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# Cybersecurity Knowledge Graph Improvement with Graph Neural Networks

Soham Dasgupta\*, Aritran Piplai†, Priyanka Ranade†, Anupam Joshi†

\* Mallya Aditi International School

Email: sohamdasgupta91@gmail.com

†Dept. of Computer Science & Electrical Engineering, University of Maryland, Baltimore County,

Email: {apiplai1, priyankaranade, joshi}@umbc.edu

**Abstract**—Cybersecurity Knowledge Graphs (CKGs) help in aggregating information about cyber-events. CKGs combined with reasoning and querying systems such as SPARQL enable security researchers to look up information about past cyber-events that is helpful in understanding future cyber-events or drawing similarity with a known cyber-event recorded in a CKG. CKGs have assertions in the form of semantic triples. The triples describe a relationship between a subject and object, both of which are cybersecurity entities. The quality of information present in the CKG depends on the data source. Since data sources can have varying degrees of reliability, we need a score that should help us benchmark the veracity of the CKG assertions. Verifying the information asserted in the CKG is a challenging task. In this paper, we describe a novel method that associates a score with the semantic triples asserted in the CKG using deep learning. We use semantic triples that we know are correct, in a supervised machine learning algorithm that produces the output for each relationship. In particular, we use Graph Convolutional Neural Networks (GCN) on a dataset of CKGs that can be used to ascertain the scores for each semantic triple.

**Index Terms**—Graph Embedding, Deep Learning, Cybersecurity, Artificial Intelligence, Representation Learning

## I. INTRODUCTION

Cyber Threat Intelligence (CTI) helps security researchers prevent, detect, and post facto analyze cyber-attacks. Recently, Cybersecurity Knowledge Graphs (CKGs) have been used to represent CTI [1]–[3]. CKGs can contain data from a variety of sources, both structured and unstructured. Structured sources are often maintained by reputed organizations that maintain and update information present in their systems [4]–[6]. However, there is another body of research that utilizes natural language processing techniques to extract data from unstructured open-source text specifically for CTI representation. In this body of work, the source of the data is open-source text that can come from security bulletins of software organizations, technical reports from cybersecurity organizations, social media posts, tweets, and sometimes even the dark web. It becomes difficult to ascertain the quality of information present in these disparate sources. When data is extracted from these sources, semantic triples are formed that are asserted to a CKG [7]. The quality of the graph is dependant on the quality of the NLP pipeline that is doing the extraction. Even state of the art systems are nowhere near perfect in extracting entities or relationships in complex domains like cybersecurity. For

example, in previous work our group has done, the accuracy of relationship extraction ranged from 80% for well behaved text sources to as low as 50% for some relationships in text collected from OSINT sources [8]. So the extracted graph will contain incorrect relationships. If the source of the data unfortunately turns out to be dubious, the CKG will also contain information that is incorrect. Security researchers, who use CKGs to query information relating to recorded cyber-incidents, will receive answers that are incorrect [3]. Identifying such incorrect assertions in a CKG is the focus of this work. Very recent research has shown that “fake but plausible” threat intelligence can be created by suitably trained large language models [1]. Addressing this is outside the scope of this paper, since the assertions in such graphs are quite possibly correct in general, but are not right for *that particular* instance of data.

Asserting extracted CTI information from open-source text comes with another risk. If the schema of the CKG does not have appropriate classes to record the time when the data was asserted, we can be left with outdated information that are no longer useful. A recent report suggests that as much as 90% security officers are presented with outdated CTI that is too old to be of any use [9]. For example, if a report from 2015 says updating Adobe Acrobat Reader in your system will mitigate a certain type of malware attack the information may not pass the test of time. In 2021, we may need some other form of patch on the same software to build adequate defence against malware attacks. If security officers are relying on old information, it would be appropriate to reduce the confidence of the conclusion they reach from that information. However, it becomes difficult to do the same if the time-related information is missing from the CKG. In our paper, we discuss a GCN model to process a CKG that has no time-specific information to reach a confidence score for the semantic triples that form the CKG.

In our paper, we discuss a Graph Neural Network-based model that will help us generate scores for the specific relationships that exist between pairs of entities in a CKG. We use a supervised approach, where we use known triples that are correct, as the ‘labels’. The relationships for all the entities that do not belong in the ‘label’ are also updated simultaneously. Each relationship in the graph has a score, that gets updated after receiving the supervision from the ‘label’. We want to

use this updated score to filter out the relationships that are possibly incorrect due to being outdated, or simply because they were from a data source that had incorrect information. This will help us preserve the relationships that are still correct, and discard the relationships that are not.

We organize the paper as follows. In Section II, we discuss some of the relevant papers in this area. In Section III, we will discuss our model’s architecture and specifications. We will discuss the results in Section IV, and finally conclude in V.

## II. RELATED WORK

In this section we discuss some of the works published that are related to our problem. Here we provide some background information along with the relevant papers for some of the key concepts of our paper.

### A. CyberSecurity Knowledge Graphs

Recently there has been a significant body of research that focuses on representing CTI in CKGs. A semantic triple is a building block of a CKG. Zareen et al. [2], in their paper, discussed an ontology UCO that represents CTI. This ontology is based on Structured Threat Intelligence Exchange (STIX) [6], as the classes and relationship mentioned in STIX have been included in UCO. Piplai et al. [7] modified this ontology and used it to represent CTI from After Action Reports. This paper also discusses a pipeline that extracts malware specific semantic triples from unstructured text, using named entity recognizers and relationship extractors. This ontology has been adapted in subsequent research for different purposes. For instance, this CKG has been modified [10] to represent malware behavior and the enriched CKG has been applied in a Reinforcement Learning algorithm [11]. There has been more research on processing open-source unstructured text for cybersecurity related information [12], [13]. To extract cybersecurity entities, NER models specific to cybersecurity have been built. Dasgupta et al. [14] concluded that a combination of BERT embeddings with Bidirectional LSTMs is the best for Cyber NERs. Recently, attention based methods are being popularized for cyber entity extraction [15]. This forms the foundation of the semantic triples that are asserted in the CKG. Often machine learning algorithms are used to establish a relationship between pairs of entities. TransE, TransH, TransD [16] models are used for relationship extraction. In these models vector embeddings are used to infer the relationship between pairs of entities. Pingle et al. [8] developed a neural network based relationship extractor that works as a classifier to establish relationship between pairs of entities. Recently, more ontologies are being created for CTI representation [17].

### B. Data Poisoning and Fake CTI

Malicious alteration of Machine Learning datasets, can lead to false conclusions drawn by the models using these datasets. Some of the works related to data poisoning [18]–[21] talk about the use changing the training data so that

the machine learning models perform poorly on the actual test data. In the domain of computer vision, there has been considerable research on ‘backdoor attacks’. Some specific triggers on images in the training set poison the model, such that adversaries are able to direct the model to undesired outputs [22].

CKGs, that are formed from unstructured open-source text, are not immune to data poisoning attacks. Extracting data from sources like social media posts, can prove to be risky if they contain misinformation about cybersecurity. Data poisoning can lead to machine learning models misclassify malicious code as benign data. External indicators have proved to be useful to validate the model that is susceptible data poisoning [23]. Khurana et al. [24] discuss a model that uses reddit features to build a model that identifies poisoned samples in the training set. Xiao et al. [25] discuss a feature extraction algorithm that has a defensive mechanism against poisoning attacks. Recently, Transformer-based architectures have proved to be beneficial in generating fake text that is realistic enough to be confused as real text by domain experts. Particularly, Ranade et al. [1] used GPT-2 to generate fake CTI for cybersecurity. These CTI, when processed and asserted in a CKG, will contain incorrect information.

### C. Graph Neural Networks

Graph Neural Networks (or Graph Convolutional Neural Networks, GCNs) generalize convolutional neural networks typically meant for image and audio data to data represented in non-Euclidean domains, such as graphs, for robust feature learning. Spectral GCN define an approximation of convolutional neural networks for graphs using spectral graph theory. Defferrard et al. [26] define a formulation of CNNs using the Chebyshev expansion of the graph Laplacian. Bruna et al. [27] show that for low-dimensional graphs it is possible to learn convolutional layers with a number of parameters independent of the input size, resulting in efficient deep architectures. Kipf et al. [28] propose a convolutional architecture via a first-order approximation.

On the other hand, non-spectral GCNs operate on the graph directly and apply convolution or weighted average to the neighboring nodes, as shown by Duvenaud et al. [29] and Hamilton et al. [30]. Recent developments have increased the capabilities and expressive power of Graph Neural Networks. There are many practical applications in areas such as antibacterial discovery fake news detection [31], physics simulations [32] etc.

Researchers have also deployed GNNs in recommender system. PinSage [33] applies GNNs to the pin-board bipartite graph in Pinterest and Pixie [34] uses the Pixie Random Walk algorithm for Pinterest Object graph to generate recommendations. Monti et al. [35] and Berg et al. [36] model recommender systems as matrix completion and design GNNs for representation learning on user-item bipartite graphs. Wu et al. [37] use GNNs on user/item structure graphs to learn user/item representations. Wang et al. [38] design GNNs for heterogeneous KGs with regularization to avoid overfitting.

TABLE I: Modified UCO Classes and Relationships

Type	List
Classes	Software, Exploit-Target, Malware, Indicator, Vulnerability, Course-of-Action, Tool, Attack-Pattern, Campaign, Filename, Hash, IP Addresses
Relationships	attributedTo, indicates, hasProduct, mitigates, hasVulnerability, uses

### III. METHODOLOGY

In this section, we discuss our neural model and the knowledge graphs that we used. In our previous research we discussed a pipeline to generate CKGs from malware After Action Reports. We reuse the same mechanism to generate our CKGs for this paper. We then use the generated CKGs for the GCN model that produces scores for each relationship existing between entity pairs. These scores help us identify the credibility of each relationship that can exist between every pair of entities. We now discuss each component in detail.

#### A. CKG

Piplai et al. [7] described a pipeline to extract entities and relationships for cybersecurity. The CKG schema was based on UCO 2.0 [2]. Most of the entity-classes and relationship-classes used in STIX [6] was used to form UCO 2.0, since STIX is an industry standard for exchanging threat-intelligence.

In Table I, we can see the classes and relationships used to represent malware-specific information from After Action Reports. This can be used to represent the same information from any technical report about malware that comprises unstructured text.

A customized Named Entity Recognizer (NER) called the Malware Entity Extractor (MEE) was used to extract cyber-entities. The MEE comprised of Conditional Random Fields (CRF) and Regular expressions. CRF was used to extract entities that require contextual information to make a classification, and Regular Expressions were used to extract entities that can be inferred from the structural composition, like IP-Addresses, Filenames, Hashes, etc.

Word embeddings for pairs of extracted entities were passed to neural network-based relationship extractor, that establishes the correct relationship (if any) existing between the pair. This results in a semantic triple that are asserted in the CKGs. 474 After Action Reports were used to create the training set for the models (NER and Relationship Extractor).

We take a subset of the CKGs that were created by the aforementioned pipeline. We take 80% of the CKGs for training.

#### B. Model

The problem statement of our paper is to find out scores between 0 and 1 to represent each relationship in a CKG. The higher the score the more credible or trustworthy the relationship is.

Let us consider that we have a set of entities  $E$  and a set of relationships  $R$ . Each semantic triple in the CKG is represented as  $K = \{E_h, r, E_t\}$ , where  $E_h$  represents the head-entity,  $E_t$  represents the tail-entity, and  $r$  represents the relationship between them, such that  $r \in R$ .

We represent each input CKG in the form of a matrix  $K$ , where

$$K = \{0, 1\}^{|E| \times |E| \times |R|}$$

Here  $|E|$  denotes the number of entities in  $K$  and  $|R|$  denotes the number of relationships. It is a symmetric matrix, where each row denotes if the particular relationship exists or not for the entity pair. For example if  $K(i, j, k) = 1$ , it means  $R_k$  exists between  $E_i$  and  $E_j$ . If it is 0, then the relationship  $R_k$  does not exist between entities  $E_i$  and  $E_j$ . After successful training,  $K(i, :, :)$  can be interpreted as an embedding vector representing  $E_i$  that tells us how much credible all the relationships are with respect to all the other entities in the CKG, for the entity  $E_i$ . For example if a *Malware* ‘Solarwinds hack’ *uses* an *Attack-Pattern* ‘clicks an icon’, we have to index these entities ‘Solarwinds hack’, ‘clicks an icon’, and the relationship ‘uses’. Supposedly, the indexes come out to be  $E_3$ ,  $E_7$ , and  $R_2$ , respectively, then  $K(3, 7, 2)$  becomes 1.

The input to the system is a CKG that is represented by  $K$  consisting of partially correct information. We use a CKG that holds the correct entities and relationships in place that we denote by  $K^*$ . The GCN is a function approximator,  $f$ , that produces another CKG  $K'$  as output such that

$$K' = [0, 1]^{|E| \times |E| \times |R|} \text{ and}$$

$$K' = f(K)$$

In this case,  $K'(i, j, k)$  is a probabilistic value between 0 and 1 that tells us how important the relationship  $R_k$  is between entity-pairs  $E_i$  and  $E_j$ .

We use  $K^*$  as the target. As discussed before, each  $K^*(i, :, :)$  gives us the ideal representation of entity  $E_i$ . The neural network  $f$  produces an output  $K'$  and  $K'(i, :, :)$  represents the predicted representation of the same entity  $E_i$ . We define a loss function  $L$  such that it calculates the dissimilarity between the predicted representations of all the entities and the target representations of all the entities. The cumulative loss function is defined as follows.

$$Loss = \sum_{i=1}^{|E|} L(K^*(i, :, :), K'(i, :, :))$$

The construction of  $K^*$  does not require an entire CKG that has been rectified by human annotators. The purpose of our research is to update the probabilistic values that signify the ‘trust’ scores of the relationships of our CKG. In order to make our algorithm scale well, we cannot place a requirement

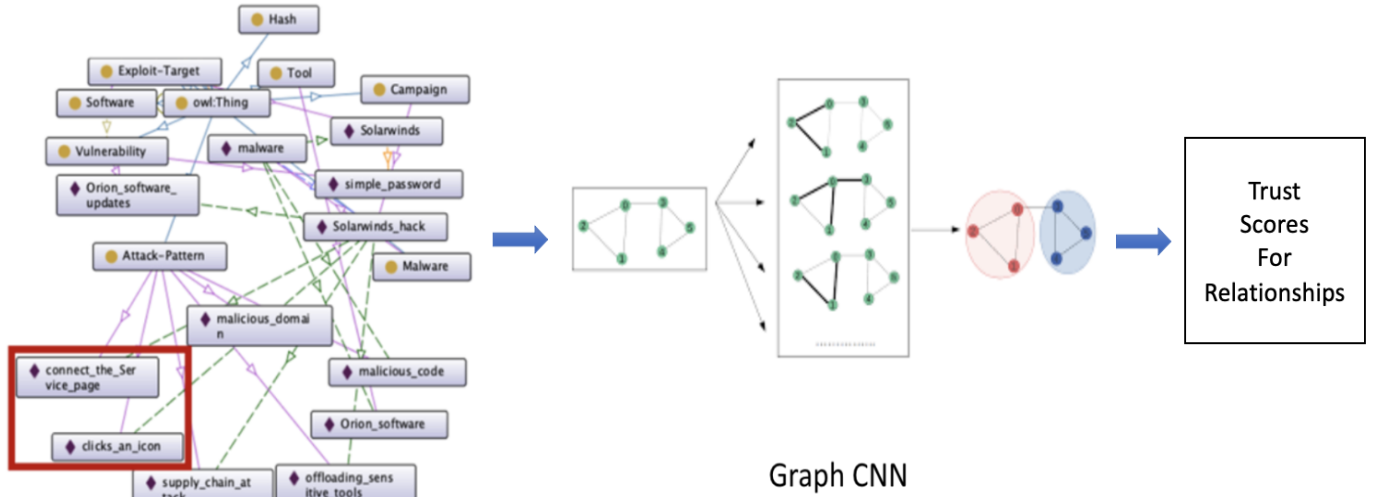


Fig. 1: High level architecture diagram for our GCN model. The input to the GCN is a CKG with incorrect information highlighted in red. The GCN produces an output that contains probabilistic scores for all the relationships in the CKG. The scores can be interpreted as how much we ‘trust’ each relationship.

on a completely correct CKG for training. If we do not have a complete CKG to be used as label, and we have partial triples that talk about the same malware we generate a CKG on our own in the following way.

For supervision, let us consider we have a set of triples  $T_p$ . In the original graph we have a set of triples  $T_s$ . Each triple  $t \in T_p$  can be represented by  $P_h, P_r, P_t$  corresponding to the head-entity, relationship, and the tail-entity. Similarly, each triple  $t \in T_s$  can be represented by  $S_h, S_r, S_t$ . We iterate through all the triples in  $T_p$ , and check if the head of any triple in  $T_p$  overlaps with any of the tail nodes of the triples in  $T_s$ . If that node is  $T_p(i)_h$ , we remove all triples from  $T_s$ , where  $T_p(i)_h$  is a head node. After that we add all triples from  $T_p$  to  $T_s$ , that have  $T_p(i)_h$  as a head node. We remove them from  $T_p$ . We repeat this for all the remaining nodes in  $T_p$  until it is empty. We discard nodes that have no overlap with  $|E|$  which is the set of entities in  $K$ . The key motivation for doing so is that  $T_p$  can come from a source that talks about some specific details of a cyber-attack. We want to update the knowledge graph for those specific details of the cyber-attack, but we also want to preserve the semantic triples that talk about the other aspects of the cyber-attack that have been collected from other CTI sources that is represented by  $T_s$ . For example, consider a malware ‘Dark Caracal’ that uses another malware ‘xRAT’. The entire CKG that has information related to ‘Dark Caracal’ and ‘xRAT’ is  $T_s$ . Suppose, a new report comes that has updated information about ‘xRAT’. We want to create a new CKG that retains the information about ‘Dark Caracal’, but updates the information about ‘xRAT’. A possible critique of this method could be removal of all knowledge about ‘xRAT’

from  $T_s$  that is not covered in  $T_p$ . It should be noted here that a missing triple would not mean that after training, the scores of the relationships belonging to the removed triples will be low. The GCN model changes the scores based on subgraphs and it is a self-correcting system. With more CTI being available about ‘xRAT’ it will be possible to change the scores of the relationships from the discarded triples, if they happen to be correct. We can see the algorithm in Algorithm 1.

**Algorithm 1** Algorithm to create  $K^*$  from partial sub-graphs

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```

 $N_s \leftarrow |T_s|$ 
 $N_p \leftarrow |T_p|$ 
while  $N_p \neq 0$  do
   $P_h, P_r, P_t \leftarrow T_p(N_p)$ 
  while  $N_s \neq 0$  do
     $S_h, S_r, S_t \leftarrow T_s(N_s)$ 
     $C \leftarrow \emptyset$ 
     $A \leftarrow \emptyset$ 
    if  $P_h$  equals  $S_t$  then
       $C \leftarrow T_s(i) \quad \forall i \in N_s \text{ s.t. } T_s(i)_h = P_h$ 
       $A \leftarrow T_p(i) \quad \forall i \in N_p \text{ s.t. } T_p(i)_h = P_h$ 
    end if
     $T_s \leftarrow T_s - C + A$ 
     $T_p \leftarrow T_p - A$ 
     $N_p \leftarrow |T_p| - 1$ 
  end while
   $N_s \leftarrow |T_s| - 1$ 
end while
return  $T_s$ 

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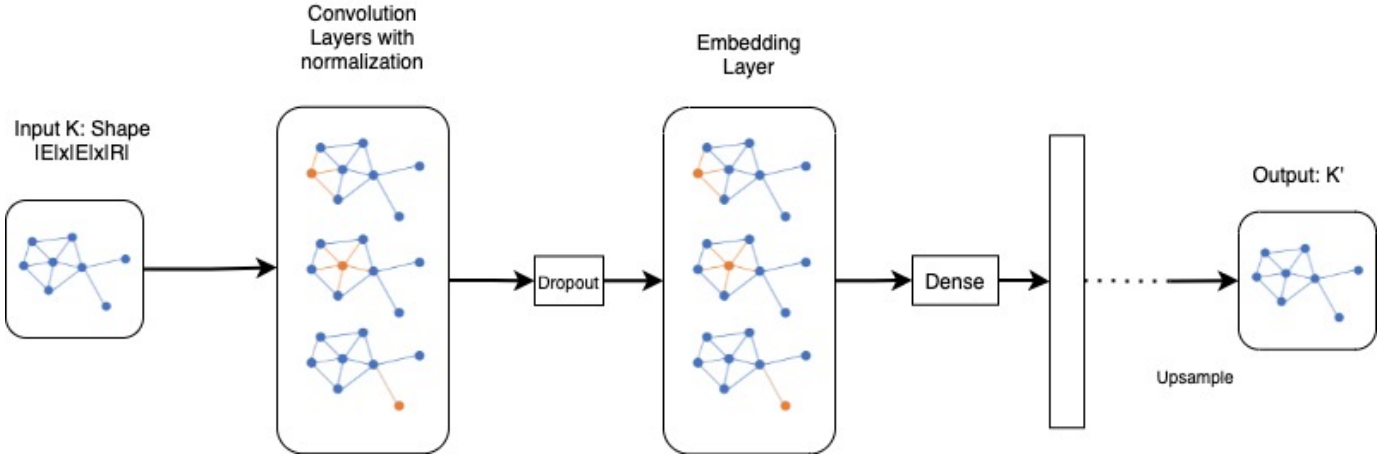


Fig. 2: Neural Network architecture for GCN

The GCN used in our paper is based on the principle multi-label classification. Further, our network incorporates a fixed threshold for the output scores - a probabilistic measure between 0 and 1.0. Our multi-label graph convolutional neural network gives as an output, an array of independent probabilities of a relationship existing between the given two entities, with one or more relations possibly being true. More details of the GCN architecture can be seen in Figure 2.

Let us consider a knowledge graph comprising triplets of the format  $(h, l, t)$ . When the 2 entities 'h' and 't' of a knowledge graph triplet  $(h, l, t)$  is passed into our GCN, an array of independent probabilities is given as an output for the value of the relationship 'l'.

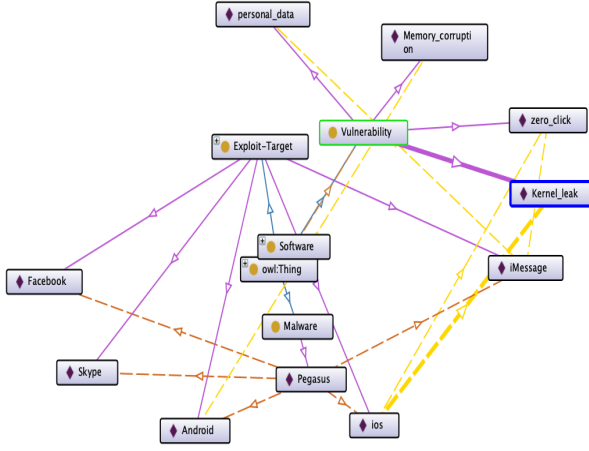
The GCN model utilises 2 essential parameters - the relation vocabulary and entity vocabulary, which are the number of relationships and entities in our knowledge graph (KG) respectively. We define an embedding as a transformation of the knowledge graph entities to their vector representations. Further, we define the length of the transformed vector as the embedding dimension. There are two optional parameters that define our model, the first one states is the embedding dimensions of our entities and the second is a hyperparameter used to determine the dimensions of the second and third dense layers of our network architecture.

Our network architecture comprises of 8 hidden layers - the embedding layer, the concatenate layer, 3 dense layers and 3 dropout layers. The first two dense layers use a Rectified Linear Unit (ReLU) activation function while Dense Layer 3 incorporates a sigmoid activation function, since we want to use a multi-label approach to have our output probabilities independent of each other. The embedding layer is used to transform the two entities of each KG triple into their respective embeddings (vector representations) and the concatenate layer takes as an input, the algebraic sum of the 2 entity vectors 'h' and 't'. It should be noted that the embedding layers for both entities share the same biases and weights along with L2 normalisation (Euclidean distance). Finally, the three dropout layers are used to suppress overfitting.

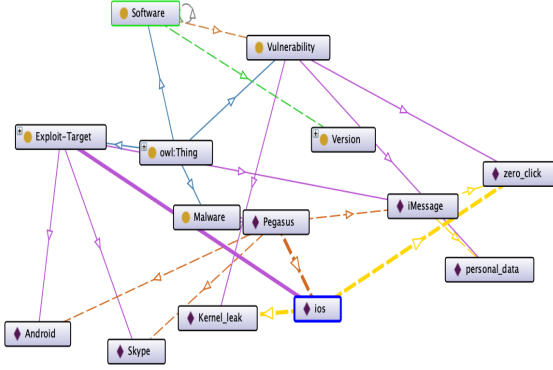
Figure 1 describes the main architecture of our system with an example. A CKG is passed to the GCN with some incorrect information. The incorrect information is highlighted with a red box. The entities 'connect to the Service Page' and 'clicks an icon' are incorrect. Both these entities are related to the malware entity 'Solarwinds Hack'. The GCN is trained with labels that correspond to semantic triples that are known to be correct. The desired output of our system is not the removal of these entities, but placing probabilistic scores to the relationships held by these incorrect entities that deem them to be less useful than the other relationships in the CKG. As described above GCN uses convolution layers that uses spatial information to extract repeated features. These process of repeated feature extraction that is performed through 8 hidden layers work on the sub-matrices. Each of these sub-matrices represent the features derived from the interconnections of the set of entities represented by the sub-matrices, which basically represents a sub-graph. Repeated feature extraction on various sub-graphs that contain each entity results in the embedding vector for each entity that is represented by each row of the output matrix  $K[i]$ .

#### IV. EXPERIMENTS AND RESULTS

We implement the GCN using Keras and Tensorflow 2.0. Keras is a python-based library that is executable on Tensorflow and Theano (<https://keras.io>). All models were trained using Keras deep learning API in TensorFlow - on a Google Colab instance with an NVIDIA Tesla T4 GPU and up to 12GB RAM/128GB disk space. To create the training set, we take two approaches. The first approach is deliberately changing some entities and relationships from a correct dataset to incorrect ones randomly chosen from our list of entities and relationships. For example if we have a semantic triple that says a *Malware* 'Pegasus' *uses Exploit-Target* 'Android OS', we can choose to change 'Android OS' to 'Windows'. This entity 'Windows' is another *Exploit-Target* that we have in our list of entities, for all CKGs. We can also change the relationship *uses* to any randomly chosen relationship, say,



(a) CKG populated from an After Action Report about Pegasus published in 2018



(b) CKG modified by GCN after being trained with new information

Fig. 3: Comparison of CKGs about a malware Pegasus before and after training

*hasVulnerability*. We make this change for 15% of the entities and relationships in one graph. This forms noisy CKGs that form  $K$ , as an input to our CKG. We retain the unchanged CKG to form the label  $K^*$ .

The second approach is generating  $K^*$  from updated CTI. For example, we may have a CKG  $K$ , that comes from a particular CTI source describing a cyber-attack. We come across a more recent CTI that describes the same cyber-attack. We use the algorithm described as Algorithm 1, to create a new  $K^*$  to be used as labels. For any CKG  $K$  constructed from fake CTI sources, we also use the same approach to form  $K^*$ . We do this wherever possible in our dataset.

We evaluate the results across three parameters : Hits@k, Precision and Recall. For Hits@k, after 50 epochs of training, h and t of a triple in the test data are given to the GCN as input, and we receive another CKG, say,  $K'$  as an output with modified scores for all the relationships that exist between the

TABLE II: Scores for our GCN model

Model	Hits@1	Precision	Recall	F-1
GCN	0.98	0.986	0.964	0.975

entities. If we look into  $K(i, j, :)$  we get the output an array of probabilities for all the relationships that exists between entity  $E_i$  and entity  $E_j$ . The relationship with the highest probability between 1 and 0 is chosen and is matched with the relationship in  $K^*(i, j, :)$  which signifies the true relationship. We use the aforementioned metrics to obtain the scores. We can see the scores in Table II. Given the small number of positive labels for relationships, as compared to the negative labels, we avoid using metrics like Accuracy since their values exceed 0.99 for all experimental settings. This is because for most entity pairs, there is no relationship. The scores are high, due to the small number of training samples for CKGs. Most of the evaluations are correct, because we randomly replace correct entities/relationships with incorrect ones. Some of them may be obvious, and that leads to high scores. It is difficult to identify incorrect relationships that have been asserted from sophisticated fake CTI. We may need more robust models in future to deal with the incorrect assertions from fake CTIs that are realistic.

For example, in Figure 3 for the given entities ‘Pegasus’ and ‘ios’, the predicted relationship output array is as follows

- hasProduct : 0.31
- mitigates : 0.54
- hasVulnerability : 0.36
- uses : 0.82
- modifies : 0.51

Since the predicate ‘uses’ has the highest probability, the predicted triplet is ‘Pegasus - uses - ios’, which is compared to the true triplet ‘Pegasus - uses - ios’, thus evaluating to a true prediction. All the test data is used and results are averaged for evaluation.

In Figure 3, we see two CKGs. One of the CKGs (Fig 3a) is asserted with triples extracted from an older report on Pegasus. We see a relatively larger number of triples in this graph that talks about entities like ‘memory corruption’, ‘Facebook’, and ‘Gmail’. Recently, there was another report on Pegasus, specifically talking about how Pegasus used ‘zero-touch’ to get installed in people’s smartphones. This recent version of Pegasus uses a vulnerability in iPhones. Specifically, an old vulnerability in iMessage is used for this attack. This version of Pegasus received a lot of media coverage, and that led to 5 tech reports about Pegasus in our training set for extraction.

If we look at Figure 3b, we see some of the relationships between ‘Pegasus’ and entities derived from older reports have been discarded. This was done by placing a threshold of 0.5 for the top relationship to be retained. It should also be noted that the relationships related to ‘ios’, specifically ‘zero-click’, ‘iMessage’ had an increase in the relationship scores we receive after passing the original CKG through the GCN. This



says that those relationships pertaining to ‘iOS’ and the recent CTIs available for ‘Pegasus’ are to be trusted more, because their probabilistic scores have increased. As we mentioned in Section I, we want to retain information that are new, and we want to score the triples relating to new information higher than triples relating to outdated CTI. Since recent reports about ‘Pegasus’ talk about the iPhone hack, information related to this receive a higher score. The scores for older relationships are lowered. Adaptive thresholding can help us retain more or less of the older relationships depending upon the use-case.

## V. CONCLUSION AND FUTURE WORK

We discuss a GCN based algorithm that scores semantic triples in a CKG. These scores are high for correct and useful information and are low for outdated and incorrect information. Our work provides a new approach to automatically correct CKGs that may contain wrong information. With the recent developments in ML based automatic CKG generation, it becomes likely that some of the relationships that are asserted are incorrect. This is because even state-of-the-art ML systems are far from being a 100% accurate, and even less so on unseen data. This problem becomes even more challenging in cybersecurity because we come across tech reports about novel attacks and zero-days frequently. ML or NLP based techniques are likely to fail in extracting data that contains new malware-specific information. As CKGs grow in size, it will become impossible for human fact-checkers to correct the information present in them. Our method can be applied in cleaning up CKGs that contain information that have been misclassified by ML algorithms.

Apart from the problems of ML algorithms underperforming, we also run into the risk of retaining information in CKGs that are old. This problem is even more acute in cybersecurity as mentioned in Section I. Our method can be used to quantify the relationships in the CKG such that older relationships receive lower score, and newer information receives a higher score. Thresholding on the scores can lead to the retention of only new information. We demonstrate this capability in Figure 3. We also experimented on fake CTI that are trivial, and our model was successful in identifying them. However, detecting fake information is still challenging. Recent developments with Transformer architectures in neural networks made it possible to generate fake CTI that are difficult to identify even by human experts. In future, our research would be on identifying ‘human-like’ CTI with more sophisticated models.

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