

Secure Financial Transactions through Machine Learning Based Anomaly Detection and End to End Data Encryption

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Abstract: The rapid expansion of digital financial services has introduced unprecedented transaction speed and accessibility, but it has also significantly increased exposure to cyber threats, fraud schemes, and data breaches. Traditional security mechanisms based solely on encryption or rule-based fraud detection are insufficient against evolving adversarial techniques. This paper proposes an integrated framework combining machine learning-based anomaly detection with end-to-end data encryption to secure financial transactions. The framework ensures transactional confidentiality through strong cryptographic protocols while leveraging adaptive anomaly detection algorithms to identify fraudulent behaviors in real time. Experimental evaluation demonstrates that the proposed hybrid architecture enhances fraud detection accuracy, reduces false positives, and maintains minimal latency overhead. The results confirm that combining intelligent anomaly detection with robust encryption mechanisms provides a scalable and secure solution for modern FinTech ecosystems.

Keywords: Explainable AI, Fraud Prevention, FinTech Security, Data Governance

1. Introduction

Digital banking, online payments, peer-to-peer transfers, and embedded finance platforms have transformed global financial systems. However, this digital transformation has led to increasing risks including:

- Payment fraud
- Account takeover attacks
- Man-in-the-middle (MITM) attacks
- Data interception
- Synthetic identity fraud

While end-to-end encryption (E2EE) protects data confidentiality during transmission, it does not inherently detect malicious behavioral patterns. Conversely, machine learning-based fraud detection systems can identify suspicious activity but may expose sensitive financial data during processing.

This paper presents a dual-layered security architecture integrating:

1. End-to-end encryption for data protection
2. Machine learning-based anomaly detection for proactive fraud mitigation

The objective is to ensure transaction integrity, confidentiality, and intelligent threat detection within a unified framework.

2. Background and Related Work

2.1 Financial Transaction Security

Financial transaction systems rely on cryptographic mechanisms such as:

- Advanced Encryption Standard (AES)
- RSA-based public key cryptography
- Elliptic Curve Cryptography (ECC)
- Transport Layer Security (TLS)

Although these protocols secure communication channels, they do not detect behavioral fraud patterns.

2.2 Machine Learning in Fraud Detection

Anomaly detection models identify deviations from normal transactional behavior. Common approaches include:

- Isolation Forest
- One-Class Support Vector Machine (OC-SVM)
- Autoencoders

- Deep Neural Networks
- Gradient Boosting Machines

Machine learning enables detection of zero-day fraud strategies that static rule systems fail to capture.

2.3 Research Gap

Existing systems often treat encryption and fraud detection as independent modules. Few architectures integrate secure encrypted pipelines with intelligent anomaly detection while preserving computational efficiency.

3. Proposed Secure Transaction Framework

3.1 Architecture Overview

The proposed framework consists of four layers:

1. **Client-Side Encryption Layer**
2. **Secure Transmission Channel**
3. **Anomaly Detection Engine**
4. **Risk Scoring and Decision Module**

3.2 End-to-End Encryption Mechanism

Each transaction undergoes encryption at the source using:

- AES-256 symmetric encryption for transaction payload
- RSA/ECC for secure key exchange
- TLS 1.3 for transport-level protection

Encryption ensures that transaction details remain confidential during transmission and storage.

3.3 Machine Learning–Based Anomaly Detection

The anomaly detection module processes transaction metadata and behavioral features such as:

- Transaction frequency
- Geolocation variance
- Device fingerprint mismatch
- Transaction amount deviation
- Historical spending patterns

Models evaluated include:

- Isolation Forest (unsupervised anomaly detection)
- LSTM networks (sequential behavioral modeling)
- Autoencoders (reconstruction error analysis)

The system computes a **risk score** for each transaction. Transactions exceeding a predefined threshold trigger secondary authentication or blocking mechanisms.

4. Dataset and Experimental Design

4.1 Dataset Characteristics

A financial transaction dataset containing 2.5 million records was used. Features included:

- Transaction amount
- Timestamp
- Merchant ID
- Device ID
- IP address hash
- Fraud label

Fraud prevalence: 2.1%

4.2 Preprocessing

- Feature normalization

- Log transformation for skewed distributions
- Handling class imbalance using SMOTE
- Secure encryption applied after preprocessing

4.3 Evaluation Metrics

Performance evaluated using:

- Accuracy
- Precision
- Recall
- F1-Score
- ROC-AUC
- Latency impact

5. Results

5.1 Detection Performance

Model	Precision	Recall	F1-Score	ROC-AUC
Isolation Forest	0.78	0.81	0.79	0.86
Autoencoder	0.87	0.84	0.85	0.91
LSTM	0.91	0.89	0.90	0.95

The LSTM model achieved the highest fraud detection performance due to its ability to capture sequential behavioral anomalies.

5.2 Encryption Overhead

- Encryption latency per transaction: <10 ms
- Total additional processing overhead: ~14%
- System remained suitable for near real-time transaction processing

5.3 Security Analysis

The integration of encryption and anomaly detection:

- Prevented data interception
- Reduced false positive alerts
- Protected stored transaction records
- Mitigated insider threat risks

6. Discussion

The proposed system demonstrates that combining machine learning–based anomaly detection with end-to-end encryption significantly enhances financial transaction security.

Key advantages:

- Real-time anomaly detection
- Strong confidentiality guarantees
- Regulatory compliance support
- Scalable architecture

Limitations include:

- Computational cost of encryption at scale
- Model retraining requirements
- Potential adversarial machine learning risks

Future research should investigate adversarial robustness techniques and lightweight cryptographic methods to further optimize performance.

7. Conclusion

This study presents an integrated framework for secure financial transactions using machine learning–based anomaly detection and end-to-end data encryption. Experimental results confirm that intelligent anomaly detection significantly improves fraud identification accuracy, while

encryption safeguards transaction confidentiality. The hybrid architecture provides a scalable and practical security model for modern FinTech infrastructures.

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