

An Intelligent Fault Detection Approach Based on RL Systems in WSN

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Abstract— This paper shows how we made and tested the faults in a given message using RL system. The Internet of Things (IOT) has established a solid infrastructure through the commercialization of innovative technologies. IOT networks facilitate smart devices in gathering environmental data and transmitting it to users via an IOT gateway. However, the rapid growth in the number of IOT devices and sensors leads to network congestion, which significantly drains the energy of these devices. The wireless network serves as a crucial layer for IOT, characterized by its dynamic nature. To address the challenges posed by environmental unpredictability and the random distribution of network weights, developing energy-efficient routing protocols is essential. Learning-based routing systems are emerging as viable solutions due to their adaptability and precision. Nonetheless, routing in dynamic IOT networks presents difficulties due to the fluctuating nature of link connections and access statuses. Thus, contemporary learning-based routing systems must be capable of real-time adaptation to changes within the network. This research introduces an intelligent routing technique that leverages reinforcement learning for fault detection, energy efficiency, and quality of service, aiming to identify optimal routes with minimal end-to-end latency. Notably, the selection of cluster heads is influenced by the residual energy of cluster nodes, which can affect the overall lifespan of the network. This approach not only prolongs network longevity but also mitigates energy consumption during data transmission, enhancing network resilience.

Keywords— Energy efficient · Fault tolerant · Wireless sensor networks · Internet of things · Cluster head · Reinforcement learning

I. INTRODUCTION

Wireless Sensor Networks (WSNs) have become pivotal in modern technological applications, ranging from environmental monitoring to industrial automation and smart cities. These networks consist of numerous small, interconnected sensor nodes that collaboratively gather, process, and transmit data wirelessly. Their ability to provide real-time data over vast areas makes them indispensable for monitoring and managing complex systems. However, the reliability and efficiency of WSNs are often challenged by various faults, such as sensor malfunctions, communication disruptions, or node failures. These issues can significantly impair network performance and data integrity, underscoring the need for robust fault detection mechanisms.

Faults in WSNs, such as sensor failures, communication breakdowns, or node malfunctions, can significantly degrade the performance and reliability of the network

Traditional fault detection methods may not be adequate for the dynamic and complex nature of WSNs. Intelligent systems, particularly those based on reinforcement learning (RL), offer a promising approach to autonomously identify and respond to faults. RL algorithms can learn from the network's behavior and adapt to changing conditions, improving fault detection accuracy and response time.

The Internet of Things (IOT) has emerged as a distinctive framework for managing network traffic generated by numerous small devices and components. Recently, IOT has garnered considerable attention due to its wide-ranging applications, including smart healthcare, smart homes, traffic management, and mobility [1, 2]. The methods employed in IOT hold the promise of significantly enhancing the resilience, stability, and efficiency of intelligent services. The main objective of the Internet of Things (IOT) is to continuously gather information to ensure that the essential and sensitive perceptual layer of the system remains active. This layer is particularly critical and susceptible, as it relies on multiple sources to function effectively, especially when the energy of a node is low. Furthermore, the reliability of the data collected by this perceptual layer has played a significant role in the growth and advancement of IOT [3].

Wireless sensor networks (WSNs) play a crucial role in Internet of Things (IOT) applications by gathering essential data for intelligent environments. However, due to the constrained processing power and transmission capacity of WSNs, the network architecture must be adapted to implement effective node-energy-saving mechanisms. A key issue in this context is identifying the optimal energy-efficient multi-hop routing method that connects the source to the destination, while ensuring minimal energy consumption across the network [4].

As a result, advancements like low-energy and rechargeable WSNs have been introduced to enhance the long-term reliability of WSNs and the IOT's perception layer. Research into low-energy routing protocols is critical, as they contribute to the prolonged operation of WSNs and the IOT's information layer [5]. However, sensor nodes gather and transmit varying amounts of data, leading to an imbalanced distribution of remaining energy among the nodes. Given the restricted energy available to nodes, the routing protocol needs to focus on optimizing energy usage to balance power distribution among nodes, even if it means compromising on Quality of Service (QoS) and other factors to prolong the network's lifespan. Sensor nodes carry out initial data processing and rely on multi-hop transmission to deliver information to the sink node. Likewise, the proposed algorithm is tasked with determining the sequence of cluster head selection. This approach not only lowers computation.

II. EXISTING METHOD

Current fault detection systems in Wireless Sensor Networks (WSNs) predominantly rely on rule-based algorithms or statistical analysis methods. These approaches typically utilize static thresholds and predefined rules to identify faults, but they often fall short in dynamic and noisy environments where conditions are constantly changing. Traditional methods are not equipped for adaptive learning and frequently require manual intervention for parameter tuning, which limits their effectiveness. As a result, fault detection can be delayed, and the energy consumption associated with these methods is higher, negatively impacting the overall longevity of the network. Moreover, the lack of autonomous learning capabilities restricts these systems from effectively managing complex, real-time scenarios.

In addition to these challenges, the static nature of conventional fault detection mechanisms makes them less resilient to the evolving needs of modern WSNs. As networks grow in size and complexity, the limitations of rule-based and statistical methods become more pronounced. These systems are often unable to scale efficiently, leading to increased computational overhead and reduced accuracy in larger deployments. Consequently, there is a pressing need for more advanced, intelligent fault detection systems that can learn autonomously, adapt in real-time, and operate efficiently in diverse and dynamic environments.

III. PROPOSED DESIGN

The System Design Document outlines the system requirements, operating environment, architecture for both the system and subsystems, file and database design, input formats, output layouts, human-machine interfaces, detailed design, processing logic, and external interfaces.

A. Data Collection

The NSL-KDD dataset includes three symbolic data types: protocol type, flag, and service. To convert these features into binary vectors, a one-hot encoding method is applied. One-hot encoding transforms categorical features into numerical representations. For instance, the second feature in the NSL-KDD data is the protocol type, which can take one of three values: tcp, udp, or icmp. Using one-hot encoding, these values are converted into binary codes that a computer can process. In this case, tcp is represented as [1, 0, 0], udp as [0, 1, 0], and icmp as [0, 0, 1].

B. Pre – Processing

When working with a dataset, it may contain issues like noise, duplicate entries, missing or infinite values, often due to extraction or input errors. To address this, the first step is data preprocessing, which involves several tasks. For example, duplicate entries are removed to ensure that only unique samples are retained. Outliers, such as missing (NaN) or infinite values, are excluded since their occurrence is minimal. In terms of feature deletion and transformation, in the NSL-KDD dataset, irrelevant features like "Timestamp," "Destination Address," "Source Address," and "Source Port" are removed. Furthermore, specific features like "Init Bwd Win Byts" and "Init Fwd Win Byts" are handled by creating two binary dimensions: a value of -1 is assigned 1, while all other values are assigned 0.

This conversion is accomplished using the One-Hot encoder. For example, the protocol types "TCP," "UDP," and "ICMP" are transformed into binary vectors (1, 0, 0), (0, 1, 0), and (0, 0, 1), respectively. The protocol type function is categorized into three types, while the flag function includes 11 categories and the service function encompasses 70 categories, resulting in an expansion from 41 initial feature dimensions to 122 dimensions.

Numerical Standardization: To mitigate the impact of dimensionality on the indicators and to speed up gradient descent and model convergence, we standardize the data using the Z-Score method. This process ensures that each feature has an average value of 0 and a standard deviation of 1, converting the data to a standard normal distribution that reflects the overall sample distribution. Each sample point contributes to this standardization. The standardization formula is given as follows, where μ is the mean of each feature, σ is the standard deviation of each feature, and x_i represents the corresponding element for each feature column.

C. Train-Test Split and Model Fitting

We now split our dataset into training and testing subsets. The purpose of this division is to evaluate the performance of our model on unseen data and to assess how well it generalizes based on the training data. This step is followed by model fitting, which is a crucial part of the model-building process.

Algorithm:

CNNs Architecture: CNNs consist of various layers that convert an image into a format that the model can interpret.

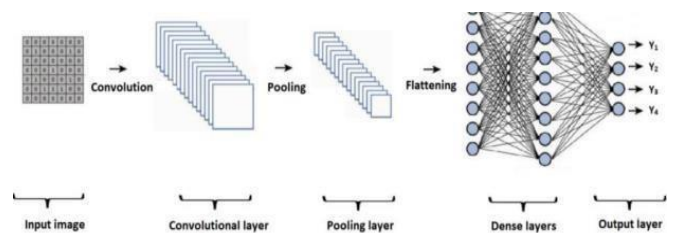


Figure 1: CNNs Architecture

Fully Connected Input Layer: Converts the outputs from previous layers into a single, flattened vector. **Fully Connected Layer:** Assigns weights to the inputs obtained from feature extraction to further process the data. **Fully Connected Output Layer:** Computes the final probabilities that categorize the image. **Pooling Layer:** Reduces the size of the data generated by the convolutional layer, optimizing it for efficient storage.

Process:

Forward and backward propagation iterates through all training samples in the network until the ideal weights are found, activating the most relevant neurons to make accurate predictions.

The model undergoes training over several epochs, with each epoch consisting of one complete forward and backward pass through the entire training dataset.

more on those that have the greatest impact on predictive performance until an optimal combination of activations is achieved. As the model processes more examples, its ability to accurately predict the target improves, leading to a reduction in the loss measure. The cost function, which computes the average loss across all samples, serves as an indicator of the model's overall performance.

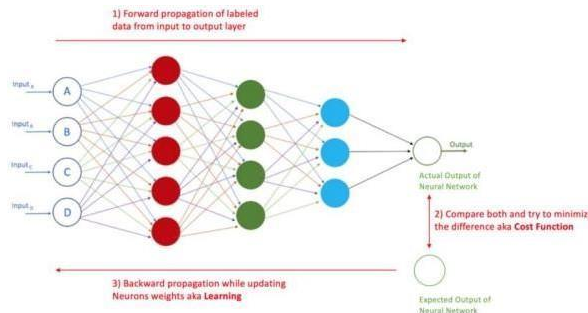


Figure 2: Forward&Backward Propagation

Inputs

Model inputs must always be structured as a 4D array with the dimensions (batch_size, height, width, depth). Batch Size: This represents the number of training examples processed in one epoch; larger batch sizes require more memory. Height & Width: These refer to the pixel dimensions of the image Depth: This indicates the color channels, which can be Red, Green, and Blue (3) for color images or a single channel (1) for black and white images.

IV. BLOCK DIAGRAM

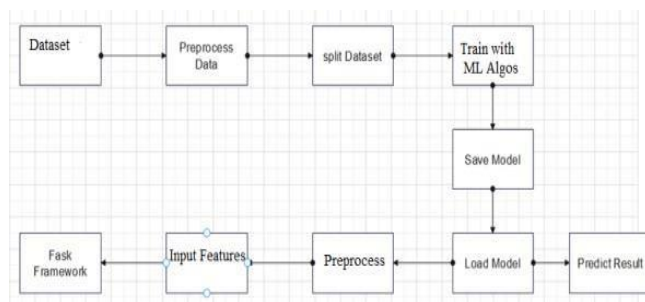


Figure 3:Block diagram

This dataset provides critical features for analyzing network behavior, including symbolic data types such as protocol type, flag, and service. These features are essential for identifying patterns that may indicate faults or anomalies within the network .Numerical Standardization Data is standardized using the Z-Score method to eliminate dimensional influence and accelerate the gradient descent and model convergence process.

Train-Test Split The dataset is divided into training and testing sets to evaluate the model's performance on unseen data. **Model Fitting** A variety of classification algorithms are applied, and their accuracy is evaluated based on test data to determine the best-performing model. **Flask Web Application** A web application is developed using Flask and MySQL to showcase the process flow of attack detection, integrating the trained model for real-time predictions.

Sender Module Users register on the application and upload data. The system predicts whether the uploaded data is an attack or non-attack, which determines whether it is uploaded to the cloud. **Node Module** The node verifies the uploaded files. If an attack type is detected, the data is rejected, and the user is blocked from further uploads.

Base Station Module The base station views data uploaded by users, verifying the integrity of the data before accepting it. **Reinforcement Learning** The model learns autonomously, adapting to faults and improving its decision-making capabilities over time by interacting with the network and adjusting its behavior based on the results. this methodology ensures real-time fault detection with enhanced accuracy and energy efficiency in WSNs.

Reinforcement Learning Algorithm: The methodology utilizes a reinforcement learning (RL) approach to optimize the routing path in WSNs. Unlike traditional methods that rely on pre-defined paths, the RL-based system continuously learns from interactions with the environment to maximize long-term rewards.

V.IMPLEMENTATION

Software implementation

Input design involves converting a user-focused description of input into a format suitable for a computer-based system. This process is essential for reducing data entry errors and helping management access reliable information from the system. It is achieved by developing intuitive data entry interfaces that efficiently manage large amounts of data. The primary aim of input design is to simplify data entry and ensure it is error- free. The data entry screen is structured to allow for all necessary data manipulations while also offering facilities for viewing records.

When data is entered, its validity is checked. Users can input data through these screens, and appropriate messages are provided as needed to prevent confusion. The goal of input design is to develop a user-friendly layout that is simple to navigate. High-quality output should fulfill the end user's needs and present information in a clear manner. In any system, processed data is delivered to users and other systems through outputs. Output design focuses on how information is presented, both for real-time use and in printed formats.

It serves as the most important and direct source of information for the user, and efficient, thoughtful output design enhances the system's ability to support user decision-making. The design process should be approached in an organized and deliberate manner, ensuring that the right output is developed and that each element is user- friendly and effective. Analysts should identify the specific outputs required to meet user needs, select appropriate methods for presenting information, and create documents, reports, or other formats that convey the information generated by the system.

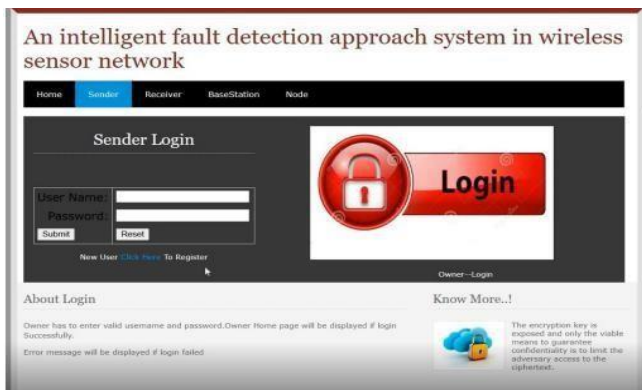


Figure 4: Sender Login



Figure 5: Input data

VI. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Typically, a tester begins by studying and comprehending the application's source code. Since white box testing focuses on examining the internal mechanisms of an application, the tester must be well-versed in the programming languages utilized in the software being tested. Additionally, a strong understanding of secure coding practices is essential. Security is often a key focus during software testing. The tester should be capable of identifying potential security vulnerabilities and mitigating risks from both hackers and unsuspecting users who may inadvertently introduce harmful code into the application.

The second fundamental step in white box testing is to evaluate the application's source code for its flow and structure. One approach involves creating additional code specifically to test the existing source code. The tester writes small test cases for each individual process or sequence of processes within the application. This approach necessitates a deep understanding of the code and is often carried out by the developer. Other techniques may include manual testing and trial-and-error testing.

System testing involves evaluating a complete and integrated software or hardware system to determine its compliance with specified requirements. This type of testing is classified as black-box testing, meaning that it does not require any understanding of the internal code structure or logic

System testing is crucial for several reasons. It represents the initial phase in the Software Development Life Cycle (SDLC) where the application is evaluated as a complete unit. During this stage, the application undergoes comprehensive testing to ensure that it adheres to both functional and technical specifications.

The application is assessed in an environment that closely resembles the production setting where it will ultimately be deployed. System testing allows for the examination, verification, and validation of both business requirements and the application's architecture.

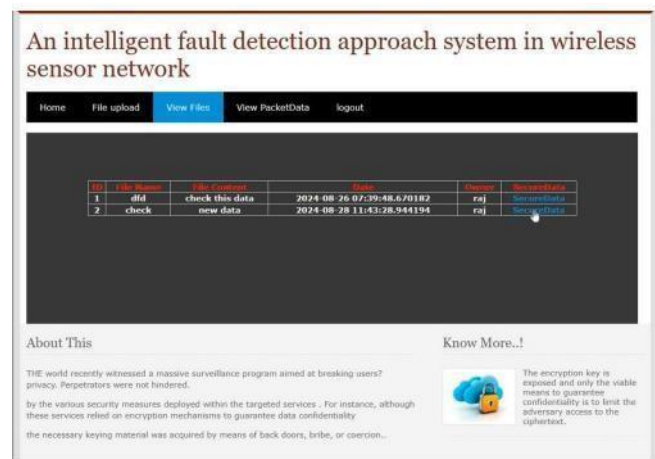


Figure 6: Result

Autonomous learning enables real-time adaptation to network changes. Improved accuracy in fault detection with fewer false positives. Enhanced energy efficiency, prolonging the network lifespan. Reduced dependency on human intervention for system tuning and maintenance.

VII. CHALLENGES AND FUTURE SCOPE

Future improvements could focus on integrating deep reinforcement learning to further enhance decision-making in more complex networks. The system could be expanded to handle large-scale WSNs and diverse sensor types. Advanced algorithms could be developed to predict faults before they occur, improving preventative maintenance. The use of cloud and edge computing could enable more distributed fault detection systems. Additionally, integrating security measures could help detect not only faults but also malicious activities within the network.

Future developments could focus on integrating deep reinforcement learning to enhance decision-making within more complex networks. Expanding the system to manage large-scale WSNs with various sensor types would improve its versatility. Additionally, advanced algorithms could be created to predict faults before they occur, thereby enhancing preventative maintenance efforts. The use of cloud and edge computing could enable more distributed fault detection systems, increasing efficiency and scalability. Moreover, integrating security measures would not only improve fault detection but also allow the system to identify and respond to potential malicious activities within the network, adding an extra layer of protection.

VIII. CONCLUSION

The reinforcement learning-based fault detection system for WSNs provides a more intelligent and adaptive approach to handling sensor node faults. It ensures higher accuracy, reduces false alarms, and consumes less energy, which makes it ideal for dynamic environments. This system enhances network performance and reliability by detecting and addressing faults in real-time. By reducing the need for manual intervention, the network becomes more autonomous and efficient. The proposed system significantly improves the overall lifespan of the WSN.

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