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Relevance feature selection via analysis of the KDD '99 intrusion detection dataset

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Abstract - The rapid development of business and othertransaction systems over the Internet makes computer securitya critical issue. In recent times, data mining and machine learning have been subjected to extensive research in intrusion detection with emphasis on improving the accuracy of detection classifier. But selecting important features from input data lead to a simplification of the problem, faster and more accurate detection rates. In this paper, we presented therelevance of each feature in KDD '99 intrusion detection dataset to the detection of each class. Rough set degree of dependency and dependency ratio of each class were employed to determine the most discriminating features for each class. Empirical results show that seven features were not relevant in the detection of any class.

Keywords: Intrusion detection, machine learning, relevance feature, rough set, degree of dependency.

INTRODUCTION

As Internet keeps growing with an exponential pace, so also iscyber attacks by crackers exploiting flaws in Internet protocols, operating system and application software. Several protective measures such as firewall have been put in place to check the activities of intruders which could not guarantee the full protection of the system. Hence, the need for a more dynamic mechanism like intrusion detection system (IDS) as a second line of defense. Intrusion detection is the process of monitoring events occurring in a computer system or network and analyzing them for signs of intrusions [1]. IDSs are simply classified as host-based or

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network-based. The former operates on information collectedfrom within an individual computer system and the latter collect raw networks packets as the data source from the network and analyze for signs of intrusions. The two different detection techniques employed in IDS to search for attack patterns are Misuse and Anomaly. Misuse detection systems find known attack signatures in the monitored resources. Anomaly detection systems find attacks by detecting changes in the pattern of utilization or bahaviour ofthe system.

Majority of the IDS currently in use are either rule-based or expert-system based. Their strengths depend largely on the ability of the security personnel that develops them. The former can only detect known attack types and the latter is prone to generation of false positive alarms. This leads to the use of an intelligence technique known as data mining/machine learning

technique as an alternative to expensive and strenuous human input. These techniques automatically learn from data or extract useful pattern from data as a reference for normal/attack traffic behaviour profile from existing data for subsequent classification of network traffic.

Intelligent approach was first implemented in mining audit data for automated models for intrusion detection (MADAMID) using association rule [2]. Several others machine-learning paradigms investigated for the design of IDS include: neural networks learn relationship between given input and output vectors to generalize them to extract new relationship between input and output [3,4,5], fuzzy generalize relationship between input and output vector based on degree of membership [5,6], decision tree learns knowledge from a fixed collection of properties or attributes in a top down strategy from root node to leave node [5,7,8], support vector machine simply creates Maximum-margin hyper planes during training with samples from two classes [3,9,10] .

Rough sets produce a set of compact rules made up of relevant features only suitable for misuse and anomalous detection (9,11,12,13,14]. Bayesian approaches are powerful tools for decision and reasoning under uncertain conditions employing probabilistic concept representations [15,16].

Prior to the use of machine learning algorithms raw network traffic must first be summarized into connection records containing a number of within-connection features such as service, duration, and so on. Identification of important features is one of the major factors determining the success of any learning algorithm on a given task. Feature selection in learning process leads to reduction in computational cost, over fitting, model size and leads to increase in accuracy.

Previous works in feature selection for intrusion detection include the work of [17, 18]. In this paper, attempt was made to investigate the relevance of each feature in KDD 99 intrusion detection dataset to substantiate the performance of

certainty to belong to the subject of interest, while upper approximation is a description of objects which possibly belong to the subset [19].

Definition 1:

machine learning and degree of dependency is used to

(2)

present in the test data. The known attack types are those present in the training dataset while the novel attacks are the additional attacks in the test datasets not available in the training data sets. The attacks types are grouped into four categories:

(1).DOS: Denial of service – e.g. syn flooding

(2).Probing: Surveillance and other probing, e.g. portscanning

(3).U2R: unauthorized access to local super user (root) privileges, e.g. buffer overflow attacks.

The equivalent classes of B-indiscernibility relation are denoted $[x]_B$.

$$[x]_B = \{y \in U \mid (x, y) \in IND(B)\}$$

Definition 2: Given $B \subseteq A$ *and* $X \subseteq U$. X can be approximated using only the information contained within B by constructing the B lower and B-upper approximations of set X defined as: (4).R2L: unauthorized access from a remote machine, e.g. password guessing

Definition 3: Given attributes A = C ∪ D and C ∩ D = ϕ. The positive region for a given set of condition attribute C in the relation to IND (D), $POS_C(D)$ can be defined as

assigned to each either as an attack type or as normal. Table 1 shows the class labels and the number of samples that appears in "10% KDD" training dataset. Appendix II gives the detail

II. BASIC CONCEPT OF ROUGH SET

Rough Set is a useful mathematical tool to deal with imprecise and insufficient knowledge, reduce data sets size, find hidden patterns and generate decision rules. Rough set theory contributes immensely to the concept of reducts.

where D^* denotes the family of equivalence classes defined by

the relation IND(D). $POS_C(D)$ contains all objects of U that can be classified correctly into

the distinct classes defined by IND(D).

Similarly, Given attributes subsets B, Q ⊆ A, the positive region contains all objects of U that can be classified to blocks of partition U/Q using attribute B. B is defined as:

Reducts is the minimal subsets of attributes with most predictive outcome. Rough sets are very effective in removing redundant features from discrete data sets. features. For this experiment a total of 145,738 records are used, detailed shown in Table 1.

In this experiment, two approaches are adopted to detecthow significant a feature is to a given class. The first

The degree of dependency of an attribute dictates its

significance in rough set theory.

IV. DISCRETIZATION BASED ON ENTROPY

Entropy, a supervised splitting technique used to determine how informative a particular input attribute is about the output attribute

for a subset, is calculated on the basis of the class label. It is characterized by finding the split with the maximal information gain [20]. It is simply computed thus:

Let D be a set of training data set defined by a set of attributes with their corresponding labels
approach is to compute degree of dependency for each class based on the available number of class instances in the data set. Thus, signifying how well the feature can discriminate the given class from other classes. Secondly, each class labels are mapped against others for each attribute. That is, generating a frequency table of a particular class label against others based on variations in each attribute and then a comparison made to generate the dependency ratio of predominant classes in order to detect all the relevant features distinguishing one class from another (see Appendix I for details). Graphical analysis is also employed in the analysis in order to detect the relevant features for each class.
The dependency ratio is simply computed thus

The Entropy for D is defined as: where P_i is the probability of C_i in D, determined by dividing the number of tuples of C_i in D by |D|, the total number of tuples in D.

Given a set of samples D, if D is partitioned into two intervals D_1 and D_2 using boundary T, the entropy after partitioning is

where HVF = highest number of instance variation for a class label in attribute f.
TIN = total number of instances of that class in the dataset OTH = number of instances for other class labels based on a particular or a set of Variations.
TON = total number of instances of class labels in the data set constituting OTH

RESULT DISCUSSIONS

Results are presented in terms of the class that achieved good levels of discrimination from others in the training set and the analysis of feature relevancy in the training set. Analyses are

where | | denotes cardinality. The boundaries T are chosenfrom the midpoints of the attributes values

Information gain of the split,

Gain (D,T) = Entropy(D) - E(D,T).

In selecting a spilt-point for attribute A, pick an attribute value that gives the minimum information required which is obtained when E(D,T) is minimal.. This process is performed recursively on an attribute the information requirement is less than a small threshold (0).
based on degree of dependency and binary discrimination for each class. That is, for each class, a dataset instance is considered in-class, if it has the same label; out-class, if it has a different label. Degree of dependency is computed for class labels based on number of instances of that class available in the dataset. Table 2 shows the highest degree of dependency of class labels depending on a particular class label in thetraining data set. Table 3 details the most relevant features selected for each class and their corresponding dependency ratio. Six out of the twenty three classes chooses amount of data exchange (source and destination bytes) as the most discriminating features with DOS group having half of it. This
is expected of denial of service and probe category of attacks where the nature of the attack involves very short or very long$Ent(S) - E(T,S) > \delta$

connections. Feature 7 which are related for land attack is selected as the most discriminating feature for land attack

V. EXPERIMENTAL SETUP AND RESULTS

The training set employed for this analysis is the "10% KDD" (kddcup_data_gz file) dataset. Since the degree of dependency is calculated for discrete features, continuous features are discretized based on entropy, discussed in section
3.1. Prior to the discretization, redundant records from the dataset were removed since rough set does not require duplicate instances to classify and identify discriminating
while for pod and teardrop feature 8 (wrong fragment) was selected as the most discriminating features for these attack types. Also the research revealed heavy dependence on feature "Service" (i.e. feature 3) which shows that different services are exploited to perpetrate different types of attack. For instance, imap4, ftp_data and telnet are exploited to lunch imap, warezclient and buffer_overflow attack respectively. Table 4 details the most discriminating class labels for each feature. Normal, Neptune and Smurf are the most

Table 1: Class labels and the number of samples that appears in "10% KDD" dataset

Attack	Original Number of Samples	Number of samples after removing duplicated instances	Class
back	2,203	994	DOS
land	21	19	DOS
neptune	107,201	51,820	DOS
pod	264	206	DOS

smurf	280,790	641	DOS
teardrop	979	918	DOS
satan	1,589	908	PROBE
ipsweep	1,247	651	PROBE
nmap	231	158	PROBE
portsweep	1,040	416	PROBE
normal	97,277	87,831	NORMAL
Guess_passwd	53	53	R2L
ftp_write	8	8	R2L
imap	12	12	R2L
phf	4	4	R2L
multihop	7	7	R2L
warezmaster	20	20	R2L
warezclient	1,020	1020	R2L
spy	2	2	R2L
Buffer_overflow	30	30	U2R
loadmodule	9	9	U2R
perl	3	3	U2R
rootkit	10	10	U2R

Table 2: Attribute with the highest degree of dependency that distinctly distinguish some class labels from the training data set.

Attack	Degree of dependency	Selected features	Feature Name	Other distinct features
back	0.9708	5	source bytes	6
neptune	0.0179	3	service	39
teardrop	0.9913	8	wrong fragment	25
satan	0.0319	30	diff srv rate	27,3
portsweep	0.0264	4	flag	30,22,5
normal	0.0121	6	destination bytes	5,3,10,11,1
guess_passwd	0.0189	11	failed logins	-
imap	0.3333	26	srv error rate	-
warezmaster	0.7500	6	destination bytes	-
warezclient	0.2686	10	hot	5,1

discriminating classes for most of the features which consequently make their classification easier. Moreover, these three classes dominating the testing dataset and this account to high detection rate of machine learning algorithm on them. The research also shows how importanta particular feature is to detection of an attack and normal. For some class label a feature sufficient to detect an attack type while some requires combination of two or more features. For features with few representatives in the dataset such as spy and rootkit, it is very difficult detecting a feature or features that can clearly differentiate thembecause of the dominance of some class labels like normal and Neptune. These difficult to classify attacks belong totwo major groups, user to root and remote to local. The

involvement of each feature has been analyzed forclassification. Features 20 and 21 (see appendix I) make no contribution to the classification of either an attack or normal. Hence these two features (outbound commandcount for FTP session and hot login) have no relevance in intrusion detection. There are other features that makeslittle significant in the intrusion detection data set. Fromthe dependency ratio table in Appendix I, these features include 13, 15, 17, 22 and 40 (number of compromised Table 3: The most relevant feature for each attack type and normal conditions, su attempted, number of file creation operations, is guest login, dst host rerror rate conditions, su attempted, number of file creation operations, is guestlogin, dst host rerror rate respectively Table 3: The most relevant feature for each attack type and normal

Attack	Most relevant features	Feature Name	Variations	Dependency ratio	Class
Back	5	source bytes	66,64,60	0.9708	DOS
Land	7	land	2	0.9999	DOS
neptune	5	source bytes	0	0.9328	DOS
Pod	8	wrong fragment	1	0.9853	DOS
Smurf	5	source bytes	39	0.7731	DOS
teardrop	8	wrong fragment	2	0.9913	DOS
Satan	30	diff srv rate	30	0.7648	PROBE
ipsweep	36	dst host name src port rate	13,14,15,17	0.8282	PROBE
Nmap	5	source bytes	4	0.6448	PROBE
portsweep	28	srv error rate	9	0.8057	PROBE
normal	29	same srv rate	28	0.8871	NORMAL
guess_passwd	11	failed login	1	0.9622	R2L

ftp_write	23	count	1	0.7897	R2L
Imap	3	service	60	0.9980	R2L
Phf	6	destination bytes	28	0.9976	R2L
multihop	23	count	1	0.7898	R2L
warezmaster	6	destination bytes	33	0.7500	R2L
warezclient	3	service	13	0.6658	R2L
Spy	39	dst host srv serror rate	8	0.9997	R2L
buffer_overflow	3	service	6	0.6965	U2R
loadmodule	36	dst host name srcport rate	29	0.6279	U2R
Perl	14	root shell	1	0.9994	U2R
rootkit	24	srv count	1	0.7269	U2R

. CONCLUSION

In this paper, selection of relevance features is carried out on KDD '99 intrusion detection evaluation dataset. Empirical results revealed that some features have no relevance in intrusion detection. These features include 20 and 21 (outbound command count for FTP session and hot login) while features 13, 15, 17, 22 and 40 (number of compromised conditions, su attempted, number of file creation operations, is guest login, dst host rerror rate respectively) are of little significant in the intrusion detection.

In our future work, additional measures including sophisticated statistical tools will be employed.

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