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RESEARCH ARTICLE

An Intelligent Approach to Improving the Performance of Threat Detection in IoT

NGUYEN TAN CA[M](https://orcid.org/0000-0002-3909-7650)[®] AND N[G](https://orcid.org/0009-0000-4673-5588)UYEN GIA TRUNG[®]

University of Information Technology, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam Vietnam National University, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam

Corresponding author: Nguyen Tan Cam (camnt@uit.edu.vn)

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ABSTRACT Internet of Things (IoT) systems are beneficial to our daily lives and have become increasingly important. A complete IoT system includes devices, sensors, networks, software, and other essential components necessary for operation and interconnection. However, devices and sensors of this nature often have low resource requirements and multiple security vulnerabilities from manufacturers. Moreover, edge network areas of IoT systems exhibit several security weaknesses. Consequently, unauthorized hijacking of sensors or denial-of-service attacks on edge network areas can have severe consequences for the system's operation. In this study, we propose a model that combines machine learning algorithms and principal component analysis techniques to train and predict Distributed Denial of Service (DDoS) attacks. Principal component analysis techniques were applied to reduce data dimensionality. We used accuracy, precision, recall, and F1-Score as the evaluation metrics. We explain the True Positive, False Positive, True Negative, and False Negative measures as basic parts of the above evaluation metrics. Unlike previous studies, we used the Training Time to evaluate the training time of each model. We employed two datasets, CICIDS 2017 and CSE-CIC-IDS 2018, to evaluate our proposed model. In general, the proposed models exhibited the best performance and improved training time.

INDEX TERMS Machine learning, principal component analysis, Internet of Things, DDoS attack.

I. INTRODUCTION

Over the past decade, Industrial Revolution 4.0 has changed the way of doing business and production as well as the ecology of human life. IoT, Artificial Intelligence (AI), Cloud, and Robotic Process Automation (RPA) are the four core elements required for Industry 4.0 success [\[1\]. Sm](#page-14-0)art Home applications with temperature and light sensors can communicate with the central controller in two ways to help automate tasks, such as controlling lights and electronic devices in indoor areas, thereby improving quality of life [\[2\], \[](#page-14-1)[3\].](#page-14-2) The IoT also appears in areas such as physically challenged people, smart health, agriculture, and natural calamities [\[4\].](#page-14-3) There were over 13.8 billion IoT devices in 2021 and is predicted to grow to 30.9 billion devices by 2025 [\[5\].](#page-14-4)

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An IoT system is a network of devices and systems that collaborate to collect, transmit, process, and analyze data from the physical environment. The primary constituents of a complete IoT system are edge devices, gateways, cloud servers, data-analysis tools, and user interfaces. Edge devices are physical devices equipped with sensors, actuators, and controllers to gather and preprocess data and can perform initial analysis before sending it to the cloud. Gateways provide connectivity and processing, acting as intermediaries between edge devices and the cloud to reduce network traffic and latency. Cloud servers store and process data from edge devices and gateways, providing scalable computing resources and storage capacity for handling large volumes of data. Advanced analytics can also be used to obtain detailed insights from the data. Data analysis tools employ machine learning algorithms, statistical analysis, and visualization techniques to identify patterns, trends, and anomalies in data. User interfaces, such as web or mobile applications, enable

FIGURE 1. Attack types on IoT.

users to interact with the IoT system, access and analyze data from their devices, and receive alerts and notifications based on collected data.

Furthermore, IoT systems are becoming potential targets for cyberattack [\[6\]. Fr](#page-14-5)om Q3 2019 to Q4 2020, attacks related to IoT systems and the Mozi botnet increased by 3,000% and 74%, respectively. Ransomware, Server Access, and DDoS are common types of attack, as shown in Figure [1](#page-1-0) [\[7\]. Th](#page-14-6)ere are multiple reasons why cyberattackers are increasingly targeting IoT systems, with three main factors being the most important: first, the security vulnerabilities present in sensor devices, often originating from the manufacturer; second, the edge network areas have insufficient protection against cyberattacks; and lastly, the high value of data in these systems makes them attractive targets for attackers.

As a well-established method for bringing down systems since 1973, DDoS continues to be a popular choice for attackers. Since 2017, extensive research has been conducted on DDoS attack methods and techniques in IoT, as well as methods to detect and prevent them [\[8\], \[](#page-14-7)[9\]. Th](#page-14-8)e three main DDoS attack types are volumetric, protocol, and application attacks. These three classifications contain dozens of DDoS attack types and their variants such as UDP, IMCP, IP, TCP, and HTTP floods. Some DDoS attacks fall outside these main categories, and most attackers use a combination of methods to make their attacks more difficult to detect.

The three main approaches for detecting DDoS attacks are anomaly based, signnature-based, and hybrid-based. Signature-based methods rely on specific flow characteristics to build graphs and define a threshold for warning against DDoS attacks [\[10\],](#page-14-9) [\[11\], \[](#page-14-10)[12\], \[](#page-14-11)[13\], \[](#page-14-12)[14\],](#page-14-13) [\[15\]. I](#page-14-14)mportant features include requests per second, bits per second, and packets per second. Anomaly based methods use machine learning algorithms and training data models to make predictions. However, each method has its own major limitations. The problem of anomaly detection is false positives, whereas that of signature-based detection is a constant change in the

attack methods or zero-day DDoS attacks [\[16\]. T](#page-14-15)his poses a challenge to researchers attempting to detect DDoS attacks.

Recently, machine learning and deep learning have been demonstrated to provide accurate predictions for DDoS detection. However, these studies have mostly concentrated on traditional computer networks with powerful servers, which are not applicable to IoT systems that have limited resources on edge devices. In addition, some studies have emphasized only the precision of the algorithm while neglecting the significance of the training time of the model. Therefore, our motivation was to develop a model that could be applied to edge devices. The model must meet two criteria: first, it must have high accuracy in predicting DDoS attacks, and second, it must have fast training time. This solution aims to contribute to building a secure and reliable connection environment for IoT devices, bringing about economic and social benefits, and creating development opportunities for future IoT technologies.

In this article, we are using a combination of Principal Component Analysis (PCA) and Machine Learning (ML) algorithms. The algorithms we used include the Support Vector Machine (SVM), Naïve Bayes (NB), Decision Tree (DT), Random Forest (RF), and Extremely Randomized Trees (ET). First, we evaluated five simple ML by using the original dataset without PCA. We repeated the training and predicted DDoS attacks but with data from PCA. We used the CICIDS 2017 and CSE-CIC-IDS 2018 datasets for evaluation. As a result, our proposed system predicts DDoS attacks with high performance and faster training time than without using PCA.

The remainder of this paper is organized as follows. In the first section, we introduce the current state of cyberattack challenges in IoT environments. Section [II](#page-1-1) analyzes relevant scientific studies. In Section [III,](#page-3-0) we explore the ML models we use. In Section [IV,](#page-5-0) we describe the proposed model. In Section [V,](#page-6-0) we evaluate our model using two datasets, CICIDS 2017 and CSE-CIC-IDS 2018. In Section [VI,](#page-14-16) we present our conclusions and directions for future research.

II. RELATED WORK

In a survey conducted by Wehbi et al. [\[17\], t](#page-14-17)hree strategies for detecting DDoS attacks using ML were identified. Each strategy employs a distinct method of integrating machine-learning techniques, including the use of IoT network behavior (Approach 1), software-defined network (SDN) architecture (Approach 2), and Apache Spark (Approach 3). Ziadoon Kamil Masser et al. [\[18\] e](#page-14-18)valuated ten commonly used supervised and unsupervised ML algorithms for their ability to identify effective and efficient ML-based intrusion detection systems for networks. Using the CICIDS 2017 dataset, this approach yielded the best hyperparameters for each algorithm. Mohammad Najafmehr et al. [\[19\] co](#page-15-0)mbined supervised and unsupervised algorithms to detect anomalies in the network traffic. Initially, a Density-Based Spatial Clustering of Applications with Noise (DBSCAN) clustering algorithm was used to

separate anomalous traffic from normal data. Then, DT, RF, NB, and SVM machine-learning algorithms were utilized to classify the clusters. The authors evaluated the proposed model on the CICIDS 2017 dataset, and tested it on the more recent CICDDoS 2019 dataset. The results indicate that the Positive Likelihood Ratio of the proposed method is approximately 198% higher than that of traditional ML classification algorithms.

Erhan and Anarim [\[20\] u](#page-15-1)sed a hybrid wavelet and matching pursuit algorithm for DDoS detection. The methodology suggested in this study uses a dictionary derived from the network flow parameters. This approach produced over 99% true positives and less than 0.7% false positives. Praseed and Thilagam [\[21\] le](#page-15-2)veraged a simple annotated Probabilistic Timed Automata (PTA) and a suspicion scoring mechanism to separate normal and anomalous user behavior in the context of asymmetric application-layer DDoS attacks. In their study of Sybil DDoS in the Internet of Vehicles, Li et al. [\[22\]](#page-15-3) developed a Fast Quartile Deviation Check and an entropy theory-based algorithm to quantify the traffic distribution. The LuST dataset shows that this approach has a detection rate of 100%.

Currently, DDoS attacks with a low-rate bandwidth performance are difficult to detect. Liu et al. [\[23\] us](#page-15-4)ed a deep convolutional neural to detect TCP low-rate DDoS attacks from the Mirai botnet. Alsirhani et al. [\[24\] p](#page-15-5)roposed a dynamic solution for detecting DDoS attacks by combining four machine learning algorithms and fuzzy logic. The fuzzy logic system automatically selects the most effective algorithm from a set of predefined classification algorithms to recognize different DDoS attack patterns. Alasmary et al. [\[25\] p](#page-15-6)roposed a ShieldRNN with Recurrent Neural Network (RNN) and Long Short-Term Memory (LSTM) models. This approach achieved a 99.9% F1-Score. Sayed et al. [\[26\] e](#page-15-7)mployed LSTM and Autoencoder (AE) to address the issue of DDoS attacks in SDNs using three datasets: InSDN, CICIDS 2017, and CICIDS 2018. This approach achieved a high detection rate and provided a more efficient method for establishing a model. Beitollah et al. [\[27\] p](#page-15-8)resented an ML solution that merges the Radial Basis Function (RBF) neural network and the Cuckoo Search Algorithm (CSA) to detect App-DDoS traffic. Deepa et al. [\[28\] u](#page-15-9)sed embedded learning, combining the K-Nearest Neighbor (KNN), NB, SVM, and Self-Organizing Map (SOM) algorithms to detect DDoS attacks within an SDN controller. The authors evaluated their proposed method on the CAIDA 2016 dataset, and the results showed that the combined learning approach achieved an accuracy of 97-98%, whereas traditional machine learning methods without combination only achieved an accuracy of 75-84%. Soe et al. [\[29\] u](#page-15-10)sed an Artificial Neural Network (ANN) algorithm combined with the synthetic minority oversampling technique (SMOTE) to reduce data imbalance in DDoS detection. Jia et al. [\[30\] p](#page-15-11)roposed an LSTM-based FlowGuard model to detect DDoS attacks. The model was evaluated on the dataset CICDDoS 2019 with an accuracy

of up to 98.9%. For instance, Khedkar and AroulCanessane [\[31\] us](#page-15-12)ed an SVM model to classify attacks, and achieved an accuracy of 78%. Additionally, Zeeshan et al. [\[32\] pr](#page-15-13)oposed a protocol-based architecture and detected DDoS attacks using a deep learning LSTM. The classification accuracy was 96.3% for the UNSWNB15 and Bot-IoT datasets.

In their research, Sharafaldin et al. [\[33\] c](#page-15-14)ompared the different datasets. The author pointed out four important features for detecting DDoS attacks: Standard Deviation size of Packet, Packet Size, Flow Duration, Standard Deviation time between two packets in flow. The authors used the ML algorithm on these four selected features and obtained a 98% accuracy. Unlike previous works that concentrated mainly on DDoS attacks launched from compromised IoT devices towards servers, Tushir et al. [\[34\] fo](#page-15-15)cused on the connectivity and energy consumption of IoT devices during attacks. Key discoveries include buffer overflow and the group key updating process of WiFi.

Deep learning (DL) algorithms have also been widely applied in research related to network intrusion detection systems (NIDS) or host intrusion detection systems (HIDS). Vinayakumar et al. [\[35\] u](#page-15-16)tilized a Deep Neural Network (DNN) algorithm to detect malware attacks on both HIDS and NIDS. They used the KDDCup 99 dataset to identify optimal hyperparameters for the algorithm. They then tested the algorithm with these hyperparameters on various datasets, including NSL-KDD, UNSW-NB15, Kyoto, WSN-DS, and CICIDS 2017, and demonstrated a good predictive performance. Hnamte and Hussain [\[36\] e](#page-15-17)mployed a hybrid DCNNBiLSTM model that integrated CNN, LSTM, and DNN. Their methodology was evaluated on the CSE-CIC-IDS 2018 and Edge_IIoT datasets, resulting in accuracy rates of 100% and 99.64%, respectively. Additionally, Okey et al. [\[37\] pr](#page-15-18)oposed an embedded model called ELETL-IDS, which was built using model averaging with three preselected models: InceptionV3, MobileNetV3Small, and EfficientNetV2B0. The proposed model was evaluated on two datasets, CICIDS 2017 and CSE-CIC-IDS 2018, and it achieved perfect results for all evaluation metrics, including 100% accuracy, precision, recall, and F-score. Wei et al. [\[38\]](#page-15-19) combined the AE model and multilayer perceptron network (MLP) to evaluate DDoS attacks on the CICDDoS2019 dataset, obtaining an accuracy of 98%. To detect DDoS attacks in SDN, Haider et al. [\[39\] p](#page-15-20)roposed four DL-based architectures by using three DL algorithms (RNN, LSTM, and CNN): embedded RNN $(RNN + RNN)$, embedded $CNN (CNN + CNN)$, embedded LSTM (LSTM + LSTM), and hybrid embedded $(RNN + LSTM)$. Among these models, the embedded CNN architecture exhibited the highest performance, achieving an accuracy of 99.45% when evaluated on the CICIDS 2017 dataset. Liu et al. [\[40\]](#page-15-21) tested the LSTM algorithm on an asynchronous federated learning platform utilizing the ISCX-2016-SlowDos and 1999 DARPA datasets to combat low-rate DDoS attacks and achieved a remarkable accuracy rate of 98.8%. In a

previous study by Roopak et al. [\[41\] ev](#page-15-22)aluated DDoS attacks on the CICIDS2017 dataset using four DL models: MLP, 1d-CNN, LSTM, and CNN + LSTM. The results showed that the $LSTM + CNN$ model performed the best with an accuracy of 97.16%.

In general, research works in recent years have shown positive results, but there are still some disadvantages; for example, using individual datasets makes the model evaluation not high fidelity, and many studies focus on accuracy, precision, recall, or F1-Score quantities and ignore the training time of algorithms, a factor that is also very important in attack detection in the IoT environment, as detailed in Table [1.](#page-4-0)

III. BACKGROUND METHODOLOGY

We used five Simple Machine Learning algorithms: Naïve Bayes (NB), Decision Tree (DT), Random Forest (RF), Extremely Randomized Trees (ET), and Support Vector Machine (SVM), in combination with the Principal Component Analysis (PCA) technique for implementing DDoS attack detection.

A. MACHINE LEARNING ALGORITHMS

1) NB

The NB algorithm assumes that the data features are independent of each other. Instead of trying to find the label for each data point, NB looks for the most likely label to be assigned to the data point using the following formula:

$$
c = argmax p(c|x)
$$
 (1)

where $p(c|x)$ is the probability of label *c* of data point *x*. According to Bayes' rule, the above formula can be re-expressed as follows:

$$
c = argmax \frac{p(c \mid x) \times p(c)}{p(x)}
$$
 (2)

where $p(c)$ is calculated according to the method of Maximum Likelihood Estimation (MLE) or Maximum A Posteriori (MAP).

Owing to the assumption that the data features are independent of each other, the algorithm can easily choose label *c* for the data, making the training and testing times extremely fast.

2) DT

The DT algorithm is a supervised learning algorithm. The unit of DT is the node, which is described as:

$$
node = (x_i, t_i, c_i)
$$
\n⁽³⁾

where x_i is the data value at node *i* and t_i is the criterion for selecting the next node of node *i*. If $i = 1$, then it is the root node. If $t_i \neq 0$, then node is a nonleaf node. If $t_i = 0$, then that node is leaf node. At the leaf node, the data are labeled *cⁱ* . The choice of the value of the *tⁱ* criterion is based on the evaluation index entropy and information gain. The DT architecture is illustrated in Figure [2.](#page-3-1)

FIGURE 3. RF architecture.

If the DT algorithm is sufficiently deep, the model will easily encounter overfitting.

3) RF

The RF approach involves a multitude of individual DT that together function as an ensemble. Each DT generates a class prediction, and the prediction with the most votes corresponds to that of the model. The wisdom of crowds states that a committee of many uncorrelated models (trees) will outperform a single model. Therefore, RF has full DT properties and better solves the overfitting problem of DT. The RF architecture is shown in Figure [3.](#page-3-2)

4) ET

Similar to RF, ET comprises many DT and is an ensemble algorithm. Therefore, ET has full DT properties. However, ET uses more random thresholds for each feature instead of

TABLE 1. Comparison of other related techniques.

finding the best threshold, such as RF. ET usually has a faster training time than RF because it saves time when finding thresholds for features at nodes.

5) SVM

The SVM algorithm is based on the concept that data classes are classified and laid out in linearly separable planes. We can

now determine an infinite number of planes that divide these data classes. The distance from the nearest data point to the separation plane is the margin. The SVM looks for a hyperplane such that the margin is at its maximum and the margins of the data layers are the same. This hyperplane can be described as follows.

$$
w^T x + b = 0 \tag{4}
$$

The SVM algorithm used to find the value *(w, b)* is represented by the following formula:

$$
(w, b) = argmax\{min(margin)\}\tag{5}
$$

SVM algorithms face many challenges with data classes with many outliers.

B. PRINCIPAL COMPONENT ANALYSIS

The PCA algorithm is based on the mathematical idea that data are not normally distributed randomly but are instead distributed according to a coordinate system. Assume that the initial data have a characteristic D with $D \in R$. PCA projects the data onto a new space, where the data are represented with the characteristic *K* with $K \in R$ and $K \ll D$. *K* is also known as the principal component.

The value of *K* is determined based on the level of information that must be preserved. Here, the total information is the sum of variances in all dimensions of the data. The amount of data to be maintained is the total variance of the new coordinate system. Therefore, to choose *K*, we can rely on the following formula:

$$
R_K = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^{K} \lambda_i}{\sum_{i=1}^{D} \lambda_i}
$$
 (6)

where R_K is the amount of data to be kept, and λ is the variance of the data.

IV. PROPOSED SYSTEM

Our study presents the system depicted in Figure [4,](#page-5-1) which comprises four main steps: raw data, data cleaning, preprocessing, and detection.

A. RAW DATA

Raw data are collected from IoT devices in the form of Events, Flows or Packets. In which:

An event represents a log of a specific occurrence, such as a user login or VPN connection, which is documented at the moment it occurs.

A packet refers to a piece of data traveling from the sender to its destination, which moves from the source address to the destination address via intermediate hops. The combination of multiple packet segments results in a larger number of messages at the receiver address.

Flow: Set of packets that share seven attributes. Once any of these attributes changes, a new flow is established. The seven attributes are incoming traffic interface, source IP address, destination IP address, IP protocol, source port, destination port, and IP service type.

FIGURE 4. Proposed system.

In many DDoS attacks, flow measurements are important to the outcome. However, with the sophistication of attacks, Event or Packet information also contributes to detection.

B. CLEANING DATA

In any machine-learning project, raw data are often unsuitable for direct use for several reasons, including the requirement for numerical data by machine-learning algorithms, presence of statistical noise, errors, missing values, and conflicting examples, as well as the need to uncover complex nonlinear relationships within the compressed raw data. In addition, categorical data must be converted into numerical values to ensure compatibility with machine learning algorithms.

Cleaning the data is a critical step. The success of a machine learning algorithm depends on the quality of the training data. In this study, we used the datasets CICIDS 2017 and CSE-CIC-IDS 2018. With this dataset, we removed the data with little information and perturbed the model to obtain a dataset with high value. The steps are as described in Algorithm [1.](#page-6-1)

C. PRE-PROCESSING

The data were separated into a training set (70%) and testing set (30%), and model training was conducted only on the training set. The testing set was used solely for testing.

Scaling: Because the input variables of the data were different, we scaled the data to help the algorithms learn better. A normalization technique was used to achieve this. Data normalization involves scaling the data from their original range to a new range, which is typically between 0 and 1.

$$
y = \frac{x - \min}{\max - \min} \tag{7}
$$

where the maximum and minimum values pertain to the value *x* being normalized.

PCA: We implemented the PCA dimensionality reduction technique to improve the performance and training time of the model, which is more suitable for detecting DDoS attacks in IoT environments. Incorporating PCA techniques also helps

where count_unique_values() is the function reporting the number of unique values in each feature; calculate_variance() is the function that calculates the variance in each feature; duplicate() checks whether it is a duplicate; missing_infinite() is the function that checks whether it contains any missing or infinite values; delete_feature() is the function to delete a feature; delete_sample() is the function to delete a sample.

models avoid outliers that are commonly found in machine learning data. We chose *K* principal components of the data, based on the amount of variance retained. The pre-processing steps are described in Algorithm [2.](#page-6-2)

D. DETECTION

After the cleaning and pre-processing steps, the data were used to train the machine learning model. To help identify the proposed model, we first trained and evaluated the machine learning models using data obtained after cleaning and scaling without PCA. Then, we continued to train and evaluate the machine learning models with five cases of principal component K with the amount of variance retained: 95% , 90%, 85%, 80%, and 75%, respectively. Therefore, using five machine-learning models, we have done thirty times of training and evaluation times to determine the best model for our proposal. These steps are presented in Algorithm [3.](#page-7-0)

V. EVALUATION

A. DATASET

To evaluate our proposed system, we conducted experiments on two datasets, CICIDS 2017 and CSE-CIC-IDS

2018. The CICIDS 2017 dataset was publicly released in 2017 by the Canadian Institute for Cybersecurity (CIC), whereas the Communications Security Establishment (CSE) and CIC jointly released the CSE-CIC-IDS 2018 dataset in 2018. We chose these datasets for three reasons: First, they are current network-based datasets that are appropriate for appraising the detection of DDoS attacks, which is the primary focus of this study [\[42\]. S](#page-15-23)econd, this dataset was confirmed to meet 11 IPS dataset criteria: complete network configuration, complete traffic, labeled data, complete interaction, complete capture, available protocols, attack diversity, anonymity, heterogeneity, feature set, and metadata [\[43\].](#page-15-24) Finally, to construct this dataset, the author fully deployed

Algorithm 3 *(Continued.)* Detection Algorithm

30 End

where time() is the function that gets the current time of the system; fit() is the function that trains the model; predict() is the function that makes predictions using a trained model; accuracy_score() is the function to evaluate the accuracy measure of the trained model; precision_score() is the function to evaluate the precision measure of the trained model; recall_score() is the function to evaluate the recall measure of the trained model; f1_score() is the function to evaluate the harmonic mean of the precision and recall measure of the trained model; evaluate() is the function to evaluate the performance of machine learning algorithms with and without PCA.

FIGURE 5. CICIDS 2017 topology.

modern attack techniques in the system, including firewalls, routers, switches, and several different operating systems. The victim and attacker zones were completely separated to obtain data similar to real-world scenarios. The model used to build the dataset is shown in Figure [5.](#page-7-1)

The proposed model was evaluated using the ''Friday-WorkingHours-Afternoon-DDoS.pcap_ISCX.csv'' file from the CICIDS 2017 dataset and the ''02-21-2018.csv'' file from the CSE-CIC-IDS 2018 dataset to detect the DDoS attacks. The CICIDS 2017 dataset contains 225,745 samples and 79 features. After applying the cleaning data, the number

of features was 44, and the number of samples was 221,125. It included 128,014 DDoS and 93,111 benign records. The CSE-CIC-IDS 2018 dataset consists of 1,046,845 samples and 80 features. Following data cleaning, the dataset was reduced to 559,651 samples with 21 features, comprising 198,861 DDoS records and 360,790 benign records. Note that the number of features above includes the labels. The results are presented in Table [2.](#page-9-0)

The features after cleaning the CICIDS 2017 and CSE-CIC-IDS 2018 datasets are listed in Table [3.](#page-10-0)

B. EVALUATION METRICS

We measured the performance of the proposed system using four metrics: true positives (TP), false positives (FP), true negatives (TN), and false negatives (FN). In which:

TP: is the measure of the correct prediction of attack samples.

FP: is the measure of the false prediction of attack samples (i.e., benign samples that guess an attack).

TN: is a measure of the correct prediction of benign samples.

FN: is a measure of the false prediction of benign samples (i.e., an attack that guesses them as benign).

We evaluate the Accuracy of the model according to the formula:

$$
Accuracy = \frac{TP + TN}{TP + FP + TN + FN}
$$
 (8)

We also focused on the precision measure to evaluate the model's ability to accurately predict attacks, as well as recall, to evaluate the omission of attack data:

$$
Precision = \frac{TP}{TP + FP}
$$
 (9)

$$
Recall = \frac{TP}{TP + FN} \tag{10}
$$

We double check the comprehensiveness of the model with F1-Score:

$$
F1_{Score} = 2 \times \frac{(Precision + Recall)}{(Precision * Recall)}
$$
(11)

Furthermore, we are particularly concerned with evaluating the amount of time each model takes to train using the following formula:

$$
TrainingTime(TT) = endTT - -startTT \qquad (12)
$$

To compare the results of our proposed model and ML algorithms without PCA, we used a quantity called the change magnitude *C*. The formula used was as follows:

$$
C_{Accuracy}\n= 100 \times \frac{Accuracy_{OurProposed} - Accuracy_{Algorithms}}{Accuracy_{Algorithms}}
$$
\nC

CPrecision

$$
= 100 \times \frac{Precision_{OurProposed} - Precision_{Algorithms}}{Precision_{Algorithms}} \quad (14)
$$

FIGURE 6. Performance comparison of the machine learning model without PCA with CICIDS 2017.

FIGURE 7. Training time comparison of the machine learning model without PCA with CICIDS 2017.

$$
C_{Recall}
$$

= 100 ×
$$
\frac{Recall_{OurProposed} - Recall_{Algorithms}}{Recall_{Algorithms}}
$$
 (15)

$$
= 100 \times \frac{F1 - Score_{OurProposed} - F1 - Score_{Algorithms}}{F1 - Score_{Algorithms}}
$$

CTT

$$
= \frac{TrainingTime_{Algorithms}}{TrainingTime_{OurProposed}} \tag{17}
$$

C. RESULTS WITHOUT PCA

As a first step in evaluating the proposed system, we performed a DDoS attack detection assessment on the CICIDS 2017 dataset with 44 data features after data cleaning. The DT, RF, and ET algorithms exhibited more than 99.9% performance results, including Accuracy, Precision, Recall, and F1-score. The SVM algorithm had 97% accuracy and the NB algorithm had 87% accuracy. The performance results are shown in Figure [6.](#page-8-0) The training time of the NB algorithm gives the best results at 0.23 seconds; the DT, ET, and RF are 1.79 seconds, 9.72 seconds, and 24.21 seconds, respectively. The SVM algorithm had a training time of up to 1,190 seconds, as shown in Figure [7.](#page-8-1) We conducted a similar evaluation on the CSE-CIC-IDS 2018 dataset; the results for both datasets are presented in Table [5.](#page-12-0)

D. RESULTS WITH PCA

After that, we evaluated the ML algorithms, including DT, RF, ET, NB, and SVM using the PCA technique. The retained

(16)

TABLE 2. Comparison of data cleaning.

FIGURE 9. DT training time with PCA with CICIDS 2017.

variances *R* were 95%, 90%, 85%, 80%, and 75%, respectively. Table [4](#page-11-0) presents the corresponding principal components, *K* for each *R*. The best results for each algorithm are highlighted in Tables [6](#page-12-1)[–10.](#page-13-0) The criteria for evaluating the best results were based on two conditions: firstly, achieving high evaluation metrics and secondly, having a fast training time.

1) DT

The DT algorithm exhibited high levels of Accuracy, Recall, and F1-Score on the CICIDS 2017 dataset, with values ranging from 99.7% to 99.9%, which remained stable even when *R* values were modified, as shown in Figure [8.](#page-9-1) Moreover, the training time decreases as *R* decreases, with the fastest training time of 0.6 seconds observed at $R = 75\%$, as shown in Figure [9.](#page-9-2) We also evaluated the performance of the model on the CSE-CIC-IDS 2018 dataset. The detailed results for both datasets are presented in Table [6.](#page-12-1)

2) RF

The RF algorithm produced similarly good performance results, with metric values of approximately 99.9%, as shown in Figure [10.](#page-9-3) However, the training time of the RF algorithm does not improve. When *R* was 90%, the training time was

FIGURE 10. RF performance with PCA with CICIDS 2017.

FIGURE 11. RF training time with PCA with CICIDS 2017.

FIGURE 12. ET performance with PCA with CICIDS 2017.

the slowest, with a corresponding value of 35.1 seconds, as shown in Figure [11.](#page-9-4) Although the training time is only 20.2 seconds when *R* equals 85%, we have observed that the RF algorithm does not perform well in terms of Training Time when PCA is applied. Table [7](#page-12-2) lists the specific experimental results for the RF algorithm.

3) ET

We obtained good performance results when training and testing the ET algorithm on both datasets, as shown in Figure [12.](#page-9-5) The values of these metrics exceeded 99.9%. In addition, the

TABLE 3. Features after cleaning data.

TABLE 4. Principal components.

FIGURE 13. ET training time with PCA with CICIDS 2017.

FIGURE 15. NB training time with PCA with CICIDS 2017.

training time improved with an increase in *R*. The algorithm only took 4.6 seconds to complete when *R* was 80% with the CICIDS 2017 dataset and 8.4 seconds when *R* was 85% with the CSE-CIC-IDS 2018 dataset, as shown in Figure [13.](#page-11-1) Table [8](#page-12-3) presents the evaluation results of the proposed model using these two datasets.

4) NB

As mentioned in Section [III,](#page-3-0) the NB algorithm typically has a fast training time, which was also true in our experiments.

With the CICIDS 2017 dataset, the algorithm only took 0.05 seconds to complete the training of the model, as shown in Figure [15.](#page-11-2) However, the accuracy of the algorithm was low, with an accuracy of only 59% when *R* was 95%. The highest accuracy for the NB algorithm was 71% when *R* was 85%, as shown in Figure [14.](#page-11-3) The measurement results for the CICIDS 2017 and CSE-CIC-IDS 2018 datasets are presented in Table [9.](#page-12-4) Both datasets exhibit the best model performance when R is 75%.

TABLE 5. Detail performance without PCA on CICIDS 2017 dataset and CSE-CIC-IDS 2018 dataset.

TABLE 6. DT algorithm performance on CICIDS 2017 and CSE-CIC-IDS 2018 dataset.

TABLE 7. RF algorithm performance on CICIDS 2017 dataset and CSE-CIC-IDS 2018 dataset.

TABLE 8. ET algorithm performance on CICIDS 2017 dataset and CSE-CIC-IDS 2018 dataset.

5) SVM

The SVM algorithms provided Recall, Accuracy, Precision, and F1-Score with $R = 95\%, R = 90\%, R = 85\%, \text{ and}$ $R = 80\%$, respectively, with the same values of 96%. However, when $R = 75\%$, the performance dropped sharply to 90%, as shown in Figure [16.](#page-13-1) The training time of the SVM

TABLE 10. SVM algorithm performance on CICIDS 2017 dataset and CSE-CIC-IDS 2018 dataset.

TABLE 11. Our proposed comparison with DT, RF, ET, NB, SVM algorithm on CICIDS 2017 dataset and CSE-CIC-IDS 2018 dataset.

Algorithms	CICIDS 2017 Dataset					CSE-CIC-IDS 2018 Dataset				
	Accuracy	Precision I	Recall	F ₁ -Score	Training Time	Accuracy	Precision	Recall	F1-Score	Training Time
DT	0.9997	0.9997	0.9997	0.9997	1.793		0.9999			1.913
DT Best Model	0.9976	0.9984	0.9974	0.9979	0.661	0.9995	0.9992	0.9993	0.9993	0.406
C of DT	$-0.21%$	$-0.13%$	0.23%	$-0.18%$	$+2.7$	$-0.05%$	-0.07%	-0.07%	-0.07%	$+4.7$
RF	0.9997	0.9997	0.9999	0.9998	24.21			0.9999		45.874
RF Best Model	0.9990	0.9995	0.9988	0.9991	20.207	0.9999	0.9999	0.9999	0.9999	32.794
C of RF	-0.07%	-0.02%	0.11%	-0.07%	$+1.2$	-0.01%	$-0.01%$	θ	-0.01%	$+1.4$
ET	0.9996	0.9997	0.9997	0.9997	9.717					11.741
ET Best Model	0.9992	0.9996	0.9991	0.9993	4.637	0.9999	0.9999	0.9999	0.9999	8.458
C of ET	-0.04%	-0.01%	0.06%	$-0.04%$	$+2.1$	-0.01%	-0.01%	-0.01%	-0.01%	$+1.4$
NB.	0.8704	0.9886	0.8233	0.8984	0.23	0.9959		0.9885	0.9942	0.135
NB Best Model	0.7166	0.6366	0.8352	0.7225	0.05	0.9959		0.9886	0.9943	0.08
$C \circ f NB$	- 17.67%	$-35.6%$	$+1.4\%$	-19.5%	$+4.6$	Ω	Ω	-0.01%	-0.01%	$+1.7$
SVM	0.9701	0.9982	0.9525	0.9748	1,190.557	0.9998		0.9993	0.9997	10.091
SVM Best Model	0.9668	0.9961	0.9491	0.972	270.85	0.9994		0.9984	0.9992	211.711
C of SVM	- 0.34%	-0.21%	0.35%	$-0.28%$	$+4.4$	-0.04%	Ω	-0.09%	-0.05%	-21

FIGURE 16. SVM performance with PCA with CICIDS 2017.

FIGURE 17. SVM training time with PCA with CICIDS 2017.

algorithm was the slowest compared to the rest of the algorithms. At $R = 90\%$, the algorithm required 270 seconds for training. However, when *R* was set to 95% and 75%, the training time significantly increased to 512 seconds and 505 seconds, respectively, as shown in Figure [17.](#page-13-2) The results of the SVM algorithm are presented in Table [10.](#page-13-0)

Note that in Tables [6](#page-12-1) through 10, we named our proposed model A_PCA_R, where *A* being the name of the evaluated algorithm and *R* is the amount of variance retained after PCA. Example: SVM_PCA_95 indicates that our proposed model uses the SVM algorithm with a retained variance, *R* of 95% after applying PCA.

E. COMPARISON RESULTS

To aid in the evaluation of our proposed model, we compared evaluation metrics such as Accuracy, Precision, Recall, F1-Score, and Training Time between the best-performing proposed model and the corresponding ML algorithms

without applying PCA. We used a quantity called the change magnitude *C* to demonstrate comprehensive improvement in our approach, thereby helping us achieve the purpose of our study. We conducted a thorough analysis of the results, and the following details provided more specific information.

1) ACCURACY, PRECISION, RECALL, F1-SCORE

The proposed models achieved an accuracy of approximately 99.9%. Most of them showed a small reduction rate, ranging from 0.01% to 0.34%, in evaluation metrics such as Accuracy, Precision, Recall, and F1-Score for both datasets. This reduction rate indicates that the accuracy of our proposed model is comparable to that of ML algorithms when PCA is not applied. The *CAccuracy* for the DT, RF, ET, NB, and SVM algorithms on the CSE-CIC-IDS 2018 dataset were - 0.05%, -0.01%, -0.01%, 0%, and -0.04%, respectively. One notable case is the NB algorithm, which showed a significant decrease of 17% in accuracy when evaluated using the CICIDS 2017 dataset. We conducted a detailed comparison of our proposed method, as shown in Table [11.](#page-13-3)

2) TRAINING TIME

The training time of the proposed model was significantly improved. Specifically, the DT, RF, ET, NB, and SVM algorithms were improved by factors of 2.7, 1.2, 2.1, 4.6, and 4.4, respectively, when evaluated using the CICIDS 2017 dataset. For the CSE-CIC-IDS 2018 dataset, improvements were made in the DT, RF, ET, and NB algorithms. However, the training time of the SVM algorithm was increased by a factor of 21. The evaluation metrics are listed in Table [11.](#page-13-3) Note that the symbol (-) indicates a decrease and the symbol (+) indicates an improvement in the *C* evaluation metrics. DT_PCA_75, RF_PCA_85, ET_PCA_80, NB_PCA_75, and SVM_PCA_90 were the best models for the CICIDS 2017 dataset, whereas DT_PCA_75, RF_PCA_90, ET_PCA_85, NB_PCA_75, and SVM_PCA_75 were the best for the CSE-CIC-IDS 2018 dataset.

VI. CONCLUSION

The IoT is currently and will continue to be one of the leading fields facilitating social development. Ensuring the stability and security of IoT systems is the top priority. Previous studies have mostly focused on powerful servers in traditional computer networks or overlooked the importance of the training time for the model, only emphasizing its precision. Consequently, these studies are not suitable for IoT systems because of the limited resources available on the edge devices. In this study, we develop a model that can be deployed on edge IoT devices to detect DDoS attacks. We combined the ML algorithms DT, RF, ET, NB, and SVM with PCA. We then evaluated our proposed model on two popular network-based datasets, CICIDS 2017 and CSE-CIC-IDS 2018. The results showed that our proposed model performed well in predicting DDoS attacks and improved model training time. Specifically, we found that the proposed models based on DT and ET algorithms achieved a prediction accuracy threshold of 99.99% and training times three times and two times faster, respectively, when compared to the algorithms without PCA.

In the future, we plan to evaluate our proposed model on real-world datasets and to develop it for practical IoT applications. We will continue to research an approach to improve the multiclass classification capabilities of our model.

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NGUYEN TAN CAM received the bachelor's degree in information technology and the master's degree in information systems from the University of Natural Sciences, Vietnam National University Ho Chi Minh City, in 2006 and 2010, respectively, and the Ph.D. degree in information technology from the University of Information Technology, Vietnam National University Ho Chi Minh City (UIT VNU-HCM), under the supervision of Dr. Tuan Nguyen and Dr. Van-Hau Pham.

He is currently a Lecturer with UIT VNU-HCM. His main research interests include mobile devices, networks, and the IoT security.

NGUYEN GIA TRUNG received the bachelor's degree in information technology from Nong Lam University, in 2013. He is currently a Researcher with UIT VNU-HCM. His main research interests include intrusion detection, network security, machine learning, and the Internet of Things security.