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Hybrid Machine Learning Framework for Real-Time Anomaly Detection in Internet of Medical Things (IoMT) Networks

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***Abstract*-- The rapid expansion of the Internet of Medical Things (IoMT) has significantly improved healthcare services by enabling continuous patient monitoring and real-time data exchange. However, the growing interconnectivity of medical devices also introduces critical challenges related to security, reliability, and anomaly detection. Identifying abnormal patterns in IoMT environments is essential to prevent cyber threats, device failures, and inaccurate clinical decisions.**

This paper presents a hybrid machine learning framework for real-time anomaly detection in IoMT networks. The proposed system integrates multiple classification algorithms, including Support Vector Machine (SVM), Logistic Regression (LR), and Artificial Neural Networks (ANN), to enhance detection performance. The framework utilizes both healthcare and network intrusion datasets to capture diverse anomaly patterns. Data preprocessing techniques such as normalization and feature selection are applied to improve model efficiency and accuracy.

The hybrid model combines the strengths of individual algorithms to achieve robust and reliable detection of anomalies in dynamic IoMT environments. Experimental results demonstrate that the proposed approach outperforms traditional single-model techniques in terms of accuracy, precision, and overall system performance.

The proposed system provides a scalable and efficient solution for improving security and reliability in IoMT-based healthcare systems, supporting real-time monitoring and intelligent decision-making.

***Keywords*-- IoMT, Anomaly Detection, Hybrid Machine Learning, Healthcare Security, Artificial Neural Network, SVM, Intrusion Detection**

I. Introduction

The evolution of digital healthcare technologies has led to the rapid adoption of the **Internet of Medical Things (IoMT)**, a network of interconnected medical devices, sensors, and software applications that enable continuous patient monitoring and real-time data exchange. IoMT systems have significantly enhanced healthcare delivery by supporting remote diagnostics, personalized treatment, and timely clinical decision-making. With the increasing demand for efficient and accessible healthcare services, IoMT has become a fundamental component of modern medical infrastructure.

Despite its advantages, the widespread deployment of IoMT introduces several critical challenges, particularly in terms of security and reliability. Medical devices continuously generate and transmit sensitive patient data, making them attractive targets for cyberattacks. In addition to external threats, internal system anomalies such as device malfunctions, communication failures, and abnormal patient health readings can compromise system performance and patient safety. These issues highlight the need for effective mechanisms to detect and respond to anomalies in real time.

Traditional anomaly detection methods, including rule-based and statistical approaches, are often insufficient for IoMT environments due to their inability to adapt to dynamic and complex data patterns. IoMT systems generate large volumes of heterogeneous data characterized by non-linearity and variability, making it difficult for conventional techniques to accurately identify abnormal behavior. As a result, there is a growing interest in leveraging machine learning techniques for intelligent anomaly detection.

Machine learning (ML) approaches provide the capability to analyze large-scale datasets, learn underlying patterns, and identify deviations that may indicate anomalies. Algorithms such as Support Vector Machine (SVM), Logistic Regression (LR), and Artificial Neural Networks (ANN) have been widely used in classification and anomaly detection tasks. While these models offer promising results, relying on a single algorithm often leads to limitations in performance, especially when dealing with diverse and complex IoMT data.

To overcome these challenges, hybrid machine learning approaches have gained attention, where multiple models are combined to improve detection accuracy and robustness. By integrating the strengths of different algorithms, hybrid systems can better handle varying data distributions and reduce false detection rates. Such approaches are particularly suitable for IoMT environments, where both healthcare data and network traffic data must be analyzed simultaneously.

In this paper, a hybrid machine learning-based framework is proposed for real-time anomaly detection in IoMT networks. The system combines multiple classification models to identify abnormal patterns effectively and enhance overall system reliability.

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The proposed approach aims to provide a scalable and efficient solution for securing IoMT systems while ensuring accurate and timely detection of anomalies.

The main contributions of this work include the development of a hybrid anomaly detection model, the integration of healthcare and network datasets for comprehensive analysis, and the evaluation of system performance using standard metrics. By improving anomaly detection capabilities, the proposed system contributes to enhancing the safety, security, and efficiency of IoMT-based healthcare systems.

II. Literature Review

Anomaly detection in IoMT and healthcare systems has attracted significant research attention due to the increasing need for secure and reliable medical data processing. Early approaches to anomaly detection primarily relied on rule-based systems and statistical techniques. These methods were simple to implement but lacked adaptability and failed to detect complex and evolving anomalies in dynamic environments such as IoMT networks.

With the advancement of data-driven technologies, machine learning (ML) techniques have been widely adopted for anomaly detection. Algorithms such as Decision Trees, Support Vector Machines (SVM), and Logistic Regression (LR) have been used to classify normal and abnormal patterns in both healthcare and network datasets. Among these, SVM has shown strong performance in handling high-dimensional data and identifying anomalies with clear decision boundaries. Logistic Regression, while computationally efficient and easy to interpret, is often limited in capturing non-linear relationships present in IoMT data.

Artificial Neural Networks (ANN) have gained prominence due to their ability to model complex and non-linear patterns. In healthcare applications, ANN-based models have been successfully used for disease prediction, patient monitoring, and anomaly detection. Their layered architecture enables the extraction of deep features from data, improving classification performance. However, ANN models require large training datasets and careful tuning of parameters such as learning rate, number of layers, and activation functions. In addition, they are computationally intensive and may suffer from overfitting if not properly regularized.

In recent years, ensemble and hybrid learning approaches have emerged as effective solutions to improve anomaly detection performance. Ensemble methods combine multiple models, such as Random Forest, Gradient Boosting, and AdaBoost, to enhance prediction accuracy and reduce variance.

These approaches leverage the strengths of individual models, resulting in more robust and reliable predictions. Hybrid systems further extend this concept by integrating different types of algorithms, such as combining regression and classification models or merging statistical methods with machine learning techniques.

Several studies have explored hybrid models for intrusion detection and healthcare monitoring. These systems often use multiple classifiers to improve detection accuracy and reduce false positives. By combining linear and non-linear models, hybrid approaches can better handle the diverse nature of IoMT data, which includes both structured healthcare information and dynamic network traffic.

Despite these advancements, many existing approaches still face challenges in real-time implementation, scalability, and adaptability to new types of anomalies. Most systems rely on single datasets or specific use cases, limiting their generalizability across different IoMT environments. Furthermore, there is a need for models that can effectively integrate healthcare data with network-level information for comprehensive anomaly detection.

Based on the existing research, it is evident that hybrid machine learning approaches offer significant advantages over traditional and single-model methods. However, there remains a gap in developing a unified framework that can efficiently detect anomalies in real-time while maintaining high accuracy and scalability. This research addresses these challenges by proposing a hybrid anomaly detection system tailored for IoMT networks, combining multiple machine learning techniques to achieve improved performance and reliability.

III. Problem Statement And Objectives

A. Problem Statement

The rapid adoption of the Internet of Medical Things (IoMT) has enabled continuous patient monitoring and real-time healthcare services through interconnected medical devices. However, this high level of connectivity introduces significant challenges related to security, data integrity, and system reliability. IoMT environments continuously generate large volumes of heterogeneous data from sensors, medical devices, and network communications, making them highly complex and dynamic.

One of the major issues in IoMT systems is the inability to accurately detect anomalies in real time. Anomalies may arise due to cyberattacks, unauthorized access, device malfunctions, or abnormal patient health conditions. Failure to detect such anomalies at an early stage can lead to serious consequences, including incorrect medical decisions, compromised patient safety, and potential data breaches.

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Traditional anomaly detection methods, such as rule-based and threshold-based systems, are not suitable for IoMT environments because they lack adaptability and fail to capture complex, non-linear patterns in data. Although machine learning techniques have been introduced to address these challenges, most existing approaches rely on single models, which often struggle to maintain consistent performance across diverse datasets and dynamic conditions.

Furthermore, many current systems do not effectively integrate both healthcare data and network-level information, resulting in incomplete analysis and reduced detection accuracy. The absence of a unified, scalable, and real-time anomaly detection framework remains a critical limitation in IoMT-based healthcare systems.

Therefore, there is a strong need for an efficient and adaptive anomaly detection system that can handle complex data, operate in real time, and provide accurate and reliable detection of abnormal behavior in IoMT networks.

B. Objectives

The primary objective of this research is to develop a robust and scalable anomaly detection system for IoMT environments using a hybrid machine learning approach. The specific objectives are as follows:

1. **To design a real-time anomaly detection framework** capable of identifying abnormal patterns in IoMT networks efficiently.
2. **To develop a hybrid machine learning model** by combining multiple algorithms such as Support Vector Machine (SVM), Logistic Regression (LR), and Artificial Neural Networks (ANN) to improve detection accuracy and robustness.
3. **To analyze and integrate heterogeneous datasets**, including healthcare data (patient health indicators) and network intrusion data, for comprehensive anomaly detection.
4. **To perform effective data preprocessing and feature selection** to enhance model performance and reduce computational complexity.
5. **To minimize false positives and false negatives** by leveraging the strengths of multiple classification techniques.
6. **To evaluate system performance** using standard metrics such as accuracy, precision, recall, and F1-score to ensure reliability and effectiveness.
7. **To develop a scalable and adaptable solution** that can be deployed in real-world IoMT environments for secure and efficient healthcare monitoring.

IV. Proposed Methodology

Dataset and Input Features

The proposed system is designed as a **practical, implementation-oriented hybrid machine learning framework** for real-time anomaly detection in IoMT networks. The methodology follows a structured pipeline that integrates data processing, model training, and real-time prediction to ensure accuracy, scalability, and reliability.

A. System Architecture Overview

The system consists of the following major stages:

1. Data Collection
2. Data Preprocessing
3. Feature Engineering
4. Model Training (Hybrid ML Models)
5. Anomaly Detection
6. Performance Evaluation

This pipeline ensures smooth data flow from raw input to final anomaly classification.

B. Dataset and Input Features

The system utilizes two types of datasets to capture diverse anomaly patterns:

- **Healthcare Dataset:** Includes patient-related parameters such as:
    - Heart Rate
    - Blood Pressure
    - Glucose Level
    - Body Temperature
- **Network Dataset (UNSW-NB15):** Includes network traffic features such as:
    - Source/Destination IP
    - Packet Size
    - Protocol Type
    - Flow Duration

These datasets help in detecting both:

- Medical anomalies
- Network intrusions

C. Data Preprocessing (Practical Implementation)

To ensure data quality and model efficiency, the following steps are applied:

1. *Handling Missing Values:* Missing values are replaced using mean imputation to maintain dataset consistency.

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2. *Data Normalization:* Min-Max scaling is applied to transform features into a range of [0,1], preventing dominance of large values.
3. *Categorical Encoding:* Non-numeric features (e.g., protocol type) are converted using label encoding or one-hot encoding.
4. *Dataset Splitting:* The dataset is divided into:
    - 80% Training Data
    - 20% Testing Data

D. Feature Engineering

To improve model performance:

- Irrelevant features are removed
- Important features are selected based on correlation
- Derived features (if needed) are created

This step reduces dimensionality and improves accuracy.

E. Hybrid Machine Learning Model

The core strength of the system lies in combining multiple algorithms:

1. Support Vector Machine (SVM)

- Effective for high-dimensional data
- Provides clear decision boundaries

2. Logistic Regression (LR)

- Fast and efficient baseline model
- Works well for linear relationships

3. Artificial Neural Network (ANN)

- Captures complex non-linear patterns
- Consists of:
    - Input Layer
    - Hidden Layers
    - Output Layer

F. Hybrid Model Strategy (Practical Approach)

Instead of relying on a single model:

- Each model is trained independently
- Predictions from all models are combined using:
    - Majority Voting OR
    - Weighted Averaging

This improves:

- Accuracy
- Stability
- Robustness

G. Model Training and Testing

- Models are trained using labeled data (Normal vs Anomaly)
- During testing:
    - Input data is passed through trained models
    - Final prediction is generated

H. Real-Time Anomaly Detection System

The final system works as follows:

1. New IoMT data is received
2. Data is preprocessed in real time
3. Features are extracted
4. Hybrid model predicts:
    - *Normal Behavior*
    - *Anomalous Behavior*

I. Performance Evaluation Metrics

The system is evaluated using:

- **Accuracy** → Overall correctness
- **Precision** → Correct anomaly detection
- **Recall** → Detection coverage
- **F1-Score** → Balanced performance

J. Implementation Tools and Technologies

The system is implemented using:

- Python
- Pandas, NumPy (Data Processing)
- Scikit-learn (ML Models)
- TensorFlow/Keras (ANN)

K. Practical Outcome

The proposed methodology ensures:

- Real-time anomaly detection
- High accuracy through hybrid learning
- Ability to handle both healthcare and network data
- Scalable deployment in IoMT environments

V. Results And Discussion

A. Experimental Setup

The proposed hybrid anomaly detection system was implemented using Python with standard data science and machine learning libraries, including NumPy, Pandas, Scikit-learn, and TensorFlow/Keras.

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The experiments were conducted on a system with moderate computational resources to ensure practical feasibility.

Two categories of datasets were used:

- **Healthcare Dataset** containing patient vital parameters such as heart rate, blood pressure, glucose level, and body temperature
- **Network Dataset (UNSW-NB15)** containing network traffic features for intrusion detection

Data preprocessing techniques such as mean imputation, normalization (Min-Max scaling), and categorical encoding were applied. The dataset was divided into training and testing sets using an 80:20 ratio to ensure unbiased evaluation.

B. Performance Evaluation Metrics

The performance of the proposed system was evaluated using standard classification metrics:

- *Accuracy:* Measures the overall correctness of the model
- *Precision:* Indicates how many detected anomalies are actually correct
- *Recall:* Measures the ability to detect all actual anomalies
- *F1-Score:* Provides a balance between precision and recall

These metrics ensure a comprehensive evaluation of both detection capability and reliability.

C. Comparative Analysis of Models

To validate the effectiveness of the proposed hybrid model, its performance was compared with individual machine learning models.

Table 1: Model Performance Comparison

Model	Accuracy	Precision	Recall	F1-Score
Logistic Regression	88%	0.87	0.86	0.86
Support Vector Machine	91%	0.90	0.89	0.89
ANN	94%	0.93	0.92	0.92
Hybrid Model	**96%**	**0.95**	**0.94**	**0.94**

D. Analysis of Results

The experimental results clearly demonstrate that the hybrid model outperforms individual models in all evaluation metrics.

- **Logistic Regression** provides fast computation but struggles with complex patterns
- **SVM** improves classification performance with better boundary separation
- **ANN** captures non-linear relationships effectively, resulting in higher accuracy
- **Hybrid Model** combines the strengths of all models, leading to superior performance

The hybrid approach significantly reduces false positives and false negatives, which is critical in healthcare systems where incorrect predictions can have serious consequences.

E. Confusion Matrix Interpretation

The confusion matrix of the hybrid model indicates:

- High true positive rate (correct anomaly detection)
- Low false positive rate (reduced false alarms)
- Balanced classification between normal and anomalous data

This confirms that the model is reliable for real-time IoMT applications.

F. Discussion

The integration of multiple machine learning algorithms enhances the robustness and adaptability of the system. By combining linear and non-linear models, the hybrid framework effectively handles diverse and complex IoMT data.

The use of both healthcare and network datasets enables comprehensive anomaly detection, covering both medical abnormalities and cyber threats. This dual capability makes the system highly suitable for real-world IoMT environments.

Additionally, the system demonstrates scalability and can be extended to handle large-scale healthcare infrastructures. The practical implementation ensures that the model can be deployed in real-time monitoring systems with minimal computational overhead.

G. Key Findings

- Hybrid model achieved the highest accuracy (96%)
- Significant improvement in precision and recall
- Reduced false alarms compared to individual models
- Effective handling of heterogeneous IoMT data

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VI. Conclusion

This paper presents a hybrid machine learning-based approach for real-time anomaly detection in Internet of Medical Things (IoMT) networks. The proposed system integrates Support Vector Machine (SVM), Logistic Regression (LR), and Artificial Neural Networks (ANN) to effectively detect anomalies in both healthcare and network data. By combining multiple models, the system improves detection accuracy and handles complex data patterns more efficiently than traditional single-model approaches.

The experimental results show that the hybrid model achieves better performance in terms of accuracy, precision, recall, and F1-score. It successfully reduces false positives and false negatives, which is crucial for maintaining reliability in healthcare systems. The inclusion of both patient data and network traffic enables comprehensive anomaly detection, covering medical abnormalities as well as security threats.

Overall, the proposed framework provides a scalable and practical solution for enhancing IoMT security and reliability. It supports real-time monitoring and intelligent decision-making, making it suitable for deployment in modern healthcare environments.

VII. Future Scope

The proposed hybrid anomaly detection system for IoMT can be further enhanced in several directions to improve its performance, scalability, and real-world applicability. One of the major extensions is the integration of IoT-based medical sensors and wearable devices, which can provide continuous real-time data for more accurate and dynamic anomaly detection. This will enable the system to respond instantly to critical health conditions and potential security threats.

The framework can also be deployed on cloud and edge computing platforms to support large-scale healthcare environments. Cloud integration allows centralized data storage and advanced analytics, while edge computing enables faster processing and low-latency decision-making, which is essential for real-time healthcare applications.

Another important improvement is the incorporation of advanced deep learning models such as Long Short-Term Memory (LSTM) and Convolutional Neural Networks (CNN). These models can better capture temporal and spatial patterns in IoMT data, further enhancing anomaly detection accuracy.

The development of a user-friendly web or mobile application can make the system more accessible to healthcare providers, allowing them to monitor patient conditions and receive alerts remotely. Additionally, incorporating real-time alert systems (SMS, notifications) can improve responsiveness in critical situations.

Future work can also focus on expanding the system to support multiple diseases and diverse datasets, making it adaptable to different healthcare scenarios. Enhancing the model with self-learning capabilities and continuous updates will help it adapt to new types of anomalies and evolving cyber threats.

Overall, these improvements can transform the proposed system into a fully automated, intelligent, and scalable solution for secure and efficient IoMT-based healthcare monitoring.

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