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# Application of Fuzzy Hypergraph in Cyber Security

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**Abstract:** The main goal of this paper is to apply hypergraphs in cyber security to identify the type of attack affecting a system based on specific attack causes. Here, system components are represented as edges, while attacks are modeled as vertices for better analysis.

**Keywords:** Hypergraph, fuzzy hypergraph, fuzzy  $\alpha$ -cut hypergraph and cyber security.

## I. INTRODUCTION

Hypergraphs were considered useful instruments for presenting the formation of partitions, covers, and clusters and analyzing the structure of a system. Kaufmann introduced the idea of fuzzy hypergraphs, an extension of the concept of hypergraphs in fuzzy theory. However, it turns out that fuzzy partitioning and other systems are not well presented by Kaufmann's definition of fuzzy hypergraphs [5]. The concept of fuzzy hyper graphs has been redefined to help with system analysis and fuzzy partitioning. A-Cut Hypergraph, Dual Fuzzy Hypergraph, Strong Classes, Edge Strength (Class) are some of the useful ideas developed. The proposed fuzzy hyper graph can help provide a visual description of the fuzzy cover or partition. Furthermore, the strength (class) of Edge allows you to choose a strong class of partitions, and by separating the strong class from other parts, you will need less overall data management. The proposed ideas include applications in terms of pattern recognition, circuit clustering, and system analysis.

Section II explains some basic definitions. Cybersecurity threats such as malware, ransomware, and identity have been introduced in Section III. In Section IV, the concept of fuzzy hypergraphs is used in cybersecurity, and the use of fuzzy hypergraphs is identified by systems affected by a particular attack. This can be extended in the domain of automatic theory [2, 3, 4, 5, 6] and in the labeled graphs [7, 8, 9].

## II. PRELIMINARIES

In this section some basic notions which are needed for the succeeding sections are discussed.

### A. Definition 2.1

A hypergraph  $C$  can be defined as a pair  $(A, B)$ , where  $A$  is a set of points, and  $B$  is a set of hyper lines between the points. Each hyper line is a set of points  $A \subseteq P(B)$ .

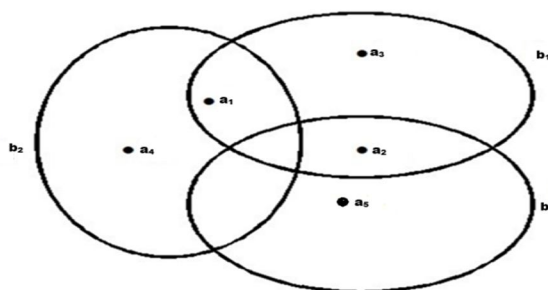
The hypergraph, which is defined as follows:

$C = (A, B)$  where,  $A$  is the set of points,  $B$  is the set of hyper lines.

**Example 2.1:** Consider a hypergraph  $C = (A, B)$  such that  $A = \{a_1, a_2, a_3, a_4, a_5\}$ ,  $B = \{b_1, b_2, b_3\}$ , where  $b_1 = \{a_1, a_2, a_3\}$ ,  $b_2 = \{a_1, a_5\}$ ,  $b_3 = \{a_2, a_4\}$ .

The hypergraph, which represents the incident matrices, is displayed as follows:

Figure 2.1



Incidence matrix:

$$\begin{matrix} C & b_1 & b_2 & b_3 \\ a_1 & \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \\ a_2 & \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \\ a_3 & \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \\ a_4 & \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \\ a_5 & \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \end{matrix}$$

B. Definition 2.1

In ordered pair  $\hat{C} = (\hat{A}, \hat{B})$  such that is a fuzzy hypergraph

(1)  $\hat{A} = \{a_1, a_2, a_3, \dots, a_n\}$  a finite set of points, (2)  $B = \{b_1, b_2, b_3, \dots, b_m\}$

a family of fuzzy subset of  $\hat{A}$  (3)  $\hat{A}_v = \{(x_u, \mu_v(x_u) \setminus \mu_v(x_u)) > 0\}, v = 1, 2, 3, \dots, m,$

(4)  $\hat{A}_v \neq \phi, v = 1, 2, 3, \dots, m$ , (5)  $\cup_v \sup(\hat{A}_v) = D, v = 1, 2, 3, \dots, m$

### III. CYBER SECURITY FOR MALWARE, IMPERSONATION AND RANSOMWARE:

In this section, various attack such as malware, impersonation, and ransomware, along with their impact on system, are presented.

- 1) **Malware:** Malware is a general term that describes any kind of malicious software that damages the operation of your computer, network, or device, and is something that otherwise exploits, misuses, or damages it. Malware is often created to steal data, disrupt the system, and obtain unauthorized access to sensitive information.
- 2) **Impersonation:** An impersonation attack is a type of fraud where attackers pretend to be a trusted individual or entity to trick victims into transferring money, sharing sensitive data, or disclosing login credentials, which can then be used to compromise an organization's systems.
- 3) **Ransomware:** Ransomware is a malicious program that blocks access to files or victims' entire devices by encrypting data or blocking the system. Attackers often request cryptocurrency payments in return for repairing decryption keys or access to affected systems. Ransomware can penetrate a variety of devices, including computers, smartphones, printers, and other network-connected systems. After installation, it can spread over the network, which can lead to a wider range of disruptions for the company and lead to loss of critical or sensitive information. This type of attack is particularly harmful to businesses, health organizations and governments as it allows critical services to be stopped and considerable financial and reputational costs can be considered.

### IV. FUZZY HYPERGRAPH IN CYBER SECURITY

This section explores the generalization of fuzzy hypergraph, where systems impacted by different attacks are analyzed. Here,  $A$  represents the affected systems and is referred to as the set of lines (or hyper lines), while  $C$  denotes the attacks and is considered the set of points. This section deals with the fuzzy hyper graph in which causes for cyber security are taken.  $\hat{A}$  is treated as attacks and is called the set hyper edges whereas the set  $C$  is treated as causes for cyber attacks and is called the set of points.

A. Definition 4.1

The fuzzy hyper graph is defined as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} \hat{G}_A = (\hat{C}, \hat{A}) \quad \hat{C} = \{C_1, C_2, C_3, C_4, C_5, C_6, C_7, C_8, C_9\}, \quad \hat{A} = \{A_1, A_2, A_3\} \text{ a family of fuzzy subset of } \\ C \text{ where, } A_1 = \{C_1, C_2, C_3, C_4, C_5, C_6\} \quad A_2 = \{C_1, C_2, C_3, C_7, C_8\}, \quad A_3 = \{C_1, C_2, C_9\} \\ \hat{A}_k = \{(y_1, \mu_k(y_1) \setminus \mu_k(y_1)) > 0\}, k = 1, 2, 3, \dots, n, \quad \hat{A}_k \neq \phi, k = 1, 2, 3, \dots, n \\ \bigcup_k \sup(\hat{A}_k) = c, k = 1, 2, 3, \dots, n \end{aligned} \quad \text{-----(1)}$$

The lines, also known as hyper lines,  $\hat{A}_k$  are fuzzy sets of points.  $\mu_k(y_1)$  defines the extent of involvement (membership) of point.

Crisp sets  $\hat{C}, \hat{A}$  make up other sets. From (4.1), we have,

$$\bigcup_k \sup(\hat{A}_k) = c, k = 1, 2, 3, \dots, n \quad \text{------(2)}$$

By substituting (1) with (2), we can expand the concept of fuzzy hyper graph. The related fuzzy incidence matrix  $M_{\hat{A}}$  of fuzzy hyper graph is natural way to express it. The fuzzy matrix element  $\alpha_{k,l}$  denotes the degree of participation or membership of  $y_1$  to  $\hat{A}_k$  (i.e.,)  $\mu_k(y_1)$ . The diagram with its incidence matrix or the description of hyper lines in the fuzzy hypergraph are utilize, as the hypergraph graphic does not suggest the membership degree of point.

Example: Let us consider a hyper graph  $\hat{G}_A = (\hat{C}, \hat{A})$  such that  $\hat{C} = \{C_1, C_2, C_3, C_4, C_5, C_6, C_7, C_8, C_9\}$ ,  $\hat{A} = \{A_1, A_2, A_3\}$ ,

Where,  $\hat{A}_1 = \{(c_1, 0.1), (c_2, 0.2), (c_3, 0.3), (c_4, 0.5), (c_5, 0.6), (c_6, 0.7)\}$ ,

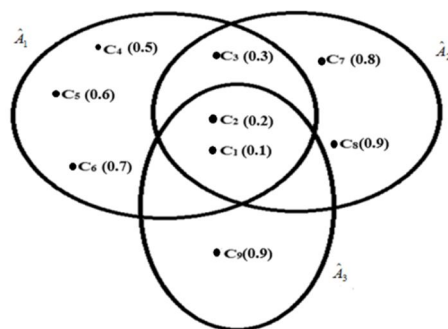
$\hat{A}_2 = \{(c_1, 0.1), (c_2, 0.2), (c_3, 0.3), (c_7, 0.8), (c_8, 0.9)\}$ ,  $\hat{A}_3 = \{(c_1, 0.1), (c_2, 0.2), (c_9, 0.9)\}$

We are going to analyse cyber attack scenarios involving phishing, social engineering, vulnerabilities, spyware, worms, viruses, MITM (man-in-the-middle), account takeover (ATO), and compromised credentials using a fuzzy hypergraph.

#### INCIDENCE MATRIX:

$\hat{G}_A$	$\hat{A}_1$	$\hat{A}_2$	$\hat{A}_3$
$C_1$	0.1	0.1	0.1
$C_2$	0.2	0.2	0.2
$C_3$	0.3	0.3	0
$C_4$	0.5	0	0
$C_5$	0.6	0	0
$C_6$	0.7	0	0
$C_7$	0	0.8	0
$C_8$	0	0.9	0
$C_9$	0	0	0.9

Figure 4.1:



#### FUZZY $\alpha$ -CUT HYPERGRAPH

The fuzzy  $\alpha$ -cut hypergraph  $\hat{G}_{A_\alpha}$  is obtained by cutting a fuzzy hypergraph  $\hat{G}_A$  at the  $\alpha$  level.  $\hat{G}_A = (\hat{C}, \hat{A})$

$\hat{C}_\alpha = \{\hat{C}_1, \hat{C}_2, \hat{C}_3, \hat{C}_4, \hat{C}_5, \hat{C}_6, \hat{C}_7, \hat{C}_8, \hat{C}_9\}$ ,  $\hat{A} = \{\hat{A}_1, \hat{A}_2, \hat{A}_3\}$ ,  $\hat{A}_\alpha = \{\hat{A}_{k,\alpha} \mid \hat{A}_{k,\alpha} \neq \emptyset, k = 1, 2, 3, \dots, m+1\}$ ,

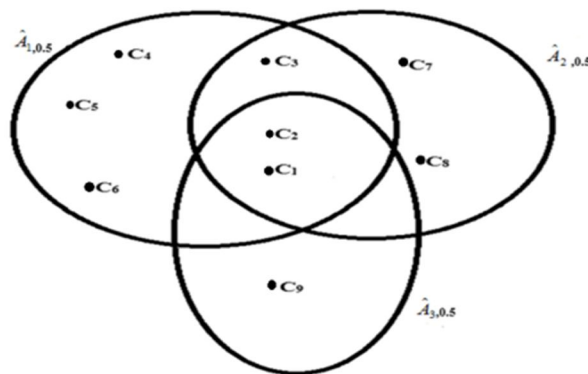
$\hat{A}_{k,\alpha} = \{x_l \mid \mu_k(x_l) \geq \alpha, k = 1, 2, 3, \dots, m\}$

Now, the lines within the fuzzy  $\alpha$ -cut hypergraph are distinct sets.

Example: In the above fuzzy  $\alpha$ -cut hypergraph, consider the causes of cyber security  $C_1$  as phishing,  $C_2$  as social engineering,  $C_3$  as vulnerabilities,  $C_4$  as spyware,  $C_5$  as worms,  $C_6$  as viruses,  $C_7$  as man-in-the-middle (MITM) attacks,  $C_8$  as account takeover (ATO), and  $C_9$  as compromised credentials. The entities  $\hat{A}_1, \hat{A}_2, \hat{A}_3$  now represent distinct cyber attack scenarios. The fuzzy hypergraph of the hypergraph at  $\alpha = 0.5$  and incidence matrix  $M_{\hat{G}_{0.5}}$  as follows:



Figure 4.2



Incidence matrix:

$\hat{G}_A$	$\hat{A}_{1,0.5}$	$\hat{A}_{2,0.5}$	$\hat{A}_{3,0.5}$
$C_1$	1	1	1
$C_2$	1	1	1
$C_3$	1	1	0
$C_4$	1	0	0
$C_5$	1	0	0
$C_6$	1	0	0
$C_7$	0	1	0
$C_8$	0	1	0
$C_9$	0	0	1

The element with larger than 0.5 membership to all lines is contained in the 0.5-cut hypergraph.

By using the cut hypergraph, Attack 1,  $\hat{A}_{1,0.5}$  from malware, Attack 2,  $\hat{A}_{2,0.5}$  from impersonation, and Attack 3,  $\hat{A}_{3,0.5}$  from ransomware. These attacks are analyzed in the context of their relationships using a fuzzy hypergraph to understand their impact and connections to various cyber security scenarios.

## V. CONCLUSION

Fuzzy hypergraphs offer a structured way to analyze cybersecurity threats by mapping attacks and their causes. This method categorizes threats like malware, impersonation, and ransomware using fuzzy incidence matrices and  $\alpha$ -cut hypergraphs. It helps identify attack patterns and assess their impact on systems. Additionally, it can be extended to automata theory and labeled graphs for broader cybersecurity applications.

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