



# **Group-based Fraud Detection** Network on e-Commerce Platforms

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### **Attributed Bipartite Graph**

An attributed bipartite graph is a type of graph which consists of two sets of vertices that are linked by edges. The vertices have additional attributes, making this graph particularly useful for **representing information in the field of e-commerce**.



### **Group-based Frauds on Attributed Bipartite Graphs**

Group-based fraud is becoming increasingly rampant**:** "Ride Item's Coattails" attack (edge classification) Sockpuppet-based Targeted Attack on Reviewing Systems (STARS attack) (vertex classification)





Image source: STARS: Defending against Sockpuppet-Based Targeted Attacks on Reviewing Systems

### **SOTA method for "Ride Item's Coattails" attack**

**RICD** ( $(\alpha, k1, k2)$ -biclique): **fraud detection method** for "Ride Item's Coattails" attack. Can only utilize structural information.

Tianchi competition winner's algorithm: **classification method**. Can only use attribute information.



### **SOTA method for STARS attack**

**RTV: fraud detection method** for Sockpuppet-based Targeted Attack on Reviewing Systems (STARS). Unable to make good use of label information.

Algorithm RTV **Input:** Rating graph  $G = (\mathcal{U} \cup \mathcal{P}, \mathcal{R}, \text{sc})$ , weights  $\alpha_1, \alpha_2, \beta_1, \beta_2, \gamma_1, \gamma_2, \gamma_3, \gamma_4$ , threshold  $\epsilon$ **Output:** fair(*u*)  $\forall u \in \mathcal{U}$ , good(*p*)  $\forall p \in \mathcal{P}$ , rel(*u*, *p*)  $\forall (u, p) \in \mathcal{R}$ for each  $u \in \mathcal{U}$ ,  $\text{fair}_0(u) \leftarrow \text{norm}(u)$ **for each**  $p \in \mathcal{P}$ ,  $\text{good}_0(p) \leftarrow \text{norm}(p)$ for each  $(u, p) \in \mathcal{R}$ , rel<sub>0</sub> $(u, p) \leftarrow norm(u, p)$  $\mu_f \leftarrow \frac{\sum_{u \in \mathcal{U}} \operatorname{fair}_0(u)}{|\mathcal{U}|}, \mu_g \leftarrow \frac{\sum_{p \in \mathcal{P}} \operatorname{good}_0(p)}{|\mathcal{P}|}$  $t \leftarrow 1$ 5 **for each**  $u \in \mathcal{U}$ , fair<sub>t</sub> $(u) \leftarrow$  value computed as specified in Section 4.1, with rel $(u, p) =$  rel<sub>t-1</sub> $(u, p)$ 6 for each  $p \in \mathcal{P}$ , good,  $(p) \leftarrow$  value computed as specified in Section 4.1, with rel $(u, p) = rel_{t-1}(u, p)$ for each  $(u, p) \in \mathcal{R}$ , rel<sub>t</sub> $(u, p) \leftarrow$  value computed as specified in Section 4.1, with fair $(u) = \text{fair}_t(u)$  $\Delta \leftarrow \max\left(\sum_{u \in \mathcal{U}} |\text{fair}_{t}(u) - \text{fair}_{t-1}(u)|, \sum_{p \in \mathcal{P}} | \text{good}_{t}(p) - \text{good}_{t-1}(p)|, \sum_{(u, p) \in \mathcal{R}} | \text{rel}_{t}(u, p) - \text{rel}_{t-1}(u, p) | \right)$ 9 10 | if  $\Delta > \epsilon$  or  $t = 1$  then  $t \leftarrow t + 1$  and go to Line 6 **return** fair<sub>t</sub>(*u*)  $\forall u \in \mathcal{U}$ , good<sub>t</sub>(*p*)  $\forall p \in \mathcal{P}$ , rel<sub>t</sub>(*u*, *p*)  $\forall (u, p) \in \mathcal{R}$ 

### **Existing methods**

#### **Classification Methods:**

• Imbalanced labeled vertices, community information.

#### **Cohesive Subgraph Mining Methods:**

• Attribute and label information, suffer from NP-completeness.

#### **Fraud Detection Methods:**

• Global topological and attribute information, label information, manual parameter setting.

### **Group-based Fraud Detection method: GFDN**



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### **Structural Feature Initialization**

#### $(\alpha, \beta)$ -core:

Given a bipartite graph G and integers  $\alpha$ ,  $\beta \in \mathbb{Z}^+$ ,  $(\alpha, \beta)$ -core of G is denoted as G ' which consists of two vertex sets  $U' \subseteq U$  and  $V' \subseteq V$ .

The  $(\alpha, \beta)$ -core G ' is a maximal bipartite subgraph induced by U'  $\cup$  V' from G in which all the vertices in U' have degrees at least  $\alpha$  and all the vertices in V' have degrees at least  $\beta$ .



### **Structural Feature Initialization**

GFDN will generate structural features for vertices based on their existence in different  $(\alpha, \beta)$ -core.

$$
\hat{X}_{(\mathcal{U},s)} = X_{(\mathcal{U},s)} \odot (I_{\mathcal{U}}W_{(\mathcal{U},s)}), \ \hat{X}_{(\mathcal{V},s)} = X_{(\mathcal{V},s)} \odot (I_{\mathcal{V}}W_{(\mathcal{V},s)}))
$$

Attributed Bipartite Graph  $(\alpha,\!\beta)-\mathrm{core}$ 

 $W_{(\mathcal{U},s)}$ 

 $\boxed{W_{(\mathcal{V},s)}}$ 

**Structural Features Element-wise Product All-ones Vector Weight Matrix**

### **Fraudster Community Detection**

#### **BDCN - Autoencoder**:

Autoencoder in Bipartite Deep Clustering Network (BDCN) can:

1. preserving both structural and attribute information from the input features.

2. Generate high-quality community representation for customer vertices.

It can achieve self-supervised fraud **community detection** using a loss function measures with Student's t-distribution kernel.



### **Fraudster Community Detection**

#### **BDCN - GNN**:

GNN in BDCN can aggregate on attribute bipartite graph and preserve the attribute information and structural information of the graph well. The output of each encoding layer will be used.



### **Training Objective**

#### **"Ride Item's Coattails" Attack**:

In "Ride Item's Coattails" attack, not all edges related to fraudsters necessarily have attack implications. GFDN will perform **multi-task training** on this issue, predicting both **fraudsters** and **fraudulent attack**.

#### **STARS Attack**:

STARS attack detection aims to **detect fraudsters**, in which case GFDN only needs to perform the vertex classification task.



### **Training Objective**

The final loss function will be composed of the loss functions of the aforementioned training objectives, including reconstruction of **autoencoder**, **community prediction**, **fraudster prediction**, and **fraudulent attack prediction**. The sum of the weights of all parts of them is 1.

$$
\mathcal{L} = \omega_{ae} \mathcal{L}_{ae} + \omega_c \mathcal{L}_c + \omega_l \mathcal{L}_l + \omega_e \mathcal{L}_e
$$
\n
$$
\uparrow \qquad \qquad \uparrow \qquad \qquad \uparrow
$$
\n
$$
\text{Autoencoder} \quad \text{Commuty} \quad \text{Fraudster} \quad \text{Fraudulent}
$$



## **Experimental Setup**

#### • **Dataset**

- 4 real-life datasets.
- **Compared methods**
	- 5 learning-based methods.
	- 2 pattern-based methods.
	- 4 fraud detection methods.
	- A naïve model and four ablated GFDNs

#### • **Parameter settings**

- The number of GNN layer: 4.
- The number of community: 32.
- Hidden dimension: 128.
- The selected GNN is GraphSAGE.
- **Implementation**
	- Structure information extraction: C++
	- Other Parts of the Model :Python + Pytorch Geometric.

#### Table 1: Datasets for "Ride Item's Coattails" Attack Detection



#### **Table 2: Datasets for STARS Attack Detection**





### **Effectiveness Evaluation Results for "Ride Item's Coattails" Detection**



### **Comparison with Pattern-based Algorithms**



### **Query Time Evaluation of "Ride Item's Coattails" Detection**



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### **Effectiveness Evaluation Results for STARS Detection**



### **Effectiveness Evaluation Results for STARS Detection**



### **In-Depth Effectiveness Analysis of GFDN**



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### **Parameter Analysis Results in GFDN**



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