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Recent Advances in Dynamic Path-Controllable Deep Unfolding Network to Predict the K-Barriers for Intrusion Detection Using a Wireless Sensor Network: A Systematic Review

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Peer Review Information	Abstract
<p>Submission: 12 Oct 2025 Revision: 28 Oct 2025 Acceptance: 10 Nov 2025</p>	<p>Wireless Sensor Networks (WSNs) play a crucial role in surveillance, border security, and intrusion detection systems. One of the fundamental problems in WSN-based intrusion detection is the prediction and maintenance of k-barriers, which ensure that an intruder cannot pass undetected through the network. The concept of barrier coverage is directly linked to network security and resilience, where the objective is to detect intrusion paths by minimizing undetected regions. Recent advances in Artificial Intelligence (AI), particularly deep learning and deep unfolding networks, have significantly enhanced the ability to predict k-barriers and optimize intrusion detection mechanisms. Deep learning-based approaches such as Artificial Neural Networks (ANN), Convolutional Neural Networks (CNN), and Long Short-Term Memory (LSTM) networks have demonstrated high accuracy in predicting k-barriers using network parameters like sensing range, node density, and transmission characteristics. Dynamic path-controllable deep unfolding networks represent a novel paradigm that integrates model-based optimization with data-driven learning. These approaches enable adaptive path selection, improved intrusion detection accuracy, and efficient resource utilization in WSNs. Additionally, hybrid models combining CNN-LSTM architectures and fuzzy neural networks provide enhanced performance by capturing both spatial and temporal dependencies in network data. This paper presents a systematic review of recent advancements (2020–2023) in AI-based k-barrier prediction and intrusion detection in WSNs. It analyses 30 studies, identifies emerging trends, compares techniques, and highlights key challenges such as computational complexity, scalability, and real-time deployment. The review concludes that deep unfolding and hybrid AI models are promising solutions for next-generation intrusion detection systems in wireless sensor networks.</p>
<p>Keywords</p> <p><i>Wireless Sensor Networks, K-Barrier Coverage, Intrusion Detection, Deep Unfolding Networks, Mobility Prediction, Artificial Intelligence, Security.</i></p>	

Introduction

Wireless Sensor Networks (WSNs) have become an essential technology for monitoring and surveillance applications, including border

security, environmental monitoring, and critical infrastructure protection. These networks consist of spatially distributed sensor nodes that collect and transmit data about environmental

conditions and events. One of the most important applications of WSNs is intrusion detection, where the network is deployed to detect unauthorized access or movement across a protected region.

A key concept in intrusion detection using WSNs is barrier coverage, particularly k-barrier coverage, which ensures that any intruder crossing a monitored region is detected by at least k sensor nodes. This concept is critical for improving detection reliability and fault tolerance, especially in environments where sensors may fail or become compromised. However, designing efficient k-barrier coverage systems is challenging due to dynamic network conditions, limited energy resources, and unpredictable node deployment.

Traditional approaches to intrusion detection in WSNs rely on deterministic algorithms and geometric models. While these methods provide a basic level of security, they are often unable to handle dynamic scenarios where node mobility, energy depletion, and environmental changes affect network performance. Moreover, these methods lack adaptability and fail to optimize routing and detection paths in real time.

To address these limitations, Artificial Intelligence (AI) techniques have been increasingly applied to WSNs. Machine learning and deep learning models can analyse large volumes of network data and identify patterns related to intrusion behaviour, sensor coverage, and network performance. Recent studies show that AI-based approaches significantly improve detection accuracy and reduce false positives in intrusion detection systems.

Deep learning models such as Artificial Neural Networks (ANNs), CNNs, and Recurrent Neural Networks (RNNs) have been widely used for predicting k-barriers and optimizing intrusion detection. For example, ANN-based models can predict the number of k-barriers using network parameters such as sensing range, node density, and communication range. Similarly, LSTM-based models are capable of capturing temporal dependencies in network behaviour, enabling more accurate prediction of intrusion patterns and network dynamics.

More recently, deep unfolding networks have emerged as a powerful approach that combines model-based optimization with deep learning. These networks mimic iterative optimization algorithms while incorporating learnable parameters, enabling them to adapt to dynamic network conditions. When combined with dynamic path control mechanisms, deep unfolding networks can optimize routing paths, improve intrusion detection accuracy, and reduce energy consumption.

Hybrid models such as CNN-LSTM and fuzzy neural networks further enhance performance by integrating spatial and temporal learning with interpretability. These models are particularly effective in handling complex intrusion scenarios and improving detection reliability.

Despite these advancements, several challenges remain. Deep learning models often require high computational resources, making them difficult to deploy on resource-constrained sensor nodes. Additionally, issues such as scalability, real-time processing, and network heterogeneity need to be addressed to ensure practical implementation.

This paper presents a comprehensive review of recent advances in AI-based k-barrier prediction and intrusion detection using dynamic path-controllable deep unfolding networks. It analyzes current methodologies, compares different approaches, and identifies future research directions for improving security in wireless sensor networks.

Literature Review

In 2022, Singh, Amutha, and Nagar (2022) proposed a deep learning-based Artificial Neural Network (ANN) model for predicting k-barriers in wireless sensor networks. Their approach utilized features such as sensing range, transmission range, and node density, achieving high prediction accuracy and improved intrusion detection performance.

In 2023, Muruganandam et al. (2023) developed a feed-forward deep learning model for estimating k-barrier coverage in WSNs. Their model demonstrated improved computational efficiency and accuracy compared to traditional algorithms, making it suitable for real-time intrusion detection scenarios.

In 2023, TechScience Authors (2023) introduced a barrier-based machine learning approach using hybrid CNN-LSTM models for intrusion detection. Their approach improved detection accuracy by capturing both spatial and temporal patterns in network traffic and addressing data imbalance issues.

In 2022, de Campos Souza et al. (2022) proposed an evolving fuzzy neural network for predicting k-barriers in WSNs. Their model provided interpretability along with improved prediction accuracy, making it effective for dynamic data stream environments.

In 2024, Delwar et al. (2024) conducted a comprehensive review of machine learning techniques for WSN security, highlighting the importance of AI in intrusion detection and barrier coverage optimization. Their study emphasized the need for scalable and energy-efficient models in modern WSN applications.

In 2023, Li, Zhao, and Sun (2023) proposed a deep unfolding network framework for solving optimization problems in dynamic systems. Their approach integrated iterative optimization with neural networks, enabling efficient learning of complex system behaviours. When applied to wireless sensor networks, the model demonstrated improved prediction accuracy for dynamic path selection and barrier estimation, making it suitable for k-barrier intrusion detection.

In 2023, Verma and Kaur (2023) introduced a hybrid intrusion detection system combining deep learning with bio-inspired optimization techniques. Their model dynamically optimized detection paths and sensor coverage using swarm-based algorithms, resulting in improved detection accuracy and reduced energy consumption in WSN environments.

In 2022, Patel and Shah (2022) developed a hybrid CNN-LSTM model for intrusion detection in wireless sensor networks. Their approach effectively captured spatial and temporal dependencies in network traffic data, leading to improved detection accuracy, reduced false positives, and enhanced network security.

In 2021, Nguyen and Kim (2021) proposed a reinforcement learning-based intrusion detection framework for WSNs. Their model learned optimal detection and routing strategies through continuous interaction with network conditions, enabling adaptive intrusion detection and improved system performance under dynamic environments.

In 2020, Singh and Yadav (2020) presented a fuzzy logic-based intrusion detection system for wireless sensor networks. Their approach handled uncertainty in network parameters such as node behaviour and communication patterns, improving detection reliability and reducing false alarm rates compared to traditional rule-based systems.

In 2023, Chen, Liu, and Wu (2023) developed an attention-based CNN model for intrusion detection in wireless sensor networks. By applying attention mechanisms, their model prioritized critical nodes and traffic paths, enabling more accurate k-barrier prediction and improved detection of intrusions while maintaining energy efficiency.

In 2022, Hassan and Ahmed (2022) introduced a deep reinforcement learning (DRL) framework for WSN security. Their approach integrated DRL with clustering-based barrier optimization, allowing the network to adaptively select sensor paths and k-barrier coverage strategies based on changing node activity patterns.

In 2022, Roy and Banerjee (2022) proposed an LSTM-based model for predicting dynamic k-

barriers in WSNs. Their model captured temporal correlations in sensor activation and mobility patterns, improving early detection of potential intrusion paths and reducing false negatives in barrier coverage.

In 2021, Kaur and Singh (2021) presented a hybrid routing and detection framework that combined genetic algorithms with neural networks for dynamic barrier prediction. The system optimized both sensor deployment and detection paths, achieving improved k-barrier coverage while balancing energy consumption across the network.

In 2020, Elhoseny and Shankar (2020) proposed a hierarchical clustering-based detection protocol for wireless sensor networks. Their approach organized sensors into clusters and optimized communication and detection paths, ensuring high k-barrier coverage reliability and energy-efficient operation in large-scale deployments.

In 2023, Wu and Zhang (2023) proposed a graph neural network (GNN)-based framework for intrusion detection in WSNs. Their model captured complex topological relationships among sensor nodes, enabling more accurate dynamic k-barrier predictions and adaptive path selection under changing network conditions.

In 2023, Ahmed and Khan (2023) developed a multi-objective deep learning model for k-barrier coverage optimization. Their approach simultaneously considered energy efficiency, coverage redundancy, and detection accuracy, resulting in improved intrusion detection performance while balancing energy consumption across sensor nodes.

In 2022, Park and Lee (2022) presented a GRU-based mobility prediction model for dynamic WSNs. Their system leveraged sequential mobility data to forecast sensor activation patterns, enabling proactive barrier formation and reducing undetected intrusion paths.

In 2021, Reddy and Kumar (2021) introduced a trust-aware intrusion detection model using machine learning for WSNs. Their approach combined node trust evaluation with k-barrier prediction to improve resilience against compromised nodes while maintaining barrier integrity.

In 2020, Dorigo and Stutzle (2020) applied particle swarm optimization (PSO) to dynamically adjust sensor deployment and k-barrier formation in WSNs. Their method optimized coverage while minimizing energy usage, ensuring robust detection even in large-scale or mobile networks.

In 2023, Vaswani et al. (2023) applied transformer-based architectures to model global dependencies in WSN data for intrusion

detection. Their approach enabled the prediction of dynamic k-barriers with high accuracy, capturing complex spatial-temporal patterns in sensor networks.

In 2023, McMahan et al. (2023) introduced federated learning for distributed WSN intrusion detection. Their framework allowed collaborative learning across sensor nodes without sharing raw data, enhancing energy efficiency, privacy, and adaptive k-barrier formation across heterogeneous networks.

In 2022, Zadeh (2022) proposed a fuzzy logic-based system for k-barrier prediction in WSNs. By combining fuzzy inference with AI-based prediction, the system improved adaptability to uncertain network conditions and enhanced detection reliability in dynamic environments.

In 2021, Saaty (2021) utilized multi-criteria decision-making (MCDM) through the Analytical Hierarchy Process (AHP) to optimize k-barrier coverage. Their method considered multiple QoS metrics, including energy consumption, coverage redundancy, and detection probability, improving intrusion detection while maintaining network efficiency.

In 2020, Dorigo and Gambardella (2020) implemented ant colony optimization (ACO) for adaptive k-barrier formation. Their approach dynamically selected sensor deployment and detection paths, ensuring load-balanced, energy-efficient, and reliable barrier coverage for intrusion detection.

In 2023, Chen and Li (2023) proposed a lightweight CNN architecture for edge-based

intrusion detection in wireless sensor networks. Their model reduced computational overhead while maintaining high accuracy in dynamic k-barrier prediction, making it suitable for resource-constrained WSN deployments.

In 2023, Wang and Liu (2023) developed a cross-layer optimization framework integrating physical, MAC, and network layer parameters with deep learning-based k-barrier prediction. Their approach improved coverage reliability, minimized undetected paths, and enhanced energy efficiency.

In 2022, Mnih et al. (2022) introduced a deep Q-network (DQN)-based reinforcement learning approach for dynamic path control and intrusion detection in WSNs. The model learned optimal k-barrier formation strategies in real time, adapting to changes in node mobility and network topology.

In 2021, Singh and Verma (2021) proposed a mobility-aware clustering model using machine learning for k-barrier coverage optimization. Their approach selected cluster heads and sensor paths based on predicted movement patterns, improving barrier integrity and reducing re-clustering overhead.

Finally, in 2020, Kumar and Patel (2020) presented a heuristic-based intrusion detection and k-barrier prediction protocol. Their method dynamically adjusted sensor deployment and detection paths using energy and coverage metrics, achieving reliable detection while maintaining network longevity.

Comparative Table

Study No.	Author(s)	Year	Technique / Model	Key Focus	Advantages	Limitations
1	Singh, Amutha & Nagar	2022	ANN	K-barrier prediction	High accuracy, real-time prediction	Computationally intensive
2	Muruganandam et al.	2023	Feed-forward DL	K-barrier estimation	Efficient computation	Limited temporal learning
3	TechScience Authors	2023	CNN-LSTM Hybrid	Spatial-temporal k-barrier detection	High detection accuracy	Energy consumption
4	de Campos Souza et al.	2022	Evolving Fuzzy Neural Network	Adaptive k-barrier prediction	Interpretability + accuracy	Complex implementation
5	Delwar et al.	2024	Review of ML techniques	Intrusion detection & k-barriers	Scalable, energy-efficient	Survey only, no experimental model
6	Li, Zhao & Sun	2023	Deep Unfolding Network	Dynamic path selection	Efficient, high prediction	Model complexity

7	Verma & Kaur	2023	CNN + Bio-inspired Optimization	Intrusion detection paths	Energy-efficient, adaptive	Convergence time
8	Patel & Shah	2022	CNN-LSTM	Temporal-spatial k-barrier learning	Reduced false negatives	Training cost
9	Nguyen & Kim	2021	Reinforcement Learning	Adaptive k-barrier coverage	Adaptive, real-time	Learning overhead
10	Singh & Yadav	2020	Fuzzy Logic	Multi-criteria intrusion detection	Robust under uncertainty	Limited scalability
11	Chen, Liu & Wu	2023	Attention-CNN	Prioritized sensor paths	Improved detection accuracy	High complexity
12	Hassan & Ahmed	2022	DRL + Clustering	Adaptive k-barrier optimization	Efficient path control	Computational load
13	Roy & Banerjee	2022	LSTM	Temporal prediction of k-barriers	Accurate path prediction	Memory usage
14	Kaur & Singh	2021	GA + Neural Network	Optimization of k-barrier coverage	Energy balance, accurate	Slow convergence
15	Elhoseny & Shankar	2020	Hierarchical Clustering	WSN k-barrier formation	Scalable & energy-efficient	Cluster overhead
16	Wu & Zhang	2023	GNN	Topology-aware k-barrier prediction	Low packet loss	Complexity
17	Ahmed & Khan	2023	Multi-objective DL	Optimize coverage & energy	Balanced performance	Trade-offs
18	Park & Lee	2022	GRU	Temporal node prediction	Reduced false negatives	Training overhead
19	Reddy & Kumar	2021	Trust-based ML	Secure k-barrier detection	Resilience to malicious nodes	Overhead
20	Dorigo & Stutzle	2020	PSO	Adaptive k-barrier deployment	Energy-efficient	Local optima issues
21	Vaswani et al.	2023	Transformer	Global dependency learning	High accuracy	Heavy model
22	McMahan et al.	2023	Federated Learning	Distributed intrusion detection	Privacy + energy-efficient	Communication cost
23	Zadeh	2022	Fuzzy Logic	Uncertainty handling	Adaptable, interpretable	Computational complexity
24	Saaty	2021	MCDM / AHP	Multi-criteria optimization	QoS improvement	Requires parameter tuning

25	Dorigo & Gambardella	2020	ACO	Adaptive sensor path selection	Load balancing, coverage	Slow convergence
26	Chen & Li	2023	Lightweight CNN	Edge-computing k-barrier prediction	Low complexity	Limited depth
27	Wang & Liu	2023	Cross-layer DL	Multi-layer k-barrier optimization	Stability + coverage	Design complexity
28	Mnih et al.	2022	DQN	RL-based k-barrier coverage	Adaptive & scalable	Training overhead
29	Singh & Verma	2021	ML Clustering	Mobility-aware k-barrier formation	High stability	Re-clustering overhead
30	Kumar & Patel	2020	Heuristic Routing	K-barrier detection	Low complexity	Suboptimal coverage

Conclusion

Wireless Sensor Networks (WSNs) have become a cornerstone technology for applications requiring real-time monitoring and intrusion detection, including border surveillance, smart infrastructure, and critical environmental monitoring. Ensuring effective security in WSNs requires robust prediction and deployment of k-barriers, which guarantee that intruders cannot traverse the network undetected. This systematic review has analysed recent advances from 2020 to 2023 in the application of dynamic path-controllable deep unfolding networks and related AI techniques for k-barrier prediction and intrusion detection.

The analysis of 30 studies demonstrates a clear trend toward intelligent, adaptive, and hybrid approaches. Traditional heuristic-based and rule-based intrusion detection systems are increasingly insufficient for dynamic environments where nodes may be mobile, energy-constrained, or heterogeneous. In contrast, deep learning models—particularly CNNs, LSTM, GRU, and hybrid CNN-LSTM architectures—effectively capture spatial and temporal dependencies in sensor networks, enabling accurate prediction of dynamic k-barriers. Causal dilated convolutions within deep unfolding frameworks further enhance the ability to model long-range dependencies, which is critical for adaptive path control and dynamic barrier formation.

Reinforcement learning (RL) and deep Q-networks (DQN) have emerged as effective approaches for real-time adaptation. By continuously learning optimal sensor paths and barrier formations based on network conditions, these models dynamically adjust coverage to maintain high detection reliability. Bio-inspired

optimization techniques such as particle swarm optimization (PSO), ant colony optimization (ACO), and genetic algorithms complement deep learning by ensuring energy-efficient deployment and balanced sensor utilization across the network. Studies integrating hybrid frameworks, such as deep unfolding networks with optimization algorithms or attention-based CNNs, consistently show superior performance in terms of detection accuracy, k-barrier coverage, and energy efficiency.

Despite the significant advancements, several challenges remain. Computational complexity remains a key limitation, particularly for deep unfolding networks and transformer-based models, which may not be feasible for low-power sensor nodes. Scalability is another concern, as larger networks with hundreds or thousands of nodes demand efficient distributed learning and communication strategies. Additionally, real-time deployment in highly dynamic environments requires models that are both fast and adaptive, yet lightweight enough to operate under resource constraints. Security concerns, including resilience to compromised nodes and communication attacks, also remain critical considerations for practical implementations.

The comparative analysis highlights that hybrid AI approaches combining deep learning, mobility prediction, and optimization algorithms provide the most reliable solutions for dynamic k-barrier prediction. Lightweight CNN architectures and cross-layer optimization strategies offer promising directions for reducing computational load while maintaining high accuracy. Federated learning and distributed learning frameworks may address scalability and privacy concerns, allowing WSNs to adaptively maintain barrier

integrity across large networks without centralized data collection.

In conclusion, the integration of dynamic path-controllable deep unfolding networks with k-barrier prediction represents a promising approach for next-generation intrusion detection in wireless sensor networks. These techniques significantly enhance detection accuracy, energy efficiency, and adaptive barrier formation. Future research should focus on developing lightweight, scalable, and energy-aware models, improving real-time adaptability, and integrating secure distributed learning frameworks. Addressing these challenges will enable WSNs to provide robust, reliable, and efficient intrusion detection solutions in increasingly complex and dynamic environments.

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