Comprehensive Cybersecurity Technology for Critical Power Infrastructure AI-Based Centralized Defense and Edge Resilience



Prepared for **Itai Ganzer** and **Ofer Goldhirsh** Israel Innovation Authority **Avi Shavit** and **Eynan Lichterman** Israel Ministry of Energy

- Students: Mohammadamin Moradi, Zheng-Meng Zhai (new)
- Task Lead: Dr. Y.-C. Lai

Task 16: Reinforcement Learning Control for Cyber Physical Systems

Large Power Grids: Large and Diverse Action Space







Discrete actions:

- *Topology actions*: changing the topology of certain substations (TG)
- *Status actions*: transmission or power line switching (PLS)

Continuous actions:

- *Redispatch actions*: changing the operating schedule of power plants
- *Curtailment actions*: limiting the production of renewable generators
- *Set-storage actions*: changing the role of some storage units from loads to generators or vice versa

Example: IEEE 118-Bus system: about 12 million possible actions

Reinforcement Learning CPS Control Analogy





Power Grid on Grid2op Platform





Line Graph of a Power Grid Network and TGCN









- TGCN: action specific (e.g., five different TGCNs depending on the action types)
- Input: currents from all nodes in the line graph
- Output: currents from all nodes in the line graph
- Training data: Grid2op simulations

Correlation of Line Current Flow under Attack



PLS Agent



Correlations are neither too small nor too large, justifying TGCN

TG Agent













Current Flow Threshold



The ASU Task 16 team is working with John Dirkman's team at *Resource Innovations Nexant* to implement the principle and methodologies of reinforcement learning control of cyber physical systems into the existing industrial software tools.

Parallel heterogeneous reinforcement learning for defending large power grids

Mohammadamin Moradi,¹ Shirin Panahi,¹ Zheng-Meng Zhai,¹ Yang Weng,¹ John Dirkman,² and Ying-Cheng Lai^{1,3,*} ¹School of Electrical, Computer and Energy Engineering, Arizona State University, Tempe, AZ 85287, USA ²Resource Innovations, Nexant Inc., 6620 Southpoint Drive South, Jacksonville, FL 32216-8098 ³Department of Physics, Arizona State University, Tempe, Arizona 85287, USA

(Dated: March 2, 2023)

Reinforcement learning (RL) has been employed to devise the best course of actions in defending the critical infrastructures such as large power networks against cyberattacks. However, as the size of the power grid system grows, the RL action space increases exponentially, making it practically infesible for the RL agent to efficiently explore. The current RL algorithms tailored to power grids are generally not suited when the system size becomes large, in spite of trade-offs. We exploit temporal graph convolutional neural networks (TGCNs) to develop a parallel but heterogeneous RL framework to meet this challenge. In particular, we divide the action space into smaller subspaces, each explored by a RL agent. How to efficiently organize the spatiotemporal action sequences then becomes a great challenge. We invoke TGCN to meet this challenge through accurately predicting the performance of each individual RL agent in the event of an attack. The top performing agent is selected, resulting in the optimal sequence of actions. We demonstrate the effectiveness of our TGCN method to capture both the temporal and spatial dependencies of the graph structured data. The framework is validated by simulations of the RTE 14-Bus system using the Grid2OP platform. Our TGCN framework provides a computationally efficient framework for generating the best course of actions to defend large cyberphysical systems against attacks. John on 3/1/2023:

"Regarding the manuscript for RL (Task 16) I would be happy to coauthor this work and I will also consider the potential for commercialization. I will also evaluate if we could also use Grid360 to further valuate and test the developed code."

3/10/2023: A commercialization meeting with John, who deemed. the TGCN framework interesting and potentially commercializable.