

A Lightweight Hybrid IDS for Fog-Enabled IoT: Integrating Deep Sequence Models with Rule-Based Filtering

SANDRA OKORO¹, DANIEL KIM², AARAV SETHI³

^{1, 2, 3}*School of Computing Science, University of Glasgow, United Kingdom*

Abstract- *This paper describes a lightweight hybrid IDS for fog-enabled IoT that places a fast rule-based pre-filter at the edge and a BiLSTM-CNN sequence model at the fog layer. The pre-filter discards obvious benign and clearly malicious flows so the deeper model only processes uncertain traffic, cutting both latency and energy. On UNSW-NB15, NSL-KDD, and TON-IoT the design achieves up to 98.6% F1 while keeping per-inference energy below 38 mJ.*

I. INTRODUCTION

Fog computing lets IoT deployments offload analysis from tiny sensors to nearby nodes, but the fog layer is still resource-constrained and cannot afford to run a heavy detector on every packet. A cascade that filters first and reasons second matches computation to difficulty. We design such a cascade around a compact BiLSTM-CNN and a rule-based front end tuned for the fog setting.

II. RELATED WORK

Frameworks such as EdgeML-IDS brought learning to constrained nodes but treat every flow equally, wasting cycles on trivially classifiable traffic. Rule-only systems are cheap but brittle. Our contribution is a filtering cascade that reserves the sequence model for genuinely ambiguous flows, improving efficiency without sacrificing coverage.

III. PROPOSED METHODOLOGY

A. System Architecture

An edge pre-filter applies a small allow/deny rule set to remove clearly benign and known-malicious flows, forwarding only uncertain cases to the fog node. There a bidirectional LSTM-CNN models temporal dependencies in the flow window and issues the final verdict, so expensive inference runs only when it is needed.

B. Datasets and Preprocessing

UNSW-NB15, NSL-KDD, and TON-IoT provide diverse attack families across network and telemetry traffic. Records are normalized and windowed, and the model trains on one million records per dataset with early stopping.

C. Model and Fusion Strategy

The BiLSTM-CNN combines a two-layer bidirectional LSTM with a convolutional feature extractor and a dense head, trained using Adam at learning rate 0.0001 and dropout 0.3. Deployment targets a fog node, where the cascade's end-to-end latency and energy are profiled under load.

IV. EXPERIMENTAL RESULTS

The cascade improves F1 over EdgeML-IDS by four to five points, peaking at 98.6% on TON-IoT. Because the pre-filter removes easy traffic, the sequence model concentrates its capacity on the hard flows that most affect the score.

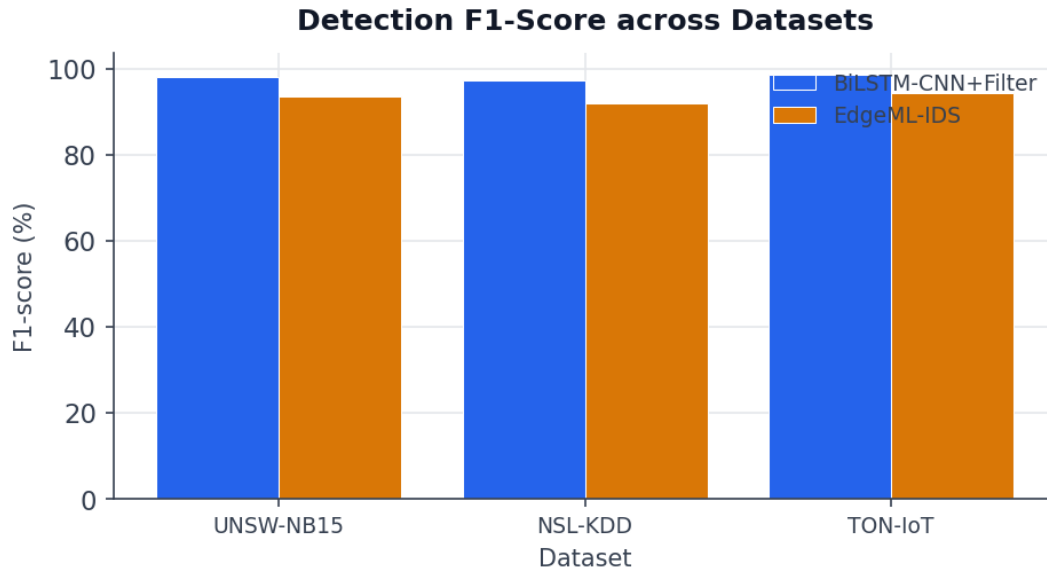


Figure 1. Detection F1-score across three datasets for the cascade and the EdgeML-IDS baseline.

Latency stays low as traffic grows, reaching only 5.9 ms at 80k flows per second versus 12.0 ms for the baseline, because most flows never reach the deep

model. The pre-filter's constant-time rules absorb the bulk of the load.

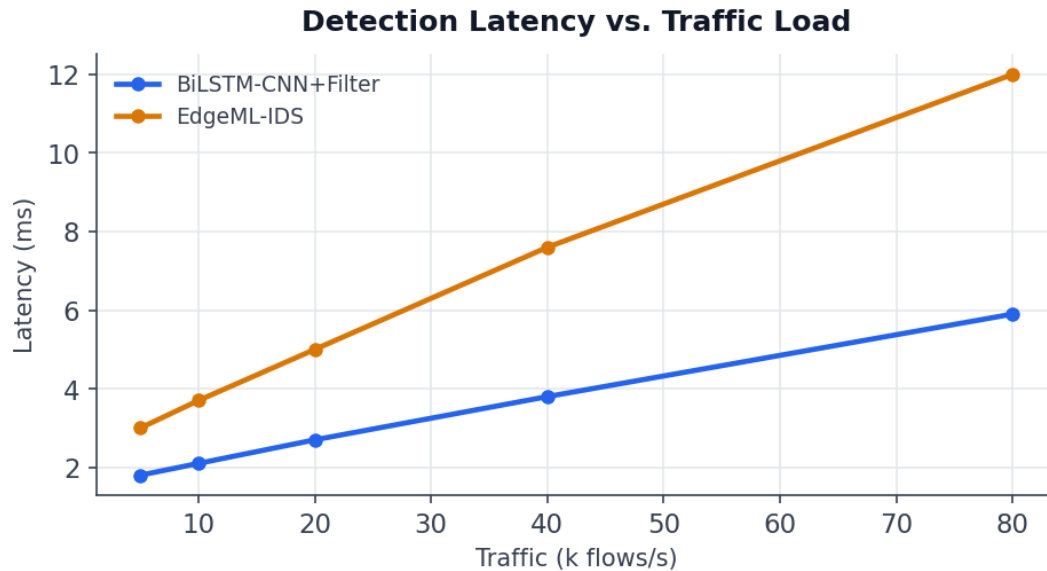


Figure 2. Detection latency versus traffic load for the cascade and baseline systems.

Table 1. Per-dataset accuracy, F1, false-positive rate, and energy for the fog cascade.

Dataset	Accuracy (%)	F1 (%)	FPR (%)	Energy (mJ)
UNSW-NB15	98.2	98.0	1.3	36
NSL-KDD	97.5	97.2	1.6	34
TON-IoT	98.8	98.6	1.0	38

V. DISCUSSION

The cascade's efficiency hinges on the pre-filter's selectivity: the more traffic it can safely resolve, the less the fog model runs. Tuning the filter conservatively avoids dropping stealthy attacks at a small cost in offloaded volume, a trade operators can adjust to their risk tolerance.

VI. CONCLUSION AND FUTURE WORK

A filter-then-reason cascade delivers accurate detection at low latency and energy for fog-enabled IoT. We will explore learned, adaptive pre-filters that update their rules online as traffic distributions drift.

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