

Secondary Objectives

- SO-1: To acquire and preprocess benchmark IoT intrusion detection datasets (NSL-KDD, UNSW-NB15, CIC-LoT2023, N-BalIoT, TON-IoT) with rigorous Leave-One-Attack-Out (LOAO) zero-day evaluation protocol design.
- SO-2: To design a hybrid 1D-CNN + BiLSTM + Transformer encoder architecture exploiting complementary features at packet, flow-temporal, and long-range behavioral abstraction levels.
- SO-3: To implement NT-Xent self-supervised contrastive pre-training for zero-day anomaly detection capability without labeled attack examples.
- SO-4: To develop an EWC-based continual learning mechanism for sustained detection performance under concept drift.
- SO-5: To integrate a hierarchical four-level explainability architecture (Grad-CAM, Integrated Gradients, Attention Rollout, Cross-Attention Maps, SHAP Values).
- SO-6: To conduct rigorous comparative evaluation against state-of-the-art baselines with statistical significance testing.

5.3. Primary Objective

To design, implement, and rigorously evaluate a unified, zero-day-robust deep learning framework for intelligent intrusion detection in dynamic IoT network environments -- a framework capable of reliably identifying both known and previously unseen attack patterns while sustaining detection performance under concept drift, maintaining operationally viable false positive rates, and providing human-interpretable, actionable explanations for detection decisions.

5.2. Does the hybrid 1D-CNN + BiLSTM + Transformer multi-stream encoder architecture provide statistically significant detection performance advantages -- measured by AUC-ROC, F1-Score, and zero-day detection rate -- compared to any single-stream or dual-stream encoder architecture applied in isolation?

3. Research Objectives and Questions

5.1. Research Questions