

Review Article

Current Research Trends in IoT Security: A Systematic Mapping Study

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The smart mobile Internet-of-things (IoT) network lays the foundation of the fourth industrial revolution, the era of hyper-connectivity, hyperintelligence, and hyperconvergence. As this revolution gains momentum, the security of smart mobile IoT networks becomes an essential research topic. This study aimed to provide comprehensive insights on IoT security. To this end, we conducted a systematic mapping study of the literature to identify evolving trends in IoT security and determine research subjects. We reviewed the literature from January 2009 to August 2020 to identify influential researchers and trends of keywords. We additionally performed structural topic modeling to identify current research topics and the most promising ones via topic trend estimation. We synthesized and interpreted the results of the systematic mapping study to devise future research directions. The results obtained from this study are useful to understand current trends in IoT security and provide insights into research and development of IoT security.

1. Introduction

The era of hyper-connectivity, hyper-intelligence, and hyper-convergence established by the fourth industrial revolution is continuing in earnest as smart mobile Internet-of-things (M-IoT) environments are developing. The Internet of things (IoT) establishes a new networking paradigm in which various devices (e.g., network devices, sensors, and actuators) become essential elements for communication. Various objects can be considered as “smart” because they are equipped with microprocessors and network transceivers, enabling communication and the provision of autonomous services. IoT is a promising field of research related to building device networks connected to the Internet and promotes smart environments. IoT is associated with many research areas and new computing paradigms. The M-IoT cloud-computing domain, which lies at the intersection of the cloud, mobile, and IoT domains, provides new paradigms of fog computing, edge computing, mobile-edge computing (MEC), the semantic web of things, and mobile crowdsensing. Elazhary [1] summarized various related concepts. The Internet of mobile

things (i.e., M-IoT) is a special case of IoT concerned with mobile IoT devices. Such devices include smartphones, vehicles, and wearable devices [2]. The IoT paradigm is also evolving into smart M-IoT devices, which in turn provide smart services and computing functions.

IoT-based smart systems and services are being developed in various fields, such as home automation, energy management, healthcare, and financial transaction management [3–6]. It is also branching into new domains, such as social IoT, in which smart objects are transformed into social objects; industrial IoT, which converges with different industries; smart-wearable IoT, which combines deep learning and wearable technologies; and medical IoT, which is integrated with medical applications [3–6].

Smart M-IoT provides smart convergence services to users of IoT environments. Accordingly, many researchers in various fields are now involved with IoT development. For the continued spread and development of smart M-IoT, it is necessary to consider security, as the devices and platforms of smart M-IoT mainly remain threatened [7]. The emphasis

on security will increase, and both consolidated and new researchers need understanding and insights on IoT security.

The remainder of this paper is organized as follows. Section 2 discusses related work about the study on IoT topics and trends. Section 3 describes the conducted systematic mapping study on IoT security. Section 4 discusses the main findings. Influential authors are identified in Section 4.1, and keyword-based clusters and keyword trends are presented in Section 4.2. Research topics related to IoT security are categorized in Section 4.3, and the trend of topics is discussed in Section 4.4. Section 4.5 provides future perspectives by synthesizing the keyword and topic trends. Finally, conclusions are drawn in Section 5.

2. Related Work

2.1. Research Methodology. One of the first challenges before conducting research in any field of study is identifying relevant previous studies and establishing the need for new research [8]. Secondary research analyzes existing studies (primary research) and seeks to provide relevant insights to researchers and guide the design of future research. Secondary research methodologies include the review, systematic literature review (SLR), and systematic mapping study.

In the review or survey, researchers select important literature according to their expertise. Then, they synthesize and organize the contents. The review provides new understanding and insights about the content through in-depth content comparison analyses. However, as the content should be analyzed closely, there is a limit to the number of documents that can be included in the study due to time and cost constraints [8, 9].

The SLR applies an explicit and systematic protocol for collecting, selecting, and analyzing research literature [10]. It provides quantitative and statistical insights on the subject by analyzing primary studies to answer research questions while providing aggregate result data [11]. Therefore, SLRs can be performed with studies that can quantitatively extract information meeting the aggregation criteria.

The relatively recently developed systematic mapping study is a more open form of SLR, which aims to organize a research area [9]. This method uses the same protocol as the SLR to find and select research literature. Unlike the SLR, the systematic mapping study classifies subfields of a research area [11, 12] and focuses on identifying and classifying themes by collecting as many studies as possible [13]. The categories used are generally based on publication information (e.g., author name, author affiliation, publication source, publication type, and publication date) and/or information about the adopted research method [13]. A systematic mapping study is sometimes conducted as a preliminary study before the SLR [14, 15]. It classifies subject areas and identifies those requiring detailed content comparisons. Research on text mining and visualization tools that can be used to efficiently perform this type of analysis is ongoing [14, 16, 17]. Petersen et al. [9, 15] noted that performing a systematic mapping study before an SLR provided valuable research design criteria. Kitchenham et al.

[13, 18] stated that systematic mapping can provide input data for subsequent studies. In other words, systematic mapping reduces the preparation time for subsequent research. In addition, it provides an overview of research areas and identifies research gaps. Moreover, it helps in identifying research trends and educational materials.

2.2. Comparison with Related Reviews. To better understand existing secondary research related to IoT, Scopus articles classified as “review” between January 2012 and October 2020 were collected, obtaining 472 review articles. These articles were then further categorized into labels “IoT security review,” “IoT application review,” or “IoT review,” as shown in Figure 1.

Reviews related to IoT have been increasing rapidly since 2018. IoT applications including smart cities [19, 20], smart health [21, 22], smart agriculture [23, 24], and smart vehicles [25, 26] were the most frequently reviewed. In 2020, IoT security reviews were more numerous than IoT reviews. Note that we did not classify articles that have partially discussed security under label “IoT security review.” Instead, we classified the articles that exclusively focus on security under this label. Table 1 compares recent reviews on IoT security from 2017 to 2020 in terms of methodology. Most of these reviews synthesized and organized contents using a review/survey method. From them, articles similar to our study are listed in Table 2.

Existing studies have some limitations. Alaba et al. [27] focused on the classification of security threats but did not cover the overall contents and did not discuss new technologies, such as machine learning (ML). Mendez Mena et al. [28] focused on IoT architectures but did not consider applications. Obaidat et al. [32] aimed to comprehensively cover IoT security but omitted related applications. In contrast, Hassija et al. [29] did not cover IoT as a whole, focusing only on applications. Hameed et al. [31] did not deal with trust as a security requirement. The major limitation of the abovementioned reviews is that they fail to provide research trends.

Sharma et al. [7] dealt with the most recent paradigm in depth, focusing on smart M-IoT, and provided a roadmap for related surveys. However, it was not a study focused on providing early insights to researchers entering from other fields. Macedo et al. [30] focused on providing insights and research trends using an SLR, but they omitted privacy. In addition, they only selected 131 articles for review. Most of the review studies not listed in Table 2 focused on specific areas of IoT security, such as layer protocols [33], intrusion detection [34], device security [35, 36], trust [37], and security of specific IoT applications [38]. Thus, a systematic mapping study is still required to determine research topics and trends in IoT security and gain insights on this field.

2.3. Contributions of This Study. For the transition to a secure, smart M-IoT, we should understand the available resources on IoT security. We aimed to provide researchers interested in IoT research with early insights on IoT security by conducting a systematic mapping study. To the best of our

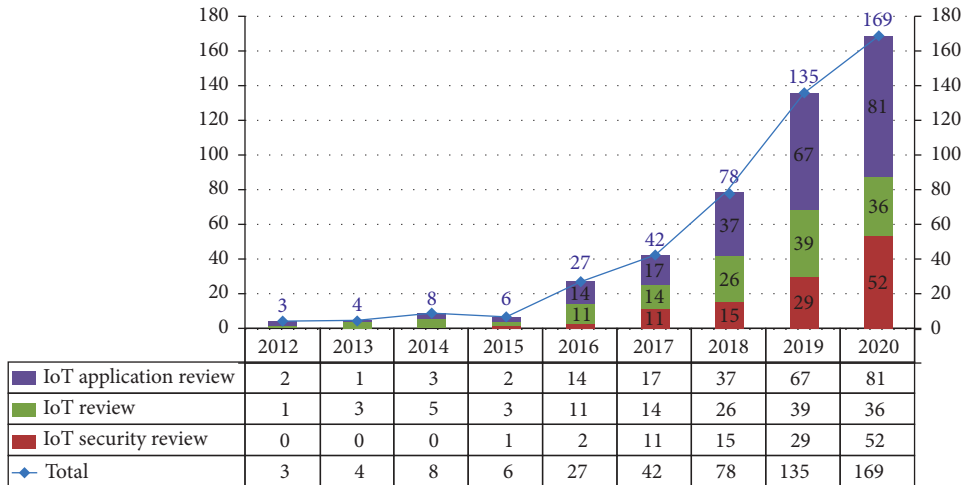


FIGURE 1: Trends in IoT-related review articles.

TABLE 1: Comparison of methodology used in IoT security review articles from 2017 to 2020.

Methodology	2017	2018	2019	2020
Review/Survey	11	15	25	47
SLR	0	0	4	5
Systematic mapping study	0	0	0	0

knowledge, no such studies focused on IoT security are available. We applied big data mining tools to large volumes of literature for the systematic mapping study, which is thus unbiased and replicable. We classify research on IoT security based on keywords and topics. We also explain trends and provide new understanding about keyword evolution and promising research topics. The results from this study may be used by lecturers to teach the overview, main topics, and trends related to IoT security. In addition, a qualitative content analysis provides future research directions.

In this study, we also demonstrated the application of big data mining to a systematic mapping study. The methods and findings reported in this paper may provide research opportunities by improving the overall understanding of IoT security and its research trends. In addition, the results of this study can be useful to researchers in other fields who intend to investigate IoT convergence.

3. Methods

In this study, we conducted a systematic mapping study of current research related to IoT security by mixing quantitative and qualitative approaches. The quantitative approach involves collecting literature on IoT security and conducting a systematic mapping study to identify influential researchers and concurrent keywords. We then classify the topics using an ML-based structural topic model (STM). Next, we perform qualitative content analysis to devise future research directions by synthesizing and discussing the

latest keyword and topic trends. Our research aims to answer the following research questions:

- RQ1. Who are influential researchers in IoT security?
- RQ2. What are the major keywords in IoT security?
- RQ2-1. What is the keyword-based research area?
- RQ2-2. How are keywords evolving?
- RQ3. What are the topics in IoT security field?
- RQ3-1. What is topic-based research classification?
- RQ3-2. What is the trend of topics?
- RQ4. What are the most influential keywords in IoT security?
- RQ5. What are promising research topics in IoT security?

Figure 2 shows the research framework that we used to understand the current status and trends in IoT security.

We selected studies according to PRISMA (Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses) [8]. We adopted a review protocol consisting of search terms, resources to be searched, study selection criteria, and study selection procedures, as listed in Table 3. We used Boolean operator AND to combine IoT and security-related terms (e.g., “secure,” “security,” “privacy,” and “trust”). We filtered the data based on the document type (e.g., “article”), source (e.g., “journal”), and language (e.g., “English”). The main research question and review protocols are listed in Table 3. Our literature search was conducted using 1,365 studies published from January 2009 to August 2020. Unlike existing review studies, we analyzed a large volume of articles to obtain comprehensive insights. To process that large volume, we used big data mining tools.

3.1. Bibliometric Mapping Study on IoT Security. In recent years, bibliometric analyses, co-citation network analyses, and keyword co-occurrence network analyses have been widely

TABLE 2: Comparison with related review articles.

Article	Adopted methodology	Main focus	Contribution/impact
Alaba et al. [27]	Review	IoT security threats and vulnerabilities	(i) Classification of security threats in the context of applications, architecture, communication, and data (ii) Attack analysis for security scenarios
Mendez Mena et al. [28]	Review	Security from the perspective of IoT architecture	(i) IoT architecture technology and protocol review by layer (ii) Review of privacy issues (iii) Summarize ongoing security issues of IoT
Hassija et al. [29]	Review	Security of IoT application	(i) IoT application security related issues and threat sources review (ii) Discussion of technology to increase trust in IoT applications (iii) Discussion of the latest technology to increase the level of security
Macedo et al. [30]	SLR	IoT security overall	(i) Review of literature over the last 8 years to identify security issues and trends in terms of authentication, access control, data protection, and trust (ii) Review privacy, lightweight encryption framework, security routing, internal attack detection, and resilience management as security requirements
Hameed et al. [31]	Review	Requirements of IoT security	(i) Explain the latest technology for resilience management and detection of internal attacks (ii) Comprehensive investigation of security, privacy, security frameworks, technologies, threats, vulnerabilities, and countermeasures.
Obaidat et al. [32]	Review	IoT security overall	(i) Classification of the impact of attacks according to -NIST's FIPS 199 definitions (ii) The first survey discussing the security of smart M-IoT
Sharma et al. [7]	Review	Security, privacy, and trust in smart M-IoT	(i) Describe the security framework of smart M-IoT and conduct an in-depth investigation in terms of security, privacy, and trust to provide research tasks, unresolved issues, and research directions (ii) Classify large-volume literature related to IoT security from 2009 to the present
Our study	Systematic mapping study	IoT security overall	(i) Discussion of research trends through co-occurrence keyword mapping (ii) Discussion of research trends through topic mapping (iii) Provide future research direction

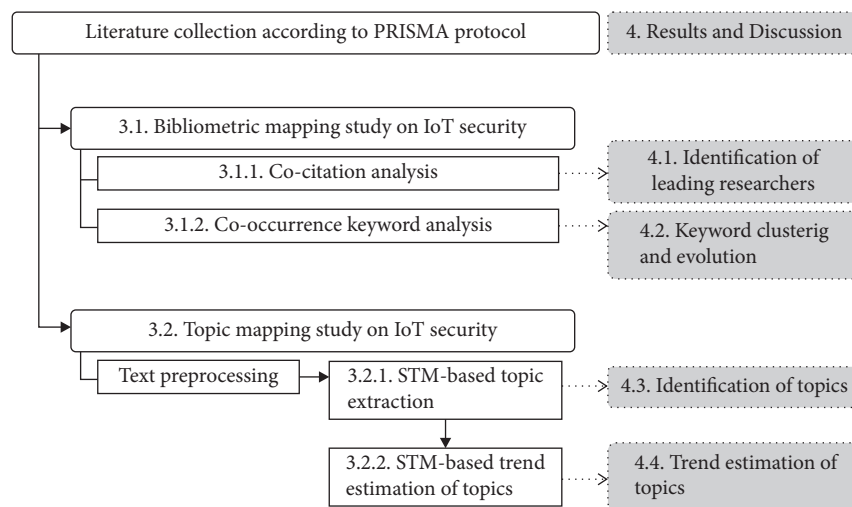


FIGURE 2: Research framework adopted in this study.

used to determine research trends [39–41]. Co-citation network analysis determines the structure of scientific communications by analyzing the associations among citations.

Co-occurrence keyword network analysis allows to understand the knowledge structure underlying a technical field by analyzing links between keywords found in the literature.

TABLE 3: Research question and review protocol.

Research goal	What are the research trends in IoT security?	
	Search terms	(“IoT” OR “Internet of things”) AND (“secure” OR “security” OR “privacy” OR “trust”) in title
	Resources	Scopus
Review protocol	Study selection criteria	Journal articles written in English
	Study selection procedures	Two researchers searched the databases and checked each other’s work.
	No. of studies satisfying criteria	1,528
	Duplication	-2
	Unavailable abstract	-13
Study filtering	Unavailable author keywords	-148
	No. of studies after filtering	1,365

Radhakrishnan et al. [41] demonstrated the role of keyword co-occurrence networks in systematic reviews. In this current study, we conducted co-citation and co-occurrence keyword mapping studies to provide answers to RQ1 and RQ2.

3.1.1. Co-Citation Network Analysis to Identify Authors of IoT Security Research. By analyzing the co-citations of studies on IoT security, we can identify influential researchers and understand the research flow [42–44], and then we can answer RQ1. We performed author clustering by the relevance obtained from direct citation relationships. We used the quality function proposed by Traag et al. [45] and modified by Waltman and Van Eck [42] for clustering. The quality function is given by

$$Q(x_1, \dots, x_n) = \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{j=1}^n \delta(x_i, x_j) \left(a_{ij} - \frac{\gamma}{2n} \right), \quad (1)$$

where n is the number of studies, a_{ij} measures the relation between studies i and j , γ is a resolution parameter, and x_i denotes the cluster to which study i is assigned. Function $\delta(x_i, x_j)$ is 1 if $x_i = x_j$ and 0 otherwise. The relation between studies i and j is measured as follows:

$$a_{ij} = \frac{c_{ij}}{\sum_{k=1}^n c_{ik}}. \quad (2)$$

In equation (2), if study i cites study j or vice versa, c_{ij} is 1, whereas it is 0 otherwise. Hence, if there is no direct citation relation between studies i and j , the relation measure, c_{ij} , is zero.

We used the CitNetExplorer tool for citation analysis [46] and set resolution parameter γ to 1 and the number of parameter optimization iterations to 10.

3.1.2. Co-Occurrence Keyword Network Analysis to Map Keyword Evolution on IoT Security. Keyword co-occurrence analysis is commonly used to determine research trends, and it has been used to conduct a systematic literature review in [41]. We adopted the method proposed by Van Eck and Waltman [47] to construct and analyze a co-occurrence keyword network that answers RQ2 and RQ4.

We performed co-occurrence analysis on keywords collected from different studies. A keyword may appear in various forms (e.g., “blockchain,” “blockchain,”

“blockchain,” or “blockchains”). Therefore, after arranging a thesaurus, we applied it and grouped the keywords with the same meaning to then create a keyword co-occurrence matrix. Next, we generated a similarity matrix normalized according to the association strength of the keyword co-occurrence matrix [48]. Similarity s_{ij} between items i and j according to the association strength is given by

$$s_{ij} = \frac{c_{ij}}{c_i c_j}, \quad (3)$$

where c_{ij} represents the number of co-occurrences of items i and j , and c_i and c_j represent the total number of occurrences of items i and j , respectively.

Next, we visualized the similarities based on the similarity matrix by constructing a 2D map [49], where item 1, ..., n is allocated such that the distance between any pair of items i and j reflects similarity s_{ij} as accurately as possible. Items with high similarity were grouped closely, and those with low similarity remained distant. Specifically, we minimized the weighted sum of the squared Euclidean distances between all pairs. The higher the similarity between the two items, the higher the weight of the squared distance in the sum. The objective function for minimization is given by

$$V(x_1, \dots, x_n) = \sum_{i < j} s_{ij} \|x_i - x_j\|^2, \quad (4)$$

where vector $x_i = (x_{i1}, x_{i2})$ represents the position of item i in the 2D map and $\|\cdot\|$ represents the Euclidean norm.

From bibliometric mapping, we obtained the nodes corresponding to the keywords in the co-occurrence network, link weight, total link strength, and occurrence weights. The link weight corresponds to the number of links per node, and the total link strength is the number of links from other nodes connected to a target node. In addition, the occurrence weight represents the frequency of keyword occurrence. We then performed clustering based on the mapping results according to the method proposed by Waltman et al. [49]. To improve clustering accuracy, we applied the smart local-moving algorithm developed by Waltman and Van Eck [50].

Finally, we used the VOSviewer tool to create and visualize the bibliometric map for keyword co-occurrence

network analysis [47]. We set the minimum number of occurrences of a keyword to 5 as a parameter in VOSviewer and set resolution γ to 1 with a minimum cluster size of 5. We consulted two IoT experts to analyze the clusters regarding the similarities of the co-occurrence keyword network.

3.2. Topic Mapping Study to Identify Topics in IoT Security.

Regarding RQ3 and RQ5, we conducted text mining to categorize research related to IoT security and identify its trends. Text mining, also known as knowledge discovery from text, relies on various text analyses and processes to extract meaningful information from unstructured text data using natural language processing [51, 52]. In this study, we conducted STM-based topic modeling.

3.2.1. STM-Based Topic Extraction to Classify Topics in IoT Security. Topic modeling is an unsupervised learning method to determine and classify topics underlying textual

data. The STM proposed by Roberts et al. [53] is a modified and extended version of the latent Dirichlet allocation, the most widely used topic modeling method. The STM determines the distribution of words constituting a topic based on the frequency of words in a document along with metadata (e.g., author's gender and age, publication year). The STM estimates the correlation between topics using the covariance matrix of the corresponding logistic normal distribution [53]. Figure 3 illustrates the STM, which can be divided into three components: a topic prevalence model that controls how words are allocated to topics as a function of covariates; a topical content model that controls the frequency of the terms in each topic as a function of the covariates; and a core language model [54].

According to Roberts et al. [53], given the number of topics (K), observed words and design matrices $\{w_{d,n}\}$, topic prevalence (X), topical content (Y), and K -dimensional hyperparameter vector (σ), data generation for document d can be modeled as

$$\gamma_k \sim \text{Normal}_p(0, \sigma_k^2 I_p), \quad \text{for } k = 1, \dots, K-1, \quad (5)$$

$$\theta_d \sim \text{LogisticNormal}_{K-1}(\Gamma' x'_d, \Sigma), \quad (6)$$

$$Z_{d,n} \sim \text{Multinomial}_K(\theta_d), \quad \text{for } n = 1, \dots, N_d, \quad (7)$$

$$W_{d,n} \sim \text{Multinomial}_V(\beta_{Z_{d,n}}) \quad \text{for } n = 1, \dots, N_d, \quad (8)$$

$$\beta_{d,k,v} = \frac{\exp(m_v + K_{k,v}^{(t)} + K_{y_d,v}^{(c)} + K_{y_d,k,v}^{(i)})}{\sum_v \exp(m_v + K_{k,v}^{(t)} + K_{y_d,v}^{(c)} + K_{y_d,k,v}^{(i)})}, \quad \text{for } v = 1, \dots, V \text{ and } k = 1, \dots, K, \quad (9)$$

where $\Gamma = [\gamma_1 \dots \gamma_K]$ is a $P \times (K-1)$ matrix of coefficients for the topic prevalence model specified by equations (5) and (6), and $\{K_{\dots}^{(t)}, K_{\dots}^{(c)}, K_{\dots}^{(i)}\}$ is a collection of coefficients for the topical content model specified by equation (9). Equations (7) and (8) constitute the core language model.

In topic extraction, it is essential to determine the optimal number of topics (K) for the STM [55, 56]. To this end, the STM provides useful indicators, with the most widely used being the held-out likelihood and semantic coherence. From Figure 4, as the number of topics gradually increases from 5 to 20, we can determine the point where both the held-out likelihood and semantic coherence have high values [56], obtaining 12 as the optimal number of topics.

To interpret the topics derived according to their optimal quantity in the STM, main words representing each topic can be analyzed. We selected the main words of a topic according to four criteria: highest probability, frequency and exclusivity, lift weight, and score. Highest probability words are the upper words in the topic-word distribution. Frequency and exclusivity words are those derived using the weighted harmonic mean of the word rank, which reflects

frequently used and exclusive words in a topic. Lift-weight words are derived by assigning high weights to less frequent words in other topics. The score is obtained by dividing the log frequency of a specific word in a specific topic by the log frequency of that word in other topics. To extract and analyze latent topics related to IoT security from the abstracts of the analyzed articles, we implemented the STM on the R software [55].

3.2.2. STM-Based Trend Estimation of Topics in IoT Security.

We identified hot topics with uptrends and cold topics with downtrends in IoT security. The trend of a topic was estimated by setting the publication year as the covariate for that topic.

4. Results and Discussion

4.1. Identification of Leading Researchers in IoT Security.

The results from the co-citation network analysis are shown in Figure 5. We analyzed and visualized the co-citation network using CitNetExplorer, obtaining 8 clusters of 52

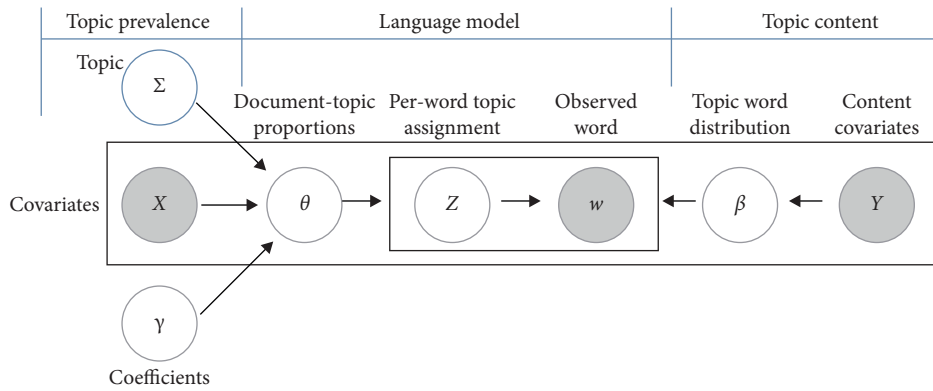


FIGURE 3: Diagram of STM concepts and processes.

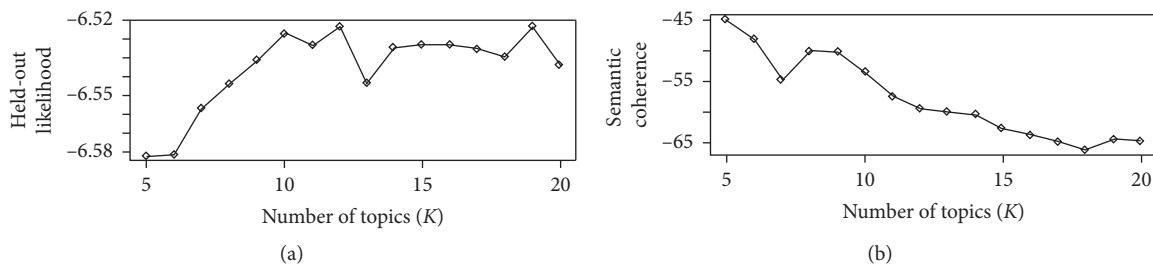


FIGURE 4: Diagnostic indicators to determine the optimal number of topics. (a) Held-out likelihood. (b) Semantic coherence.

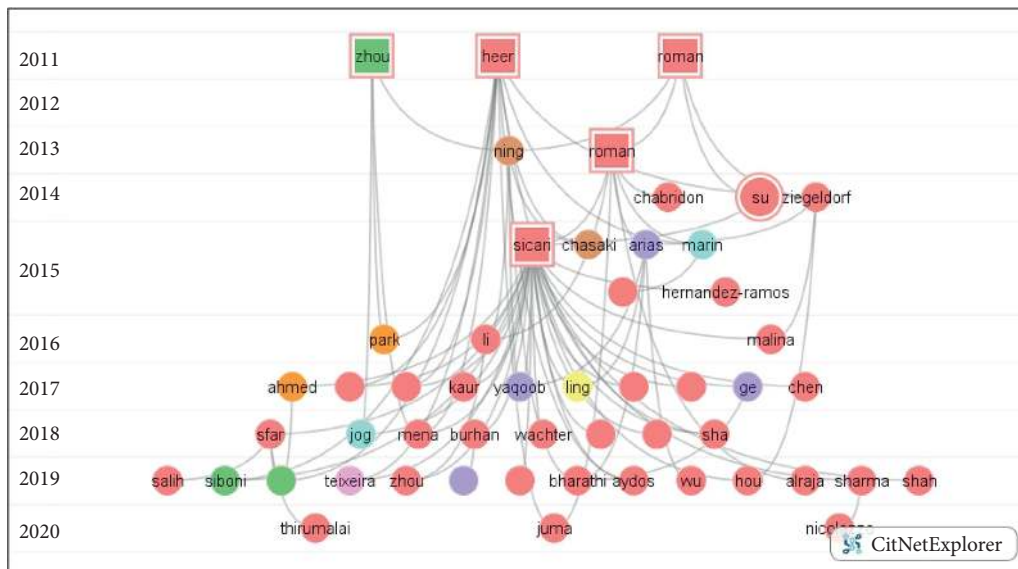


FIGURE 5: Co-citation network with the 52 most frequently cited publications grouped in 8 clusters (one color per cluster). The network was obtained using CitNetExplorer.

frequently cited publications. In the co-citation network, highly relevant clusters are located close together. Thus, the 8 clusters are closely related, as can be seen from the un-separated location of the nodes in the cluster. The articles on IoT security by Heer et al. [57] and Roman et al. [58] received high attention in the research community since 2011. The

study with the highest citation score was authored by Sicari et al. [59] and published in 2015.

4.2. Keyword Clustering and Evolution of Research on IoT Security. From the 3,142 keywords in the 1,365 studies, 147 were derived by setting the minimum number of

occurrences of a keyword to 5, and the keyword co-occurrence network analysis was performed on 146 keywords, excluding IoT, which was present in all the studies given its use with Boolean operation AND during the search.

Figure 6 shows the obtained keyword co-occurrence network with 10 clusters, and Table 4 summarizes the network and cluster information. In Figure 6, the node size is proportional to the number of occurrences of the corresponding keyword, and the link thickness is proportional to the weight of the links connecting the nodes. The node color represents the cluster containing that node.

The main keywords of cluster 1, represented by red nodes, are “sdn,” “machine learning,” “trust,” “attacks,” “ddos,” and “secure routing.” This cluster was summarized as the study on the introduction of artificial intelligence (e.g., ML and deep learning) to improve IoT security performance. There is increasing interest in research to improve security by introducing ML or deep learning to detect DDoS (distributed denial-of-service) attacks, malicious code, abnormal behavior, and abnormal energy consumption for IoT devices [60–66]. There was also a study aimed to ensure secure content-sharing in an IoT environment by applying ML to explore the social trust of smart device users [67, 68].

Cluster 2, represented by green nodes, consists of main keywords “ecc,” “encryption,” “cryptography,” “aes,” “energy efficiency,” and “lightweight cryptography.” This cluster is associated with lightweight encryption for resource-constrained IoT devices, such as those with a small size, limited computing power, and low-power consumption. Research on lightweight encryption algorithms has been conducted in relation to data and personal information security in a resource-limited environment of smart devices. The advanced encryption standard (AES) and error-correcting codes (ECC) are mainly used as basic lightweight encryption elements. Various studies have been aimed to optimize lightweight encryption while balancing security and performance management [69–76].

In cluster 3, represented by blue nodes, “privacy preservation,” “cloud computing,” “fog computing,” “edge computing,” “data privacy,” and “differential privacy” are the main keywords. This cluster can be summarized with the topic of privacy preservation in IoT devices. The crowdsensing mode of smart M-IoT, a new paradigm of IoT, collects and delivers more privacy data. Thus, privacy preservation is becoming more important [77–79]. In addition, intelligent IoT applications enhanced with cloud, edge, and fog computing increasingly deal with personal information to provide intelligent services, and many studies on personal information protection and data protection are being conducted [80–83]. Among the personal information protection approaches, differential privacy is gaining attention as a mechanism to provide intelligent services by grasping user behavior patterns without infringing on personal information by adding noise to prevent the identification of personal information [81, 84–88].

Cluster 4, represented by yellow nodes, consists of main keywords, “wsn,” “cps,” “coap,” “6lowpan,” “smart object,” and “sensor node.” This cluster is related to studies on secure communication of smart objects in wireless sensor networks

(WSNs). To transmit the information measured by sensor nodes in smart M-IoT, security is essential [89–91]. In this regard, studies on the use of IPSec/IPv6 and OpenSSL in virtual private networks have been performed to protect smart objects and provide end-to-end security [92]. The same is true for studies on end-to-end security framework development of the Constrained Application Protocol (CoAP) [93–95] and on frameworks in which smart-object users designate privacy preferences to protect personal information generated and consumed by smart objects [96]. Smart objects that have recently attracted attention are vehicles that are equipped with various sensor devices, actuators, GPS (global positioning system) receivers, and micro-embedded computers to collect, process, and transmit vast amounts of data [97, 98]. Vehicular sensor networks provide connected sensor devices that collect data and enable safer and more fluid road traffic [99]. The Internet-of-vehicles concept supports real-time vehicle-to-everything (V2X) wireless communication based on fog and edge computing [100–102]. Therefore, safe data transmission and privacy protection in vehicles, which are now smart objects, play an essential role in their development.

In cluster 5, represented by purple nodes, the main keywords are “key management,” “signcryption,” “elliptic curves,” and “digital signature.” This cluster is thus related to digital signcryption. Digital signature encryption has been investigated on algorithms, such as the elliptic curve digital-signature algorithm, digital-signature mobile applications, and digital-signature systems, to achieve document integrity and provide nonrepudiation security services in a distributed computing environment [103–107]. It is also important to satisfy reliability and confidentiality requirements of crowdsourced data [108, 109].

Cluster 6, represented by cyan nodes, comprises keywords “smart home,” “raspberry pi,” “arduino,” and “face detection.” This cluster can be described as building safe smart homes in an IoT environment. Wireless communications and sensor technologies, key components of IoT applications, are prerequisites for the security and confidentiality of smart homes [110, 111]. Before data transmission through the Session Initiation Protocol (SIP) in a home network, mutual safety verification should be conducted between devices to block advance devices that may cause risks. To this end, a secure trust relationship should be established between smart home devices, external smart devices, and other IoT devices [112–114]. A study has been conducted to design a secure IoT microcontroller module using the Raspberry Pi platform and various IoT sensors [115–117]. To achieve flexible device utilization, heterogeneous device interoperability, security enhancement of smart homes, and software-defined networks (SDN) have been applied [118, 119].

In cluster 7, represented by orange nodes, the main keywords are “privacy,” “healthcare,” “information security,” “e-health,” and “wban.” This cluster can be related to IoT-based healthcare system security. As medical information systems manage patient data, data security and privacy protection are important. In IoT-based healthcare, studies on encryption and authentication protocols for user

TABLE 4: Continued.

Cluster	Keywords	X	Y	Weight (occurrences)	Weight (links)	Weight (total link strength)
6	Sensor	0.465	-0.137	28	43	27
	Smart home	1.090	-0.013	27	26	23
	Raspberry Pi	1.378	-0.086	16	10	9
	Arduino	1.323	0.012	7	10	7
7	Privacy	0.163	-0.150	138	82	126
	Healthcare	0.514	0.553	20	22	17
	Information security	0.150	0.185	20	21	14
	E-health	0.660	0.484	10	20	10
8	Security	-0.052	-0.142	360	119	306
	Blockchain	-0.487	0.141	86	57	68
	Industrial IoT	-0.525	0.456	41	37	37
	Smart contract	-0.746	-0.022	7	11	7
9	Mutual authentication	0.157	0.673	19	25	17
	Key agreement	0.391	0.789	17	21	17
	BAN (Burrows-Abadi-Needham) logic	0.441	1.195	6	11	5
	User authentication	0.512	1.028	6	9	6
10	Smart city	0.295	-0.005	31	35	27
	Cybersecurity	0.306	-0.028	23	32	20
	Mobile edge computing	0.761	0.491	5	7	5
	Secure energy efficiency	0.750	0.536	5	5	5

Note. Column keywords contain the four most representative words (from most to least important) for each cluster. Columns X and Y indicate the coordinates in the corresponding axes of the keyword node on the network shown in Figure 6.

authentication [120–123] and data encryption for patient privacy protection [124–127] are relevant. Safe and efficient medical data retrieval is important for remote medical monitoring. Given the difficulty to collect medical data safely and efficiently owing to the resource limitations of IoT devices, various studies on providing medical services by combining IoT and edge clouds have been conducted [128, 129]. In addition, to collect data, aggregate them safely and efficiently, and transmit them to a server, a study has been conducted on a system leveraging fog computing [130, 131]. There is also a growing interest in introducing unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) as smart objects for collecting health data. In fact, UAVs can collect health data, encrypt them, and transmit them to authenticated body sensor hives using low-power secure communications [132].

In cluster 8, represented by brown nodes, the main keywords are “blockchain,” “iiot,” “safety,” “smart contract,” and “industry 4.0.” This cluster can be described as a blockchain applied to IoT applications. It is essential to ensure the integrity of data generated in IoT environments. In this regard, research on blockchain-based encryption has been conducted [133–136]. Trust relationships must be established between disparate entities in the IoT ecosystem [137]. An analysis on the combination of blockchain and trust evaluation technologies has been conducted accordingly [138, 139]. Regarding Industry 4.0, the interest in industrial IoT (IIoT) is increasing. In particular, blockchain-based smart contracts have been studied. In addition, blockchains that provide transaction transparency, immutability, auditability, and high security for IoT-based international trade have been proposed [140, 141]. In recent years, the interest in decentralized security mechanisms based on blockchain has increased regarding the storage of important data generated by IoT systems [142, 143].

Cluster 9, represented by pink nodes, consists of main keywords “authentication,” “rfid,” “mutual authentication,” “key agreement,” and “user authentication.” This cluster is thus related to multiple forms of authentication. Smart M-IoT environments establish networks that provide smart services based on user information. Therefore, the privacy of users and the confidentiality of sensitive data must be guaranteed. Device authentication, radio-frequency identification (RFID), and user authentication are security functions that must be provided in any IoT environment [144–151].

Cluster 10, represented by coral-pink nodes, has main keywords “smart city,” “pls,” “cybersecurity,” “middleware,” and “mobile-edge computing.” This cluster can be summarized by security related to IoT-based smart cities. A smart city is an IoT application that manages a city with minimal or without human intervention and provides smart services. Beyond the smart home, it connects all sensors and smart objects at the city level to provide real-time smart services. Therefore, research on the protection of citizens’ personal information [152–154], management of IoT devices in heterogeneous device network environments [155, 156], and integrated security solutions considering the entire security stack [157, 158] has been conducted.

We also conducted a co-occurrence keyword network considering the year of publication to find answer RQ2-2. Figure 7 shows the obtained network with temporal information (publication year) encoded as a color map. Until 2017, there were many keywords related to networks, such as “6lowpan,” “dtls,” “m2m communications,” “ips,” “rfid,” “sensor networks,” and “middleware.” During the first half of 2018, many studies included keywords related to the security of data delivered over IoT applications, such as “privacy preservation,” “authentication,” and “data

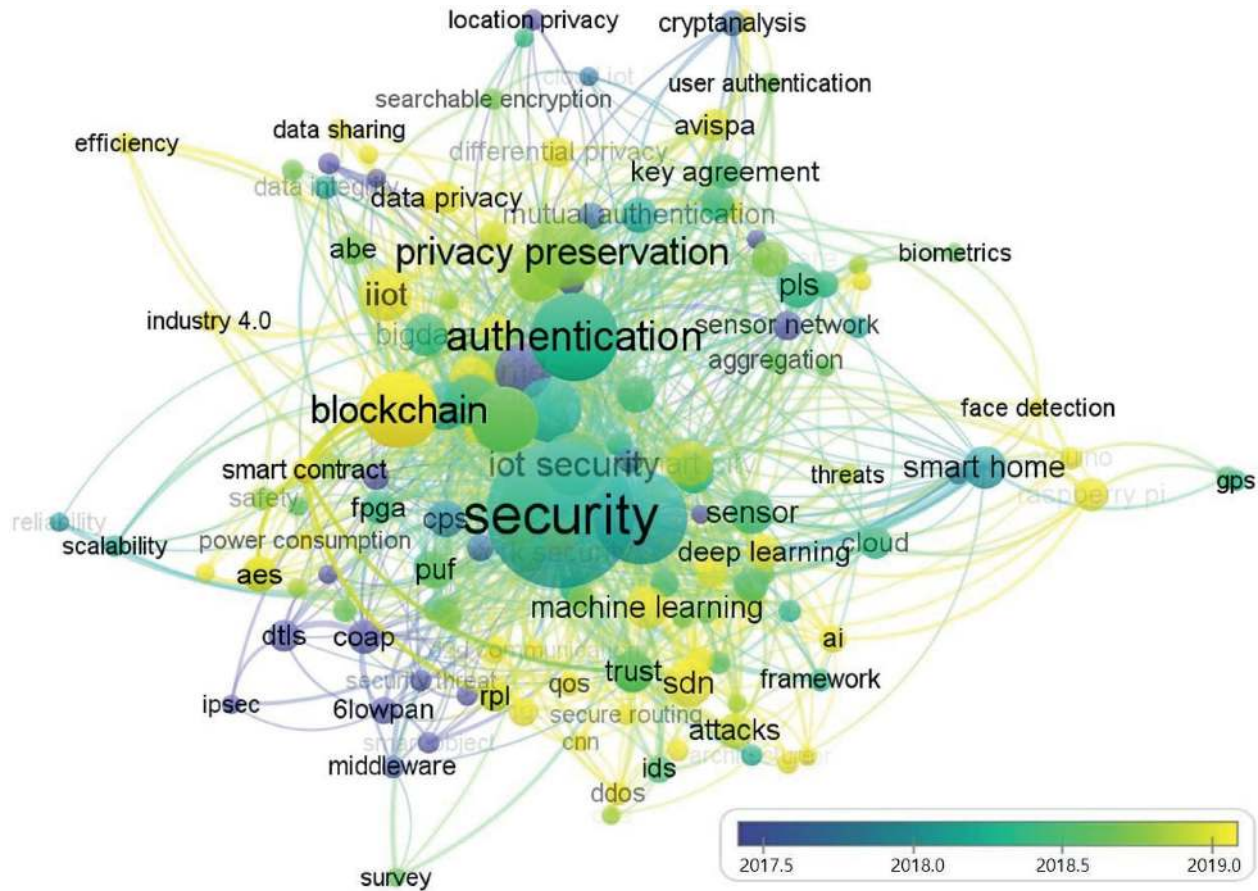


FIGURE 7: Keyword co-occurrence network reflecting temporal evolution. The network was obtained using VOSviewer.

integrity.” During the second half of 2018, keywords, such as “trust,” “fog computing,” “healthcare,” and “smart city,” were prevalent. Since 2019, keywords related to the convergence of new technologies in the Industry 4.0 and other fields, such as “blockchain,” “software-defined networking,” “iiot,” “machine learning,” “deep learning,” and “social iot,” have become predominant.

4.3. *Identification of Topics in IoT Security.* Information about the identified topics is summarized in Table 5. For each topic, 10 top words were considered under four criteria: highest probability, frequency and exclusivity, lift weight, and score. The three most meaningful keywords per criterion are included in Table 5. We also created a label explaining each topic by analyzing the five studies with the highest proportion of contents related to that topic and containing its top words. We discussed with two IoT experts the selection of the top words and topic labels.

Topic 1 is related to understanding the characteristics of IoT across a variety of aspects and the analysis and discussion of security issues and solutions for the layers of IoT networks [159–169].

Topic 2 is related to encryption and authentication for securely sharing data in an IoT-based healthcare environment considering detailed access control. With the spread of

IoT applications, smart health is becoming an attractive paradigm. As it deals with user information and sensitive medical information, the security and mutual authentication of medical sensor devices for personal information protection, encryption, and real-time monitoring are key elements [125, 170–181].

Topic 3 is related to secure and lightweight encryption designs tailored for IoT applications. Lightweight encryption with low processing time and low power consumption is required to protect and secure data transmissions of resource-constrained IoT devices. Block encryption, such as AES and S-box, Galois Counter Mode, and physical unclonable functions, are being utilized, evaluated, and proposed [70, 72, 73, 182–188].

Topic 4 is related to security using ML. Considering the heterogeneity of IoT networks and devices, it has become more common for SDN technologies to be integrated into IoT applications to form flexible and manageable architecture. When a network attack occurs in an SDN, ML can be introduced as a detection technology to dynamically control and route the communication flow. Recently, studies using ML to detect and automatically respond to DDoS attacks, abnormal patterns, and data leaks against IoT networks and devices have increased [60, 189–199].

Topic 5 is related to risk assessment and prioritization of IoT security threats. For a secure IoT environment, various

TABLE 5: STM-based topic extraction results and top words per topic according to four criteria.

Topic (proportions)	Top words				Topic label
	Highest probability	Frequency and exclusivity	Lift weight	Score	
1 (15%)	Security Issue Challenge	Discuss Issue Challenge	Attitude Society Taxonomy	Layer Security WSN	IoT security issues
2 (9%)	Data Access Encrypt	Patient Medical Healthcare	Biometric Ciphertext-policy CP-ABE (Ciphertext-policy attribute-based encryption)	Patient Medical Signature	Secure data sharing for healthcare
3 (6.5%)	Algorithm Encrypt	PUF (Physical unclonable function) FPGA (field programmable gate array)	Scalar Simeck	PUF S-box (substitution-box)	Lightweight encryption
4 (7.6%)	Power Device Attack Detect Model	S-box SDN Learning Intrusion Risk	AES-GCM (advanced encryption standard-Galois counter mode) OpenFlow SDN-IoT Cyber-attack	FPGA Detect Attack SDN	Security with ML
5 (9%)	Develop Risk Authentication Protocol	Assess Measure Mutual	ANP (analytic network process) Casual Diagram BAN	Workforce Risk Assess Authentication Protocol	Risk assessment Mutual authentication protocol
6 (8.5%)	Attack Cloud Edge Fog Node	Protocol Edge Eavesdropping Fog Rout	PMIPv6 (Proxy mobile IPv6) AVISPA (automated validation of Internet security protocols) Colluding SSR (secrecy sum rate) Tensor-based Acyclic	Mutual Fog Eavesdropping Offload Rout	MEC security
7 (7.4%)	Energy	RPL (routing protocol for low-power and lossy networks)	Leach	Energy	Energy-efficient routing protocol
8 (8%)	Rout Sensor Control Home Smart	Cluster Camera Arduino Raspberry City	RPL Burglar Caution Diabetes Commerce	Cluster Arduino Camera Gadget Blockchain	Secure home automation system
9 (6.5%)	Blockchain Home Privacy User Collect	Blockchain Smart Privacy Preserving User	Campus Cart Cyber-physics Mile Participant	Smart City Privacy Preserving Data	Integration of blockchain and IoT Privacy preservation
10 (6%)	Privacy User Collect	Privacy Preserving User	Cyber-physics Mile Participant	Privacy Preserving Data	Privacy preservation
11 (8.5%)	Device Protocol Key	DTLS (datagram transport layer security) CoAP End-end	EDHOC (ephemeral Diffie-Hellman over common open software environment) Rekey AEAD (authenticated encryption with associated data)	DTLS TLS CoAP	End-to-end security
12 (8%)					

studies have prioritized security threats by applying approaches such as product-development life cycle, decision-making trial-and-evaluation laboratory, analytic network processing, and graph theory to develop risk assessment and management frameworks [200–207].

Topic 6 corresponds to research on the development of user mutual authentication protocols for social IoT, IoT-based Long-Term Evolution (LTE), LTE-advanced networks, WSNs, and NFC (near-field communication)

payment systems [144, 208–218]. In addition, the verification of authentication protocols using software tools, such as BAN and AVISPA, has gained popularity [213, 214, 217, 219–221]. Recently, the target of authentication has gained attention for mobile smart objects, such as drones and vehicles [219, 221, 222].

Topic 7 is related to MEC security. MEC integrated with IoT applications offload computationally intensive tasks at the network edge. As the edges are susceptible to cyber

threats, there is a growing interest in their security. The main related studies include areas such as personal information protection and secure data collection, and transmission for MEC-supported IoT applications [223–241].

Topic 8 is related to the development of energy-efficient routing protocols that minimize the transmission power for routing between nodes in IoT networks. For instance, a routing protocol for low-power and lossy networks (RPL), a protocol for low-power and low-loss networks, and corresponding security methods have been developed [242–253].

Topic 9 is related to secure home automation systems toward automation, safety, and security through the control of home appliances and sensors. Research on this subject has two main subtopics. The first subtopic is related to security against cyberattacks in the home network [112, 254–259], and the second one is related to home automation providing safety against external physical intrusion [260–266].

Topic 10 is related to the adoption of blockchain in smart-IoT applications, such as smart contracts, smart inventory management, smart e-commerce, and smart shopping systems [140, 155, 267–279].

Topic 11 concerns privacy decisions and privacy preservation in the value chain of IoT data in environments where IoT devices collect personal data and forward them to third parties. Research on this subject has two main subtopics. The first subtopic is related to personal information security [280–283]. The second subtopic is related to the data value chain, including information related to the owner's perception of privacy protection and the right to make decisions about personal information protection [96, 284–287].

Topic 12 includes studies on transport protocols for end-to-end security [288–290]. To achieve end-to-end secure communication between an IoT back end and resource-limited smart things, various studies on communication protocols such as DTLS and CoAP [291, 292] and key setting protocols such as EDHOC have been conducted [293, 294].

4.4. Trend Estimation of Topics in IoT Security. To answer RQ5, we estimated the trends over time for each topic by setting the year as a covariate, obtaining the results shown in Figure 8. Topics with an upward trend (increasing influence) are topics 4 (security through ML), 7 (MEC security), 8 (energy-efficient routing protocols), and 10 (blockchain and IoT integration). On the other hand, topics 1 (IoT security issues), 5 (risk assessment), 6 (mutual authentication protocol), and 12 (end-to-end security) show a decreasing trend.

4.5. Challenges and Future Perspectives. We identify the evolution of keywords in Section 4.2. Figure 9 shows the part of Figure 6 containing the keywords (colored nodes) of clusters closely related to “blockchain,” which is the core of keyword evolution, as identified in Figure 7.

In Figure 9, “blockchain” is connected to “machine learning,” “deep learning,” “ai,” and “sdn” at the bottom-right area. Thus, there is a relation to topic 4. Node “edge computing” shown above “blockchain” can be linked to topic 7. In addition, “efficiency,” which is connected to the

upper-left area of “blockchain,” and “rpl,” which is connected at the bottom of the center area, can be related to topic 8. These results indicate that the trends obtained from keywords and topics suitably agree. Based on the analyzed studies and discussions, we summarize below challenges and future perspectives related to secure distributed smart M-IoT applications.

4.5.1. Secure Distributed Framework for Smart M-IoT Applications. Various studies on the integration of SDN, fog and edge computing, and blockchain have been conducted aiming to improve the security of IoT applications [270, 275, 276, 278, 295–302].

Medhane et al. [295] proposed a blockchain-enabled distributed security framework for next-generation IoT applications by implementing an edge cloud security framework using an SDN. The proposed framework consists of an IoT device layer, an edge cloud layer, and a blockchain-enabled SDN. Gateway nodes in the edge cloud layer act as access points for the distributed SDN and quickly detect attacks by analyzing real-time data received from IoT devices. All roaming IoT devices and SDN servers share data through blockchain technology. The proposed security framework shows improved results in terms of packet delivery rate, throughput, and delay compared with frameworks without blockchain, edge cloud, and SDN. The framework is also effective for data confidentiality, integrity, and availability. However, energy consumption has increased.

The blockchain-based decentralized security architecture proposed by Rathore et al. [298] is a layered model consisting of sensing, edge computing, fog computing, and cloud layers. The sensing layer comprises many smart devices and widely distributed sensing nodes that monitor various environments and activities in public infrastructure. The edge computing layer consists of low-power high-performance SDN switches at the edge of the network. Each SDN switch at the edge computing layer connects to multiple sensors, and the switch processes and analyzes the data traffic of sensors. The fog computing layer with several SDN controllers is connected to the SDN switch cluster at the edge computing layer and analyzes the processed data. The SDN controller of a fog computing node consists of four components: traffic flow analyzer, traffic flow classifier, blockchain-based attack detection module, and attack mitigation module. Learning attack detection in the fog computing layer can be distributed to reduce the computational overhead and provide a fast response through simultaneous computations. Moreover, the fog computing layer transmits the traffic analysis results to the cloud layer. This decentralized architecture improves the attack detection performance by dynamically updating the attack detection model of each fog computing node using blockchain technology. It also prevents single points of failure inherent to centralized architecture. However, there is an overhead for blockchain operations.

It remains necessary to develop a secure distributed IoT framework that integrates fog and edge computing, ML-

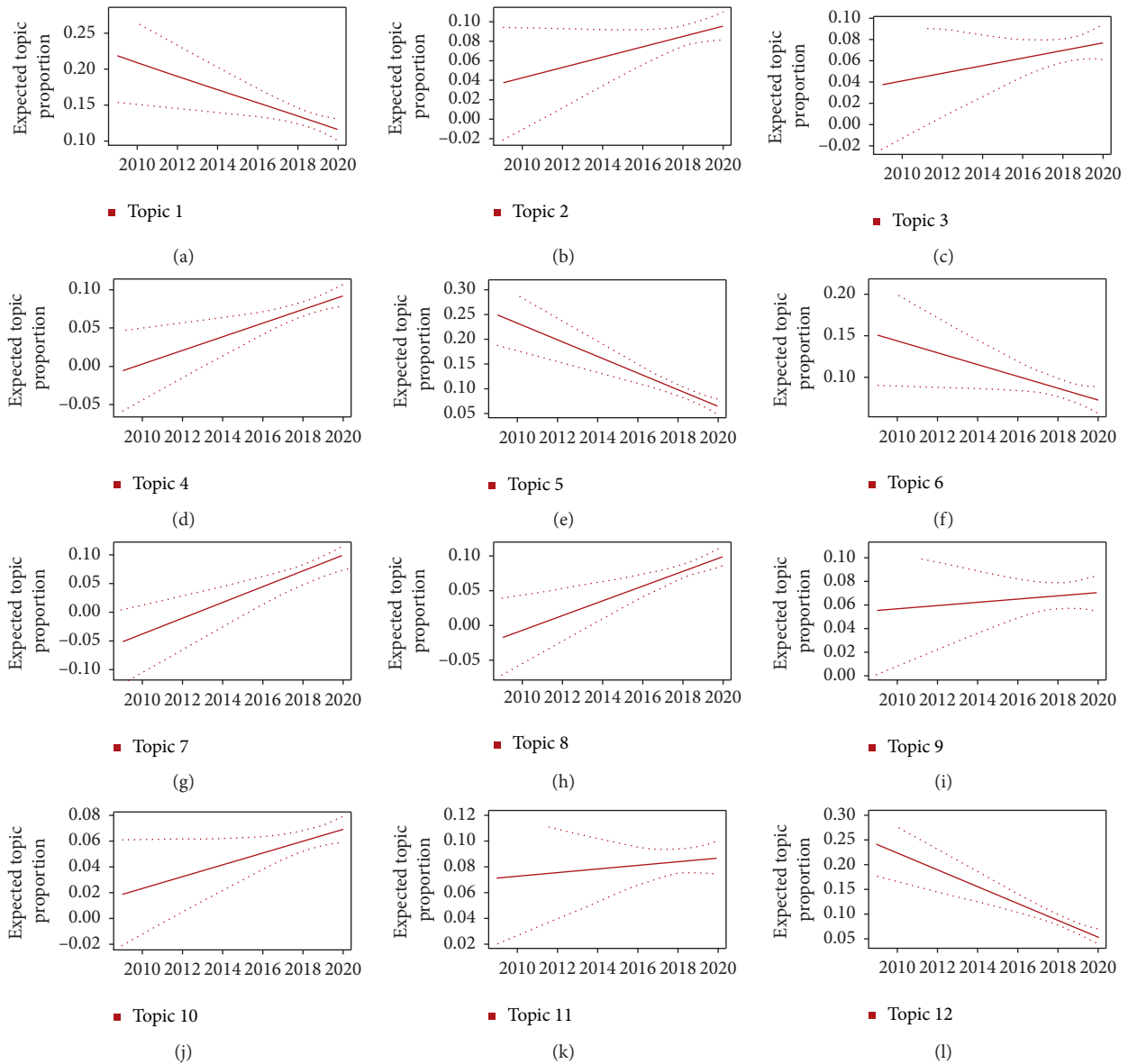


FIGURE 8: Topic trend estimation over time. We set the covariate to year and estimated the trends based on the change in the proportion of studies on each topic over time.

based SDN, and blockchain technology. Using fog and edge computing, the fog computing layer must analyze malicious traffic flows using ML algorithms to construct an intelligent attack detection model and dynamically update and manage traffic rules at edge computing nodes. This way, an ML-based SDN controller can enable fast attack detection. In addition, data privacy at the fog node level must be considered. The decentralized nature of blockchain supports secure distributed computing through the distributed trust concept. IoT devices and SDN servers can safely share data using blockchain [270, 295–298]. Therefore, a secure and energy-efficient blockchain-enabled architecture of ML-based SDN controllers for IoT networks is still required [303]. As new devices and applications are connected to IoT applications over time, unknown attacks can be developed. ML-based security is important to detect unknown attacks and respond

properly in real time. In addition, in a secure distributed framework, IoT devices with limited resources can support routing protocols with high throughput, low latency, and low energy consumption. Thus, it remains necessary to develop a blockchain-based lightweight security protocol [281, 303].

4.5.2. Smart Objects in Smart M-IoT Applications. IoT devices can detect valuable data to build many intelligent applications. In addition, they can make important decisions to control their surroundings. Several IoT applications rely on end-to-end security between IoT devices and the cloud. However, realizing end-to-end security in IoT applications is difficult due to the wide variety of devices. In addition, most IoT devices have limited resources and cannot support heavy

than previous studies. Our study provides IoT security keyword clusters, keyword trends, topic classification, and topic trends to interested researchers. Then, we synthesize and explain keyword evolution and topics with increasing influence. We recommend pursuing research on the development of a secure decentralized framework integrating edge computing, ML-based SDN, and blockchain, as well as research on vehicles and UAVs as smart M-IoT objects.

Our research has various limitations. For instance, when collecting articles to be analyzed, a keyword search was performed on the article titles. Therefore, articles implicitly related to IoT security may be omitted from this study. Nevertheless, our study provides new researchers with comprehensive initial insights on the security required for smart M-IoT. In addition, this study has demonstrated the application of a method to perform a systematic mapping study using big data mining to process many documents. This method can be applied to systematic reviews in other fields.

Data Availability

The list of the 1,365 research articles used in this study is available upon request to the corresponding author, at j.ann.lee@yonsei.ac.kr.

Conflicts of Interest

The authors declare that there are no conflicts of interest regarding the publication of this paper.

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