164673.7

# phf

lhs                                rhs                                support confidence    lift
1 {root_shell=1,
  srv_rerror_rate=[0.5,0.6]} => {attack_type=phf} 2.024205e-06 1 123505.2
2 {root_shell=1,

```

```

    srv_diff_host_rate=[0.9,1.0]}          => {attack_type=phf} 2.024205e-06      1 123505.2
3 {service=http,
   root_shell=1,
   num_access_files=1}                    => {attack_type=phf} 8.096822e-06      1 123505.2

# pod

lhs      rhs      support      confidence lift
1 {wrong_fragment=1} => {attack_type=pod} 0.0005242692 0.9664179 1808.45

# portsweep

lhs      rhs      support confidence lift
1 {dst_host_diff_srv_rate=[0.9,1.0],
   dst_host_same_src_port_rate=[0.9,1.0],
   dst_host_error_rate=[0.9,1.0]}      => {attack_type=portsweep} 0.001024248      1 475.0202
2 {dst_host_diff_srv_rate=[0.9,1.0],
   dst_host_same_src_port_rate=[0.9,1.0],
   dst_host_srv_error_rate=[0.9,1.0]}  => {attack_type=portsweep} 0.001014127      1 475.0202
3 {error_rate=[0.9,1.0],
   dst_host_diff_srv_rate=[0.9,1.0],
   dst_host_same_src_port_rate=[0.9,1.0]} => {attack_type=portsweep} 0.001014127      1 475.0202

# rootkit

lhs      rhs      support      confidence lift
1 {urgent=1,root_shell=1}              => {attack_type=rootkit} 2.024205e-06 1      49402.1
2 {urgent=1,hot=1}                    => {attack_type=rootkit} 2.024205e-06 1      49402.1
3 {urgent=1,num_file_creations=[1,28]} => {attack_type=rootkit} 2.024205e-06 1      49402.1

# satan

lhs      rhs      support confidence lift
1 {same_srv_rate=[0.0,0.1],
   diff_srv_rate=[0.9,1.0]}            => {attack_type=satan} 0.002841984 1.0000000 310.9006
2 {flag=REJ,
   diff_srv_rate=[0.9,1.0],
   dst_host_same_src_port_rate=[0.0,0.1]} => {attack_type=satan} 0.002487748 0.9967559 309.8920
3 {diff_srv_rate=[0.9,1.0],
   dst_host_same_src_port_rate=[0.0,0.1],
   dst_host_srv_error_rate=[0.9,1.0]}  => {attack_type=satan} 0.002487748 0.9959481 309.6408

# smurf

lhs      rhs      support confidence lift
1 {service=ecr_i}                      => {attack_type=smurf} 0.5683766 0.9978323 1.755583
2 {protocol_type=icmp}                 => {attack_type=smurf} 0.5683766 0.9900847 1.741952
3 {dst_host_same_src_port_rate=[0.9,1.0]} => {attack_type=smurf} 0.5680508 0.9636522 1.695446

# spy

lhs      rhs      support confidence lift
1 {su_attempted=1,
   num_shells=1}                      => {attack_type=spy} 2.024205e-06      1 247010.5
2 {su_attempted=1,
   dst_host_error_rate=[0.2,0.3]}      => {attack_type=spy} 2.024205e-06      1 247010.5
3 {su_attempted=1,
   num_access_files=1}                 => {attack_type=spy} 2.024205e-06      1 247010.5

# warezclient

lhs      rhs      support confidence lift
1 {service=ftp_data,
   logged_in=1,
   dst_host_same_src_port_rate=[0.9,1.0]} => {attack_type=warezclient} 0.001307637 0.9124294 441.9209
2 {service=ftp_data,
   logged_in=1,
   dst_host_same_srv_rate=[0.9,1.0]}    => {attack_type=warezclient} 0.001283346 0.9109195 441.1896

# warezmaster

lhs      rhs      support      confidence lift
1 {hot=18,num_file_creations=[1,28]}    => {attack_type=warezmaster} 2.024205e-06 1      24701.05
2 {hot=18,dst_host_same_srv_rate=[0.0,0.1]} => {attack_type=warezmaster} 2.024205e-06 1      24701.05
3 {is_guest_login=1,dst_host_error_rate=[0.3,0.4]} => {attack_type=warezmaster} 2.024205e-06 1      24701.05

```

## 7 Clustering

### 7.1 Methods and Materials

#### 7.1.1 Packages Used

*kmeans* - stats [10], *preprocess* - caret [11], *predict* - caret, *plot* - 3d [12]

#### 7.1.2 Approaches

Using k-means clustering to do clustering. We observed that most of the fields describing the data are continuous and hence we thought using a distance based approach is a good idea. We are not using any features which has factor data as we are using distance based clustering

#### 7.1.3 Feature Selection - All Features vs PCA

Initially we have tried to take all the components but the ratio was pretty low (*between\_SS/total\_SS*). Of the continuous variables on our dataset we have done PCA and generated all the principal components and then we switched to taking only the principal components generated after doing PCA and we have observed that the ratio improved drastically after that.

#### 7.1.4 Data Preparation - Scaling and Center

We found that each of the dimensions have different range like *src\_bytes*, *dest\_bytes* and *num\_of\_files* each have different range. So we have done scaling and centering so that clustering is not biased on one particular feature. We have also observed that improved the results.

#### 7.1.5 Sampling of Different Attacks

We have also observed that our dataset has more points for two particular types of attacks and few points for one of the attack and hence we thought equal sampling of the data would be a good thing to do but turns out that it did not really affect the result, the accuracy did not improve.

## 7.2 Results

The dataset contains 23 different types of attacks which are further divided into 5 broad classes. So we have tried to different total cluster sizes i.e. 23 and 5 and results turned out to be good in case of 23 classes as compared to 5 which kind of makes sense because though the class of attacks belong to the same broad category but are very spread out in the feature space and this will affect clustering adversely.

### 7.2.1 Number of classes - 5

Within cluster sum of squares by cluster:

[1] 24304.94 56739.37 112714.73 147962.42 803257.83

(*between\_SS/total\_SS* = 78.9%)

The plot for clustering on 5 attack classes is given in Figure 1.

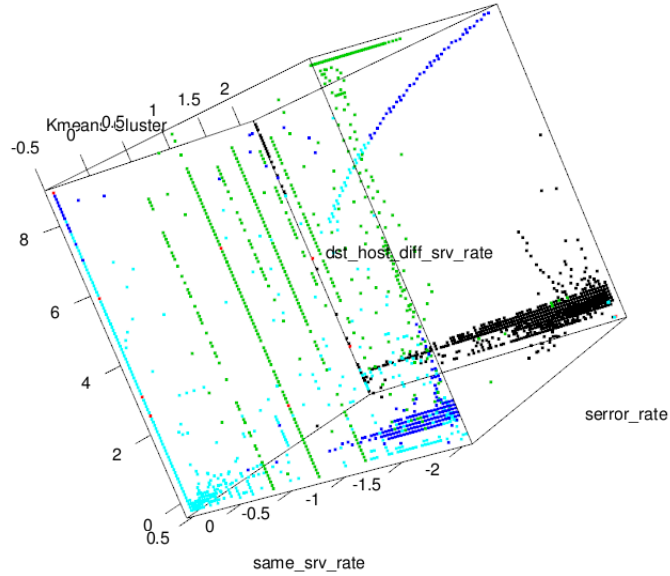


Figure 1: Clustering Results for 5 attack classes

### 7.2.2 Number of classes - 23

Within cluster sum of squares by cluster:

[1] 3227.35686 1272.85737 1961.66395 710.47783 4834.37121 411.49075 2932.80823  
47009.93535 42451.05736

[10] 667.83164 98.60543 3878.55384 26582.85832 1080.77894 1747.93551 1604.59234  
3298.17346 3274.04034

[19] 7064.86597 6587.84850 85157.18493 1487.41422 1936.37399

(*between\_SS/total\_SS* = 95.4%)

The plot for clustering on all 23 attack classes is given in Figure 2.

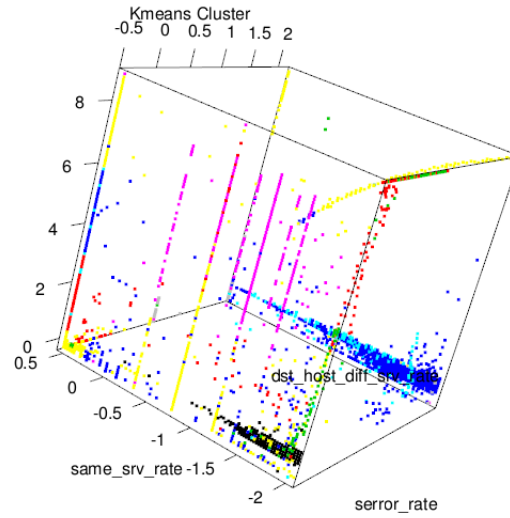


Figure 2: Clustering Results for 23 attack classes

## 8 Discussion

### 8.1 Classification

Since we are designing a real-time IDS, we were more interested in an approach that performs prediction very fast. For the said reason, **decision tree (C4.5)** was used as a classifier as it learned the trained data with an accuracy of **95.53%** in **14 seconds** on an average for nearly **400K data packets**. This large learning time is acceptable as training the classifier is a periodic activity (maybe once a day). Decision tree classifier also predicts in a very short time, as we required. It predicted around **98K data packets** with an accuracy of **95.46%** in just **0.2 seconds**.

### 8.2 Association

Majority of the data features are continuous, so we performed discretization on these features based on the spread of values in each feature. Association analysis was carried out by using the **apriori** method. The final rules obtained by eliminating redundant rules. The rules for many attacks found by association analysis are found to be in sync with domain knowledge expectations. We used varying values of support for different types based on the number of records for each attack. Confidence value of **0.9** was chosen to remove possibility of any false positives.

### 8.3 Clustering

Since majority of the features are continuous, it was reasonable to use a distance-based clustering method like **kMeans**. Some of the attributes had different ranges, we used scaling and centering which actually improved our results. We carried kMeans to find 2 different sets of clusters - one with 5 classes (which included normal data and the broad classes mentioned in Section 2), and one with 23 classes (which included normal data and all the types of attacks mentioned in the examples in Section 2).



## 9 Conclusion

Since we dealt with a large number of features, we had to use a dimensionality reduction technique. PCA was found to be the easiest and most effective method for dimensionality reduction as it reduced the number of features from 42 to just 11. We even tried with the original dataset without using PCA, and found unimpressive and erroneous results. It was necessary to discretize the continuous features in order to find useful rules which would not have been generated without the use of these continuous features. Moreover, the data contained a lot of features which had varying ranges. Thus, for a distance-based clustering method, it was necessary to scale such data to obtain unbiased clustering. We tried clustering on raw data to find unimpressive results.

For much better results, it would have been useful if we could generate new genuine http data to predict. However, the dataset is an old simulated dataset and most of the fields that it contains are not present in the TCP headers that are currently used today. Therefore, this seems an impossible task to achieve.

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