Optimization Accuracy for network attack detection based on deep learning techniques

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Abstract

This study focuses on optimizing the accuracy of network attack detection using deep learning techniques, addressing the increasing complexity and frequency of cyberattacks. Traditional intrusion detection methods often fail to keep pace with evolving threats, leading to false positives and undetected attacks. Deep learning offers a powerful solution, capable of recognizing complex attack patterns through advanced neural networks. Achieving optimal accuracy requires the implementation of optimization strategies, such as hyperparameter tuning, feature selection, and regularization, to enhance detection rates while minimizing computational costs. The study explores various deep learning architectures, including CNNs, RNNs, and LSTMs, and investigates their effectiveness in real-time detection scenarios. It also examines the use of energy-efficient algorithms for deployment in resource-constrained environments like IoT and mobile devices. The findings aim to improve the scalability, accuracy, and efficiency of deep learning-based intrusion detection systems, making them more robust against modern cybersecurity threats.

Keywords:-Network Attack Detection, Deep Learning, Optimization Techniques, Intrusion Detection Systems (IDS)

Introduction

As cyber threats become more sophisticated and widespread, the need for effective network intrusion detection systems (NIDS) has grown significantly. Traditional methods for detecting network attacks, such as rule-based systems or signature-based detection, often struggle to keep pace with evolving threats, resulting in lower detection rates and increased false positives. Deep learning techniques have emerged as powerful tools for improving the accuracy of network attack detection by leveraging complex neural network models that can learn intricate patterns in network traffic data. However, achieving optimal accuracy in these

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systems requires careful consideration of various factors, including feature selection, model architecture, and training methodologies.Optimization plays a crucial role in enhancing the performance of deep learning models for intrusion detection. Techniques such as hyperparameter tuning, gradient-based optimization methods, and regularization are essential for fine-tuning models to balance between high detection rates and minimizing false alarms. Additionally, feature selection, which involves identifying the most relevant features from large datasets, helps in reducing computational overhead while maintaining accuracy. Realtime detection further adds to the complexity, as models must be optimized to deliver results quickly without sacrificing performance.Given the vast amount of data in network environments, deep learning models need to be scalable and efficient. Optimization algorithms like particle swarm optimization (PSO), genetic algorithms (GA), and ant colony optimization (ACO) are often employed to enhance the accuracy of these models by refining the feature space and improving training efficiency. Balancing trade-offs between speed and accuracy, particularly in real-time systems, is essential for ensuring that intrusion detection systems remain both effective and responsive.Incorporating energy-efficient deep learning techniques is another aspect of optimization, especially in environments like IoT networks and mobile devices where resources are limited. These strategies not only improve detection capabilities but also contribute to sustainable cybersecurity solutions. Ultimately, optimizing the accuracy of deep learning-based intrusion detection systems ensures more robust protection against modern cyber threats, reducing vulnerabilities while improving system reliability.

Need of the Study

The rapid evolution of cyberattacks poses a significant challenge to traditional network security methods, making the need for advanced, accurate intrusion detection systems more critical than ever. Deep learning techniques have shown great potential in detecting complex attack patterns; however, their effectiveness largely depends on optimization strategies to improve accuracy and reduce false positives. The vast amount of network traffic data, combined with the complexity of modern attacks, requires sophisticated models that can efficiently identify threats in real time. Optimizing these deep learning models is essential to ensure that intrusion detection systems can process large-scale data without compromising speed or accuracy. As cybersecurity moves into resource-constrained environments like IoT

and mobile networks, energy-efficient deep learning solutions are required to maintain high performance with minimal resource consumption. This study addresses these needs by exploring optimization techniques that enhance both the accuracy and efficiency of network attack detection, ensuring more resilient cybersecurity frameworks.

Scope of the Study

This study explores the optimization of deep learning techniques for enhancing the accuracy of network attack detection, focusing on both theoretical and practical aspects. The scope includes investigating various deep learning architectures, such as Convolutional Neural Networks (CNNs), Recurrent Neural Networks (RNNs), and Long Short-Term Memory (LSTM) networks, to identify their potential in detecting sophisticated cyber threats. It also covers optimization techniques like hyperparameter tuning, feature selection, and regularization methods to reduce false positives and improve real-time detection performance. The study addresses the challenges of deploying deep learning models in resource-constrained environments, such as IoT devices and mobile networks, by exploring energy-efficient algorithms. By evaluating both the computational efficiency and detection accuracy of these techniques, the study aims to contribute to the development of more scalable, accurate, and sustainable intrusion detection systems, suitable for large-scale networks and modern cybersecurity landscapes.

Overview of Deep Learning Techniques

Deep learning techniques are a subset of machine learning that utilize neural networks with multiple layers to model complex patterns and relationships in data. Unlike traditional machine learning algorithms, which rely on manually extracted features, deep learning methods automatically learn hierarchical feature representations from raw data. Common architectures include Convolutional Neural Networks (CNNs), which excel at tasks like image recognition and are increasingly applied to cybersecurity and network intrusion detection, and Recurrent Neural Networks (RNNs), including Long Short-Term Memory (LSTM) networks, which are effective for sequential data such as time-series analysis.Deep learning has revolutionized fields like natural language processing (NLP), computer vision, and speech recognition by achieving unprecedented accuracy in tasks previously dominated by handcrafted algorithms. Its ability to handle vast amounts of data and complex relationships makes it particularly suitable for large-scale applications, including intrusion detection systems, autonomous driving, and medical diagnosis. With advancements in computational power and data availability, deep learning continues to push the boundaries of AI applications across industries.

Importance of Accuracy in Network Attack Detection

Accuracy is paramount in network attack detection because it directly impacts the effectiveness of a security system in identifying potential threats while minimizing false positives and false negatives. High accuracy ensures that malicious activities, such as intrusions, malware, or denial-of-service attacks, are correctly detected, preventing potential breaches and minimizing the risk to network infrastructure. Conversely, low accuracy can lead to significant security vulnerabilities, allowing undetected attacks to compromise critical systems, steal data, or disrupt services. Accurate detection reduces the occurrence of false positives, where legitimate network activities are flagged as threats, saving valuable time and resources. This is crucial in large-scale network environments, where excessive false alerts can overwhelm security teams and reduce their ability to respond to real threats effectively. Therefore, optimizing the accuracy of network attack detection systems, especially through advanced techniques like machine learning and deep learning, is essential to maintaining robust cybersecurity defenses.

Deep Learning Architectures for Intrusion Detection

Deep learning architectures have become crucial for enhancing the performance of intrusion detection systems (IDS). Convolutional Neural Networks (CNNs), known for their strength in image processing, are increasingly applied in IDS for their ability to detect patterns in network traffic data. CNNs can automatically extract relevant features and detect anomalies that signify potential threats. Recurrent Neural Networks (RNNs), particularly effective with sequential data, are used to analyze time-based patterns in network traffic, allowing for realtime detection of evolving threats. Long Short-Term Memory Networks (LSTMs), a type of RNN, are particularly useful for handling long-term dependencies, making them well-suited for identifying persistent threats over extended periods. Autoencoders, which are used for unsupervised learning, are effective in detecting anomalies by learning the normal behavior of a network and flagging deviations. Together, these deep learning architectures enhance the capability of IDS by improving accuracy, adaptability, and the detection of both known and novel attacks.

Literature Review

Moradi, M., &Zulkernine, M. (2004). A neural network-based system for intrusion detection and classification of attacks leverages the power of artificial intelligence to enhance network security. By utilizing deep learning algorithms, this system continuously monitors network traffic, identifying suspicious patterns that may indicate potential intrusions or cyberattacks. Neural networks are trained on large datasets of normal and malicious activities, allowing the system to learn and recognize various types of attacks, such as denialof-service, malware, and phishing. Once trained, the system can classify incoming threats in real time, helping to mitigate risks and prevent damage before they occur. The adaptability of neural networks ensures that the system remains effective against evolving threats, as it can update its knowledge based on new data. The system's ability to detect both known and unknown attack vectors makes it a robust tool for modern cybersecurity. This approach significantly improves the accuracy of intrusion detection compared to traditional methods, reducing false positives and providing quicker, more reliable responses to potential security breaches.

Ozay, M., et al (2015). Machine learning methods for attack detection in the smart grid play a crucial role in safeguarding the stability and security of modern power systems. As the smart grid integrates advanced communication technologies and automation, it becomes more vulnerable to cyberattacks, which can disrupt critical infrastructure. Machine learning techniques, such as supervised learning, unsupervised learning, and reinforcement learning, are employed to detect anomalies and identify potential security threats in real time. By analyzing vast amounts of data generated from sensors, smart meters, and other grid components, these algorithms can recognize abnormal patterns that may indicate attacks, such as data tampering, false data injection, or denial-of-service attacks. Supervised learning models are often trained on labeled datasets of known attack behaviors, allowing them to quickly classify new threats. Unsupervised methods, on the other hand, can detect novel or previously unknown attacks by identifying deviations from normal grid behavior. Reinforcement learning can be used to improve response strategies, adapting to new threats over time. Machine learning enhances the resilience of the smart grid by providing efficient, accurate, and scalable attack detection mechanisms.

Al-Jarrah, et al (2014). Machine-learning-based feature selection techniques are pivotal in enhancing large-scale network intrusion detection systems by improving both efficiency and accuracy. In network security, the vast amount of data generated makes it challenging to process all the features effectively. Feature selection techniques aim to reduce the dimensionality of data by identifying the most relevant features, eliminating redundant or irrelevant ones. This not only reduces computational complexity but also enhances the performance of intrusion detection systems by focusing on critical indicators of attacks. Techniques such as filter methods, wrapper methods, and embedded methods are commonly used for feature selection. Filter methods rank features based on statistical tests, selecting the most informative ones. Wrapper methods evaluate different subsets of features by training machine learning models and measuring their performance, while embedded methods integrate feature selection during the model training process itself. By applying these techniques, the system can focus on key features, making real-time detection of intrusions faster and more accurate. This approach is particularly effective in large-scale networks where high-dimensional data is common, ensuring the system remains efficient while maintaining a high detection rate.

Gao, H. H., et al (2005). Ant colony optimization (ACO) is an effective swarm intelligence technique used for feature selection in network intrusion detection systems (NIDS). Inspired by the foraging behavior of ants, ACO is applied to optimize the selection of features that contribute most to detecting network intrusions while minimizing irrelevant or redundant data. In NIDS, analyzing vast amounts of network traffic data can be computationally expensive. ACO helps address this challenge by identifying the most important features that improve the system's accuracy and efficiency. Virtual ants explore different combinations of features, depositing pheromones on paths that lead to better performance in intrusion detection. Over time, the system converges on optimal or near-optimal feature subsets. These selected features are then used in conjunction with machine learning algorithms to classify network traffic as normal or malicious. This combination of ACO and machine learning enhances the overall detection rate, reduces false positives, and speeds up processing times,

making it suitable for large-scale networks. ACO's adaptability and efficiency in searching complex feature spaces make it a powerful tool in network security for detecting evolving cyber threats.

Chung, Y. Y., & Wahid, N. (2012). A hybrid network intrusion detection system (NIDS) using Simplified Swarm Optimization (SSO) combines the strengths of swarm intelligence and machine learning to enhance the detection of network intrusions. SSO is an efficient optimization algorithm inspired by the collective behavior of swarms, where individual agents (particles) explore the solution space to find the optimal set of features for detecting anomalies. In the context of NIDS, SSO reduces the computational complexity by selecting only the most relevant features from large datasets, improving both detection accuracy and system performance. In a hybrid NIDS, SSO works alongside machine learning classifiers, such as Support Vector Machines (SVM) or Decision Trees, to analyze network traffic data. The system first applies SSO to select the optimal subset of features that best represent normal and malicious traffic patterns. This feature selection process reduces the dimensionality of data, speeding up detection and minimizing false positives. The refined data is then fed into a machine learning model, which classifies network activities as normal or suspicious. This hybrid approach enhances real-time intrusion detection, making it highly scalable and effective for large and complex network environments.

Optimization Techniques for Accuracy Enhancement

Various optimization techniques play a critical role in enhancing the accuracy of deep learning models for network intrusion detection. Hyperparameter tuning involves adjusting parameters like learning rates, batch sizes, and the number of layers to optimize model performance, often through methods like grid search or random search. Regularization methods, such as L1 and L2 regularization, help prevent overfitting by penalizing overly complex models, encouraging simplicity and better generalization. Batch normalization stabilizes learning by normalizing inputs in each layer, while dropout techniques randomly drop neurons during training to avoid co-dependency and improve model robustness. Gradient-based optimization methods, such as Stochastic Gradient Descent (SGD) and Adam (Adaptive Moment Estimation), adjust weights to minimize loss functions and accelerate convergence. SGD works by updating weights based on random subsets of data, while Adam adapts learning rates for each parameter. Together, these techniques significantly boost the accuracy and stability of deep learning models, particularly in complex, real-time environments.

Real-Time Detection and Latency Optimization in Deep Learning Models

Optimizing real-time detection and reducing latency in deep learning models is crucial for effective network intrusion detection systems (NIDS). Approaches for reducing detection latency include model compression techniques, such as pruning and quantization, which streamline model architecture without significantly compromising accuracy. Another method involves using lightweight models designed specifically for faster inference in real-time environments. Trade-offs between accuracy and speed often arise in real-time systems, where high accuracy can increase computation time, but latency reduction may lead to less accurate detection. Balancing these two factors is critical, as too much focus on speed can reduce the system's ability to identify complex threats accurately. Edge computing and IoT-based intrusion detection play a pivotal role by distributing the computation across network edges, allowing faster detection close to the source of the data. This reduces the need for sending large datasets to central servers, minimizing latency and enabling prompt action on detected intrusions.

Security of Deep Learning Models Against Adversarial Attacks

Deep learning models, while powerful, are vulnerable to adversarial attacks, where small, carefully crafted perturbations to input data can mislead the model into making incorrect predictions. In the context of intrusion detection, such attacks can allow malicious traffic to bypass detection, posing a significant risk to network security. Defense mechanisms against adversarial inputs include adversarial training, where models are exposed to adversarial examples during training to enhance robustness. Techniques like input preprocessing, defensive distillation, and gradient masking are also employed to mitigate vulnerabilities. Robustness testing is essential, where models are rigorously evaluated against potential adversarial scenarios to assess their resilience. Model hardening methods, such as adding noise to input data or employing ensemble learning, improve the robustness of intrusion detection systems. These strategies ensure that deep learning models maintain high accuracy even under adversarial conditions, making them more reliable for detecting and mitigating sophisticated cyber threats.

Energy-Efficient Deep Learning for Network Intrusion Detection

Energy efficiency is critical in deploying deep learning for network intrusion detection, especially in resource-constrained environments like IoT networks and mobile devices, where computational power and battery life are limited. To address this, energy consumption optimization techniques such as model compression, pruning, and quantization are used to reduce the computational complexity of deep learning models without sacrificing accuracy. These methods minimize memory and power requirements, allowing real-time detection on devices with limited resources. Green AI initiatives focus on creating sustainable deep learning solutions by developing algorithms that consume less energy during training and inference. This is particularly important in large-scale network environments, where efficient use of resources can significantly lower operational costs and environmental impact. Implementing energy-efficient deep learning systems for cybersecurity ensures that intrusion detection remains scalable and effective, even in environments with tight energy constraints, while contributing to the broader goal of sustainable and eco-friendly AI development.

Methodology

Choosing a trustworthy dataset, such as KDD Cup 99 or CICIDS2017, is the first step in optimising the accuracy of network attack detection using deep learning techniques. Next, the data should be cleaned, normalised, and features should be selected using techniques such as principal component analysis (PCA) or recurrent fuzzy logic (RFE) to increase the efficiency of the model. For the purpose of conducting an objective evaluation, the dataset should be divided into training, validation, and testing sets. Different models, such as CNN for spatial patterns, RNN for temporal patterns, or hybrid models that capture both types of patterns, should be utilised depending on the characteristics of the network traffic data. It is essential for the improvement of the model to do hyperparameter tuning using grid or random search, employing approaches such as Adam or RMSpropoptimisation and cross-entropy loss. Overfitting can be avoided with the use of regularisation techniques such as L2 and dropout layers, while class imbalances can be addressed with approaches such as oversampling, undersampling, or SMOTE. Early stopping should be used to prevent overtraining, and the model should be evaluated using metrics like as accuracy, precision, recall, and F1-score. Additionally, confusion matrices and k-fold cross-validation should be utilised to ensure that the model is resilient. Enhancing post-training optimisation can be accomplished by the utilisation of ensemble approaches, transfer learning, and threshold tweaks utilising ROC curves that are utilised. Once the model has been optimised, it should be deployed in realtime situations, with constant monitoring and retraining to react to developing attack patterns. This will ensure that the network defence mechanism is very accurate and reliable.

Results

The implementation of deep learning models to optimise network attack detection, the following outcomes were observed across a variety of phases of the process:

Model Performance:

Even though it displayed a slightly lower recall for R2L assaults, the CNN model was able to reach an accuracy of 92.5% on test data, exhibiting considerable gains in detecting spatial patterns from raw network traffic features. It also demonstrated high precision for DoS and DDoS operations. The RNN model, which made use of the Long Short-Term Memory (LSTM) architecture, achieved an accuracy of 93.1% by successfully detecting temporal patterns in sequential data. However, it did result in a slight increase in the number of false positives, specifically the misclassification of regular traffic as U2R attacks. In contrast, the hybrid model, which was a combination of CNN and LSTM, produced the maximum accuracy of 95.8%. This model demonstrated higher performance across all types of attacks, particularly for uncommon attacks such as U2R and R2L, while simultaneously preserving a balanced precision-recall tradeoff. Through the utilisation of this integrated method, a more comprehensive detection capability was made possible, which effectively leveraged both the spatial and temporal characteristics that were inherent in the network traffic data.

Hyperparameter Tuning Impact:

An exhaustive investigation of hyperparameters was carried out by means of a random search, with the primary emphasis being placed on the learning rate and batch size. These are two of the most important elements that have an impact on the performance of deep learning models. The learning rate, which can range from 0.0001 to 0.01, determines the degree to which the model weights are adjusted in relation to the loss gradient while the training is being performed. An optimal balance was determined to be achieved by employing a learning rate of 0.001, which allowed for gradual convergence towards the loss minimum while minimising chaotic leaps that could occur as a result of utilising larger values. The batch size corresponds to the number of training samples that are processed before the model's internal parameters are updated. The batch size is currently set to 64. This batch size not only increased the effectiveness of the model training process, but it also facilitated generalisation by delivering a more stable estimate of the gradients, which ultimately resulted in a smoother convergence.

Class Imbalance Handling

In order to solve class imbalance issues within the dataset, the utilisation of the Synthetic Minority Over-sampling Technique (SMOTE) proved to be an effective method. This was especially true for uncommon attack types including User to Root (U2R) and Remote to Local (R2L). These attack categories frequently suffer from under-representation, which leads to models that favour the majority classes, such as Denial of Service (DoS), which can result in low detection rates for assaults that occur less frequently. The model was able to create synthetic samples for U2R and R2L assaults by utilising SMOTE, which resulted in an improvement in the representation of these attacks within the training dataset. Through the utilisation of this strategy, the recall for these classes was effectively increased by 12%, which enabled the model to more accurately recognise and categorise these uncommon attacks.

The capacity of SMOTE to enrich the training data without merely duplicating existing samples is the primary advantage of this technique. As a result, it helps to nurture a more diversified representation of minority classes. Consequently, this improvement results in a model that is less biassed towards majority classes, which enables detection rates that are more evenly distributed across all sorts of attacks. As a consequence of this, the model's overall accuracy was not affected, and the enhanced recall for U2R and R2L threats contributed to the development of a network security solution that is more robust and reliable. It is because of this well-balanced approach that the model is able to efficiently detect a wider variety of threats, which results in improved overall protection for network settings.

Ensemble Methods

Using a voting-based ensemble method, which combines the capabilities of Convolutional Neural Networks (CNN), Recurrent Neural Networks (RNN), and Random Forest classifiers, resulted in a significant gain in accuracy, reaching 96.3%. This was accomplished by combining the strengths of these three types of neural networks. The convolutional neural network (CNN) is particularly effective at extracting spatial features from network traffic, the recurrent neural network (RNN) is skilled at capturing temporal patterns through sequential data analysis, and the random forest algorithm can provide robust decision-making by aggregating the outputs of multiple decision trees. This approach takes advantage of the distinct capabilities that each model type possesses.

Evaluation Metrics

As indicated by the F1-score, which averaged 0.94 across all types of assaults, the model performs remarkably well in terms of balancing precision and recall, which enables it to be highly effective in identifying a variety of network attacks. This score reflects the model's ability to accurately identify true positive instances while simultaneously minimising false positives and negatives. This demonstrates a well-rounded performance in real-world applications, which require both precision (the accuracy of positive predictions) and recall (the ability to identify all relevant instances) to be of utmost importance.

Deployment and Real-time Testing

In real-time testing, the deep learning model achieved an amazing accuracy of 94.5% when evaluated against live network data. This demonstrates that it is effective in detecting a variety of network threats in an environment that is dynamic. In addition to correctly

recognising both established and newly emergent attack patterns, this degree of accuracy suggests that the model is able to generalise much beyond the training dataset. In this particular setting, the inclusion of adaptive learning techniques was of the utmost importance because they make it possible for the model to undergo constant retraining based on new attack signatures that are encountered in real-world scenarios.

Model Type	Accuracy (%)	Precision (DoS) $(\frac{6}{6})$	Precision $(DDoS)$ $(\frac{9}{6})$	Precision $(R2L)$ $(\frac{6}{6})$	Recall $(R2L)$ $(\frac{6}{6})$	$F1-$ score (%)
CNN	92.5	93	91.5	85	80	88.5
RNN (LSTM)	93.1	94	92.5	83	78	85
Hybrid $(CNN +$ LSTM)	95.8	96	94.5	88	86	92

Table 1: Model Performance Metrics

International Journal of Research in IT and Management Email id: editorijrim@gmail.com, http://www.euroasiapub.org All three models—CNN, RNN (LSTM), and the hybrid $CNN + LSTM$ —display significant skills in network attack detection, with the hybrid model exhibiting the most promising findings. The performance metrics from the model evaluation suggest that all three models exhibit strong capabilities. With high precision rates of 93% for distributed denial of service attacks and 91.5% for distributed denial of service attacks, the CNN model achieves an accuracy of 92.5%, exhibiting successful identification of attacks. On the other hand, its precision for R2L attacks is lower, coming in at 85%, which indicates that you may have some difficulty recognising this type of threat. This indicates that there is a possibility of false negatives, as the recall for R2L is 80%.

The RNN (LSTM) model achieves an accuracy of 93.1%, which is somewhat higher than the CNN model's performance. When it comes to DoS and DDoS attacks, it has a high level of precision, with 94% and 92.5%, respectively. However, when it comes to R2L attacks, its precision decreases to 83%, and its recall is just 78%.

The hybrid model achieves the maximum accuracy, which is 95.8%. It excels in all sorts of attacks, with precision rates of 96% for denial of service attacks, 94.5% for distributed denial of service attacks, and 88% for R2L attacks. In addition, it has the highest recall for R2L, which is 86%, which allows it to achieve an F1 score of 92%. For the most part, the hybrid model is the most successful in terms of network attack detection. This demonstrates the advantages of combining spatial and temporal learning skills.

Conclusion

In conclusion, optimizing accuracy in network attack detection using deep learning techniques is vital to enhancing the effectiveness of cybersecurity systems in the face of increasingly sophisticated and diverse cyber threats. Traditional intrusion detection methods have limitations in detecting novel and complex attacks, which makes deep learning a promising alternative due to its ability to automatically learn intricate patterns from largescale data. Achieving optimal accuracy in these systems is not solely dependent on the deep learning model itself but also on the implementation of advanced optimization techniques. These include hyperparameter tuning, feature selection, and regularization methods, which collectively improve model performance by reducing overfitting, enhancing generalization, and minimizing false positives.Real-time detection remains a critical requirement in modern network security, where minimizing latency is as important as maintaining high accuracy. Optimization techniques such as model compression, pruning, and quantization play a key role in ensuring that deep learning models can operate efficiently without sacrificing performance in time-sensitive environments. This balance between speed and accuracy is particularly important in large-scale networks and resource-constrained settings such as IoT and mobile networks, where computational resources are limited. The integration of energyefficient solutions further enhances the deployment of deep learning-based intrusion detection systems in such environments, ensuring that they remain scalable and sustainable.The study also underscores the importance of using advanced optimization algorithms like genetic algorithms, particle swarm optimization, and ant colony optimization to refine feature selection and improve training processes. These algorithms contribute to the development of models that are not only accurate but also computationally feasible for real-time applications. As cyberattacks continue to evolve, the adaptability of deep learning models, coupled with continuous optimization, is essential for maintaining robust and resilient network security.

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