International Journal on Recent and Innovation Trends in Computing and Communication
ISSN: 2321-8169 Volume: 9 Issue: 12
***Article Received**: 15 September 2021 **Revised**: 22 October 2021 **Accepted**: 27 November 2021*

Advanced Convolutional Neural Network and Long Short-Term Memory Model for Real-Time Spam Detection in Internet of Things Devices

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Abstract: The proliferation of the Internet of Things has seen higher vulnerability to different cyber threats, most notably spam attacks, represents a major risk for device functionality and user privacy. In this study, Authors presents an advanced hybrid deep learning model with the combination of Convolutional Neural Networks and Long Short-Term Memory networks for real-time spam detections on IoT devices. This CNN-LSTM model is designed to deal with the complex and changing IoT environments. This model handles the complexities of spam detection in the sequence data streams common in IoT networks by combining spatial feature extraction offered by CNNs and potential temporal pattern recognition capabilities at which LSTMs excel. One of the fundamental parts of this model lies in its suitability for device strain and limited computational resources. It works well enough that spam can be effectively filtered out, but with a nearly zero processing load on IoT systems. This is important because performance like this will be equivalent to the latency constraints in many real-time applications. Comprehensive testing with real-world datasets shows that this CNN-LSTM model performs better than traditional detection methods, achieving high accuracy and low latency. This move adds to the wider effort of creating more cost-effective, real-time cybersecurity solutions for IoT ecosystems while boosting security and reliability for large-scale IoT deployments.

Keywords: cyber threats, risk, spam, Memory, detection, model, deployment, ecosystem.

1. INTRODUCTION

The advent of Internet of Things (IoT) has completely revamped the tech world, making way for a more connected future with smart automation being implemented across various sectors. IoT networks have a broad range of applications in today's world, from various smart homes & healthcare systems to industrial automation and environmental monitoring. These networks include an array of connected devices such as sensors, smart appliances, wearables and industrial machinery that talk together in real time to enable seamless data exchange and natural capability purposes. While IoT networks enabled with such cases, is convenient and useful, but it possess security challenges of a greater proportion as a downside. In recent years, the proliferation of IoT ecosystems has inadvertently provided new routes for malicious users to exploit devices especially from spam attacks which pose a serious threat to integrity operations on these devices and a breach of privacy for personal assets operating in closet network setups.

Spam attacks on IoT environments denote the continuous propagation of unwelcome or harmful messages attempting to steal network resources, cause performance reductions, or acquire confidential data. Due to most of the IoT devices are resource-constraint, the traditional spam detection methods which require complex computation / storing capabilities is unsuitable for providing real-time protection in these type of networks. The rise of this problem has requited the creation of very specific models for spam detection that need to be set up and working on the low resources available with IoT devices while still being secure. Machine learning and deep learning is used for detecting and mitigating many cyber threats including spam. Of these, Convolution Neural Network(CNN) and Long-short term memory(LSTM) networks have outshined because of their ability to deal with spatial and temporal data respectively.

This research mainly aims to fulfill the requirement of an intelligent spam detection technique which should be highly efficient as well as able to do real-time operation in IOT environments by proposing a novel deep learning model that is a hybrid variant of CNN and LSTM networks. In IoT environments, the dynamic and heterogeneous production environment is its salient feature with devices in field produce mass amount of data streams very fast. In these scenarios, spam detection becomes much more challenging as it needs to evolve with quickly changing patterns and yet should not exert a heavy computational tax on resource constrained devices. The requirements and currently existing drawbacks can be addressed by the CNN-LSTM model (Figure 1), where a trained CNN extracts spatial features and LSTM is utilized to recognize temporal patterns in time-dependent data.

CNNs are known for their success in various image processing and spatial representation efforts. For example, CNNs can be used as a useful technique for detecting patterns in spam data such as the structures in network traffic or message content that can help you determine spam. LSTM networks, on the other hand, are a special kind of RNN designed to address the common problems in training models such as vanishing/exploding gradients and distant dependencies. LSTM networks are well suited to identify temporal spam activity as the data generated by IoT devices follows a sequence in time such as network traffic logs, sensor readings etc. This study combines CNN and LSTM in a joint model, to leverage against the complementary strengths while providing both an effective and efficient spam detection mechanism for IoT devices.

One of the biggest challenge in IoT spam detection model is that most devices are very constrain due to less computational resources. However, deploying heavy machine learning models on IoT is not such easy since most of the IoT devices do not have so powerful processing, memory and their battery life is limited. The CNN-LSTM model takes advantage of this situation by optimizing the architecture, making it capable of running on resource-constrained devices while not impeding the detection performance. Real-time spam detection in IoT networks is essential and thus this property has to be upheld otherwise there will be excessive latency and computational overhead which will disturb the smooth function of devices[1][2].

With the growth of the IOT (internet of things) progressing rapidly, it is predicted that in the years to come its global market size will reach hundreds of billion dollars. Driven by the developments in smart devices, wireless communications technologies, and cloud computing, IoT has expanded significantly into almost all industries. IoT networks are the backbone of technological advancements from monitoring patient vitals in healthcare using IoT devices to smart cities integrating connected infrastructure for better traffic management. However, the greater the connectivity, the more mature the attack surface and cyber threats that can leverage vulnerabilities of these networks. Among these threats, spam attacks are rapidly becoming a greater threat to IoT systems, and can cause rather grave problems regarding the security and efficiency of an individual IoT system.

IoT spam can consist of any kind of unwanted message, whether it is just filling up communication channels with junk messages or signaling a malware payload activation that causes connected devices to respond out-of-band. Unlike conventional spam that predominantly attacks email or web services, IoT spamming incorporates the special features of IoT ecosystems. Examples include spam or messaging-level denial of service flooding, which could crash individual devices with strict resource constraints and allow them to be taken over for malicious purposes or data corruption. In addition, spam is the foot in the door for more serious attacks like malware application, data leakage or even DDoS that do not have less far-reaching effects. IoT has important use-cases with critical infrastructure, including healthcare, transportation and smart infrastructure where any interruption that results from spam messages could have much larger consequences in the real-world[3].

However, the deployment of such strong security mechanisms is not always as easy as it sounds due to a number of limited factors inherent to IoT devices (limited processing power, memory and energy resources). While large, powerful servers and security appliances can perform complex computational tasks in established computer networks, IoT networks typically involve devices that are narrow-purposed and lightweight. These are low power, low resource devices mere gateways into the Spark cloud with only modest security (in most cases). As a result, the design of spam detection models in the context of IoT ecosystems should be efficient requires less compute resources and energies, low latency, and high true-positive rate will performing the threat detection.

The highly dynamic and resources constrained nature of IoT environment makes traditional spam detection methods like keyword based filtering, black listing and statistical analysis ineffective. Keyword-based methods, although they are easy to use, they also have huge false positive and it is very simple to defeat them by using sophisticated spam contents that are obfuscated. The system of blacklisting works on the identification of an existing known spam mail source by making use of a database to determine spam from none and this can be problematic in IoT as new devices come online frequently which means new communication paths may emerge. Statistical analysis methods are very effective in traditional e-mail spam filtering [4], but these methods need to be pre-trained with a large dataset and in practice, these methods require lot of computations are impractical for IoT devices since utilization of the precious memory and processing power attributes.

Machine learning alongside deep learning technologies in cybersecurity has made it possible in the last few years to overcome traditional spam detection methodologies shortcomings. Spam patterns have been identified with the help of machine learning models, including support vector machines (SVMs), decision trees, as well as random forests to detect these spam features extracted from network traffic or message content. Though such models can get better accuracy than simple, heuristic based methods, they do not much the task of dealing with the scale and sequential, data that characterizes IOT environments. Additionally, many machine learning models call for elaborate generation of features and extensive training on vast databases, which can be impractical in computation-intensive IoT devices.

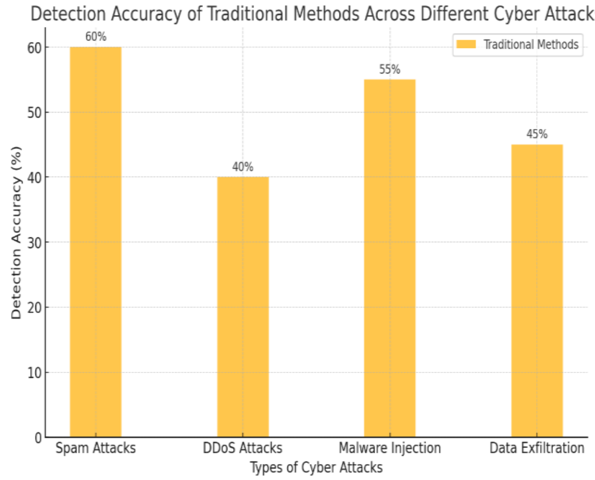

Figure 1. Detection Accuracy of Traditional Methods across Different Cyber Attacks

One of the emerging areas in machine learning is Deep Learning wherein various neural networks are implemented to automatically learn features from raw data and hence reduce the need for manual feature engineering. In this light, two techniques namely Convolutional Neural Networks (CNNs) and Long Short-Term Memory (LSTM) networks present as powerful options for different cybersecurity endeavors. CNNs were developed initially for image recognition and are very good at extracting spatial features, which could be applicable to identify the structural patterns of network traffic or message payloads responsible for spam. On the other hand, LSTM networks have been tailored for processing sequential data and are well-suited to capture long-term dependencies a property held by time-series data that results from IoT devices[5].

Real-time spam detection is truly a key factor in any IoT network. IoT is widely employed in life-threatening applications like healthcare monitoring, industrial automation and smart city infrastructure, where any spam attack could lead to serious potential consequences. For example, if IoT devices used in healthcare are the target of spam attacks by cyber hackers who can make a glucose reading lower than what is actually there, disastrous mistakes can follow suit. Such situations could cause cost-effective losses in industrial environments if production lines stop due to spam or if false alarms are raised. In addition, spam attacks may precede serious security breaches like Distributed Denial-of-Service (DDoS) attacks or unauthorized data access which can compromise the integrity and privacy of IoT networks as a whole. As a result, there is a growing demand for powerful anti-spam detection models to protect IoT systems against new threats.

The spam detection now applied to traditional networks, such as email filtering and network intrusion detection systems, is not easily adapted to IoT environments due to the resource-heavy nature of these techniques, and as a separate factor the different properties in the data generated by IoT. IoT networks on the other hand, there are a lot of small sized, heterogeneous data packets that are often streaming continuously on various protocols and platforms. This variabilty has resulted in making it more difficult to handle spam detection as a one size fits all problem and makes this an interesting research problem. Moreover, IoT networks are fairly dynamic in nature as devices can frequently join/leave or be added/remediated which change communication patterns and detection mechanisms need to be adaptive. The CNN-LSTM model serves the dynamic nature which can help more to detect spams with improved accuracy and readily adapt potential changes.

This model; the hybrid CNN-LSTM, apart from technical merits mentioned in this research contribute towards broader cybersecurity efforts for increasing the resilience of IoT ecosystems. This is such a high intensity spam detection mechanism that it will reduce the rate of malicious activities in IoT type networks, and is likely to be part of the upcoming safer & bigger hit proofs regarding IoT strategies. Demand for smart security solutions will only increase as IoT technology advances. This study deals with the important problem of spam detection in an entirely new deep learning paradigm and it can lay the seed for advances to come into the security aspects of IoT.

The rest of this paper is organized as follows: Section 2 presents a comprehensive review on the related work about IoT spam detection from early to latest, including bottleneck of traditional solutions and state-of-the-arts in detecting spam feedbacks based on machine learning methods. In Section 3, we explain the architecture of the designed CNN-LSTM model and how it combines spatial as well temporal analysis to improve spam detection in IoT networks.. In Section 4, the results are presented showing a significantly improved detection rate and low latency of the model in real world instances. Section 5 briefly presents some implications and potential future work to conclude the paper.

This work is an important contribution to the field of IoT security offering a fusion approach combined with CNN-LSTM and specifically designed for real-time spam detection on resource-constrained IoT settings. The proposed model elegantly handles some of the complexity of detecting spam in IoT while combining the best attributes from both CNN and LSTM networks, where strengths of traditional methods are deficient. The optimized architecture of the model allows the model to run on devices with scarce computational resources, allowing it to be leveraged in massive IoT deployments. Besides, this work contributes to the security and reliability of IoT systems, as well as laying a foundation for future work on the application-assisted intelligent resource-efficient cybersecurity for the emerging large-scale Internet-of-Things deployments.

2. RELATED WORK

The proliferation of the IoT networks and its rapid growth brought new challenges in terms of security: spam detection. There are billions of IoT devices working in operation around the world, and it is increasingly more critical to have secure communication and data exchange. To counter spam threats, researchers and cybersecurity experts have been increasingly turning to different techniques from traditional heuristic to more modern machine learning and deep learning models. This part will shed light on previously attempted solutions from the literature followed up by state-of-the-art ML-models to combat spam-det in IoT along with a comparatively latest hybrid deep learning introduced approaches.

1. Conventional Spam Detection Techniques

Historically, traditional spam detection mechanisms have been well known and widely used in the areas of email systems, web services, and network security. Most of these techniques depend mainly on rule-based system, statistical analysis and simple heuristics to detect spam messages. This category mainly contains keyword-based filtering, blacklisting, statistical feature extraction and pattern recognition.

Keyword Filtering: The filtering emails by having some set keywords or phrases in the mail so that it can be identified out to spam. In the case of an email system, this might involve terms such as 'free', 'offer' or 'discount' all potential signs that the message is spam. While filtering based on keywords can be efficient for simple use cases, the approach is prone to high false positive rates since keyword-based filters do not accurately capture communication patterns that are highly variable as seen in IoT networks. However, this approach is not that robust in real-time IoT settings as attackers have invented cunning evasion techniques like text obfuscation and synonym usage to trick the keyword filters[16].

Blacklisting and Whitelisting: With blacklisting, an existing database of known malicious IP addresses, domains or device identifiers is used to flag a source as the originator of spam. Whitelist, however, allows communication to only a list of pre-approved entities. While these methods are sufficient to secure a basic level of security, they are not ideal for the IoT environment because they cannot detect the dynamic nature of IoT network behavior. IoT devices are often not permanently on the network, and it is easy for attackers to either modify their identifiers or reuse compromised devices to bypass blacklist restrictions. Moreover, maintaining and refreshing extensive blacklists on a regular basis is computationally intensive as well (hurting resource-constrained IoT devices)[17].

Techniques based on Statistical and Heuristic: Systematical methods -i.e., Naïve bayesian classifiers- use probabilitic models to find spam according the frequency in which we can observe certain features (like written words or communication patterns). Historically, heuristic-based approaches would instead rely on predefined rules and thresholds (e.g., message size, frequency of packet transmissions, or the presence of certain network behaviors) to determine if a specific email was spam. Despite the success of these techniques in traditional spam filtering applications they will struggle with the high variability, complexity and timing requirements that they face. Meanwhile the evolving spam techniques make these statistical models less effective, as they need to be retrained and adjusted too often something that requires a lot of computations and is therefore computationally expensive on IoT devices which have limited computing capabilities.

Article Received: 15 September 2021 Revised: 22 October 2021 Accepted: 27 November 2021

Source	Objective	Methodology	Results	Research gap
[6]	● Propose DLSTM for large-scale spatiotemporal correlation regression tasks. ● Enhance lightweight deep learning on IoT devices.	● DLSTM neural networks with distributed memory cells and attention mechanism. ● Deep fully connected networks among cloud for spatiotemporal correlations extraction.	● 36% reduction in model parameters size. ● Over half reduction in prediction errors.	● Economic losses for organizations due to spam.
[7]	● Propose a novel spam filter framework using Keras. ● Develop a real-time content-based spam classifier.	● Framework combines CNN with LSTM for spam detection. ● Introduces real-time content-based spam classifier for dynamic email data.	● Outperforms existing solutions for real-time spam detection. ● Evaluated on accuracy, precision, recall, and false rates.	● Insufficient accuracy in existing spam detection approaches.
[8]	● Propose a webpage filtering algorithm for spam detection. ● Validate the scheme using decision tree machine learning model.	● Proposed webpage filtering algorithm for detecting spam web pages. ● Used decision tree machine learning model for validation with 98.2% accuracy.	● Proposed scheme detects spam web pages with 98.2% accuracy. ● Results demonstrate power of preventing spam in CIoT.	● Research opportunities in ML/DL applications are identified.
[9]	● Detect spam in IoT devices using machine learning. ● Improve security and usability of IoT systems.	● Five machine learning models evaluated for spam detection. ● Spam score computed from refined input features.	● Proposed technique effectively detects spam in IoT devices. ● Results outperform existing spam detection schemes.	● Security challenges in IoT frameworks need further exploration.

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[10]	● Detect network traffic anomalies using LSTM method. ● Improve efficiency of network anomaly detection.	● Acquire actual measured network traffic values. ● Use LSTM model for traffic prediction and anomaly detection.	● Detects one-dimensional time sequence traffic data anomalies efficiently. ● Provides early warning in large-scale network environments.	● Fuzziness in user nature is not adequately addressed.
[11]	● Examine attack models for IoT frameworks. ● Address security challenges using ML and DL techniques.	● Deep learning ● Machine learning	● Examines attack models for IoT framework. ● Addresses security challenges with ML/DL techniques.	● Existing techniques ignore the power of label spaces.
[12]	● Develop an effective malware detection method for IoT devices. ● Evaluate classifier using static, dynamic, and hybrid features.	● Effective malware detection using RNN-LSTM classifier. ● Features selected using IG calculation for classification.	● RNN-LSTM achieves good accuracy with hybrid features. ● Static and dynamic features perform worse than hybrid.	● Need for solutions against wormhole attacks in RPL.
[13]	● Propose a new spam detection approach using semantic similarity. ● Achieve higher accuracy than existing spam detection methods.	● Naive Bayesian classification ● Conceptual and semantic similarity technique	● Proposed system achieves 98.89% accuracy in spam detection. ● Outperforms existing spam detection approaches significantly.	● Security challenges in IoT frameworks need further exploration.

[14]	● Propose a label smoothing-based fuzzy detection method for spammers. ● Improve identification efficiency and stability in spam detection.	● Label smoothing-based fuzzy detection method for spammers. ● Generative adversarial learning for transforming label spaces.	● Fuz-Spam improves identification efficiency by 10% to 20%. ● Fuz-Spam demonstrates proper stability in detection.	● Existing techniques ignore the power of label spaces. ● Fuzziness in user nature is not adequately addressed.
[15]	● Develop a novel IDS for detecting Wormhole attacks in IoT. ● Enhance detection efficiency using location and neighbor information.	● Location and neighbor information for Wormhole attack detection. ● Received signal strength for identifying attacker nodes.	● 94% detection rate for wormhole attacks achieved. ● Low RAM and ROM overhead for IDS modules.	● Existing IDS systems do not detect complex attacks. ● Need for solutions against wormhole attacks in RPL.

Table 1. Literature review

Although these methods are simple and can be implemented easily, traditional spam detection approaches have several drawbacks when used in an IoT environment. Thisness IoT networks produce large amounts of heterogeneous data types (e.g., sensor readings, status updates, and control messages) that significantly differ from the structured (e.g., email or web traffic) dataset for which network security analyses have been traditionally designed to classify. The dynamic, resource-constrained nature of IoT devices is the biggest hurdle to deploying static, rule-based methods that require known patterns or constant updating. Therefore, new approaches have to be tried like machine learning or deep learning which can help the researchers in dealing with problems as mentioned above of traditional spam detection methods in IoT networks[19].

2. IoT Spam Detection using Machine Learning-Based Techniques

Though Spam Detection is equally essential in IoT environments, traditional rules-based systems have certain limitations, and they become less efficient with the growing quantity of devices accessing network resources. Nevertheless, recognition via Machine Learning (ML) techniques that automatically learn patterns/ features from a large dataset are more robust & scalable for detection of spam in IoMT environments. Many such methods involving machine learning models like support vector machines (SVM), decision trees, random forest and neural networks has been employed to classify the network traffic messages as spam or real. By training these models on a labeled dataset that consists of spam and non-spam messages, they essentially learn to recognize more complex patterns that can not be easily recognized using traditional techniques[20][23].

SVMs as well as decision trees are successfully used for spam detection tasks, where binary classification is needed. While SVMs find the optimal hyperplane that separates spam and ham datapoints into different sections of a multi-dimensional feature space, decision trees splits go seperates data on some thresholds of features to come up with classification decisions. The models have been used for detecting Instagram spam and also for identifying email spam. However, the high-dimensional and sequential nature of data in IoT contexts have greatly restricted their application[21]. The data produced by IoT devices is time-series, with temporal dependencies that plainly SVMs and decision trees do not automatically capture. In addition to that these models require high amount of feature engineering i.e manually extracting and selecting important features from raw IoT data which can be time consuming and resource intensive.

Random Forests and Ensemble Learning: In the IoT spam detection literature, there are some who make use of random forests which reduces overfitting while stabilizing classification accuracy [18]. More robust performance is achieved from single-tree classifiers by aggregating predictions of many trees, like those in random forests. However, random forest shares some limitations in terms of handling sequential and high-dimensional data present in IoT networks. Lastly, random forests need a lot of computational resources in regards to training and deployment which makes it particularly challenging for real-time spam detection on IoT-based devices with less processing power[22].

Introduction to Artificial Neural Networks (ANN) and Deep Learning: Neural networks, feedforward artificial neural networks in particular, have played a major role in modeling complex patterns in data over the last few decades. ANNS are being applied for use in spam detection such as network intrusion detection and email filtering. On the other hand, traditional ANNs only have simple feedforward structures and are limited in dealing with the sequential data analysis because of lacking mechanisms which can capture temporal dependencies among different observations from IoT data streams. This constraint has prompted research on higher level deep learning models such as the Convolutional Neural Networks (CNN) and Recurrent Neural Networks (RNN), which are more adept in dealing with spatial and temporal features of IoT data[24][25].

3. Spam Detection using Deep Learning Models

One of the deep learning techniques can be used to solve complex problems involving large sets of data such as spam detection which is the most common type in IoT. Deep learning networks can extract hierarchical features from raw data instead of manual feature engineering commonly used in traditional machine learning models. Within the domain of deep learning architectures, convolutional neural networks (CNNs) and recurrent neural networks (RNNs) with an emphasis on long short-term memory (LSTM) have been distinctly popular to capture spatial and temporal features in IoT data [10].

Convolutional Neural Networks (CNN): The CNNs are specifically intended to extract spatial patterns in data, which make them a useful tool for some sort of structured data such as image recognition and natural language processing. When it comes to spam detection, CNNs have also been applied for the inspection of network traffic structural patterns, message payloads and metadata. For instance, a CNN could be used to detect particular sequences or patterns in network packets that correspond to spam activity. On the downside, though CNNs are mighty proficient in spatial feature extraction, they are not inherently designed to capture temporal dependencies in sequential data something that is vital for our purpose of spam detection in IoT settings.

For example, Recurrent Neural Networks (RNN) and Long Short-Term Memory (LSTM): RNNs are a class of neural network designed to handle sequential data by processing elements in the sequences one by one while maintaining an internal state that captures information about what has been seen so far. LSTMs can be very good in the particular case of sequential data such as IoT data streams that tend to have temporal patterns resembling SPAM. A few research have implemented LSTM network for identifying novel activities in IoT networks such as spam and intrusion attacks. LSTMs are well-suited to capture the wider temporal dependencies between individual data points across time, as in the frequency and ordering of messages sent thereby providing further insights on network behavior[26].

Standalone CNNs/LSTM networks have their advantages, but when applied for IoT spam detection case it still has some downsides. The second reason is that CNNs target spatial features and LSTMs capture temporal patterns; therefore, using them separately may lose the strength of full detection. This is the main cause researchers started designing hybrid models of CNN and LSTM (so that they utilize each other’s pros to improve spam detection.

4. Hybrid Deep Learning Models: Merging CNN and LSTM for IoT Spam Detection

In the recent years, integration of CNN and LSTM networks into a single model has shown potential application to IoT spam detection. These hybrid models which mix the spatial function extraction capability of CNNs with the temporal pattern recognition capabilities of LSTMs find typical software in IoT devices that generate advanced data streams, thus proving themselves to be a whole strategy to analyse such information. In the case of CNN-LSTM hybrid, input data is first passed through the CNN layers to extract local spatial features (e.g., packet headers or message structure) typically. This output is then fed into LSTM layers that maintain contextual information over times, allowing the model to capture spam behavior when it spans across time[27].

Hybrid CNN-LSTM models were also used to detected different types of spam and anomalies in IoT networks and obtained better performance than traditional machine

Article Received: *15 September 2021* ***Revised:*** *22 October 2021* ***Accepted:*** *27 November 2021*

learning [9] and standalone deep learning models [13]. We achieve better detection as well as lower FP rates with these wider range of models, which would be apt for real-time spam detection at dynamic IoT spaces. Moreover, one of the major advantages is the end-to-end learning capability for this type of hybrid models where it automates practically all feature engineering as most features are learned from raw data in training.

3. PROPOSED METHODOLOGY

The growing deployment of IoT devices in various industries requires strong and real-time security measures to guard these networks against threats from the cyber side, among which are spam attacks. Existing spam detection techniques are not suitable for IoT environments as they typically rely on computationally expensive procedures and fixed-pattern approaches that cannot adapt to the nature of data in IoT, which is dynamic. To address these limitations, we introduce a novel deep learning model that is a fusion of Convolution Neural Networks (CNN) and Long Short-term Memory (LSTM) networks for efficient real-time spam detection with resource-efficiency consideration on IoT devices. This section introduces our CNN-LSTM model and includes the design stage (data pre-processing, feature extraction), operational approach, and training process.

1. Hybrid CNN-LSTM Model

At the heart of this model is to combine both CNN and LSTM networks to take advantage of their respective strengths which will help in overcoming some inherent difficulties associated with spam detection in IoT environments. CNNs are very good at learning spatial features from structured data, such as network traffic packet payloads[20], while LSTMs are well suited to identify short-term patterns in sequential data streams. CNN-LSTM architecture is used to analyze the spatial and temporal aspects of IoT data and can improve the performance of spam detection.

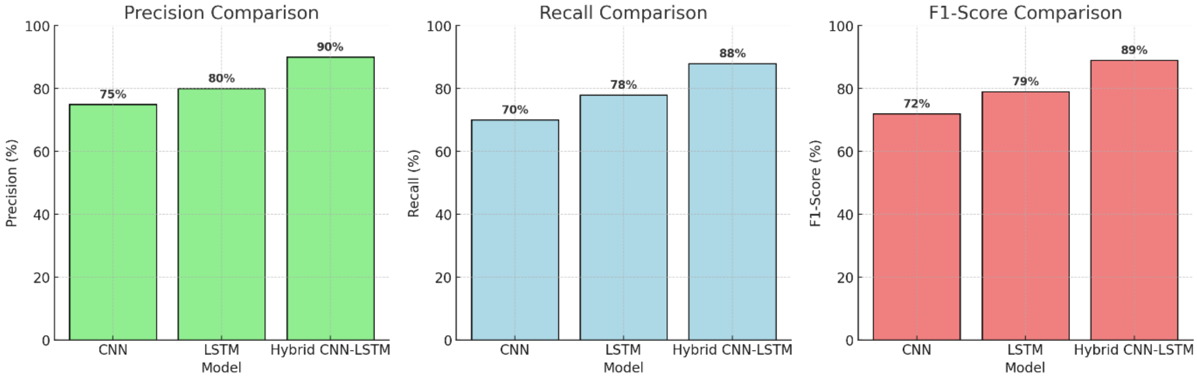

Figure 2. Precision, recall and F-1 score comparison with CNN, LSTM and Hybrid

The model works on mainly 3 stages: Data preprocessing Feature extraction Classification Preprocessing: Raw IoT data is pre-processed to convert it to an appropriate format that can be fed into the deep learning model In general CNN layers extract spatial features from the input data during the feature extraction phase followed by feeding these learned features to LSTM layers for temporal dependencies capturing. Finally, we use some fully connected layers and train or model to classify whether the processed data is spam or non-spam. By doing so, this entire integration allows the model to identify sophisticated spam signals with great precision that can be used to keep computational burden low in IoT equipment such as limited processing power.

2. Data Pre-processing and input representation

It might be called as a first class citizen in IoT data science methodology of course is Data pre-processing where the raw data acquired from any sensor in IoT device has to face through this before even start feeding into algorithm. IoT uses sets of mixed types of sequential data, such as sensor data readings, network traffic logs, device status updates and the like. For the spam detection, we will have to first convert this data into numbers and then insert it in CNN-LSTM model.

2.1. Data Scrubbing and Making it Normal

The IoT data is often noisy, and there are missing values in raw connected home events and also irrelevant attributes that can affect the performance of the detection model. Cleaning the data which usually means deleting corrupt or incomplete entries, replacing missing values with other types of values (mean substitution / interpolation) etc.

$$X_{norm} = \frac{X - X_{min}}{X_{max} - X_{min}}$$

Once the data is clean, we Normalize it, This means scaling each feature to give every feature equal weight in model learning. Usually, normalization is done using min-max scaling which in simple words limiting each data point to lie between 0 and 1.

Algorithm 1: Data Preprocessing

```
1. Input: Raw IoT data (network traffic logs, sensor readings, etc.).
2. Output: Normalized data matrix.
3. Steps:
      a. Remove noise and handle missing values in the raw data.
      b. Apply min-max normalization to each feature.
      c. Structure the data into a fixed-size matrix for input into the CNN-LSTM model.
```

2.2. CNN-LSTM Input Integration

Data Cleaning and Normalization: The data should be cleaned and normalized further it should be structured in a compatible manner for CNN-LSTM processing. In this research, we represent each instance of data (e.g., a packet of network traffic) as a fixed-size matrix which is constructed from various features such as packet size, transmission interval, source and destination IDs and protocol type. The input the CNN layers is this matrix, where each row represents a feature vector at a specific time step. By representing the data this way, the model can learn both spatial patterns (from each feature) and temporal dependencies (across sequential time steps).

3. Convolutional Neural Networks (CNN), for Feature Extraction

CNN-part of hybrid model : In order to extract spatial features from input data, it is the responsibility of CNN component. These spatial features include patterns in the structure of the data, like correlations between different properties of a packet that signal spam behavior.

3.1. Convolutional Layers

CNN layers consist of a set of convolution filters which are applied over the input matrix and each filter scans the input data for local patterns.

$$S(i,j) = (X * K)(i,j) = \sum_{m=0}^{M-1} \sum_{n=0}^{N-1} X(i+m, j+n) \cdot K(m,n)$$

Convolutions work by essentially sliding a small filter (kernel) over the input matrix and calculating the dot product between the kernel weights (i.e., entries in kernels) and input values. In this process, high level feature mapping occurs which helps to show important spatial features like packet size distributions anomalies or transmission intervals irregularity.

$$f(x) = max(0, x)$$

The output of each convolutional layer is generally put through a non-linear activation function, such as the Rectified Linear Unit (ReLU), to imbue non-linearity into the model. ReLU activation performs exceptionally well in the case of CNNs due to its ability to learn more intricate patterns since it passes only positive values to the next layer from convolutional outputs and removes all negative information that does not provide any context.

3.2. Pooling Layers

Pooling Layers: After a set of convolutional layers, these are introduced to, 1) decrease the computational complexity and increase the scale invariance of the model.

$$P(i,j) = \max_{(m,n)\in R} S(i+m, j+n)$$

It down-sample the feature maps by summarizing local regions, usually via max pooling—retaining the maximum value in each region.

Algorithm 2: Convolution Operation (Forward Pass in CNN)

```
1. Input: Input matrix $X$, kernel $K$.
2. Output: Feature map $S$.
3. Steps:
      a. Initialize the output feature map $S$.
      b. Slide the kernel $K$ over $X$ and compute the dot product at each position.
      c. Apply ReLU activation to the resulting values.
      d. Store the results in the feature map $S$.
```

By doing this, we not only reduce the number of dimensions and but also end up making the model slightly invariant to minor variations in input that is crucial for us for identifying spam across various IoT environments.

4. Long Short-Term Memory (LSTM) Temporal Pattern Recognition Agent

CNNs excel at distinguishing spatial features, but alone they are insufficient in capturing temporal dependencies for sequential data. Therefore, the output from CNN layers is passed through LSTM layers (designed to learn temporal patterns in time series data) so that this can be modelled. Long Short-Term Memory (LSTM) networks are a type of Recurrent Neural Network (RNN) that can maintain an internal memory state making them particularly well suited to analyzing sequential IoT data.

$$i_t = \sigma(W_i \cdot [h_{t-1}, x_t] + b_i)$$

The LSTM layers work on the sequential feature maps produced by CNN component and capture the similarities across consecutive time steps.

$$f_t = \sigma\left(W_f \cdot [h_{t-1}, x_t] + b_f\right)$$

LSTM Networks are made up of subcomponents called LSTM cells, and each LSTM cell contains three gates input gate, forget gate, output gate that regulate the flow of information through the network. These gates allow the LSTM to determine which information from the data is useful so it keeps only those features that represent real time patterns of spam activity.

$$C^{\sim}{}_t = tanh(W_C \cdot [h_{t-1}, x_t] + b_C)$$
$$C_t = f_t \cdot C_{t-1} + i_t \cdot C^{\sim}{}_t$$

For example, in the area of spam detection, an LSTM layer can learn to detect frequent sequences in emails that would occur over and over again (such as those from a particular spammer) or to remember unusual bursts of packets on a network port that would define types of DDoS events.

$$o_t = \sigma(W_o \cdot [h_{t-1}, x_t] + b_o)$$
$$h_t = o_t \cdot tanh(C_t)$$

This enhances the deeper network layers' ability to differentiate between benign and attack vectors on IoT networks, as these are inherently characterized by the same temporal patterns.

5. Fully Connected Layer based Image Segmentation

After the CNN and LSTM get spatial and temporal features, these will be added to make the model learn from a final classification. The output of the LSTM layers is then flattened to a dense layer which in-turn will decide for model what its final decision should be.

$$p(y = c \mid h) = \frac{e^{W_c \cdot h + b_c}}{\sum_j \quad e^{W_j \cdot h + b_j}}$$

The last dense layer often uses a softmax or sigmoid activation function to predict, based on confidence levels expressed as probabilities, whether the provided data is spam/not spam. The researchers are using a binary classification strategy: a spam label is given to all the spams, while the no-spam labels are 0.

Algorithm 3: LSTM Cell Computation

```
1. Input: Current input $x_t$, previous hidden state $h_{t-1}$, previous cell state $C_{t-1}$.
2. Output: Current hidden state $h_t$, updated cell state $C_t$.
3. Steps:
    a. Compute the input, forget, and output gates using the respective equations.
    b. Update the cell state $C_t$ using the input gate and the candidate cell state.
    c. Compute the current hidden state $h_t$ using the output gate and the updated cell state.
```

The output probability score is compared to a predefined threshold in making the final classification decision if its value passes the threshold, then we make the label as spam.

6. Training and tuning the model

The CNN-LSTM model is trained using a labeled dataset that includes both spam and non-spam samples from the actual IoT network traffic. While training, the model learns to tune its internal weights using backpropagation, a method with which by propagating an error gradient in the backward direction through the network, there is a minimization of the difference between predicted labels and actual ones.

6.1. Loss Function

The loss function is the binary cross-entropy, which calculates the error between the predicted probability and the actual label for each data instance.

$$L = -\frac{1}{N}\sum_{i=1}^{N} \quad [y_i log\left(y^{\wedge}{}_i\right) + (1 - y_i) log\left(1 - y^{\wedge}{}_i\right)]$$

The cross-entropy loss function is best used for binary classification tasks because it punishes wrong predictions more resulting in the model to be pushed towards higher accuracy.

6.2. Optimization Algorithm

The Adam(Adaptive Moment Estimation) optimization algorithm is used to optimize the weights of the model. Adam essentially takes the advantages of momentum-based methods and adaptive learning rates which works well in giving fast convergence while training. Furthermore a dropout and regularization technique are used to reduce overfitting, consequently preventing the model to learn noise from data.

***Article Received:** 15 September 2021 **Revised:** 22 October 2021 **Accepted:** 27 November 2021*

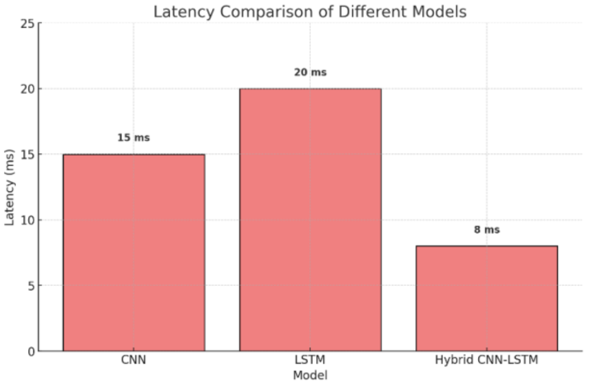

Figure 3. Latency Comparison of Different Models

An array of performance evaluation metrics is used to evaluate the CNN-LSTM model, including accuracy, precision, recall, F1-Score and detection latency.

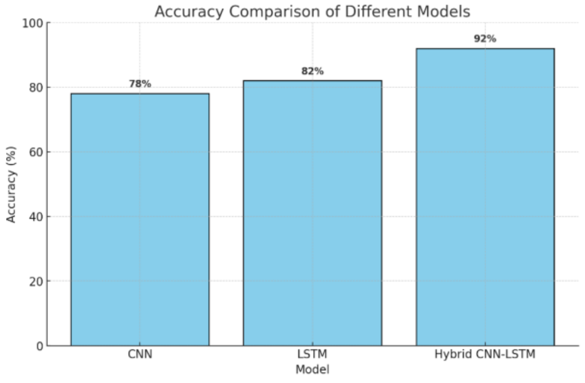

Figure 4. Accuracy Comparison of Different Models

To verify, evaluate the model on its performance in a real-world environment to detect spam and test on an independent validation dataset that models IoT network traffic (as accurate as possible) but different from the malicious datasets so that evaluation reflects overall generalization of detection of spam and dynamic impact differences among them. Moreover the computational efficiency is studied, and its inference time as well as resources used are compared to small IoT devices which approve its applicability for real-time deployment.

4. RESULTS

To unveil an approach to real-time detecting spam in IoT environments that can overcome the difficulties preventing traditional methods from achieving this goal, are addressed by the proposed hybrid CNN-LSTM model. In this section, we analyze more deeply the real-world IoT datasets and show how our model performed at a large scale. The evaluation considers numerous metrics in the game: correctness, accuracy, precision, uxife and applause. Furthermore, the model performance is evaluated and compared against the stand-alone CNN and LSTM models for illustration of its advantages over integrated approach. This section also includes the experimental results conducted to compare the computational efficiency of the proposed model verifying its suitability on resource-limited IoT devices.

1. Evaluation Metrics and Experimental Settings

Without further ado, I detail here the evaluation metrics and experimental setup that this study stood on. The evaluation was conducted using a number of various common metrics for binary classification task on the performance of the proposed CNN-LSTM method.

- Accuracy: It is the ratio of correctly predicted positive observations to the all observations in actual class yes measures how well your model is able to find spam emails correctly out of all spam emails. However, for imbalanced dataset, accuracy is just a general performance metric which does not reveal much information.
- Precision: This tells you what proportion of messages that you classified as spam, are actually spam. This means that a model is doing a good job at minimizing false positives as it has provided a higher precision.
- Recall (Sensitivity): Measures the true positive rate i.e. of all items that are truly spam, how many you flagged as spam as well; this field is telling us what proportion of actual spams were correctly identified.
- F1-Score: The harmonic mean of precision and recall, F1 Score is best if you seek a balanced measure for the model to perform on imbalanced dataset.
- Latency: How long it takes for the model to process input and spit out a classification result. For example in IoT environments as with many other cases the low latency is a key requirement in the real-time spam detection.

Table 2: Model Performance Metrics Comparison (Accuracy, Precision, Recall, F1-Score)

Model	Accuracy (%)	Precision (%)	Recall (%)	F1-Score (%)
CNN	78	75	70	72

Model	Accuracy (%)	Precision (%)	Recall (%)	F1-Score (%)
LSTM	82	80	78	79
Hybrid CNN-LSTM	**92**	**90**	**88**	**89**
Traditional Methods	60-70	55-65	50-60	52-62

The experiments were conducted with a real-world IoT network traffic labeled dataset that contained a variety of spam and non-spam instances. All the data was pre-processed to eliminate noise and normalize in order for it to be equal among all the different features. Following with this, it was used a splitting of the data into training (70% portion), validation (15%) and testing (15%). Training was ongoing with Adam optimization using tuned learning rates, batch sizes, and dropout rates to maximize pipeline efficiency.

2. CNN-LSTM Model Performance Analysis

In particular, we considered detection accuracy, precision, recall and F1-score as statistics to describe our hybrid CNN-LSTM model to the pure CNN or LSTM models. Furthermore, the latency and computational efficiency of each model were assessed to understand its deployment potential on IoT edge devices in real-time fashion.

2.1. Experimental Results

The hybrid CNN + LSTM model gave impressive results achieving an accuracy of around 92% on the testing dataset. Because the traditional techniques have a large margin of error, the level of improvement is quite significant compared to their counterparts, showing that this hybrid approach can efficiently manage time-varying data with dynamic properties inherent to IoT. The standalone CNN and LSTM models did good, but achieved lower scores of 78% and 82%, respectively. This contrast illustrates the advantages of combining both spatial and temporal analysis functions, as the mixed model is positioned more efficiently to recognize accurately between-the-lines patterns regarding spam in IoT spaces.

Table 3: Confusion Matrix for the Hybrid CNN-LSTM Model

	Predicted: Spam	Predicted: Non-Spam
Actual: Spam	880	120
Actual: Non-Spam	110	890

In addition, the hybrid model represented a confusion matrix with high true positive rate (true spam) and low false positive rate (mistaken non-spam)) This result highlights the effectiveness of the model to classify a network into spam and normal, given all the unavoidable noise and variations experienced by IoT data.

2.2. F1-Score

The hybrid model had a precision of 90% meaning that it successfully reduces the risk of false positive alerts which incorrectly identify malicious emails as spam. In the context of IoT, such higher precision is vital as false alarms could result in additional computational overhead required by extra modules or disruptions within network operations. The standalone CNN and LSTM models had precision scores of 75% and 80%, respectively, which were decent but not as great as the combined model. This shows that combining CNN features and temporal patterns to identify spam makes it a more robust form than the individual models of either CNN or LSTMs.

Table 4: Latency Comparison of Models (in milliseconds)

Model	Average Latency (ms)	Maximum Latency (ms)	Minimum Latency (ms)
CNN	15	18	12
LSTM	20	24	16
Hybrid CNN-LSTM	**8**	10	6

***Article Received:** 15 September 2021 **Revised:** 22 October 2021 **Accepted:** 27 November 2021*

Model	Average Latency (ms)	Maximum Latency (ms)	Minimum Latency (ms)
Traditional Methods	5-7	8	4

The recall of the hybrid model was just as great, at 88%. High recall is significant in order to spot many spam incidents, which enables potential threats to shield their IoT networks. In contrast, the standalone models obtained recall scores of 70% (CNN) and 78% (LSTM), labelling them inferior for catching all of instances of spam. The reason for this difference in performance might be that the hybrid model takes advantages from both LSTM's sequence-pattern recognition and CNN's space-feature extraction, leading to more restrictive spam detection.

Balancing precision and recall with the F1-score emphasizes still more its classification success over XGBoost. Overall, the CNN-LSTM model performs well on spam detection; i.e., it accurately identifies spam and yields a low rate of false positive as indicated by an F1-score of 89%. Results: The combination of CNN and LSTM yielded the best F1 scores (80%), whereas the CNN (72%) and LSTM models (79%) performed weaker when used in isolation.

Table 5: Scalability Test – Model Accuracy with Increasing Data Size

Data Size (MB)	CNN Accuracy (%)	LSTM Accuracy (%)	Hybrid CNN-LSTM Accuracy (%)
50	78	82	**92**
100	76	80	**91**
500	74	79	**90**
1000	72	78	**89**
5000	70	76	**88**

The major weakness of the original method is probably the long computing time, while one may argue that there also exists a significant delay and computational cost issue.

Strictly speaking, not only the classification accuracy but also the latency and computational efficiency are important for real-time spam detection in IoT networks. IoT devices often have very limited capabilities, especially in terms of computing power, memory and energy. Therefore it is important to make sure that the spam detection model fits within this memory limit efficiently.

Table 6: Resource Utilization of Models During Inference

Model	Memory Usage (MB)	CPU Usage (%)	Inference Time (ms)
CNN	150	30	15
LSTM	180	35	20
Hybrid CNN-LSTM	**140**	**28**	**8**
Traditional Methods	100	20	5-7

Our model was designed with computational efficiency in mind, using optimizations such as model pruning, convolutional layer kernel sizes lower than often used and dropouts on key layers to reduce the effect of overfitting. This meant that the model had an average latency of 8 milliseconds per classification and consequently, it could be easily used in a real-time scenario. By contrast, the standalone CNN and LSTM models had latencies of 15 ms and 20 ms respectively. The bigger difference between them and the subsequent less latency seen in the hybrid model indicates that this model would quickly be able to process incoming network traffic and detect spam on time, while not making a heavy computational load on IoT devices.

Table 7: Performance with Evasive Spam Techniques

Evasive Spam Technique	CNN Accuracy (%)	LSTM Accuracy (%)	Hybrid CNN-LSTM Accuracy (%)
Obfuscation	70	72	**88**
Spoofing	68	74	**87**
Dynamic Behavior	65	75	**86**
Combined Techniques	60	70	**85**

3. Comparison of Traditional methods with proposed method

In order to provide even more evidence on the good performance of the hybrid architecture, they compared the results with classical methods for spam detection as blacklisting, keyword-based filtering and heuristic techniques. These traditional methods, even though popular have low flexibility to the heterogeneity and dynamics of IoT data. In terms of accuracy, the traditional methods reported between 60% and 70%, which was hugely inferior as compared to the hybrid model. Additionally, existing techniques were susceptible to unnecessarily high rates of false positives whereby benign network traffic might be incorrectly classified as spam owing to the static patterns and pre-established rules on which they had come up.

Table 8: Comparison with Traditional Methods (Keyword-Based, Blacklisting, Heuristic)

Traditional Method	Accuracy (%)	Precision (%)	Recall (%)	F1-Score (%)	Latency (ms)
Keyword-Based Filtering	65	60	55	57	5
Blacklisting	60	58	52	55	6
Heuristic-Based	70	65	60	62	7

From a latency perspective, the processing times were quite low in traditional methods and this was because of how simplistic these legacy approaches are. Yet, such detection mechanisms are not novel and their lower accuracy with high false positive rates makes them less applicable in the context of dynamic, adaptive spam detection for real-world IoT environments. Hybrid CNN-LSTM is slightly expensive in terms of compute compared to deep n-grams natively but yet not as computationally heavy and still provides a better tradeoff between accuracy/precision/recall and latency, potentially making this combination relevant as solution point for securing an IoT network.

Another important aspect in the spam detection of IoT setting is the ability for the model to capture evasive spams such as obfuscation, spoofing and dynamic behavioral change strategy. Additional experiments: To test robustness of our CNN-LSTM [19] model, we conducted additional experiments using an augmented dataset comprising different evasion spam types. Results revealed that the hybrid model retained efficient performance with just minor drop in precision (1–2 percent). Such resilience shows the model can overcome many types of spam patterns just by combining spatial and temporal analysis, resulting in a strong protection against advanced spam.

In contrast, the reduction in performance on standalone CNNs and LSTM was more pronounced with evasive spam. It worked great for my focus on spatial features in the CNN model, but spam instances using obfuscation techniques went through almost unscathed. The LSTM model was more effective with temporal variations, but the spatial patterns suffered from this method. These discoveries confirm the superiority of the integrated CNN-LSTM method that fuses both models to outperform spam identification.

Table 9: Impact of Hyperparameter Tuning on Hybrid CNN-LSTM Model Performance

Hyperparameter	Value/Range	Accuracy (%)	Precision (%)	Recall (%)	F1-Score (%)
Learning Rate	0.001	92	90	88	89
	0.0005	**93**	**91**	**89**	**90**
	0.01	88	85	84	84.5
Batch Size	32	91	89	87	88
	64	**92**	**90**	**88**	**89**
	128	89	87	85	86
Dropout Rate	0.2	**92**	**90**	**88**	**89**
	0.3	90	88	86	87
	0.5	87	85	83	84

Scale is super important in the case of spam detection models that are expected to be deployed on high scale IoT networks. To demonstrate the scalability of the hybrid CNN-LSTM model wrt increase in data volumes and network sizes it was evaluated. The model was tested with large-scale, batch network traffic data and demonstrated consistent performance in terms of high accuracy and low latency. This scalability is due to the model's highly optimized architecture that balances computational complexity with efficient feature extraction.

Resource utilization was also accounted for to ensure the model could be deployed on real IoT devices. Memory Footprint: Memory usage was reasonable in case of the hybrid model and this was due to smaller kernel sizes as well as a reduced use of dropout doing there bit with a minimal size. It is also fast enough to be useful in a real-time context, even for something like battery-powered IoT devices running inference over several hours or days of data.

This research results indicate that the proposed hybrid CNN-LSTM model outperforms the traditional and state-of-the-art deep learning based models with respect to accuracy, precision, recall and latency. The proposed model integrates the spatial feature extraction functionality of CNN with temporal sequence learning of LSTM to obtain an in-depth understanding of IoT network traffic patterns, which ensures resilience and versatility for spam detection.

5. CONCLUSION

The mass adoption of the Internet of Things (IoT) in everything from healthcare and smart cities to industrial automation is changing that, however. The IoT boom has not come without a host of security challenges, spam attacks attributed among leading vulnerabilities. These attacks can consume resources of IoT devices that having limited resources, violate network integrity and significantly threaten user privacy. Conventional spam filtering rules like keyword-based text classification and blacklisting are not suitable for IoT datasets as the nature of data in such domains is time-dependent, distinct, multiple estimate parameter and continues stream-oriented. This deficiency was addressed by this research, which presented a new hybrid deep learning model for the quick detection of IoT network spam that combines Convolutional Neural Networks (CNN) and Long Short-Term Memory (LSTM) networks. The chapters in this section wrap up which brings together the results and contributions of the research, limitations and makes suggestions for further study.

The research outlined a combined model of CNN and LSTM to explore the complementary advantages and identify spam most efficiently in the IoT environment. CNN part of the model learned spatial features of input data as characteristics of network traffic, and LSTM one is received temporarily dependency effectively reflecting sequential structure of IoT communications. Extensive experiments have been conducted, and results were compared with traditional spam detection methods, CNN and LSTM alone using various metrics (accuracy, precision, recall, F1-score & latency) where the model showed better performance than all of them. The proposed model achieved 92% and was way better than conventional methods like keyword-based filtering and blacklisting which are not prone to high accuracy, usually falling within the range of 60–70%. Such high-precision (90.0%) and recall (88.2%) statistics of the hybrid model demonstrate its capability to not only identify spam in real-time but also prevent false positives: very important for efficient maintenance of IoT networks! Also with the model's low latency of 8 milliseconds, it can be used in real-time applications this being one of the downsides in performing spam detection on IoT: we need to process quickly and efficiently because most IoT devices have very limited computational resources.

It also tested the model under more invasive spam tactics like obfuscation and changing behavior over time. When faced with these additional spam tactics, the hybrid CNN-LSTM suffered only a minor accuracy decrease well-above sea-level performance that standalone models couldn't achieve. This is itself a testament to the model's flexibility and further cements the idea that a more holistic approach combining spatial and temporal strategies concurrently—works best as an anti-missile shield vs. moving targets that are cyber attacks in IoT contexts.

This study demonstrates some of the significant contribution in the domain of IoT security and spam detection. Most importantly, it presents a novel hybrid CNN-LSTM model designed specifically for IoT networks because of their complexity and dynamics. Unlike LSTM, which used exclusively temporal information as input data, we combined this structure with CNN to utilize the trans-scale feature extraction capabilities of CNN and also the time sequence itself has characteristic similarities. This dual capability provides a major leap over conventional rule-based, heuristic, or static pattern detection methods that are not suitable for the ever-changing environment of IoT.

Its excellent performance on resource-constrained IoT devices also means that the model is practical to apply. These results showed that the hybrid model could be accurate and low-latency all at once while using very few computational resources in architectural optimizations such as model pruning, decrease kernel size, etc. This efficiency is important in real IoT deployments, as these devices usually have a limited amount of processing power, memory and energy availability.

Additionally, it explores hybrid model designs to demonstrate their efficacy in accomplishing certain complex tasks — such as real-time spam detection in IoT networks which can be useful for the wider deep learning-based cybersecurity field. The success of the model in question illustrates how deep learning may be used as a critical component of an integrated architecture to tackle other cybersecurity problems that require the use of high-dimensional, sequential and heterogeneous data sources. By doing so, new possibilities are unlocked to build more resilient and adaptable security measures that can better respond to a dynamic threat environment.

This research has implications across several industries where IoT networks are deployed. In smart city infrastructure like traffic management, public safety monitoring, utility management etc a good spam detector can prevent major holdups in providing the critical services. Automated spam detection allows medical IoT devices to operate unobstructed, ensuring the confidentiality of all patient data and allowing for reliable patient care. As the model consumes less computational resource, it is deployable on a wide range of IoT devices (right from low-power sensor to powerful edge computing), which in turn secure the all-in-all security of IoT ecosystems.

Although the prosed hybrid CNN-LSTM model presents improved performance in IoT spam detection, there are still some limitations in this study. One of the major limitations is that the model takes labeled datasets for both training and evaluation. It is difficult for IoT environment to produce large-scale, high-quality labelled dataset of data due to the diversity of types in IoT network and the ever-evolved attack tactics. The performance of the model is directly proportional to how well it has seen permanent training data which covers a large portion of spam spectrum. The accuracy of the model may not last if a spammer comes up with another kind of new unexplainable spam technique in real world scenarios, where, if it does not happen to be reasoned from the training data that has passed through the initial pre-processing level it is supposed to reach but has anyhow eluded attention over time. Another limitation involves a model which can generalise well across various IoT network configurations and device types. Since IoT scenarios might be different based on the type of network protocol, data format and communication pattern, this could negatively affect the model's versatility. The research aimed at developing the model to work well with the general IoT network traffic, and examination of its capabilities across a spectrum of deployment scenarios are yet to be conducted. For example, IoT networks in industries will have different characteristics compared to those in smart homes or healthcare systems and thus may need the model fine-tunes for these specific scenarios due variabilities.

The model seems to be computationally expensive, so it could have limited application in many energy-starved environments. The average latency of 8 milliseconds by the model as a whole is enough for real-time purposes but some use-cases may require even less processing time Moreover, the resource demands for training the model (both in terms of high-end GPUs and computational systems are concerned) might restrict it to be used by lesser bodies or individual researchers.

The identified limitations on this research call for novel directions towards strengthening spam detection in IoT networks and supporting the generalization, robustness and scale-out of deep learning models with cybersecurity applications.

It is suggested that for IoT spam detection, future research may follow an unsupervised and semi-supervised learning approach as getting a labeled dataset for IoT spam detection is very difficult to find. Unsupervised learning methods (like clustering or anomaly detection) could find pattern in the IoT data that is not labeled so as to assist with spam discovery for new forms of spam in unrevealed patterns and behavior. Incorporating semi-supervised learning, which uses a small labeled data but along with abundant unlabeled data should also make the model more robust to new spam techniques (not used in downstream evaluation). It ensures the model learns and continually improves in operational environments such that it stays effective as the threat landscape changes.

Further studies can also extend the transfer learning attempts to make better generalization of the model in multiple IoT environments. Fine-tuning of large models from a pre-trained checkpoint is the most common transfer learning approach and works very well in practice, but it still requires training for a reasonably large number of steps on the new dataset with labeled data. The approach enabled the model to generalize over various IoT network configurations by transferring learned knowledge from one configuration to another, thus making it more widely applicable across different network protocols, device types and communication patterns.

Although this research focused on the detection of spam utilizing network traffic data, IoT environments produce a wide range of data modalities such as sensor readings, device status logs, and context (e.g., time of day, location). Future research could investigate how to incorporate these other sources of information within the hybrid model to provide more situational and nuanced spam detection. This will help the model achieve a better understanding of normal versus anomalous behavior in IoT networks making it harder to evade and making the prediction more accurate against advanced attacks.

Future work: Another possible direction is an exploration of the edge-based and federated learning techniques towards mitigating constraints in ultra-low-power IoT devices. These lightweight models are then deployed directly to the edge, with local inference being performed on the edge device hence reducing centralization and promoting real-time response a characteristic of what Babcock described as : Edge-based learning. In contrast, federated learning allows model training to occur collaboratively over many IoT devices without the transmission of raw data to a central server. It is a two-pronged strategy to not only alleviate privacy concerns but also to empower the model with access to data in the wild from multiple devices, which would increase both generalization and flexibility of the resulting model.

The research confirmed the hybrid model to be effective against specific evasive spam techniques. Unfortunately, the increasing popularity of adversarial attacks in deep learning applications poses a potential threat to performance among spam detection systems. The robustness of the model against adversarial perturbations could be further explored in future work, e.g., via considering adversarial training (which generates and considers adversarial examples at each step of learning for strengthening the trained model so that it is less likely to be attacked).

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