Securing Against DoS/DDoS Attacks in Internet of Flying Things using Experience-based Deep Learning Algorithm

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Abstract

Due to the limited computational resources of small unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs), the Internet of flying things (IoFT) is vulnerable to cybersecurity attacks, particularly Denial of Service (DoS) and Distributed Denial of Service (DDoS) attacks. In addition, the transfer of reliable information from source UAV to destination UAV is another big challenge in IoFT networks. Therefore, this article aims to address the security deficiency by proposing an experience-based deep learning algorithm to cater to the DoS, D-DoS and a special kind of threat covering ping-of-death attacks. The proposed scheme uses the notion of the intrusion detection system (IDS). In addition, for reliable communication, a nature-based control routing algorithm AntHocNet is investigated with other contemporary protocols. The proposed approach is implemented in a smart city environment as a case study. The result authenticates the superiority of the proposed schemes in terms of security and QoS requirement from its counterparts.

Keywords: IoFT, Security Attacks, QoS, DoS, Routing Protocols

1. Introduction

Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs), also known as drones are the aerial devices, which are self-programmed and remotely operated via mobile devices and are connected through certain wireless communication technologies. Their applicability is increasing in a wide range of applications, ranging from civilian, military, logistics, remote monitoring, cinematography, agricultural monitoring, search and rescue, and 3D mapping, due to their ease of deployment, dynamic configuration, low maintenance costs, high mobility and faster response [1]. Connecting UAVs in a group via internet called a new clan of networks called Internet of Flying Things (IoFT). Since UAVs are usually deployed in tough environments and terrain, it is therefore very important to provide a reliable and secure network. In such environments, the intruders may try to attack on the IoFT and can hijack the UAV or also the entire fleet of UAVs. These attacks include denial-off-service (DoS), distributed-denial-of-service (DDoS), spoofing, Sybil. Moreover, UAVs can also be triggered with the false data attack in the surrounding environment which causes very serious destruction [2].

Working on attacks such as ping or DoS, a model scenario is used to detect these attacks, called the intrusion detection method (IDS). For the data-packet length poison probability function, the suggested system for the detection of ping death attacks is used [2]. The cyber-attacks such DoS, DDoS, domain name system, man in the middle, or also some virus-based attacks are discussed in the research study [3]. Detecting any security-attack comes in the category of cybercrime, which can be find-out or...
traced by using different techniques like hidden-markov model or also some machine learning strategies, which include naïve bayes, k-nearest neighbor, as well as cyber-bullying detection [4-7]. Due to the dynamic behavior of IoFT, working on the security attacks, vulnerabilities between intruder and custodian must be properly explored. The tree-base strategy can easily portray the moves of intruders/attackers, which worked on three basic parameters like occurrence, detection, and severity [8]. This security strategy may give an optimal result in multi-layer approach to defend the IoFT from different attacks [9-12].

Network infrastructure is currently very much extended due to the new trend of flying vehicles as data is disseminated from the UAVs to the base station, therefore data safety and privacy are required to safeguard data from intruders. In addition to the security vulnerabilities, the UAV communication network can also be more reliable and has low delay, and fault tolerance. It is therefore important to establish and select appropriate routing protocols for IoFT in order to make the services and applications more persistent and active in smart city environment. Network performance is an important parameter in terms of throughput and response time, and is dependent on the strength of the algorithm operating within the routing protocol. However, routing is the most challenging job in IoFT due to the unique attributes of UAVs such as high mobility, 3D movement, and rapid topology changes. Figure.1 explains the concept of secure smart cities using protocols in the IoFT. While the main contributions of this study include some important points, which are given below.

- Firstly, an experience-based algorithm is proposed to counter security attacks such as Denial-of-Service (DOS), D-DOS and Ping of death attack in Internet of flying things (IoFT).
- Secondly, a nature-based control routing algorithm AntHocNet is introduced and is investigated with other contemporary routing protocols to improve transmission links performance in futuristic cities.
- Thirdly, state-of-the-art mobility model is utilized in the learning process of IoFT.
- Finally, the simulation results in terms of QoS and security is obtained to test the performance of the proposed schemes.

Figure.1 A sample architecture of Internet of Flying Things for smart cities applications.
2. Literature Survey:

To secure the communication in future smart cities, encryption, intrusion detection systems can be used in safeguarding aerial networks from DOS or DDOS attack [13]. In [14], machine learning algorithms are utilized as well as taxonomy-ladder of IoT-based-security systems, which include identification, wireless networking, data collection is briefly studied. In [15], DoS attacks for UAVs are proposed through GPS tracking investigation of data using log files [15]. Wireless vision (Wi-Vi) sensors are put in service for self-controlled flying vehicles, which can be used to rescue or detection of intruders even if there is very thick wall of security [16]. The detection of Sybil attack using mobile nodes is the most difficult task to tackle, received signal strength is the only method to recognize the accurate location also to identify the attack. In [17], the authors suggested that the channel state information can give accurate data about location-coordinates as well as the self-adaptive multiple signal classification set of rules is utilized for passive attack identification. In [18], flying things-based architecture is initiated, which give a solution mechanism for security and privacy to secure aerial-vehicle-to-aerial-drone communication using routing protocols. To secure the link between base station and aerial-vehicle, advanced encryption standard is acquired from electroencephalogram signals [19]. Zigbee is used as a communication protocol standard also two Xbee modules are utilized in the implementation which easily do on board encryption. Due to this experimentation aerial vehicles can be secured from third-party-attack also this is a very unique way to provide safe communication links. In [20], the authors proposed a practical demonstration of third party-attack by real aerial-robot easily inspects the vulnerabilities of flying-network using three-Denial-off-service tool, which influence IoD. Also, in future this simulation is suggested to be utilized for DDoS. In [21], the flying vehicles and VPN-Sniffing using WIFI-Pineapple are exemplified [21]. Heuristic computational drones-based projects must be having pragmatic results in civil and military fields but keeping in view the issue of collision dodging in aerial vehicles must have been given proper solution to this problem [22]. Furthermore, the classification of DoS/D-DoS security threats are shown in figure.2.

![Classification of DoS/D-DoS Security Threats](image-url)

Figure.2 Classification of DoS/D-DoS Security Threats
3. Communication Protocols for IoFT

As we see the quick swift in the pattern of flying things that requires high accuracy of UAV’s localization. For this purpose, position-based routing schemes must be incorporated in aerial networks. The scrutiny in the UAV-network design issues comprises physical structure of aerial network, mobility patterns, jitter, link dis-connectivity, collision, flying network architecture and scalability must be addressed [23]. Intelligent autonomous aerial vehicles employ network design which will be either central station or either decentralized whichever encompass single and multi-group swarm ad hoc network. In addition, the end-to-end communication of data needs a reliable protocol to overcome on the instability of flying networks and variation in quality of experience. The area of flying things is still evolving, so in the emergence of UAV-networks base-line routing techniques was used. Later on, researchers found that in drone-assisted-flying-networks rapid mobility pattern changes due to those existing routing schemes must be improved [24]. Further the classifications of routing protocols in aerial vehicles are as under. The hierarchy of routing protocols for internet of flying things is presented in figure 4.

![Figure 4 Hierarchy of Routing Protocols for Internet of Flying Things](image)

**a. Flying-AntHocNet:**

The idea of ad-hoc-wireless-multi-hop-networks combines together to make an efficient way of path planning to overcome on different issues faced by routing mechanisms. For searching and maintaining the path-setup process integrate to form anthocnet, which have reactive and proactive nature of behavior. For the first time ant-based algorithm was introduced for wired communication to find the optimal path which
was known as ant-based-control. In addition, two newborn strategies include AntNet-FA boost-up the efficiency practices of forward-ants and for the backward behavior estimates the full tour of flying-ant-things from source to destination. Flying-AntHocNet is introduced which works on the similar principles of ant-colony-optimization, which attempt to restore connection failure in drone-assisted-networks [25].

b. UAV-based-AODV:

Flying vehicles make a self-organized internetworking, which settle up the communication link between aerial workstation and the mobile natured framework systems. Due to the changing pattern of topology in flying-UAV, the connection loss occurs sometimes which can be easily fixed using protocol like ad-hoc-on-demand. In addition, for making the links more robust and to increase the life span of a network, novel protocol called energy-improved-AODV, which stabilizes the communication links easily [26].

c. D-S-D-V Routing Mechanism:

Maintaining every route information in the aerial networks is a tough task for this purpose proactive routing method is introduced which regularly update network structural changes and save it in routing table of every node. However, preserve the nearby node bordering data packets in the workstation, this whole process is concluded just because of destination-sequenced distance-vector approach [27].

d. Dynamic Source Routing:

DSR is designed for multi-hop wireless communication networks and exercise reactivity in nature where a data packet is flooded from source aerial vehicle to target. However, +this routing protocol overcomes on congestion avoidance, link-failure which may lead to disruption in Internet of flying things networks [28].

e. Multi-Path-Dynamic-Address-Routing:

Dynamic address routing is the foundation protocol which is further improved in the form of multi-path-DART, also this algorithm proclaims proactive behavior which maintains the routing tables data packets for the entire aerial network. M-DART implements multi-path strategy utilizing sibling-id, next-hop information, path-cost, network-id and path-log data is extended in the whole mechanism [29].

f. Zone-Routing-Protocol:

Hybrid categorization of routing protocols contains both proactive and reactive attributes in the communication standards. Zone routing technique divides the entire network topology in clusters or zones which reduce aerial data packet overhead issue. The cluster-head (C-H) finds out the geographical location of the flying vehicles which show cognitive-learning from the adaptive environment. Open system interconnection model with the detail architectural design of Z-R-P routing protocol is shown in figure.5 to represent the concept of cluster-based routing algorithm.
4. Internet of Flying Things Attack Detection

Ensuring the safety of internet-of-drones the unpredicted data packets in the base-station due to that flying things detection system is introduced. The main focus of flying-things-D-S can easily recognize unauthorized packets to maintain the queue of ground station gateway. Some cyber-security attacks like Ping-of-Death, denial-of-service and distributed-denial-of-service are investigated in the simulation environment. In addition, this system is having the optimal capability to monitor queues also if the data packet is received which can be filtered by this novel detection system to distinguish the abnormal information packets through which decision making will be made possible. Basically, in this research study analysis two algorithms are proposed to secure smart cities. Sampling the data packets in the aerial networks unwanted information must be wiped out, therefore stretching the knowledge more every packet in the stream must have a number through which a threshold will be regulated. Abdollahi et al. [2] extend the concept of internet of things detection threshold which give a detailed overview on gateway analysis of security attacks. While keeping an eye on the information like when the ground station is receiving data packets undesired statistical details will be certainly detected at every time slot utilizing figure. 6 algorithms for unwanted detection and removal of information are proposed. In addition, malicious data packets pass through IDS, where hostile information reach at some specific threshold through which proposed sequence delete the misguided data.
Method for Detecting & Removing Illegal Data Packets in Flying Vehicles

1. Initialization
2. for t=1; T-1
3. if k< m_Th(t)
4. for n=1;
5. if NoP (t,n) > 1 % for PoD attack must use ln > l-Th
7. else
8. k=k+0;
9. end
10. In_IDS (t,n)
11. end
12. else
13. for n=1:N
14. if NoP (t,n) > 1 % for PoD attack must use ln > l-Th
15. In_IDS (t,n)=0;
16. Packet_drop= Packet_drop+1;
17. else
18. In_IDS (t,n)
19. end
20. end
21. k=k-1;
22. end
23. End

Figure 6: Algorithm for Detecting & Removing illegal data packets

5. Simulation Environment

The detailed pilot study is conducted using MATLAB for the cyber-security attacks while for experimentation of routing protocols network simulator-2 is employed for making the whole aerial network schema.

6. Network-Topology for IoFT

The network physical structure consists of thirty drones (N=30) and one ground station. The main postulation using internet-of-flying-things will consider time slot for selected UAV’s to send information to land station also every aerial vehicle has the capacity to send data packets per seconds. Two major scenarios are mentioned either “no attack” or “with attack”. Assuming that our internetwork is secure and there is no intruder workstation inside the system. For this purpose, aerial vehicles send legal data packets having average length which is cite as $\lambda_l$. Apart from that aerial network modeling can be concluded for generating information of arrival data net which lined-up in the entry to pinpoint land station. Figure 7 shows the physical structure of IDS in land-station where malicious data packets can be removed easily.
The above metric values can be either constant or random, so furthermore the randomness can be generated using Poisson distribution. The four probabilistic options are practically demonstrated in the figure.8 as mentioned.

For \( t = 100 \) sec, the Poisson random variable with queued length is followed in the below graph.
If the number of flying things is increased, so we will see high rise in the length of data packets. However out rate is symbolized by $\mu$ through which changes can be done easily in queue length and the entry point is sustained. In the figure. 9, queue length over time duration without attack means when UAV’s are safe and packets arrived length in drone-based network show escalation from normal level. Also, sometimes there we find no unauthorized node in the network to attack due to that column of entry point will shoot-up to next level which will exceed reduction in resources. This issue even arises in our network arrangement so for solving this concern the following mechanism is given as.

$$\mu = \frac{N\lambda_l}{2}$$  \hspace{2cm} \text{Eq (2)}

![Figure.9 Queue length over time duration without attack](image)

![Figure.10 Independent Input rate of queue](image)
Considering if the intruder intervenes only broadcasting method is utilized to flood the data packets and make it unavailable to the target node. Normally in DoS and D-DoS cyber security attack try to spoof one or more workstations to give rise to data packets from normal legal length. Ping-of-Death is a type of DoS attack but the differentiation as compared to other customary attack will strike on one UAV which make an effort to modify data lengths with its “pa” probability attack.

7. Markov Chain Distribution

Markov chain is a fundamental part of Markov process in the stochastic processes that use memory distribution in discrete-time steps that recalls discrete-time Markov chain (DTMC). Suppose \( X=\{X_t: t=0,1,2,\ldots,T\} \) be the state of Markov chain stochastic process at time ‘t’ with finite state spaces \( S=\{1,2\} \) where ‘1’ represent ‘no attack level’ which means normal and ‘2’ stands for the attack level as shown below:

\[
\mathbb{P}(X_t = s_t | X_{t-1} = s_{t-1}, \ldots, X_0 = s_0) = \mathbb{P}(X_t = s_t | X_{t-1} = s_{t-1}) \quad \text{Eq (3)}
\]
The above equation (3) shows the formulation of Markov chain where for distribution \( X_t \) having dependency on \( X_{t-1} \). Finding the probability of being in state ‘1’ or ‘2’ at time ‘t’, we need to simulate our security attacks. In Denial-off-Service the attacker injects illegal packets to the network security systems by spoofing one node and attempts to increase numbers of packets by utilizing the ratio \( 1 + \gamma p_a \). Apart from that modeling probability \( p_a \) is being changed in the first scenario where Markov chain with following transition matrix where \( \alpha \) and \( \beta \) respectively are \( p_{a0} \) and 1 is proposed in the matrix.

\[
(P)_{ij} = (p_{ij}) = \begin{bmatrix}
    p_{a0} & 1 - p_{a0} \\
    0 & 1
\end{bmatrix}
\]

Eq (4)

Attack probability of being in state ‘2’ at time ‘t’ is proofed mathematically as

\[
\mathbb{P}(X_t = j) = \mathbb{P}(X_t = j, ..., X_0 = i) \quad \text{Eq (5)}
\]

\[
= \sum_{k,l \in S} \mathbb{P}(X_t = j \mid X_{t-1} = k \cdot X_{t-1} = k \cdot ..., X_0 = s_i) \times \mathbb{P}(X_{t-1} = k)
\]

\[
= \sum_{k,l \in S} \sum_{j \in S} \mathbb{P}(X_t = j \mid X_{t-1} = k) \times \mathbb{P}(X_{t-1} = k \mid X_{t-2} = h) ...	imes \mathbb{P}(X_1 = g \mid X_0 = i) \times \mathbb{P}(X_0 = i)
\]

\[
= \sum_{i \in S} (\pi_0 i_1 \times \pi_0 \times ... \times \pi_k \times \pi_k \times j)
\]

\[
= (\pi_0^T P_t)_{ij}
\]

Whereas,

\[
(\pi_0)_i = \mathbb{P}(X_0 = i) = \mathbb{P}(\text{attacker choose state } i \text{ to start}) = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} \quad \text{Eq (6)}
\]

While \( s_1, s_2, i \) and \( j \). However, the attack probability \( p_a \) at each time slot will change in sequence using random variables according to DTMC in blocks.

\[
\begin{align*}
(\pi_0) \quad & \to \pi_0 P \quad \to \quad \pi_0 P^2 \quad \to \quad \pi_0 P^3 \quad \to \quad \pi_0 P^4 \quad \to \quad \ldots \quad \mathbb{P}_a(t) = (\pi_0 P_t)_{ij} = 2
\end{align*}
\]

Figure.13 Attack Probability at each time slot for desired Markov chain
Figure 14: Attack randomness of Markov chain states at time t

Therefore, for enhancing the technique markov binomial distribution where assumption is based on the parameters like $\alpha=\beta=p_{a_0}$ and X is stationary. In addition binomial arrangement is designed for cyber attacks. The transition matrix is equal to:

$$\begin{pmatrix}
1 - p_{a_0} & p_{a_0} \\
1 - p_{a_0} & p_{a_0}
\end{pmatrix}$$

Eq (7)

Figure 15: Attack Probability of Markov Binomial Distribution

The binomial distribution is a memory less positioning having probability ‘$P_a$’ where each time slot is stationary and equal to ‘$p_{a_0}$’.

8. Simulation Graphs

Markov:
Figure 16: Queue Length generation using Cyber-attacks for Markov Chain

Figure 17: Shrinking queue length using IDS for Ping-of-death using Markov Distribution

Figure 18: Reducing queue length for D-DoS attack utilizing Markov
Figure.19 Minimizing queue length for DoS attack using markov chain

Binomial markov:

Figure.20 Mitigating queue length for Security threats using markov binomial

Here there is two option, where $p_a$ be constant in binomial distribution or be time variant in Markov chain distribution. The result threshold is shown below:
Figure.21 Threshold result of Markov and Binomial distribution

Figure.22 PoD analysis for Queue length making use of Binomial markov

Figure.23 D-Dos study for Queue length employing Binomial markov
Figure. 24 DoS attack queue length using IDS for normal data packets

Figure. 25 Throughput study of security attacks using Markov Distribution
Table. 1 Packet Drop Rate Analysis using DoS, D-DoS & PoD Security Threats

| Packet Drops      | DoS Attack | DDoS Attack | PoD attack |
|-------------------|------------|-------------|------------|
| Markov binomial   | 49         | 222         | 19         |
| Markov            | 75         | 273         | 60         |

Figure. 27 Throughput Analysis AntHocNet with other protocols

Table. 2 Network Utilization Analysis of Boundless Area Model

| Network Utilization Analysis of Boundless Area Model (Kbps) | AntHocNet | AOMDV | DSDV | DSR | MDART | ZRP |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|-----------|-------|------|-----|-------|-----|
| Minimum                                                  | 728.3125  | 1081.656 | 797.1563 | 1608.344 | 720 | 720 |
| Maximum                                                  | 9311.75 | 4747.359 | 4019.438 | 6217.172 | 4431.688 | 1320 |
| Average                                                  | 9311.75 | 4747.359 | 4019.438 | 6217.172 | 4431.688 | 1320 |
| Standard Deviation                                       | 1260.94777 | 513.0735 | 405.4626 | 587.2945 | 638.467 | 129.4262 |
Figure 28 Packet Delivery ratio

Figure 29 Packet drop count analysis
9. Results Discussion

Optimization of connection links will re-shape the entire planet therefore safety of this society needs countermeasures to make the information-age secure. For the security of modeled smart city having drones to stabilize path flying things detection system is launched to detect some cyber-threats include third-party-attack, D-DoS, and a special version is identified where attacker-UAV try to crash or destabilize the aerial network which we call ping-of-death. Due to high network performance the detection-system attempts to trade-off between missed detection probability and false alarm probability. This concept assists researchers to have interconnectivity having maximum missed detection probability.
along with minimum false alarm prospects. However, ant-learning routing protocol exhibits better outcome in comparison with other standard computations. This research study is one of a kind works where routing protocols and cyber-attacks are properly demonstrated using various parameters also markov chain probability distribution is used to enhance the working principal of intrusion detection system. Apart from that binomial randomness shows variation while incorporating this method with flying detection system to remove abnormal queues in the aerial networks.

10. Conclusion

The world is transforming into smart-world which has identified so many cyber security attacks vulnerabilities. Smart cities are integrated with flying things to improve the quality of experience in communication channels where in this study, IoFT use boundless simulation area mobility pattern to boost-up the technological era. In addition, security risks like denial-off-service, distributed-denial-off-service and ping-of-death attacks are demonstrated in the framework of smart cities also markov-chain stochastic process is merged, which assist to find the gateway approach for flying vehicles. Communication comprises drone-2-drone & land-station-2-aerial-vehicles have used, IEEE 802.11 wireless technology to improve transmission routes. The regular swapping in network structure makes hard to implement routing control scheme known as flying-AntHocNet motivated from systematic environment-based approach which show optimal simulation results in metrics like end-2-end-delay, packet loss, data-packet-drop-count, as well as in throughput analysis in comparison with conventional routing techniques include DSDV, DSR, AOMDV, M-DART, Z-R-P are introduced in aerial networks. Accordingly, internet-of-everything abstraction in smart cities is technologized to secure the society from cyber-attacks.

Declarations

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Availability of data and material Data and material used in this research work are available from corresponding author upon request

Code availability Code used for the experiments in this research is available from corresponding author upon request

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