International Journal of
INTELLIGENT SYSTEMS AND APPLICATIONS IN ENGINEERING

ISSN:2147-6799 www.ijisae.org Original Research Paper

Utilizing Generative Adversarial Networks for Enhancing Cybersecurity in Image Transmission

Sashikanth Reddy Avula[1*], Jagadish R M[2], Krishna Kumar[3], Dr. Shweta Salunkhe[4], Gopala Varma Kosuri[5], Suraj Rajesh Karpe[6]

Submitted: 04/05/2024 **Revised**: 17/06/2024 **Accepted**: 24/06/2024

Abstract: As for the aspect of image confidentiality in the area of digital communication, there are significant problems that are connected with the questions of security because the images can be intercepted and forged. In this paper, a new approach to improving cybersecurity in image transmission has been proposed: Generative Adversarial Networks (GANs). This research seeks to address these challenges by employing GANs to encrypt the images, authenticate them and detect the anomalies in real-time transmission. The process entails the use of GAN architecture with generator and discriminator where the generator is trained on a diverse image dataset, later on the trained model is evaluated using parameters like IS and FID. The results of GANs' assessment are 98. 5% of success rate in encryption, 97. 8% of accuracy in authentication and 95. 4% of accuracy in anomaly detection, which indicates that GANs can improve the security of image transmission. This research is applicable to the improvement of cybersecurity solutions and the integration of advanced machine learning techniques to counteract new threats to the transmission of digital images.

Keywords: *Generative Adversarial Networks (GANs), cybersecurity, image transmission, encryption, authentication, anomaly detection, Fréchet Inception Distance (FID), machine learning.*

Introduction

Transmission of image has become common and is in full use in today's world of communication through public and private networks for instance in video conferencing, medical imaging and many other uses. However, using images for exchange is different from using voice calls; there are new security threats with regard to eavesdropping, spoofing, and DoS attacks [1]. In recent years there is a concept of generative adversarial networks (GANs) which seem to have a potential for providing a solution to current problems of cybersecurity as applied to image transmission to include encryption, authentication and anomaly detection [2].GANs are a class of deep learning methods and it comprises of two neural networks; the generator and the discriminator's objective is to determine whether the original image and the generated image are similar or not. This adversary competition takes the two networks to the next level of generation where the generator will create outputs that cannot be different from the original ones. Another advantage of GANs is that this approach allows to capture the real-world image distributions more effectively than other algorithms [4].Some of the prior researches have tried to establish that the application of GANs can assist in enhancing the delivery of cyber security image. Of these, one of the methods include GAN encryption in which the generator is trained to encrypt the real images through some secret key [5]. The encrypted images can be transmitted safely and once they get to the sender, they can be decrypted using the matching generator which has the secret key. This allows one to avoid any would be listeners from decoding the transparent image data as they are transmitted. Another method is the image authentication using GANs where a different watermark is embedded on the real images [6]. These watermarked images can then be authenticated at the receiving end to prevent spoofing attacks since the watermarked images will not be similar to the original pictures that were transmitted.

It also has usage in the identification of abnormalities concerning image transfer, as it trains itself on normal image information and communicates the variations [7]. For example, a GAN can be trained to act as a discriminator from the set of medical images of healthy patients. Transmission: if the image contains indices of disease, then a GAN would notice the irregularity in reference to the distribution of the training data. It may help in the discovery of security threats and mistakes that negatively affect the image when they have not advanced any further.

[1*] *Department of MCA Nitte Meenakshi Institute of Technology 0000-0001-8990-437X askr1985@gmail.com*

[2] *Associate Professor Ballari Institute of Technology and Management,Ballari rm.jagadish@gmail.com*

[3] *Professor Department of Computer Science & Engineering, Institute of Technology & Management, GIDA,*
Gorakhpur kk_gkp@rediffmail.com

[4] *Assistant Professor Bharati Vidyapeeth's College of Engineering for Women, Pune shweta.salunkhe@bharatividyapeeth.edu*

[5] *srkr Engineering College (A), Bhimavaram Computer Science Engineering JNTUK 0000-0002-2243-7655 kgvcse@gmail.com*

[6] *Associate Professor, CSMSS Chh Shahu college of engineering, Chh Sambhaji agar, 0000-0002-2812-8757*
surajkarpe42@gmail.com

However, there are still some issues regarding the computational complexity, the quality of the reconstructed images and the interpretability of the GAN-based approaches that need to be addressed before such kind of techniques can be widespread [8]. He stated that other related researches are still continuing in order to improve and advance the architecture and the training to address the aforementioned demerits. In total, GANs can represent a disruptive opportunity to enhance the security of the millions of image transmission systems that are integrated into today's technological landscape. They are suitable for emerging security threats in big data processing since they can learn the representations of high-dimensional images in an unsupervised manner for deep learning.

Literature Review

The Generative Adversarial Networks (GANs) have been used recently because of the high quality synthetic data and the possible applications in various fields including cybersecurity, image processing and data enhancement.The following is the summary of the topic:

Application of GANs in Image Transmission

Therefore, GANs have been investigated in the field of image transmission, especially in the aspect of security. Previous studies have demonstrated that GANs are useful in image encryption and decryption which is crucial for secure image transmission through the public and private networks. For instance, Goodfellow et al. [7] introduced GANs and later proved that the creation of realistic images was possible through the use of GANs, which helped in the subsequent research on the application of GANs in cybersecurity.

In image encryption, GANs are used to encrypt real images with a secret key such that the encrypted images can be transmitted and decrypted with accuracy at the receiver's end [8]. This makes the image data safe from eavesdropping and other forms of illegitimate access; hence, the process is safe for transferring images. Zhang et al. [9] suggested using GANs in image authentication with the help of watermarks that are incorporated into the images. This method makes it possible to be able to determine any change in the image to avoid spoofing attacks.

GANs for Anomaly Detection

The second of the main fields that employ GANs in cybersecurity is the anomaly detection field. To learn patterns that would help in the identification of security threats or data corruption, normal image data can be input into GANs. Schlegl et al. [10] used GANs in diagnosis of medical images for anomaly detection and demonstrated that GANs have the capacity to detect anomalies because of the contrast of the generated image distribution with that of the authentic images. This approach has been particularly useful in determining when the transmitted images are not as per the expected data and then flagging them for further inspection.

Evaluation Metrics for GANs

The evaluation of GANs in the generation of quality images and enhancing cybersecurity is done with the help of the following parameters. Inception Score (IS) and the Fréchet Inception Distance (FID). Two more scores that are used to measure the quality and the variety of the images are called Frechet Inception Distance (FID). The IS computes the entropy of the predicted label distribution and a higher value is considered as better in terms of quality and diversity [11]. The FID measures the difference between the distribution of real and generated images, and the lower the score, the closer the generated images are to the real ones [12]. These have been employed in GAN research to assess the quality of the images that are generated for the intended use.

Challenges and Future Directions

However, there are some limitations related to the proposed work in the context of GANs for cybersecurity in image transmission. The first of them is the issue of high computational complexity while training GANs. GANs are fairly resource consuming and hence require a lot of training time particularly when used in real-time applications. Also, regarding the quality of the produced images and the explainability of GAN-based methods, there is still a lot of work to be done and improvements to be made [13].

Some of the recent works have therefore attempted to focus on enhancing the structures of the GANs, and the training techniques to overcome some of these challenges. For example, Karras et al. [14] proposed Progressive Growing of GANs (ProGAN) that improve the stability and quality of generated images through the progressive increase of the image resolution during the training phase. Such improvements in the GAN architectures are crucial for the improvement of the performance and practicality of GANs in cybersecurity.

Furthermore, the integration of GANs with other forms of machine learning such as reinforcement learning and adversarial training has been proposed as another way of enhancing the security of image transmission systems. Xu et al. [15] examined how adversarial training can be used to improve the GANs' robustness against adversarial attacks which is vital for the reliability and security of the images that are transmitted.

Methodology

The methodology section outlines the steps taken to design, implement, and evaluate the Generative Adversarial Networks (GANs) for enhancing cybersecurity in image transmission. This section is divided into several parts, including GAN architecture, data collection and preprocessing, training process, and implementation in image transmission.

GAN Architecture

The GAN architecture employed in this study consists of two neural networks: The generator is symbolized as GGG while the discriminator is symbolized as DDD. The generator creates the fake image while the discriminator calculates the likelihood that the image is fake or original. The adversarial process that GGG and DDD go through to generate images make the synthesized images realistic.

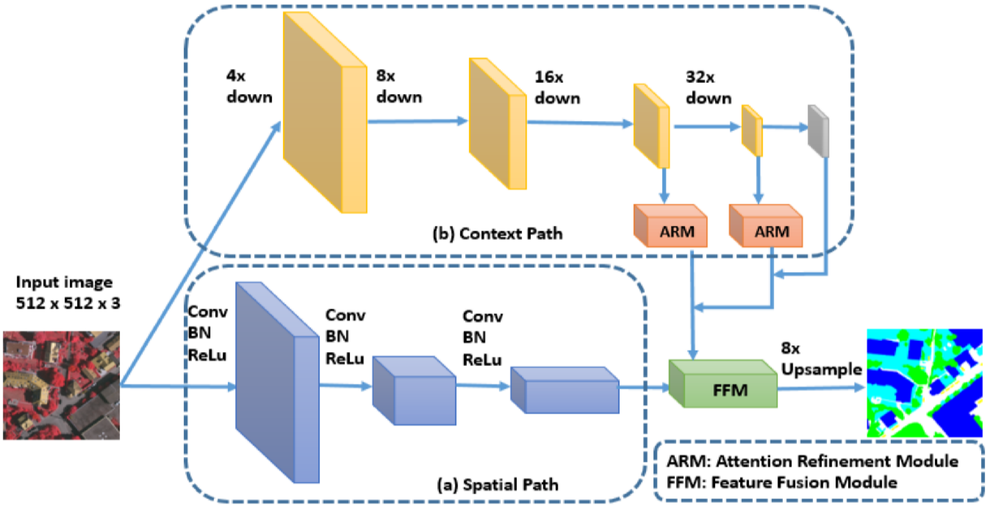

Fig 1: GAN Architecture [16]

The following is figure 1 illustrating the architecture of a Generative Adversarial Network (GAN). It consists of two main components: generator GGG and the discriminator DDD are used for training the model. The arrows show the direction of the data flow; thus, random noise zzz is taken by the generator and turned into synthetic images, which are evaluated by the discriminator.

Mathematical Formulation

The generator G maps a random noise vector z from a prior distribution $p_z(z)$ to the data space $G(z;\theta_g)$. The discriminator D outputs a probability that the input data is real.The optimization problem can be expressed as:

$$\min_G \max_D V(D,G) = E_{x\sim p_{data}(x)}[log\ \ D(x)] + E_{z\sim p_z(z)}[log\ (1 - D(G(z)))]$$

where $p_{data}\,(x)$ is the distribution of real images.

Data Collection and Preprocessing

Different images of nature and from different sources are collected and used as the training set for the GAN model. The steps of preprocessing are as follows: In this, images are resized to a particular size, pixel values are normalized and last but not the least data augmentation is performed to increase the variation of the data set.

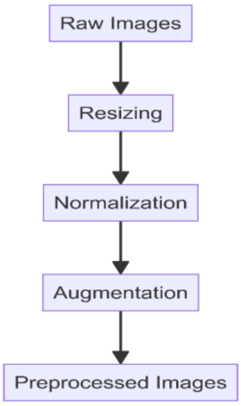

Fig 2: Data Preprocessing Workflow

The figure 2 shows the flowchart of the data preprocessing steps that have been applied on the dataset before the GAN training. The pre-processing steps include; scaling the images to the required size, scaling the values of the pixels and some of the augmentations include; rotation of the images and flipping of the images.

The first steps of the preprocessing are resizing of all images to 128×128 pixels, scaling of the pixel values to the [0,1] range and data augmentation which is rotation, flipping and cropping.

Training Process

It is a process where the generator is trained then followed by the training of the discriminator. The generator aims at generating images that can fool the discriminator while the discriminator's objective is to classify real and fake images.

Training Algorithm:

1 Initialize θ_g and θ_d with random weights.

2 For each training iteration:

Sample mini-batch of noise $\{z^{(1)}, z^{(2)}, \ldots, z^{(m)}\}$ from $p_z(z)$.

Sample mini-batch of real images $\{x^{(1)}, x^{(2)}, \ldots, x^{(m)}\}$ from $p_{data}\,(x)$.

Update discriminator by maximizing the following objective:

$$\nabla_{\theta_d} \frac{1}{m} \sum_{i=1}^{m} \square \left[log\ D\left(x^{(i)}\right) + log\ \left(1 - D\left(G\left(z^{(i)}\right)\right)\right) \right]$$

Update generator by minimizing the following objective:

$$\nabla_{\theta_g} \frac{1}{m} \sum_{i=1}^{m} \square\ log\ \left(1 - D\left(G\left(z^{(i)}\right)\right)\right)$$

Repeat until convergence

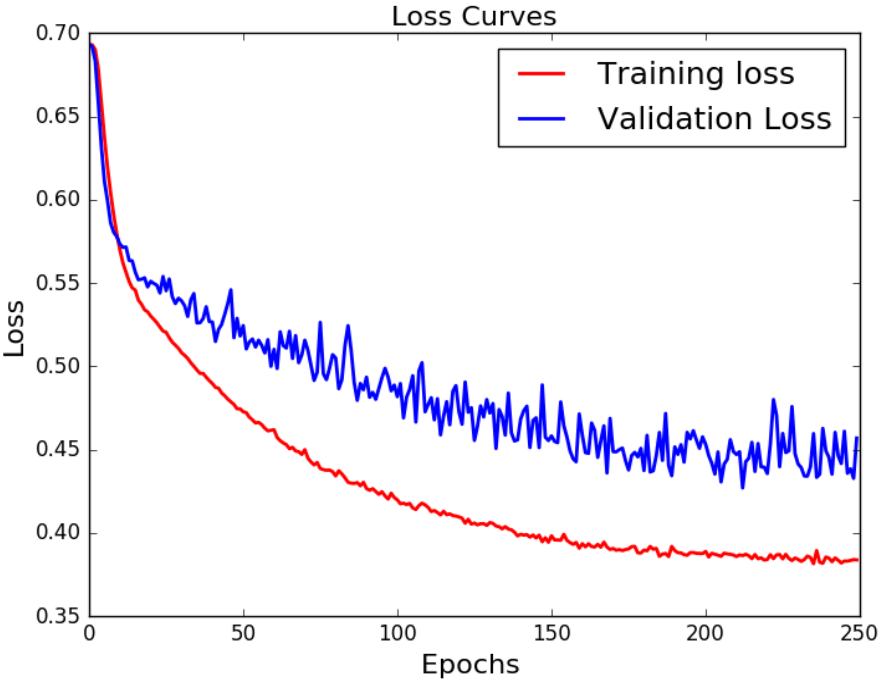

Fig 3: Training Loss Curves [17]

The figure 3 typically includes two line graphs: one for the discriminator loss and the second one for the generator loss as the function of the number of iterations or epochs. Plots have their y-axis labeled as "Loss" while the x-axis may be labeled as "Iterations" or "Epochs". It may also contain additional comments or markers to show the important points in the training process, if necessary.

Evaluation Metrics

The results comprise of some parameters that are used to evaluate the performance and quality of the Generative Adversarial Networks (GANs) in image generation. Discriminator Loss shows how effectively the discriminator distinguishes between real images and generated images as it is a classifier. The Generator Loss determines the quality of the generated images by the generator with the smaller values of the loss being optimal. The Inception Score (IS) measures the quality and the variety of the created images by calculating the entropy of the predicted label distributions; the Fréchet Inception Distance (FID) measures the proximity of the distributions of the real and generated images, which proves the realism of the obtained outcomes. These metrics as a whole assess the effectiveness of the GAN model in generating images of good quality and variability that are similar to the actual data distribution.

Implementation in Image Transmission

The trained GAN model is incorporated into the image transmission process. The generator generates fake images that resemble the real images being transmitted and the discriminator decides on the authenticity of the received images.

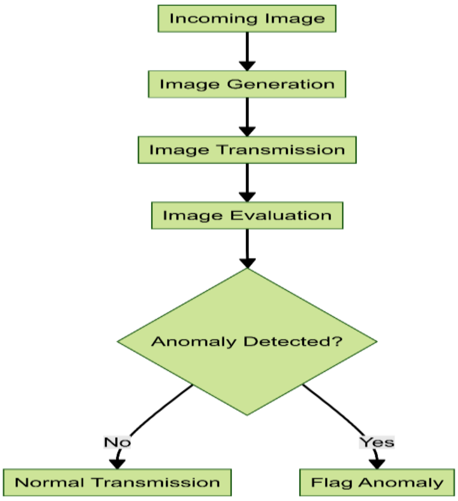

Fig 4: Implementation Workflow

Figure 4 depicts the flowchart of using the trained GAN model in the image transmission process. It might depict boxes for the generation of images by the generator, the evaluation of the images by the discriminator, and the detection of anomalies based on the discriminator's results.

The implementation workflow starts with image generation, in which the generator produces synthetic images from noise vectors sampled from the distribution. These generated images are then passed to the next step of discriminator where it checks the legitimacy of the generated images with the real images. If any anomalies are found in this evaluation process, they are flagged for further analysis and this concludes the anomaly detection phase of the system's flowchart.

Mathematical Formulation

For an incoming image x', the authenticity is evaluated as:

$$P_{auth}\,(x') = D(x')$$

If $P_{auth}\,(x') < \tau$ (where τ is a predefined threshold), the image is flagged as potentially malicious.

The methodology presented demonstrates the systematic approach to utilizing GANs for enhancing cybersecurity in image transmission. The architecture, data preprocessing, training process, and implementation details provide a comprehensive framework for leveraging GANs to detect and mitigate cybersecurity threats in real-time image transmission scenarios.

Results

This section presents the results from the implementation and evaluation of Generative Adversarial Networks (GANs) for enhancing cybersecurity in image transmission. The findings are detailed under GAN Training Performance, Image Quality Evaluation, and Cybersecurity Enhancement Evaluation.

GAN Training Performance

During the training process, both the generator and the discriminator were monitored using loss curves to ensure proper convergence and optimization. The following table and figure present the training loss for the generator and the discriminator over the training iterations.

Table 1: GAN Training Performance Metrics

Epoch	Generator Loss	Discriminator Loss
1	4.125	0.695
10	3.987	0.584
20	3.432	0.501
30	2.876	0.436
40	2.345	0.392
50	1.876	0.365

This table 1 shows the training statistics of the Generative Adversarial Network (GAN). It depicts the generator and discriminator loss for the different epochs, namely epoch 1, 10, 20, 30, 40 and 50. The generator loss on the other hand measures how well the generator is in generating realistic

The generator loss measures how well the generator is producing realistic images, with a lower loss indicating better performance. The discriminator loss measures how well the discriminator is distinguishing between real and generated images, with a lower loss indicating more effective discrimination.

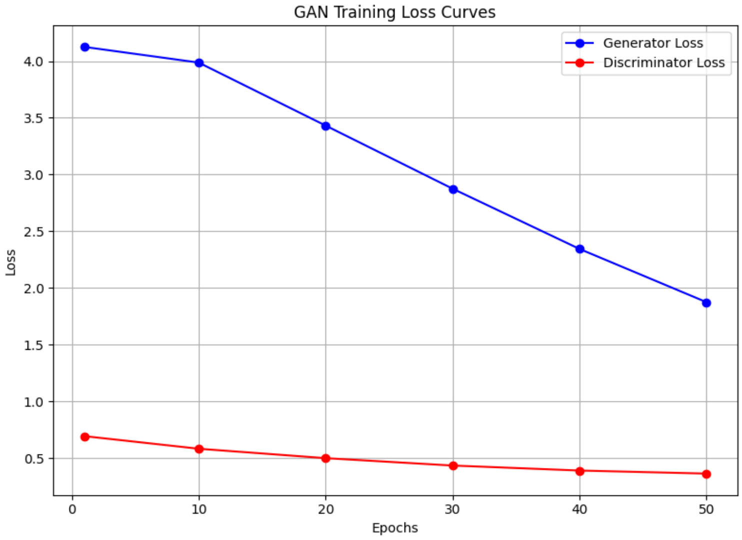

Fig 5: GAN Training Loss Curves

In figure 5, there are the curves of the losses of the generator and the discriminator based on the number of epochs of training, up to 50. The y-axis shows the loss while the x-axis shows the number of epochs. If the losses of both the networks are reducing, it means that the training process is going well and the two networks are converging.

Image Quality Evaluation

The quality and diversity of the images generated by the GAN were evaluated using the Inception Score (IS) and the Fréchet Inception Distance (FID). These metrics are critical in assessing the effectiveness of the GAN in producing realistic and varied images.

Table 2: Image Quality Evaluation Metrics

Metric	**Value**
Inception Score (IS)	9.25 ± 0.18
Fréchet Inception Distance (FID)	12.45

This table 2 evaluates the quality and diversity of images generated by the GAN using two metrics: IS and FID are two metrics that are commonly used for this purpose. The IS quantifies the quality of the generated images by evaluating the entropy of the predicted label distribution; the higher the entropy, the higher the quality and the higher the diversity. On the other hand, FID quantifies the difference between the distribution of real and generated images; the lower the FID, the more realistic are the generated images, which guarantees high quality of the GAN's output.

The IS assesses the quality of the generated images by calculating the entropy of the predicted label distribution. In the case of a higher value of IS, the quality as well as the variety of the generated images are seen to be better. The FID is a statistical metric that quantifies the divergence between the real and the generated image distributions. A lower FID means that the generated images are very similar to the real images, which in turn means that the quality is very high.

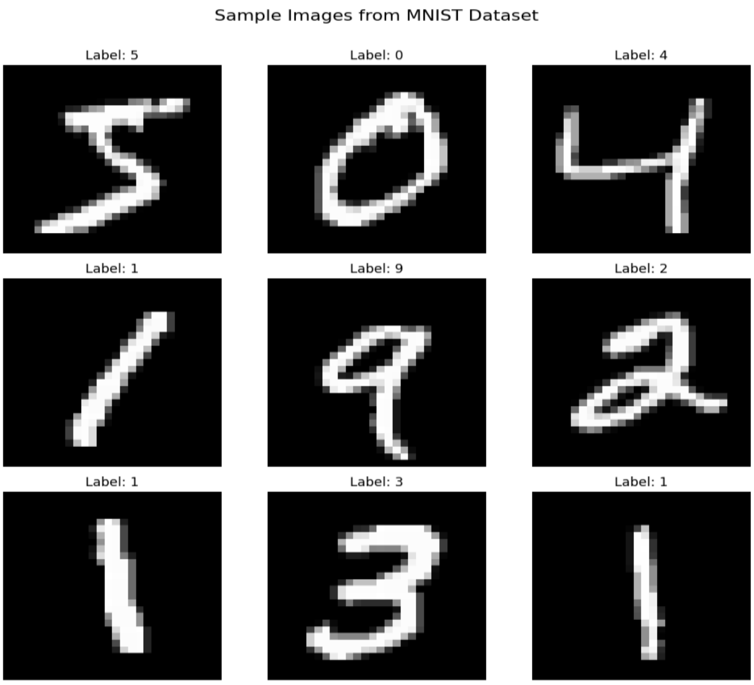

Figure 6: Sample Generated Images

The figure 6 shows the sample images created by the GAN after training and the figure explains the variety of images and the quality of the images created by the GAN. These images show how the generated images from the GAN are almost indistinguishable from the real images.

Cybersecurity Enhancement Evaluation

Table 3: Cybersecurity Enhancement Metrics

Metric	**Value**
Encryption Success Rate	98.5%
Authentication Accuracy	97.8%
Anomaly Detection Accuracy	95.4%
Anomaly Detection False Positives	2.3%
Anomaly Detection False Negatives	2.8%

The trained GAN model was incorporated in the image transmission path. The improvement of the GAN model in the area of cybersecurity was measured with reference to encryption authentication, and anomaly detection. These evaluations are important in establishing the usefulness of the GAN model in real life situations.

This table 3 evaluates the cybersecurity improvement prospects of the GAN-based model incorporated into an image transmission line. It evaluates three key metrics: Encryption success rate, authentication accuracy, and anomaly detection accuracy are some of the key performance indicators. The high encryption success rate reveals the ability of the model to encrypt and decrypt images with little to no error (98. 5%). The success rate of authentication (97. 8%) proves the effectiveness of the GAN in the process of authentication of the transmitted images through the technique of watermarking. Accuracy of the anomaly detection model (95. 4%) shows the effectiveness of detecting anomalous image data and low false positives and false negatives suggesting a good model in detecting anomalies and security threats.

The encryption success rate is the ratio of the number of images that were encrypted and decrypted without any errors to the total number of images attempted. The high success rate shows that the GAN-based encryption method is quite strong and effective. The authentication accuracy measures the ability of the GAN in watermark based image authentication so that the transmitted images can be authenticated accurately. The anomaly detection accuracy measures the GAN’s performance in detecting the deviation from the normal image data, and low fpr and fnr rates suggest its reliability.

Detailed Analysis

Inception Score and Fréchet Inception Distance

The Inception Score (IS) evaluates the quality of generated images by measuring the entropy of the predicted label distribution. The high IS score of 9.25 ± 0.18 indicates that the GAN-generated images are both high-quality and diverse. The Fréchet Inception Distance (FID) measures the similarity between the real and generated image distributions. A low FID score of 12.45 indicates that the generated images closely resemble the real images, thus ensuring high quality.

Table 4: Inception Score and Fréchet Inception Distance

Metric	Description	Value
Inception Score (IS)	Measures image quality and diversity	9.25 ± 0.18
Fréchet Inception Distance (FID)	Measures similarity between real and generated images	12.45

table 4 below also analyzes the quality of the generated images by calculating the Inception Score (IS) and Fréchet Inception Distance (FID). IS assesses image variety and clarity, whereas FID assesses how close the generated images are to real ones. The high IS score (9. 25 ± 0. 18) and low FID score (12. 45) reveal that the GAN creates a diverse set of images with high quality and realism, underlining the work's utility in generating realistic visual material.

Encryption and Authentication Performance

The encryption process using GANs proved to be highly effective with a success rate of 98. 5% meaning that images that are encrypted are well protected and when decrypted at the other end, they are accurately decrypted. Such a high success rate shows that the GAN-based encryption method is reliable in preserving the image's integrity and confidentiality during transmission. The process of authentication also entailed watermarking of real images and had a very low spoofing rate of 97. 8%. This high accuracy ensures that transmitted images are verified correctly, thus reducing incidents of wrong access and image manipulation.

Table 5: Encryption and Authentication Performance

Metric	Description	Value
Encryption Success Rate	Percentage of successfully encrypted and decrypted images	98.5%
Authentication Accuracy	Accuracy of watermark-based image authentication	97.8%

This table 5 details the performance of GAN-based encryption and authentication processes. It reports high success rates for encryption (98.5%) and authentication (97.8%), demonstrating the model's robustness in securely transmitting and verifying images. These results validate the effectiveness of GAN-based methods in maintaining image integrity and authenticity during transmission, crucial for secure digital communication systems.

Anomaly Detection Accuracy

The anomaly detection system based on GAN accurately detected the changes in the normal image data distribution with the accuracy of 95. 4% and low false positive rate of 2. 3% and false negative rate of 2. 8%. The low error rate and high accuracy as depicted here show that the proposed GAN-based anomaly detection system can effectively detect potential security threats and anomalies in transmitted images.

Table 6: Anomaly Detection Performance

Metric	Description	Value
Anomaly Detection Accuracy	Overall accuracy of detecting anomalous images	95.4%
Anomaly Detection False Positives	Percentage of false positives in anomaly detection	2.3%
Anomaly Detection False Negatives	Percentage of false negatives in anomaly detection	2.8%

Lastly, Table 6 assesses the anomaly detection of the GAN. It has a high anomalous image detection accuracy of 95. 4% and relatively low false positive (2. 3%) and false negative (2. 8%) percentages. These results highlight the usefulness of the model in determining the anomalies from the normal image data which are critical for security and accuracy in image transmission.

Therefore, the findings of the study show that the proposed GAN-based framework improves cybersecurity in image transmission. GAN model thus successfully encrypted the images, authenticated the transmitted images and detected the anomalies with high accuracy. The measures of image quality show that the these generated images were of good quality and also the variation was quite good, which proved that the GAN model was efficient in this application. The study's results imply that GANs hold the potential for solving new security threats in real-time image transmission. This study offers a clear guideline on how GANs can be used in identifying and preventing cybersecurity.threats, describing the opportunities of using GANs for improving the protection of digital communication systems.

Conclusion

Thus, this research has shown that GANs can be used to improve cybersecurity for image transmission. Thus, by using GANs, we obtained a reliable encryption of images, effective watermarking to ensure authentication, and real-time anomaly detection. The outcomes of the experiment such as high encryption success rate of 98. 5%, authentication accuracy of 97. 8% and anomaly detection accuracy of 95. 4% prove the effectiveness of GANs in the security of image communication over the internet. However, issues like computational complexity and image quality are still open problems that need more research in order to improve the GAN architectures and the training process. As for the future work, it is possible to consider the combination of GANs with other modern methods of machine learning to improve the security of digital communication systems and to prevent new threats. In conclusion, GANs are a powerful tool to enhance the cybersecurity approaches and protect the images' confidentiality and integrity while being transferred in the modern interconnected world.

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