

Comparative Analysis of Feature Selection Algorithms for Automated IoT Device Fingerprinting

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Abstract: IoT devices are increasingly becoming a part of our daily lives. As such, there is a growing emphasis on enhancing their security, which will also ensure the security of the networks to which they belong. Identifying and isolating vulnerable devices from the network is crucial to increase overall security. In this paper, we demonstrate the contribution of various feature selection algorithms used with Decision Tree classifiers to the problem of detecting vendors and types of IoT devices. We use a single TCP/IP packet originating from each device and utilize their packet header field values to capture their unique fingerprints automatically. We compare several algorithms from the Filter, Wrapper, Embedded, and Search Optimization domains of feature selection and indicate which works best for individual scenarios. We utilize the IoT Sentinel dataset and achieve 95.3% accuracy in classifying 126,209 unique TCP/IP packets across various vendors of devices using weighted accuracy and 88.7% accuracy using macro accuracy, which is the average of F1-Scores of all vendors in the dataset.


1 INTRODUCTION


IoT devices are increasingly integrated into our lives with smart thermostats, plugs, home security cameras, and more. Although such devices serve our daily live tasks conveniently, they also pose a threat from a security perspective. Many IoT devices have low computation power to attain battery levels for extended periods. Therefore, many such devices cannot run cybersecurity software on them to protect themselves and the network to which they are connected. Therefore, servers and other hosts within a network need to be able to identify vulnerable devices connected to them and to be able to isolate them from the network. IoT device fingerprinting is a vital methodology to help combat such issues. IoT device fingerprinting informs network administrators of what type of devices they may have running on their networks. Thus, they would be able to detect any potentially vulnerable hosts and take necessary precautions to strengthen the security of their network.

In this study, we perform single-packet IoT device fingerprinting by selecting the most information-gaining set of TCP/IP packet headers from different

vendors using feature selection and machine learning algorithms. Being able to determine a subset of features and their corresponding values that help uniquely identify devices, we can detect if a given device's traffic hits a match, in which case we can classify a packet with a vendor or the specific brand of IoT devices. In this study, we mainly focus on the contributing factors of various feature selection algorithms in determining the most information-gaining features of IoT devices for their classification. We compared several algorithms from different types of feature selection algorithms, such as filter methods, wrapper methods, embedded methods, and search optimization algorithms. We focus on two crucial components in determining the best set of algorithms for the task: the ability to perform classification with as high accuracy as possible and select as few features as possible to achieve such accuracy. The advantages of obtaining a smaller set of features are efficiency in utilizing machine learning algorithms and the removal of any noisy data from the dataset, which can increase the overall classification accuracy.

Although implementing filter, wrapper, and embedded methods is pretty much straightforward, search optimization algorithms such as Genetic Algorithms (GA), Ant Colony Optimization (ACO), and

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Artificial Bee Colony (ABC) require the implementation of a fitness function that helps determine the contribution of a potential solution. We utilized an approach where we aimed to increase both the accuracy of classification and the reduction of the number of features selected. To determine the accuracy of the sets of features selected by the feature selection algorithms, we utilized the Decision Tree classifier, which we previously observed in our work as being one of the highest accuracy-yielding machine learning classifiers (Aksoy and Gunes, 2016; Aksoy et al., 2017; Aksoy and Gunes, 2019; Rana and Aksoy, 2021).

We analyzed the performance of 14 feature selection algorithms in the IoT device fingerprinting domain. We implemented a two-layer classifier approach where we observed more than 90% accuracy in classifying 7 out of 12 vendors of devices in the analyzed dataset. We could also classify more than 9 out of 12 vendors with more than 80% accuracy. In many cases, we also observed that the ABC algorithm was the highest accuracy-yielding feature selection algorithm.

The rest of the paper is organized as follows: Section 2 summarizes related work. Section 3 explains the setup methodology of feature selection algorithms. Section 4 presents performances of the classification of IoT devices using various feature selection algorithms, and Section 5 concludes the paper.

2 RELATED WORK

In machine learning, feature selection is crucial in improving classification accuracy and making predictions more accurate. Many methods and domains provide various improvements and approaches to feature selection, each capable of revealing insights and simplifying machine learning classifier decision-making by eliminating noisy data.

2.1 Genetic and Evolutionary Algorithms for Feature Selection

Evolutionary algorithms can efficiently choose the most relevant feature subset given a dataset. These algorithms, fundamentally based on evolutionary principles, utilize a specialized fitness function. This function can be tailored to suit the specific nature and demands of the problem, such as feature selection in machine learning classification. Several noteworthy examples highlight how versatile and practical genetic algorithms can be in selecting features. For instance, in digital media, these algorithms have been

utilized to refine image retrieval processes and enhance the precision of text categorization (Wu et al., 2011). In the cybersecurity domain, Operating System fingerprinting—a method used to determine the operating system of a device remotely—has benefited from the precision of genetic algorithms, leading to more accurate detections automatically (Aksoy et al., 2017; Aksoy and Gunes, 2016). With the growth of Internet of Things (IoT) devices, the challenge of IoT device fingerprinting—identifying unique device signatures—has also emerged. Genetic algorithms have also paved the way for enhanced identification and categorization (Aksoy and Gunes, 2019). Across these diverse applications, genetic algorithms have often outperformed other methods, leading to superior accuracy rates in classification tasks, affirming their invaluable role in optimizing feature selection.

2.2 Feature Selection in Network and System Security

In various approaches, performing accurate predictions becomes essential when identifying cybersecurity incidents. Attackers often deploy varied tactics, and to counteract these, security systems need to detect unique features and behaviors indicative of such malicious activities. Multiple studies emphasize the importance of feature selection in intrusion detection (Thakkar and Lohiya, 2023; Alghanam et al., 2023; Sangaiah et al., 2023). By carefully selecting the most contributing features, these works enhance the efficiency and accuracy of detecting unauthorized access or breaches. A study by (Gharehchopogh et al., 2023) emphasizes Botnet Detection in IoT, underlining the need for targeted feature selection to identify these network-compromising threats effectively. Denial of Service (DoS) is another attack designed to overload systems and make them unavailable to users. (Maslan et al., 2023) introduces an approach for DoS detection using Hybrid N-Gram and expertly tailored feature selection methodologies. Furthermore, (Nkongolo, 2023) presents an advanced method for detecting malware based on cyclostationary features, strengthening the capabilities of NIDSs. In our contributions to this dynamic field, we have previously embarked on a detailed exploration of Fast-flux incident detection. In this work (Rana and Aksoy, 2021), we employed genetic algorithms and machine learning algorithms to classify these rapidly changing domain names used by attackers to hide phishing and malware delivery sites.

2.3 Hybrid and Novel Feature Selection Techniques

The rise of hybrid methodologies is another significant advancement in feature selection techniques. By combining established methods with novel algorithms, researchers aim to overcome the limitations of individual techniques and deliver a more comprehensive solution. (Sivagaminathan and Ramakrishnan, 2007) have developed hybrid models to leverage the combined benefits of traditional and novel algorithms, ensuring an enriched feature selection process. They introduce a hybrid feature selection approach using Ant Colony Optimization and Neural Networks. The work by (Zhu et al., 2023) bases their work on artificial immune algorithm optimization that aims to enhance the accuracy and efficiency of feature selection processes. Other researchers have presented innovative algorithms and optimizations that expand the range of hybrid methods accessible to researchers (Chhabra et al., 2023; Eskandari and Seifaddini, 2023; Wang et al., 2023). Additional contributions, such as (Houssein et al., 2023; Jin et al., 2023; de Oliveira Sementille et al., 2023), encompass a range of topics from fuzzy logic implementations to intrusion detection, each adding a unique flavor to the evolving narrative of hybrid and novel feature selection techniques.

2.4 Feature Selection in Medical and Health Domains

Numerous medical and health research articles also adopt feature selection techniques in utilizing their results when paired with machine learning algorithms. For instance, (Patel and Giri, 2016) utilizes feature selection in accurately diagnosing motor bearing faults. They combine their approach with the random forest algorithm to perform classification. In another study, (Mishra and Sahu, 2011) employs the signal-to-noise ratio as a primary feature selection strategy to enhance the classification accuracy in cancer diagnostics. (Sun et al., 2019) emphasizes the importance of feature selection when predicting Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD). By analyzing lung CT images, they could refine their predictive model. In the genetics field, (Xie et al., 2023) aims to improve the classification of gene microarray data using advanced feature selection methods. Lastly, (Agrawal and Chakraborty, 2023) emphasizes the role of dimensionality reduction, a domain of feature selection, in improving the accuracy and dependability of structural health monitoring assessments.

3 ANALYSIS OF FEATURE SELECTION ALGORITHMS

This paper analyzes several feature selection algorithms and compares their performance in the IoT device identification domain. We mainly compare the filter method, wrapper method, hybrid method, and search optimization algorithms and analyze their accuracy of classification for IoT device identification. We used the Chameleon cloud servers to conduct the computational need of our research (Keahey et al., 2020).

3.1 Machine Learning Classifier

We employed 3-fold cross-validation for each algorithm to ensure model reliability and reduce data splitting bias. The data was divided into three equal parts: Batch1.pcap, Batch2.pcap, and Batch3.pcap. We tested three setups, using each data batch combination to avoid bias. Finally, we averaged the accuracy from these setups to evaluate the performance of the feature selection algorithms.

3.2 Optimization Algorithms

The nature-inspired search optimization algorithms use populations to iteratively seek solutions, often achieving optimal or near-optimal outcomes over time. Their probabilistic nature promotes diverse solutions and prevents getting stuck in local optima. The fitness function that we implemented evaluates each potential solution's effectiveness in classifying IoT traffic. In each iteration, solutions with high fitness values proceed to the next stage, enhancing solution quality over time. The fitness function in Equation 1 calculates the fitness value of each solution.

$$Fitness = 0.9 \times Accuracy + 0.1 \times \left(1 - \frac{|SelectedFeatures| - 1}{|AllFeatures| - 1} \right) \quad (1)$$

We implemented two terms that impact the fitness value: the accuracy of the classification and the ratio of the number of features present in a solution, which helped ensure keeping the accuracy high and eliminating redundant features. We also needed to determine a weight for both of these factors. Our previous research (Aksoy and Gunes, 2019) showed that 0.9 and 0.1 for accuracy and feature selection terms, respectively, yield good results. We record the solution with the highest fitness value in each iteration to observe whether the algorithm evolves to find better solutions. It is, however, not guaranteed to converge

to the optimal solution. Thus, it becomes essential to determine a termination point to prevent the algorithm from running indefinitely. We decided to terminate when the last $k = 10$ consecutive iterations consistently generated the same solution as the best solution. We have observed that $k = 10$ or $k = 15$ yields a solution with high fitness values. When implementing the search optimization algorithms, we carefully chose the parameters they utilize based on each algorithm's characteristics and requirements. A population size of 50 for the GA was employed, ensuring diverse potential solutions while maintaining computational efficiency. We also used a mutation rate of 0.015 and a crossover rate of 0.5. For the ACO, we utilized ten ants to traverse and seek optimal paths. The pheromone's influence on path selection was determined by a pheromone strength of 1, and a decay rate of 0.5 was incorporated to simulate the natural decay of the pheromone over time. Lastly, the ABC algorithm's population was also set to 50, identical to the GA's population size for consistency. To mitigate the risk of premature convergence, the maximum number of trials a bee could undertake without finding a better food source was limited to 5.

3.3 Filter, Wrapper and Embedded Methods

Filter methods perform feature selection based on the intrinsic statistical properties of features rather than the interactions between features. Therefore, they do not utilize machine learning algorithms to test the relevance of features. They are also more efficient but sacrifice accuracy. In this study, we utilized the following filter method algorithms: Dispersion Ratio (DR), Mean Absolute Difference (MAD), Variance Threshold (VT), Correlation Coefficient (CC), Fisher Score (FS), and Chi-Square (CS). **Wrapper methods**, on the other hand, utilize machine learning algorithms to determine the relevance of features. They iteratively add or remove features until they obtain the optimal solution possible. However, they sacrifice efficiency but provide higher accuracy. In this study, we utilized the following wrapper method algorithms: Forward Feature Selection (FFS), Backward Feature Elimination (BFE), Exhaustive Feature Selection (EFS), and Recursive Feature Elimination (RFE). Finally, **embedded methods** try to provide the best of both worlds by integrating the feature selection into the machine learning algorithm, which helps balance the compromise between the efficiency and accuracy. In this study, we utilized the well-known LASSO Regularization (LR) algorithm.

The **Mean Absolute Difference** method calcu-

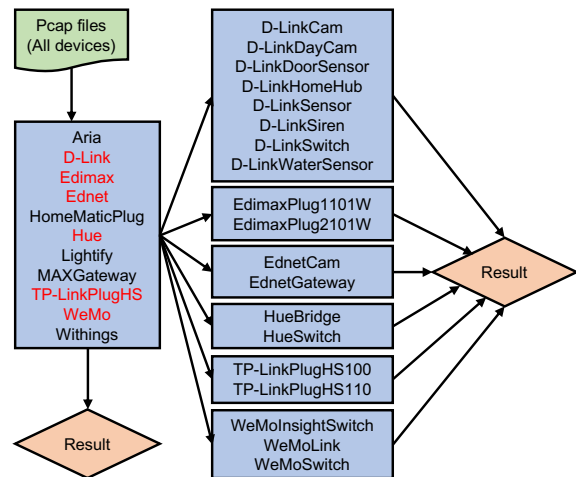


Figure 1: Two-level classifiers setup.

lates the absolute difference between each data point and the dataset mean to assess a feature's relevance. Higher absolute differences indicate more informative features. Features are listed and sorted by their MAD scores, and a custom function tests combinations for the most efficient feature set. In **Variance Threshold** method, the variance of each feature is generated by finding the average of the squared differences between each data point and the mean of the features. After the variance of each feature is generated, they are compared against a threshold value. In implementing the algorithm, we set the threshold to 0.1, which yielded better results. If a feature's variance is lower than the threshold, it is ignored, and if the variance is higher than the threshold, the feature is kept. The **Correlation Coefficient** algorithm assesses the linear relationship between features and the target variable. Features with a correlation score above a certain threshold are considered valuable for predictions. We generated the correlation scores of all features with the threshold of 0.7, which yielded good results. **Fisher Score** algorithm identifies features that best separate classes by maximizing the ratio of the difference in class means to the spread within classes. The **Dispersion Ratio** algorithm evaluates features based on the ratio of variance to mean. Features are ranked by dispersion scores, and a custom function tests combinations to identify the most accurate feature set. The **Chi-Square** algorithm assesses the relationship between features and the target variable, focusing on their dependency. It involves calculating the frequency distribution of feature values and target classes to generate Chi-Square statistics. Features with the highest Chi-Square scores, indicating stronger associations, are selected for the final feature subset for classification.

The **Forward Feature Selection (FFS)** algorithm

iteratively chooses features that maximize the model’s performance. FFS follows a greedy approach where it only selects the features that maximize the information gain. We used the default parameters in the scikit-learn library for cross-validation to generate the optimal set of features. **Backward Feature Elimination** is the opposite of FFS, where the algorithm initially starts with the set of all features and iteratively removes features with less correlation coefficient value. For each set of features, the model is trained using a machine learning classifier, and this process is repeated until the best evaluation is achieved based on a metric. In our implementation, we utilized the F1 score as our metric across all the algorithms. On the other hand, **Exhaustive Feature Selection (EFS)** generates an optimal set of features based on evaluation metrics like accuracy and F1 score. EFS initially starts with a single feature and continues to grow the set until it reaches the maximum size. The algorithm considers all possible feature sets at each size, trains the model on those features, and evaluates the results to find the best set of features. **Recursive Feature Elimination (RFE)** is similar to BFE in that it starts with the set of all features, determines which are irrelevant, and then removes them. While it is similar to BFE, the main difference is that in RFE, the features selected for elimination are usually determined based on their univariate importance. In implementing the algorithm, we used Recursive Feature Elimination with Cross-Validation (RFECV) in the scikit-learn library.

LASSO Regularization introduces a penalty term into the linear regression equation. This penalty term, L1 regularization, is an additional value added to the cost or loss function. The penalty term enforces the coefficients of less information-gaining features to zero. The selection of this penalty term is determined through techniques like cross-validation to identify the best value to be used. The features whose coefficients are pushed to zero are removed, while the features with more significant coefficients are kept, yielding the optimal set of features the algorithm can generate.

4 EXPERIMENTAL RESULTS

This section provides an overview of the dataset used and showcases the effectiveness of various feature selection algorithms in accurately classifying vendors and different types of IoT devices. We detail the dataset’s characteristics and demonstrate how these algorithms enhance the classification accuracy.

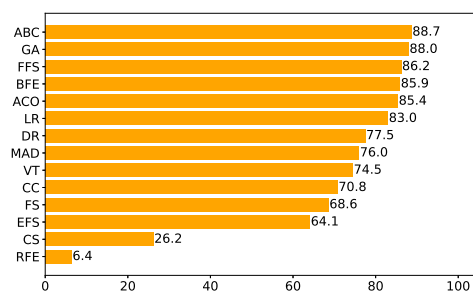


Figure 2: Genre classifier accuracy.

4.1 Data

We use the IoT Sentinel dataset collected by (Miettinen et al., 2017). The dataset contains TCP/IP packets for 26 IoT devices. The devices are Aria, D-LinkCam, D-LinkDayCam, D-LinkDoorSensor, D-LinkHomeHub, D-LinkSensor, D-LinkSiren, D-LinkSwitch, D-LinkWaterSensor, EdimaxPlug1101W, EdimaxPlug2101W, EdnetCam, EdnetGateway, HomeMaticPlug, HueBridge, HueSwitch, iKettle2, Lightify, MAXGateway, SmarterCoffee, TP-LinkPlugHS100, TP-LinkPlugHS110, WeMoInsightSwitch, WeMoLink, WeMoSwitch, and Withings. To prevent bias in our results, we removed features such as IP addresses, IP Identifiers, IP Geolocation, and checksum since the IP addresses are embedded in them.

In this paper, we are primarily comparing the accuracy of feature selection algorithms on the classification of IoT devices based on the uniqueness of header fields in the packets these devices generate. However, various devices from the same vendor exist in the dataset. For example, there are eight devices from the D-Link vendor. As expected, we have observed high similarities in the header fields generated by devices from the same vendor. This is potentially due to the vendors using similar, if not the same, network stack in many of their products. Therefore, as shown in Figure 1, we implemented a two-level classification where we first try to determine from which vendor a device’s packets are being generated. Then, we check and see if we can further classify the packet’s origin in the second layer to determine which specific device it originated. The first level classifier is the genre classifier, which tries to classify packets into vendors if multiple devices exist from the same vendor, or it classifies them as the device itself if there is only one device from a particular vendor. To achieve this, we merged the packets from the same vendors. We ended up with the following genres along with their counts of devices: Aria (1 device), D-Link (8 devices), Edimax (2 de-

Table 1: Genre classifier accuracy.

| Algorithms | Overall | Aria | D-Link | Edimax | Ednet | HomeMatic | Hue | Lightify | MAXGateway | TP-Link | WeMo | Withings |
|------------|---------|-------|--------|--------|-------|-----------|-------|----------|------------|---------|-------|----------|
| ABC | 88.7% | 97.3% | 96.3% | 76.7% | 92.7% | 85.7% | 98.0% | 74.3% | 93.7% | 92.0% | 91.0% | 80.7% |
| GA | 88.0% | 98.0% | 95.3% | 80.3% | 87.3% | 87.7% | 98.0% | 69.0% | 93.7% | 91.0% | 91.3% | 73.3% |
| FFS | 86.2% | 97.1% | 95.6% | 81.5% | 58.0% | 93.9% | 97.7% | 69.2% | 94.6% | 91.8% | 91.0% | 77.7% |
| BFE | 85.9% | 98.8% | 94.7% | 77.0% | 54.5% | 93.5% | 96.9% | 73.0% | 92.3% | 92.4% | 90.8% | 80.0% |
| ACO | 85.4% | 98.3% | 95.3% | 81.7% | 77.3% | 93.7% | 97.7% | 51.0% | 94.7% | 90.7% | 89.0% | 69.3% |
| LR | 83.0% | 95.7% | 87.2% | 49.7% | 74.9% | 98.5% | 93.1% | 77.0% | 93.5% | 65.7% | 85.4% | 92.4% |
| DR | 77.5% | 97.3% | 76.8% | 67.4% | 78.4% | 79.9% | 85.5% | 74.9% | 68% | 72.2% | 73.6% | 77.0% |
| MAD | 76.0% | 98.5% | 77.1% | 65.5% | 58.9% | 89.3% | 85.9% | 74.9% | 69.2% | 71.4% | 71.8% | 74.3% |
| VT | 74.5% | 74.1% | 76.5% | 65.2% | 79.0% | 79.9% | 85.9% | 34.5% | 91.3% | 71.7% | 73.9% | 87.6% |
| CC | 70.8% | 78.4% | 84.2% | 47.6% | 66.7% | 88.9% | 95.0% | 52.2% | 53.7% | 52.3% | 70.0% | 89.5% |
| FS | 68.6% | 98.7% | 85.6% | 25.0% | 70.3% | 85.2% | 93.0% | 53.5% | 55.8% | 46.7% | 71.4% | 71.8% |
| EFS | 64.1% | 87.8% | 89.2% | 49.0% | 52.2% | 88.4% | 95.6% | 0.0% | 56.2% | 35.4% | 69.5% | 82.0% |
| CS | 26.2% | 75.0% | 73.8% | 0.0% | 4.9% | 31.8% | 89.9% | 0.0% | 0.0% | 0.0% | 6.7% | 6.5% |
| RFE | 6.4% | 0.0% | 8.0% | 2.8% | 0.0% | 0.0% | 60.8% | 0.0% | 0.0% | 0.0% | 0.1% | 0.0% |

(ABC - Artificial Bee Colony), (GA - Genetic Algorithm), (FFS - Forward Feature Selection), (BFE - Backward Feature Elimination), (ACO - Ant Colony Optimization), (LR - LASSO Regularization), (DR - Dispersion Ratio), (MAD - Mean Absolute Difference), (VT - Variance Threshold), (CC - Correlation Coefficient), (FS - Fisher Score), (EFS - Exhaustive Feature Selection), (CS - Chi-Square), (RFE - Recursive Feature Elimination)

vices), Ednet (2 devices), HomeMaticPlug (1 device), Hue (2 devices), Lightify (1 device), MAXGateway (1 device), Smarter (2 devices), TP-LinkPlugHS (1 device), WeMo (3 devices), and Withings (1 device). We excluded the Smarter vendor due to a highly insufficient number of packets.

4.2 Feature Selection & Classification Performances

Genre classifier is the first-layer classifier we implemented, which helps determine the vendor of a given TCP/IP packet. In Table 1, we provide the macro average of accuracy for the classification of each vendor. We also highlighted the highest accuracy achieved for a given genre. In the *Overall* column, we provide the average of the accuracy of all vendors. We also provide a graph for the genre classifier in Figure 2. We observe the highest overall accuracy using the Artificial Bee Colony (ABC) algorithm at 88.7%. We also observe that the ABC algorithm is among the highest accuracy-yielding algorithms, classifying vendors D-Link, Ednet, and Hue. Although LASSO Regularization (LR) can also classify three vendors with the highest accuracy, the overall classification accuracy is lower than ABC. The macro accuracy is the average of all vendors regardless of the number of packets,

whereas the weighted average is the number of packets correctly classified. After preprocessing and removing duplicates, there were 126,209 packets in the dataset, and the average weighted accuracy of ABC was 95.3%. We also observe that 7 of the 11 vendors were classified with more than 90% accuracy, and 9 of the 11 were classified with more than 80% accuracy with the ABC algorithm.

D-Link classifier results are provided in Figure 3. We observed that it is challenging to distinguish the behavior of devices produced by the D-Link vendor. Our findings indicate the highest classification accuracy of 46.6% using ACO, which is almost statistically equivalent to a binary coin toss. These results strongly indicate that the network stack of these devices is very similar, if not identical. Therefore, although we can tell whether a packet originated from a D-Link device with up to 96.3% accuracy, it becomes difficult for machine learning to extract a unique fingerprint for each device belonging to that vendor.

Edimax classifier in Figure 4 and **Hue classifier** in Figure 7, on the other hand, have much more promising classification results than D-Link devices. We observe 93.8% accuracy in classifying Edimax packets using the Mean Absolute Difference (MAD) algorithm and 99.6% accuracy in classifying Hue devices using the Forward Feature Selection (FFS) algorithm. We also observe similar accuracy in classifying

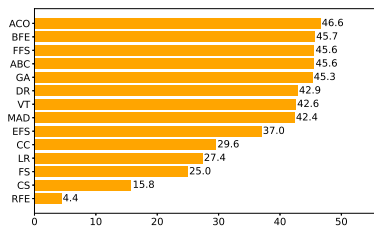


Figure 3: D-Link classifier.

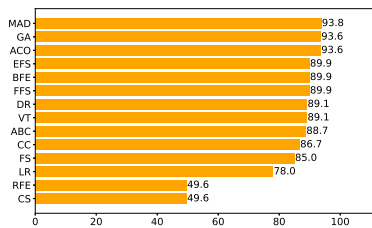


Figure 4: Edimax classifier.

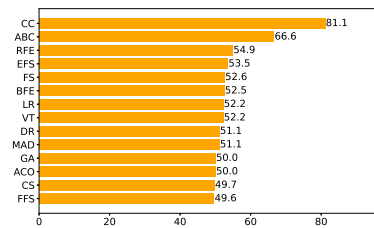


Figure 5: Ednet classifier.

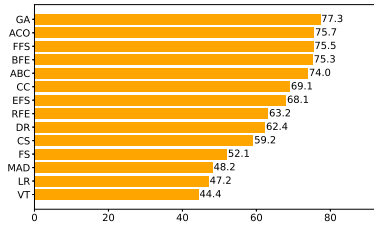


Figure 6: TP-Link classifier.

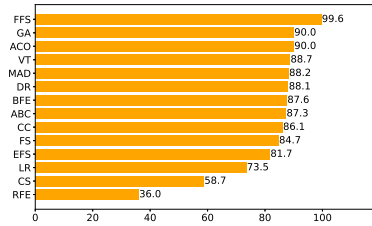


Figure 7: Hue classifier.

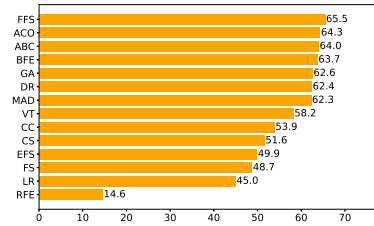


Figure 8: WeMo classifier.

Edimax packets with ACO and GA algorithms, which means we can safely conclude that the results are consistent across several algorithms. With the Hue classifier, however, the next highest accuracy is yielded by the GA at 90.0%, which indicates that FFS was much more aggressive in finding a better set of features to utilize.

Ednet classifier in Figure 5 indicates similar results to the D-Link across most algorithms. However, the Correlation Coefficient (CC) algorithm increased the classification accuracy up to 81.1%. **TP-LinkPlugHS** devices consisted of two different versions of smart plugs from the same vendor, which did not yield very high accuracy as shown in Figure 6, indicating their similarity in their behavior. Although it is better than the rates of the D-Link classifier, we observe 77.3% accuracy at best using the GA algorithm. Similarly, **WeMo classifier** in Figure 8 yields 65.5% accuracy at best using the FFS algorithm, indicating that the vendor is highly likely to use a similar network stack across their products.

5 CONCLUSION

In this paper, we explored the contribution of various feature selection algorithms in classifying IoT devices using machine learning. We conducted a comprehensive exploration of the accuracy of feature selection algorithms from various domains, such as filter methods, wrapper methods, embedded methods, and search optimization algorithms. We observed that search optimization algorithms are well-suited for integrating feature selection and machine learning

to perform IoT device fingerprinting. In classifying the vendors of devices, three of the search optimization algorithms we used, Ant Colony Optimization (ACO), Artificial Bee Colony (ABC), and Genetic Algorithms (GA), were among the top 5 highest accuracy yielding algorithms. We also observed that when classifying specific types of devices of each vendor in the second layer classifiers, 7 out of 11 vendors were classified with the highest accuracy using one of the search optimization algorithms. We also observed that Wrapper method algorithms such as Forward Feature Selection (FFS) and Backward Feature Elimination (BFE) perform very well when classifying the vendors of the devices, yielding the third and the fourth highest accuracy levels. Although the overall accuracy of LASSO Regularization (LR) is not among the top five, it was also able to generate the highest accuracy in classifying the specific types of devices belonging to three vendors: HomeMaticPlug, Lightify, and Withings. As seen, search optimization algorithms are the most suitable options for performing TCP/IP packet classification of IoT device fingerprinting, followed by Wrapper method tools FFS and BFE. In the future, we would like to explore the contribution of statistical features such as each feature value's minimum, maximum, mean, and standard deviation. We anticipate the accuracy to increase after including such features, which could help more uniquely detect distinguishing behaviors of different types of devices.

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