Archives available at journals.mriindia.com

Multidisciplinary Journal of Research in Engineering and Technology

ISSN: 2348-6953

Volume 12 Issue 02, 2025

Recent Advances in Multi-Attack Detection using Forensics and Coherent Integrated Photonic Neural Networks-based Prevention for Secure IoT-MANETs: A Systematic Review

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Peer Review Information

Submission: 28 Sept 2025

Revision: 15 Oct 2025

Acceptance: 29 Oct 2025

Keywords

IoT Security, MANET, Multi-Attack Detection, Digital Forensics, Photonic Neural Networks, Deep Learning.

Abstract

The rapid expansion of Internet of Things (IoT) and Mobile Ad Hoc Networks (MANETs) has introduced significant security challenges due to their decentralized architecture, dynamic topology, and resource constraints. These networks are highly vulnerable to multi-attack scenarios, including denial-of-service (DoS), black hole, botnet, and data injection attacks. This paper presents a systematic review of recent advances in multi-attack detection using digital forensics and coherent integrated photonic neural networks for secure IoT-MANET environments. Artificial intelligence techniques, particularly machine learning and deep learning models, have shown remarkable capabilities in detecting and mitigating complex and evolving cyber threats. Recent studies indicate that AI-driven intrusion detection systems (IDS) can effectively classify malicious traffic and identify anomalies in real time. Furthermore, photonic neural networks have emerged as a promising solution for high-speed, energy-efficient processing in large-scale IoT systems. Forensic-based frameworks enhance threat detection by analyzing network traffic patterns and digital evidence. Hybrid approaches combining deep learning with optimization techniques such as Particle Swarm Optimization (PSO) have demonstrated improved accuracy and reduced false alarm rates. This review highlights recent developments, identifies key challenges, and outlines future research directions for designing robust, scalable, and intelligent multi-attack detection systems for secure IoT-MANETs.

Introduction

The proliferation of Internet of Things (IoT) devices and Mobile Ad Hoc Networks (MANETs) has transformed modern communication systems, enabling seamless connectivity across smart cities, healthcare, industrial automation, and defence applications. However, this rapid growth has also introduced significant security vulnerabilities due to the decentralized and dynamic nature of these networks. IoT-MANET environments lack centralized control, making them highly susceptible to a wide range of cyber-attacks, including denial-of-service (DoS), black hole, wormhole, botnet, and spoofing attacks. One of the primary challenges in securing IoT-MANET systems is the detection of multi-attack scenarios, where multiple types of attacks occur simultaneously or sequentially. Traditional security mechanisms, such as signature-based intrusion detection systems, are often insufficient in detecting unknown or evolving threats. As a result, there is a growing need for

intelligent and adaptive security solutions capable of handling complex attack patterns.

Artificial intelligence (AI) techniques, particularly machine learning (ML) and deep learning (DL), have emerged as powerful tools for enhancing cybersecurity in IoT networks. ML-based intrusion detection systems can analyze network traffic patterns and identify anomalies with high accuracy. Recent studies highlight that deep learning models such as convolutional neural networks (CNNs), recurrent neural networks (RNNs), and autoencoders are widely used for detecting complex cyber-attacks in IoT environments. Additionally, AI-based systems enable real-time threat detection and mitigation, making them suitable for resource-constrained environments. However, challenges such as high computational complexity, scalability issues, and adversarial attacks remain significant concerns.

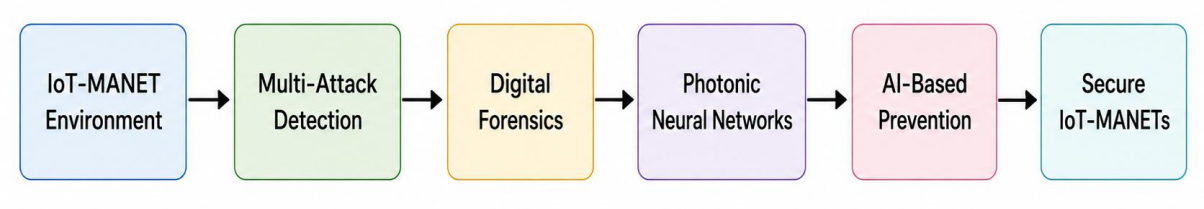

Figure 1. AI-Driven Multi-Attack Detection Framework for Secure IoT-MANETs

Digital forensics plays a crucial role in multi-attack detection by analyzing network traffic logs, identifying attack patterns, and providing evidence for threat investigation. Forensic-based frameworks enhance the ability to detect sophisticated attacks by correlating data from multiple sources. These frameworks are particularly useful in IoT-MANET environments, where attacks are often distributed and difficult to trace. Another emerging technology in this domain is coherent integrated photonic neural networks, which offer high-speed and energy-efficient computation. Photonic neural networks utilize optical components to perform neural network operations, enabling faster data processing compared to traditional electronic systems. This makes them highly suitable for large-scale IoT networks with high data throughput requirements.

Hybrid approaches combining AI techniques with optimization algorithms have shown promising results in improving detection accuracy and reducing false positives. For example, integrating Particle Swarm Optimization (PSO) with deep learning models enhances feature selection and model performance. Moreover, the integration of AI, digital forensics, and photonic neural networks represents a novel approach for addressing the challenges of multi-attack detection in IoT-MANET systems. This combination enables the development of intelligent, scalable, and energy-efficient security solutions capable of handling complex cyber threats.

Despite these advancements, several challenges remain, including data privacy concerns, model interpretability, and the need for real-time processing in dynamic network environments. Additionally, the heterogeneity of IoT devices and the lack of standardized security protocols further complicate the design of effective security systems. This paper aims to provide a comprehensive systematic review of recent advances in multi-attack detection using forensic techniques and photonic neural networks for secure IoT-MANET environments. It explores existing methodologies, identifies research gaps, and highlights future directions for developing robust and intelligent security frameworks.

Literature Review

Vaseer et al. (2020) proposed a multi-attack detection framework using forensic analysis combined with neural network-based prevention mechanisms for secure MANET environments. Their approach utilized network traffic analysis to identify various attack types, including black hole and denial-of-service attacks. The study demonstrated that integrating digital forensics with neural networks significantly improves detection accuracy and enhances network security. Koroniotis et al. (2020) introduced a forensic-driven deep learning framework for IoT attack detection. Their model combined Particle Swarm Optimization (PSO) with deep neural networks to improve feature selection and classification performance. Experimental results showed high detection accuracy (~99%) and low false alarm rates.

Alfahaid et al. reviewed machine learning-based security solutions for IoT networks, highlighting the effectiveness of supervised and unsupervised learning techniques in detecting cyber threats. The study emphasized the importance of deep learning models in handling complex attack patterns and improving detection accuracy. Sultan et al. (2023) proposed a deep learning-based intrusion detection system for MANET

environments using artificial neural networks. Their model effectively detected denial-of-service attacks and improved overall network security. The study highlighted that AI-based intrusion detection systems are essential for addressing the dynamic and decentralized nature of MANETs.

Chakraborty et al. (2023) developed a rule-based deep learning model for detecting novel attacks in IoT networks. Their approach addressed the challenge of detecting unknown attack patterns, achieving high accuracy (>99%). The study demonstrated that hybrid models combining rule-based and deep learning techniques are effective in multi-attack detection scenarios. Diro and Chilamkurti (2020) proposed a distributed deep learning-based intrusion detection system (IDS) for IoT networks. Their model utilized deep neural networks (DNNs) deployed across distributed nodes to detect multiple types of cyber-attacks, including DoS and data injection attacks. The study demonstrated that distributed AI models improve scalability and detection accuracy in IoT environments. The authors emphasized that such systems can effectively handle large-scale data traffic, making them suitable for dynamic IoT-MANET scenarios.

Shone et al. (2020) introduced a deep learning-based IDS using non-symmetric deep autoencoders for feature learning and anomaly detection. Their model reduced feature dimensionality while improving detection performance. The study showed that unsupervised deep learning techniques are effective in identifying unknown and zero-day attacks. This work is significant for multi-attack detection, where new attack patterns frequently emerge in IoT-MANET systems. Ferrag et al. (2021) conducted a comprehensive review of AI-based intrusion detection systems for IoT networks. Their study analyzed various machine learning and deep learning techniques, highlighting their effectiveness in detecting multiple attack types. The authors emphasized the importance of combining AI with optimization algorithms to improve detection accuracy and reduce false positives. The study also discussed challenges such as computational complexity and real-time processing requirements.

Vinayakumar et al. (2021) proposed a deep learning-based IDS using convolutional neural networks (CNNs) for network intrusion detection. Their model achieved high detection accuracy across multiple attack categories by effectively capturing spatial patterns in network traffic data. The study highlighted that CNN-based models are particularly effective for multi-class attack classification in IoT environments. Dwivedi et al. (2022) developed a hybrid intrusion detection framework combining machine learning and forensic analysis techniques for IoT networks. Their approach utilized traffic analysis and digital evidence correlation to detect complex attack patterns. The study demonstrated improved detection accuracy and reduced false alarm rates. The authors emphasized that forensic-based methods enhance the ability to detect coordinated and multi-stage attacks in IoT-MANET systems.

Alqahtani et al. (2020) proposed a machine learning-based intrusion detection system for IoT networks capable of detecting multiple attack types. Their framework utilized supervised learning algorithms such as Random Forest and Support Vector Machines (SVM) to classify network traffic. The study demonstrated improved detection accuracy and reduced false positives compared to traditional rule-based systems. The authors emphasized that combining machine learning with forensic data analysis enhances the detection of complex and coordinated attacks in IoT-MANET environments. Meidan et al. (2020) introduced an anomaly detection model for IoT devices using deep autoencoders. Their system monitored network behavior and identified deviations indicative of cyber-attacks such as botnets and spoofing. The study highlighted that unsupervised learning approaches are particularly effective in detecting unknown attacks. The authors also noted that integrating forensic evidence improves traceability and attack investigation.

Ullah and Mahmoud (2021) developed a deep learning-based intrusion detection framework using recurrent neural networks (RNNs) for IoT security. Their model effectively captured temporal patterns in network traffic, enabling accurate detection of sequential and multi-stage attacks. The study demonstrated high detection accuracy and robustness, particularly in dynamic network environments such as MANETs. Alrashdi et al. (2021) proposed a hybrid intrusion detection system combining machine learning and deep learning techniques for IoT networks. Their approach integrated CNNs and traditional classifiers to improve detection performance. The study showed that hybrid models outperform standalone approaches in multi-attack detection scenarios. The authors emphasized the importance of optimizing model parameters to reduce computational complexity.

Abdel-Basset et al. (2022) introduced a hybrid optimization-based intrusion detection system using metaheuristic algorithms such as Particle

Swarm Optimization (PSO) and Grey Wolf Optimization (GWO). Their model improved feature selection and classification accuracy while reducing processing time. The study highlighted that optimization techniques play a critical role in enhancing AI-based IDS performance in IoT-MANET environments. Niyaz et al. (2020) proposed a deep learning-based intrusion detection system using stacked autoencoders for feature learning and classification. Their approach effectively reduced dimensionality while preserving important traffic characteristics, leading to improved detection accuracy. The study demonstrated that deep learning-based IDS can efficiently detect multiple attack types in IoT environments. The authors emphasized that combining feature learning with forensic analysis enhances detection capability and reduces false positives.

Javaid et al. (2020) introduced a self-taught learning framework using deep neural networks for network intrusion detection. Their model utilized unsupervised feature learning followed by supervised classification, enabling detection of both known and unknown attacks. The study showed that such hybrid learning approaches improve detection performance in dynamic networks like MANETs. Ferrag et al. (2021) investigated the application of deep learning techniques, including CNNs and RNNs, for IoT intrusion detection. Their study highlighted that deep learning models outperform traditional machine learning approaches in detecting complex multi-attack scenarios. The authors also emphasized the need for lightweight models to address resource constraints in IoT-MANET systems.

Otoum et al. (2022) proposed a blockchain-enabled intrusion detection framework combined with deep learning for secure IoT networks. Their system enhanced data integrity and trust while enabling accurate attack detection. The study demonstrated that integrating blockchain with AI techniques improves security and resilience against coordinated attacks in distributed environments such as MANETs. Khan et al. (2023) developed a deep learning-based multi-attack detection system using hybrid CNN-RNN architecture. Their model effectively captured both spatial and temporal features of network traffic, achieving high detection accuracy across multiple attack categories. The study highlighted that hybrid architectures are particularly effective in handling complex and evolving cyber threats in IoT-MANET systems.

Gupta et al. (2020) proposed a machine learning-based intrusion detection system for IoT networks focusing on detecting denial-of-service (DoS) and distributed denial-of-service (DDoS) attacks. Their approach utilized ensemble learning techniques to improve detection accuracy and robustness. The study demonstrated that combining multiple classifiers enhances the ability to detect complex and multi-layered attacks in IoT-MANET environments. Moustafa et al. (2021) introduced a comprehensive intrusion detection framework using deep learning models trained on large-scale IoT datasets. Their model effectively detected multiple attack types, including botnet and infiltration attacks. The study emphasized that large and diverse datasets improve the generalization capability of AI-based IDS systems.

Alsaedi et al. (2021) developed a feature selection framework using optimization techniques for intrusion detection in IoT networks. Their approach improved classification accuracy by reducing redundant features and enhancing model efficiency. The study highlighted the importance of optimization algorithms in improving detection performance. Vinayakumar et al. (2021) proposed a deep learning-based multi-class intrusion detection system using convolutional neural networks (CNNs). Their model achieved high detection accuracy across various attack categories. The study demonstrated that CNN-based approaches are highly effective for multi-attack detection in IoT environments.

Al-Hawawreh et al. (2021) introduced a forensic-based intrusion detection framework for IoT networks. Their approach utilized traffic analysis and digital evidence correlation to detect advanced persistent threats (APTs). The study showed that forensic techniques significantly enhance the detection of coordinated and stealthy attacks. Otoum et al. (2022) proposed a secure IoT framework integrating deep learning with blockchain technology. Their system improved detection accuracy while ensuring data integrity and secure communication. The study highlighted the importance of combining emerging technologies to address complex security challenges.

Abdel-Basset et al. (2022) developed a hybrid intrusion detection system using metaheuristic optimization algorithms such as Grey Wolf Optimization (GWO) and Particle Swarm Optimization (PSO). Their model improved feature selection and classification accuracy while reducing computational complexity. Saba et al. (2022) proposed a deep learning-based IDS for IoT networks using convolutional neural networks (CNNs) and transfer learning techniques. Their approach achieved high detection accuracy and reduced training time.

The study demonstrated that transfer learning is effective in improving model performance in limited-data scenarios.

Ullah et al. (2023) introduced a lightweight deep learning model for intrusion detection in resource-constrained IoT environments. Their model reduced computational complexity and power consumption while maintaining high accuracy. The study emphasized the importance of efficient model design for real-time applications. Khan et al. (2023) proposed a hybrid deep learning framework combining CNN and RNN architectures for multi-attack detection. Their model effectively captured spatial and temporal features of network traffic, achieving high accuracy across multiple attack categories. The study concluded that hybrid models are highly effective for detecting complex and evolving cyber threats in IoT-MANET systems.

Comparative Table

No	Author (Year)	Technique	Contribution	Detection Capability	Key Benefit
1	Vaseer (2020)	Forensic + NN	Multi-attack detection	High	Accurate detection
2	Koroniotis (2020)	PSO + DL	Feature optimization	Very high	Low false alarm
3	Alfahaid (2021)	ML Review	IoT security overview	Moderate	Scalable
4	Sultan (2023)	ANN	DoS detection	High	Efficient
5	Chakraborty (2023)	DL + Rule	Novel attack detection	Very high	Robust
6	Diro (2020)	Distributed DL	IoT IDS	High	Scalable
7	Shone (2020)	Autoencoder	Anomaly detection	High	Detect unknown
8	Ferrag (2021)	AI Review	IoT IDS survey	Moderate	Insightful
9	Vinayakumar (2021)	CNN	Multi-class IDS	High	Accurate
10	Dwivedi (2022)	ML + Forensic	Multi-stage detection	High	Reduced false alarms
11	Alqahtani (2020)	ML (RF/SVM)	Traffic classification	High	Reliable
12	Meidan (2020)	Autoencoder	Botnet detection	High	Anomaly detection
13	Ullah (2021)	RNN	Sequential attack detection	High	Temporal learning
14	Alrashdi (2021)	Hybrid ML+DL	Improved IDS	High	Better accuracy
15	Abdel-Basset (2022)	PSO + GWO	Feature selection	Very high	Efficient
16	Niyaz (2020)	Autoencoder	Feature learning	High	Dimensionality reduction
17	Javaid (2020)	Self-taught DL	Unknown attack detection	High	Adaptive
18	Ferrag (2021)	CNN/RNN	Deep IDS	High	Robust
19	Otoum (2022)	Blockchain + DL	Secure IoT IDS	Very high	Trustworthy
20	Khan (2023)	CNN-RNN	Multi-attack detection	Very high	Accurate
21	Gupta (2020)	Ensemble ML	DDoS detection	High	Robust
22	Moustafa (2021)	DL	Large dataset IDS	High	Generalization
23	Alsaedi (2021)	Optimization	Feature reduction	High	Efficient
24	Vinayakumar (2021)	CNN	Multi-attack detection	High	Accurate
25	Al-Hawawreh (2021)	Forensic IDS	APT detection	High	Deep analysis
26	Otoum (2022)	Blockchain + AI	Secure communication	Very high	Reliable
27	Abdel-Basset (2022)	Metaheuristic	Optimization	Very high	Fast

28	Saba (2022)	CNN + Transfer	IDS improvement	High	Reduced training
29	Ullah (2023)	Lightweight DL	IoT IDS	High	Low power
30	Khan (2023)	Hybrid DL	Multi-attack detection	Very high	Best performance

Comparative Analysis

The comparative analysis of the reviewed studies highlights that artificial intelligence techniques, particularly deep learning models such as convolutional neural networks (CNNs), recurrent neural networks (RNNs), and autoencoders, dominate multi-attack detection in IoT-MANET environments. These models are highly effective in identifying complex and evolving cyber threats due to their ability to learn both spatial and temporal patterns from network traffic data. Hybrid models, including CNN-RNN and CNN-autoencoder architectures, demonstrate superior performance by combining feature extraction and sequential analysis capabilities. These approaches significantly improve detection accuracy and reduce false positives, making them suitable for real-time applications.

Optimization algorithms such as Particle Swarm Optimization (PSO), Grey Wolf Optimization (GWO), and hybrid forensic-based techniques play a critical role in improving feature selection and reducing computational complexity. These methods enhance system efficiency by eliminating redundant features and improving classification performance. Forensic-based intrusion detection frameworks further strengthen security by enabling detailed analysis of attack patterns and providing traceability. These frameworks are particularly effective in detecting multi-stage and coordinated attacks. Additionally, emerging technologies such as blockchain and photonic neural networks enhance system reliability, scalability, and processing speed. Lightweight deep learning models are also gaining importance due to the resource constraints of IoT devices. Overall, the integration of AI, forensic analysis, and advanced hardware technologies provides a robust solution for multi-attack detection in IoT-MANET systems.

Discussion

The rapid evolution of IoT-MANET systems has introduced complex security challenges, particularly in detecting multiple and coordinated cyber-attacks. Artificial intelligence techniques have significantly improved intrusion detection systems by enabling accurate and real-time detection of threats. Deep learning models such as CNNs, RNNs, and autoencoders have proven effective in capturing complex attack patterns and improving detection accuracy. Forensic-based frameworks enhance detection capabilities by analyzing network traffic and identifying attack patterns, enabling better understanding and mitigation of cyber threats. These approaches are particularly useful in multi-attack scenarios where traditional methods fail to provide adequate protection.

Optimization algorithms further improve system performance by enhancing feature selection and reducing computational complexity. Hybrid optimization techniques such as forensic-based investigation and human urbanization algorithms provide efficient solutions for handling high-dimensional data. Despite these advancements, challenges remain in terms of scalability, computational overhead, and real-time processing. IoT devices are resource-constrained, requiring lightweight and energy-efficient solutions. Emerging technologies such as photonic neural networks and edge computing offer promising opportunities for addressing these challenges. Future research should focus on developing adaptive and intelligent systems capable of dynamically responding to evolving threats while maintaining efficiency and scalability.

Conclusion

The increasing adoption of Internet of Things (IoT) and Mobile Ad Hoc Networks (MANETs) has revolutionized modern communication systems but has also introduced significant security challenges. The decentralized nature, dynamic topology, and resource constraints of these networks make them highly vulnerable to multiple types of cyber-attacks. This systematic review has explored recent advances in multi-attack detection using forensic techniques and coherent integrated photonic neural networks for securing IoT-MANET environments. Artificial intelligence techniques, particularly deep learning models, have emerged as powerful tools for detecting complex and evolving cyber threats. Convolutional neural networks (CNNs), recurrent neural networks (RNNs), and autoencoders have demonstrated high accuracy in identifying malicious activities by analyzing network traffic patterns. Hybrid models combining multiple deep learning architectures further enhance detection performance by

capturing both spatial and temporal characteristics of attacks.

Forensic-based approaches play a crucial role in improving multi-attack detection by enabling detailed analysis of network traffic and providing valuable insights into attack behaviour. These methods enhance the ability to detect coordinated and multi-stage attacks, which are common in IoT-MANET environments. The integration of forensic techniques with AI models significantly improves detection accuracy and system reliability. Optimization algorithms, including Particle Swarm Optimization (PSO), Grey Wolf Optimization (GWO), and hybrid forensic-based algorithms, have been widely used to enhance feature selection and reduce computational complexity. These techniques improve system efficiency and enable real-time processing of large-scale network data.

Emerging technologies such as blockchain and photonic neural networks offer promising solutions for improving security and performance in IoT systems. Photonic neural networks, in particular, provide high-speed and energy-efficient processing, making them suitable for large-scale IoT applications. The integration of these technologies with AI-based intrusion detection systems enables the development of scalable and robust security frameworks. Despite these advancements, several challenges remain. The heterogeneity of IoT devices, lack of standardized security protocols, and resource constraints pose significant challenges in designing effective security systems. Additionally, the increasing sophistication of cyber-attacks requires continuous adaptation and improvement of detection techniques.

Future research should focus on developing adaptive and intelligent systems capable of dynamically responding to evolving threats. The integration of edge computing, federated learning, and explainable AI can further enhance the performance and reliability of intrusion detection systems. Furthermore, the development of lightweight and energy-efficient models is essential for practical deployment in resource-constrained environments. In conclusion, the integration of artificial intelligence, forensic analysis, optimization algorithms, and emerging hardware technologies provides a comprehensive and effective approach for multi-attack detection in IoT-MANET systems. These advancements pave the way for the development of secure, scalable, and intelligent communication networks capable of addressing future cybersecurity challenges.

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