

# Supplementary material for “Multi-step Sensor Attackability in Cyber-Physical Systems”

Wenli Duo, *Graduate Student Member, IEEE*, Shouguang Wang, *Senior Member, IEEE*,  
and MengChu Zhou, *Fellow, IEEE*

## I. NOMENCLATURE

$\mathbb{N}$	Set of natural numbers
$\mathbb{N}^+$	Set of positive integers
$G$	$(X, \Sigma, \delta, x_0, X_m)$ , physical plant
$S$	$(X_S, \Sigma, \delta_S, x_{0,S}, X_{m,S})$ , supervisor
$R$	$(X_R, \Sigma_R, \delta_R, x_{0,R}, X_{m,R})$ , 1A automaton
$L(G)$	language generated by $G$
$L_m(G)$	language marked by $G$
$V/G$	Closed-loop system
$\Sigma_{\bar{o}}$	Set of unobservable events
$\Sigma_o$	Set of observable events
$\Sigma_{RD}$	Set of replacement and deletion operations
$\Sigma_I$	Set of insertion operations
$\Sigma_A$	Set of all events and possible actions under attacks
$G_A$	$(X_A, \Sigma_A, \delta_A, x_{0,A}, X_{m,A})$ , general attack structure
$G_P$	$(X_P, \Sigma_A, \delta_P, x_{0,P}, X_{m,P})$ , refined and stealthy attack structure
$X_u$	Set of unsafe states
$X_{dead}$	Set of dead states
$Ac(\cdot)$	Accessible part of an automaton
$Trim(\cdot)$	Accessible and coaccessible part of an automaton
$\Gamma(x)$	Set of active events at state $x$ in $G$
$P_G(s)$	$P_G: \Sigma_A^* \rightarrow \Sigma^*$ , actual generation of $G$ with respect to $s$
$P_S(s)$	$P_S: \Sigma_A^* \rightarrow \Sigma_o^*$ , observation of $S$ with respect to $s$
$P_A(s)$	$P_A: \Sigma_A^* \rightarrow (\Sigma_{RD} \cup \Sigma_I)^*$ , attack operations required by $s$
$ s $	Length of a string $s$
$L_k(G_P)$	$\{s \in L_m(G_P) \mid  P_A(s)  \leq k\}$ , set of strings in $L_m(G_P)$ that requires within $k$ attack operations
$G_{AR}(G)$	$(X_{AR}, \Sigma_{AR}, \delta_{AR}, x_{0,AR}, X_{m,AR})$ , attack recognizer for $G$ and $G_P$
$G_{AR}^k(G)$	$(X_{AR}^k, \Sigma_{AR}^k, \delta_{AR}^k, x_{0,AR}^k, X_{m,AR}^k)$ , $k$ -step attack recognizer for $G$ and $G_P$
$G_K$	$(X_K, \Sigma_K, \delta_K, x_{0,K}, X_{m,K})$ , automaton that recognizes $L_k(G_P)$
$\tilde{N}(x)$	$\{x' \in X_P \mid (\exists s \in \Sigma^*) \delta_P(x, s) = x'\}$ , set of normal reach of $x$

## II. ALGORITHMS

In this section, explanations of Algorithms 1 and 2 as well as their computational analysis are provided.

**Algorithm 1:** It is designed for construction of a refined and stealthy RDI attack structure, which extends the work in [1] and [2]. The algorithm first constructs a general attack structure based on Definition 2. After obtaining  $G_A$ , Algorithm 1 computes the 1A automaton  $R$  and the closed-loop system  $V/G$ . Then, it calls *PruningGa* to prune  $G_A$ . In *PruningGa*, let

---

**Algorithm 1** Computation of a refined and stealthy RDI attack structure  $G_P$

---

**Input:** a plant  $G = (X, \Sigma, \delta, x_0, X_m)$ , its supervisor  $S = (X_S, \Sigma, \delta_S, x_{0,S}, X_{m,S})$ , and a set of unsafe states  $X_u \subseteq X$ .

**Output:** A refined and stealthy RDI attack structure  $G_P = (X_P, \Sigma_A, \delta_P, x_{0,P}, X_{m,P})$ .

1. construct  $G_A$  based on Definition 2;
2. construct 1A automaton  $R$ ;
3.  $V/G \leftarrow G \parallel S$ ;
4.  $G_P \leftarrow \text{PruningGa}(V/G, R, G_A)$ ;

**Output:**  $G_P$ .

---



---

Function  $G_P = \text{PruningGa}(V/G, R, G_A)$

---

**Input:** A closed-loop system  $V/G = (X_{V/G}, \Sigma, \delta_{V/G}, x_{0,V/G}, X_{m,V/G})$ , RDI attack structure  $G_A = (X_A, \Sigma_A, \delta_A, x_{0,A}, X_{m,A})$ , and 1A rule  $R = (X_R, \Sigma_R, \delta_R, x_{0,R}, X_{m,R})$ .

**Output:** A pruned automaton  $G_P = (X_P, \Sigma_A, \delta_P, x_{0,P}, X_{m,P})$ .

1. Let  $X_{dead} \leftarrow \emptyset, B \leftarrow \emptyset, i \leftarrow 0$ ;
  2.  $Y_0 \leftarrow Ac(G_A \parallel R)$ ;
  3. **for** each  $x \in X_{Y_0} \setminus (X_{m,Y_0} \cup (X_{m,V/G} \times X_R))$  **do**
  4.   **if**  $\Gamma_{Y_0}(x) = \emptyset$  **then**
  5.      $X_{dead} \leftarrow X_{dead} \cup \{x\}$ ;
  6.   **end if**
  7. **end for**
  8. **for** each  $x \in X_{Y_0}$  **do**
  9.   **if**  $\exists e \in \Sigma_{\bar{o}}, s. t. \delta_{Y_0}(x, e) \in X_{dead}$  **then**
  10.      $X_{dead} \leftarrow X_{dead} \cup \{x\}$ ;
  11.   **else if**  $P_G(\Gamma_{Y_0}(x)) \neq P_G(\Gamma_{Y_0}(x)) \wedge \Gamma_{Y_0}(x) \cap \Sigma_I = \emptyset$  **then**
  12.      $X_{dead} \leftarrow X_{dead} \cup \{x\}$ ;
  13.   **end if**
  14. **end for**
  15.  $Y_{i+1} \leftarrow Ac(Y_i, X_{dead})$ ;
  16. **if**  $Y_{i+1} \neq Y_i$  **then**
  17.    $i \leftarrow i + 1$ ;
  18.   go to step 8;
  19. **else**
  20.    $Y' \leftarrow Trim(Y_{i+1})$ ;
  21. **end if**
  22. **for** each  $x \in X_{Y'}$  **do**
  23.   **if**  $\exists e \in \Sigma, s. t. \delta_{Y'}(x, e) \in X_{m,Y'}$  **then**
  24.      $B \leftarrow \bigcup_{\sigma \in \Gamma_{Y'}(x) \cap \{\sigma \in \Sigma_{RD} \mid P_G(\sigma) = e\}} \delta_{Y'}(x, \sigma)$ ;
  25.   **end if**
  26. **end for**
  27.  $G_P \leftarrow Trim(Y, B)$ ;
  28. **Output:**  $G_P$ .
-

$X_{dead}$  be a set of dead states and  $B$  be a global variable. First, *PruningGa* initializes  $X_{dead}$  and  $B$ . Let  $i = 0$  and we obtain an automaton by  $Y_i = Ac(G_A || R) = (X_{Y_i}, \Sigma_A, \delta_{Y_i}, x_{0,Y_i}, X_{m,Y_i})$ . This step removes strings that violate the 1A rule from  $G_A$ . Steps 3-7 compute  $X_{dead}$  in  $Y_i$ . Steps 8-21 adopt a pruning process from [2] to eliminate strings that can lead the system to dead states, which can be considered as a standard supervisory control problem. It iteratively removes dead states from  $Y_i$  as well as those that can reach dead ones via uncontrollable events. More details can be found in [2].

In practice, there is no need to launch any attack once an unsafe state is reached. For  $x \in X_{Y'}$  and  $e \in \Sigma$ ,  $\delta_Y(x, e) \in X_{m,Y'}$  indicates that an unsafe state is reached when  $e$  occurs. Modifications on  $e$  are considered redundant.  $\forall \sigma \in \Gamma_{Y'}(x) \cap \{\sigma \in \Sigma_{RD} | P_G(\sigma) = e\}$ ,  $\delta_{Y'}(x, \sigma)$  is a redundant state and added to set  $B$ . Steps 20-27 of *PruningGa* remove all the states in  $B$  from  $Y'$ , and derive an accessible and co-accessible automaton  $G_P$ , which is the refined and stealthy attack structure.

The burdensome parts of Algorithm 1 are construction and pruning of  $G_A$ .  $G_A$  has at most  $|X| \times |X_S|$  states. For each state in  $X_A$ , we have to enumerate each event in  $\Sigma_A$  at it, where  $|\Sigma_A| = |\Sigma| + |\Sigma_{RD}| + |\Sigma_I| = |\Sigma| + |\Sigma_o| \times |\Sigma_o| + |\Sigma_o|$ . The complexity to construct  $G_A$  is  $O(|X| \times |X_S| \times (|\Sigma| + |\Sigma_o| \times |\Sigma_o| + |\Sigma_o|)) \approx O(|X|^2 \times |\Sigma|^2)$ . In *PruningGa*, steps 2-7 compute  $G_A || R$  and find dead states, which takes  $O(|X_A| \times |X_R|)$ . There are at most  $|X_A| \times |X_R|$  states in  $Y_i$ . For each state in  $X_{Y_i}$ , steps 9-13 check active events at it, which takes  $O(|\Sigma_A|)$ . The complexity of steps 8-14 is  $O(|X_A| \times |X_R| \times |\Sigma_A|)$  and that of 15 is  $O(|X_A| \times |X_R|)$ . After removing dead states from  $Y_i$ , we check if  $Y_{i+1} \neq Y_i$ . If so, a “go to” procedure is called, which runs  $|X_A| \times |X_R|$  times in the worst case. Then, steps 22-26 take  $O(|X_A| \times |X_R|)$  to remove redundant states. The overall complexity of *PruningGa* is  $O(|X_A| \times |X_R|) + O(|X_A|^2 \times |X_R|^2 \times |\Sigma_A|) + O(|X_A| \times |X_R|^2) + O(|X_A| \times |X_R|) \approx O(|X_A|^2 \times |X_R|^2 \times |\Sigma_A|) \approx O(|X|^4 \times |\Sigma|^2)$ . Thus, the overall complexity of Algorithm 1 is  $O(|X|^2 \times |\Sigma|^2) + O(|X|^4 \times |\Sigma|^2) \approx O(|X|^4 \times |\Sigma|^2)$ .

**Algorithm 2:** It is provided to compute  $L_k(G_P)$  for a weakly  $k$ -step attackable system. Algorithm 2 starts with constructing the  $k$ -step attack recognizer  $G_{AR}^k(G)$ . It then initializes a set  $\varphi$ , and searches for states in  $G_{AR}^k(G)$  at which the required number of attacks exceeds  $k$ . For each  $(x_{AR}, \omega) \in X_{AR}^k$ ,  $(x_{AR}, \omega)$  is added into  $\varphi$  if  $\omega = -1$ . Then,  $Trim(G_{AR}^k(G), \varphi)$  is called to remove states in  $\varphi$  from  $G_{AR}^k(G)$ . It returns an automaton  $H = (X_H, \Sigma_H, \delta_H, x_{0,H}, X_{m,H})$ , which is a subautomaton of  $G_{AR}^k(G)$ , and  $\forall (x_{AR}, \omega) \in X_H$ ,  $\omega \geq 0$ , if  $H \neq \emptyset$ . Namely,  $\forall s \in L_m(H)$ ,  $|s| \leq k$ . Then, we perform  $Trim(G_P || H)$  to remove strings in  $G_P$  that require more than  $k$  attack operations. The resultant automaton is denoted as  $G_K = (X_K, \Sigma_K, \delta_K, x_{0,K}, X_{m,K})$ , from which  $L_k(G_P)$  can be derived.

In Algorithm 2, we first construct  $G_{AR}^k(G)$ , which can be done in  $O((k+2) \times 2^{2|X|^2+1} \times |\Sigma_o|)$ . The computation of  $\varphi$  and the trim operation  $Trim(G_{AR}^k(G), \varphi)$  take the same complexity of  $O((k+2) \times 2^{2|X|^2})$ , since there are at most  $(k+2) \times 2^{2|X|^2}$  states in  $G_{AR}^k(G)$ .  $H$  is a subautomaton of  $G_{AR}^k(G)$ , which also

---

**Algorithm 2** Computing  $L_k(G_P)$  for a weakly  $k$ -step attackable system

---

**Input:** A plant  $G$ , an attack structure  $G_P$ , and  $k \in \mathbb{N}^+$ .

**Output:** An automaton  $G_K$  that recognizes  $L_k(G_P)$ .

---

- 1) construct  $G_{AR}^k(G)$ ;
  - 2) let  $\varphi \leftarrow \emptyset$ ;
  - 3) **for** each  $(x_{AR}, \omega) \in X_{AR}^k$  **do**
  - 4)   **if**  $\omega = -1$  **then**
  - 5)      $\varphi \leftarrow \varphi \cup \{(x_{AR}, \omega)\}$ ;
  - 6)   **end if**
  - 7) **end for**
  - 8)  $H \leftarrow Trim(G_{AR}^k(G), \varphi)$ ;
  - 9)  $G_K \leftarrow Trim(G_P || H)$ ;
  - 10) **Output:**  $G_K$ .
- 

contains at most  $(k+2) \times 2^{2|X|^2}$  states. The composition of  $G_P$  and  $H$  takes  $|X_P| \times |X_H| = 2|X|^2 \times (k+2) \times 2^{2|X|^2+1}$  operations. Thus, the total complexity of Algorithm 2 is  $O((k+2) \times 2^{2|X|^2+1} \times |\Sigma_o| + (k+2) \times 2^{2|X|^2} + (k+2) \times 2^{2|X|^2} + 2|X|^2 \times (k+2) \times 2^{2|X|^2})$ , which is simplified to  $O((k+2) \times 2^{2|X|^2+1} \times |\Sigma_o|)$ .

### III. PROOFS

**Proposition 1:** Given a plant  $G$ , its supervisor  $S$  and a set of unsafe states  $X_u$  as inputs of Algorithm 1, the output  $G_P$  provides stealthy attacks that adhere to the 1A rule.

**Proof:** *PruningGa* shows that  $Y_0 = Ac(G_A || R)$  and  $\Sigma_A = \Sigma_R$ . We have  $L(Y_0) \subseteq L(G_A) \cap L(R) \Rightarrow L(Y_i) \subseteq L(G_A) \cap L(R)$ , for  $i \in \mathbb{N}$ . When  $Y_{i+1} = Y_i$ , we have  $Y' = Trim(Y_{i+1})$  and  $G_P = Trim(Y', B)$ . It holds that  $L(G_P) \subseteq L(G_A) \cap L(R)$ . Hence,  $G_P$  follows the 1A rule. As for stealthiness, it trivially holds due to the construction of  $G_A$  and pruning process in [2]. ■

**Proposition 2:** If  $G$  is  $k$ -step attackable w.r.t.  $S$  and  $G_P$ , then  $G$  is  $k'$ -step attackable w.r.t.  $S$  and  $G_P$  for any  $k' > k$ , where  $k, k' \in \mathbb{N}^+$ .

**Proof:** Suppose that  $G$  is not  $k'$ -step attackable. By Definition 4, it implies that  $G$  is not  $k$ -step attackable for any  $k < k'$ . By contrapositive, the proposition is true. ■

**Theorem 1:** Given a plant  $G$ , its supervisor  $S$ , an attack structure  $G_P$ , there exists an integer  $k \in \mathbb{N}^+$ , such that  $G$  is  $k$ -step attackable w.r.t.  $S$  and  $G_P$  iff its attack recognizer  $G_{AR}(G)$  is loop-free.

**Proof:** ( $\Rightarrow$ ) By contrapositive, assume that there is a loop  $l_1$ :  $x_{1,AR} \xrightarrow{\sigma_1} x_{2,AR} \xrightarrow{\sigma_2} \dots x_{n,AR} \xrightarrow{\sigma_n} x_{1,AR}$  in  $G_{AR}(G)$ , where  $n \in \mathbb{N}^+$ ,  $\sigma_i \in (\Sigma_{RD} \cup \Sigma_I)$  for  $i \in \{1, 2, \dots, n\}$ . Based on Definition 5, there exists a sequence  $l_2$  in  $G_P$ :

$$x_{1,P} \xrightarrow{\sigma_1} x_{2,P} \xrightarrow{t_1} x'_{2,P} \xrightarrow{\sigma_2} x_{3,P} \xrightarrow{t_2} \dots \xrightarrow{t_{n-1}} x'_{n,P} \xrightarrow{\sigma_n} x_{n+1,P},$$

where  $x_{1,P}$  is a component of  $x_{1,AR}$ ,  $t_m \in \Sigma^*$ ,  $x_{j,AR} = \tilde{N}(x_{j,P})$ , for  $m \in \{1, 2, \dots, n-1\}$  and  $j \in \{2, \dots, n\}$ . We have  $\delta_P(x_{n,P}, t_{n-1} \sigma_n) =$

$x_{n+1,P}$ , and  $x_{1,AR} = \tilde{N}(x_{n+1,P})$ . Since  $x_{1,P}$  is a component of  $x_{1,AR}$ ,  $x_{1,P} \in \tilde{N}(x_{n+1,P})$ ,  $\exists w \in \Sigma^*$ , such that  $x_{1,P} = \delta_P(x_{P,n+1}, w)$ , leading to  $l_3$ :

$$x_{1,P} \xrightarrow{\sigma_1} x_{2,P} \xrightarrow{t_1} x'_{2,P} \xrightarrow{\sigma_2} x_{3,P} \xrightarrow{t_2} \dots \xrightarrow{t_{n-1}} x'_{n,P} \xrightarrow{\sigma_n} x_{n+1,P} \xrightarrow{w} x_{1,P},$$

which is a loop that contains attack operations in  $G_P$ . It implies that the system may stay in the loop when an attack strategy involving  $l_3$  is performed, which results in an infinite number of attacks. It contradicts that  $G$  is  $k$ -step attackable w.r.t.  $G_P$ .

( $\Leftarrow$ ) By contrapositive, assume that there does not exist an integer  $k \in \mathbb{N}^+$ , such that  $G$  is  $k$ -step attackable w.r.t.  $G_P$ . It implies that  $\exists s \in L_m(G_P)$  and  $s$  contains an infinite number of attack operations. We have  $P_A(s) = w = \sigma_1 \sigma_2 \sigma_3 \dots$ , and  $w \in L(G_{AR}(G))$ , where  $\sigma_i \in \Sigma_{RD} \cup \Sigma_I$  and  $i \in \mathbb{N}^+$ . Since  $G_{AR}(G)$  is a finite state automaton, an infinite string  $w$  should be regular with the form  $w = (\sigma_1 \sigma_2 \sigma_3 \dots \sigma_i)^*$ , which is a loop in  $G_{AR}(G)$ . It contradicts that  $G_{AR}(G)$  is loop-free. ■

**Lemma 1:** For any string  $s \in (\Sigma_{RD} \cup \Sigma_I)^*$  with  $|s| \geq k+1$ , we have  $\delta_{AR}^k((x_{0,AR}, k), s) = (\delta_{AR}(x_{0,AR}, s), -1)$  if  $\delta_{AR}(x_{0,AR}, s)!$ .

**Proof:** Let  $s = \sigma_1 \sigma_2 \dots \sigma_{k+1} \in L(G_{AR}^k(G))$ , where  $\sigma_i \in \Sigma_{RD} \cup \Sigma_I$  and  $i \in \{1, 2, \dots, k+1\}$ .  $\delta_{AR}^k((x_{0,AR}, k), s) = \delta_{AR}^k((\delta_{AR}(x_{0,AR}, \sigma_1), k-1), \sigma_2 \dots \sigma_{k+1}) = \dots = \delta_{AR}^k((\delta_{AR}(x_{0,AR}, \sigma_1 \sigma_2 \dots \sigma_k), k-k), \sigma_{k+1}) = (\delta_{AR}(x_{0,AR}, \sigma_1 \sigma_2 \dots \sigma_k \sigma_{k+1}), -1)$ . It is intuitive that similar results can be obtained for any string  $s' \in (\Sigma_{RD} \cup \Sigma_I)^*$  with  $|s'| \geq |s|$ . ■

**Theorem 2:** Given a plant  $G$ , its supervisor  $S$ , an attack structure  $G_P$ , and  $k \in \mathbb{N}^+$ ,  $G_{AR}^k(G)$  is the  $k$ -step attack recognizer.  $G$  is  $k$ -step attackable w.r.t.  $S$  and  $G_P$  iff  $\forall (x_{AR}, \omega) \in X_{AR}^k$ ,  $\omega \geq 0$ .

**Proof:** ( $\Rightarrow$ ) By contrapositive, suppose that  $\exists (x_{AR}, \omega) \in X_{AR}^k$ ,  $\omega = -1$ . It implies that  $\exists s \in L(G_{AR}^k(G))$ , such that  $\delta_{AR}^k((x_{0,AR}, k), s) = (x_{AR}, -1)$ . It leads to a sequence  $(x_{0,AR}, k) \xrightarrow{\sigma_1} (x_{1,AR}, k-1) \xrightarrow{\sigma_2} \dots \xrightarrow{\sigma_{k+1}} (x_{k+1,AR}, -1) \xrightarrow{\sigma_{k+2}} \dots \xrightarrow{\sigma_{|s|}} (x_{AR}, -1)$ , where  $\sigma_i \in \Sigma_{RD} \cup \Sigma_I$  and  $i \in \{1, 2, \dots, |s|\}$ . It shows that  $|s| = |\sigma_1 \sigma_2 \dots \sigma_{k+1} \dots \sigma_{|s|}| \geq k+1$ . Since  $L(G_{AR}^k(G)) = P_A(L(G_P))$ ,  $\exists s' \in L(G_P)$ , such that  $P_A(s') = s$ . Since  $G_P$  is a trim,  $\forall v \in \Sigma_A^*$ , such that  $s'v \in L_m(G_P)$ , and  $|P_A(s'v)| \geq k+1$ , which contradicts that  $G$  is  $k$ -step attackable.

( $\Leftarrow$ ) By contrapositive, assume that  $G$  is not  $k$ -step attackable w.r.t.  $S$  and  $G_P$ , which means  $\exists s \in L_m(G_P)$  such that  $|P_A(s)| \geq k+1$ . Let  $s' = P_A(s)$ . We have  $s' \in L(G_{AR}^k(G))$ . By Lemma 1,  $\delta_{AR}^k((x_{0,AR}, k), s') = (\delta_{AR}(x_{0,AR}, s'), -1) \in X_{AR}^k$ , which contradicts to  $\forall (x_{AR}, \omega) \in X_{AR}^k$ ,  $\omega \geq 0$ . ■

**Theorem 3:** Given a plant  $G$  and a supervisor  $S$ ,  $G_P$  is the attack structure w.r.t.  $S$ . For any  $k' > k = 2^{2|X|^2}-1$ ,  $G$  is  $k'$ -step attackable w.r.t.  $S$  and  $G_P$ , iff  $G$  is  $k$ -step attackable w.r.t.  $S$  and  $G_P$ .

**Proof:** ( $\Rightarrow$ ) For any  $k' > k = 2^{2|X|^2}-1$ , we prove that  $G$  is  $k$ -step attackable if  $G$  is  $k'$ -step attackable. Assuming that  $G$  is not  $k$ -step attackable, it implies that  $\exists s \in L_m(G_P)$ , such that  $|P_A(s)| > k$ . We have  $\exists s' \in L_m(G_{AR}(G))$ , such that  $s' = P_A(s)$

and  $|s'| > k$ . Without loss of generality, let  $|s'| = k+1$ , since the proof can be generalized inductively to any  $k' > k$ . The string  $s'$  leads to a sequence  $l$  in  $G_{AR}(G)$ :  $x_{0,AR} \xrightarrow{\sigma_1} x_{1,AR} \xrightarrow{\sigma_2} \dots \xrightarrow{\sigma_{k+1}} x_{k+1,AR}$ , where  $s' = \sigma_1 \sigma_2 \dots \sigma_{k+1}$ , and  $|s'| = |\sigma_1 \sigma_2 \dots \sigma_{k+1}| = k+1$ . It is obvious that  $l$  contains  $k+1$  ( $= 2^{2|X|^2}$ ) attack operations and  $k+2$  ( $= 2^{2|X|^2}+1$ ) states. Since  $G_{AR}(G)$  contains at most  $2^{2|X|^2}$  states, at least two states  $x_{i,AR}$  and  $x_{j,AR}$  exist in  $l$ , such that  $x_{i,AR} = x_{j,AR}$ , where  $i, j \in \{0, 1, \dots, k\}$ . It indicates that there is a loop in  $G_{AR}(G)$ . By Theorem 1 and Proposition 2, we conclude that  $G$  is not  $k'$ -step attackable.

( $\Leftarrow$ ) It is obvious that  $G$  is  $k'$ -step attackable if  $G$  is  $k$ -step attackable by Proposition 2. ■

**Theorem 4:** Given a plant  $G$ , its supervisor  $S$ , an attack structure  $G_P$ , and  $k \in \mathbb{N}^+$ ,  $G_{AR}^k(G) = (X_{AR}^k, \Sigma_{RD} \cup \Sigma_I, \delta_{AR}^k, x_{0,AR}, X_{m,AR}^k)$  is the  $k$ -step attack recognizer.  $G$  is weakly  $k$ -step attackable w.r.t.  $S$  and  $G_P$  iff  $\exists (x_{AR}, \omega) \in X_{m,AR}^k$ ,  $\omega \geq 0$ .

**Proof:** ( $\Rightarrow$ ) If  $G$  is weakly  $k$ -step attackable,  $\exists s \in L_m(G_P)$ , such that  $|P_A(s)| \leq k$ , i.e.,  $\exists s' \in L_m(G_{AR}^k(G))$ , such that  $P_A(s) = s'$  and  $|s'| \leq k$ . It leads to sequence in  $G_{AR}^k(G)$ :  $(x_{0,AR}, k) \xrightarrow{\sigma_1} (x_{1,AR}, k-1) \xrightarrow{\sigma_2} \dots \xrightarrow{\sigma_{|s'|}} (x_{AT}, k-|s'|)$ . Since  $|s'| \leq k$ , we have  $k-|s'| \geq 0$ .

( $\Leftarrow$ ) If  $\exists (x_{AR}, \omega) \in X_{m,AR}^k$ ,  $\omega \geq 0$ , there exists a string  $s \in L_m(G_{AR}^k(G))$ , such that  $\delta_{AR}^k((x_{0,AR}, k), s) = (x_{AR}, \omega)$  and  $|s| \leq k$ . Since  $L_m(G_{AR}^k(G)) = P_A(L_m(G_P))$ , we have  $\exists s' \in L_m(G_P)$ , such that  $P_A(s') = s$  and  $|P_A(s')| \leq k$ . Hence,  $G$  is weakly  $k$ -step attackable w.r.t.  $S$  and  $G_P$ . ■

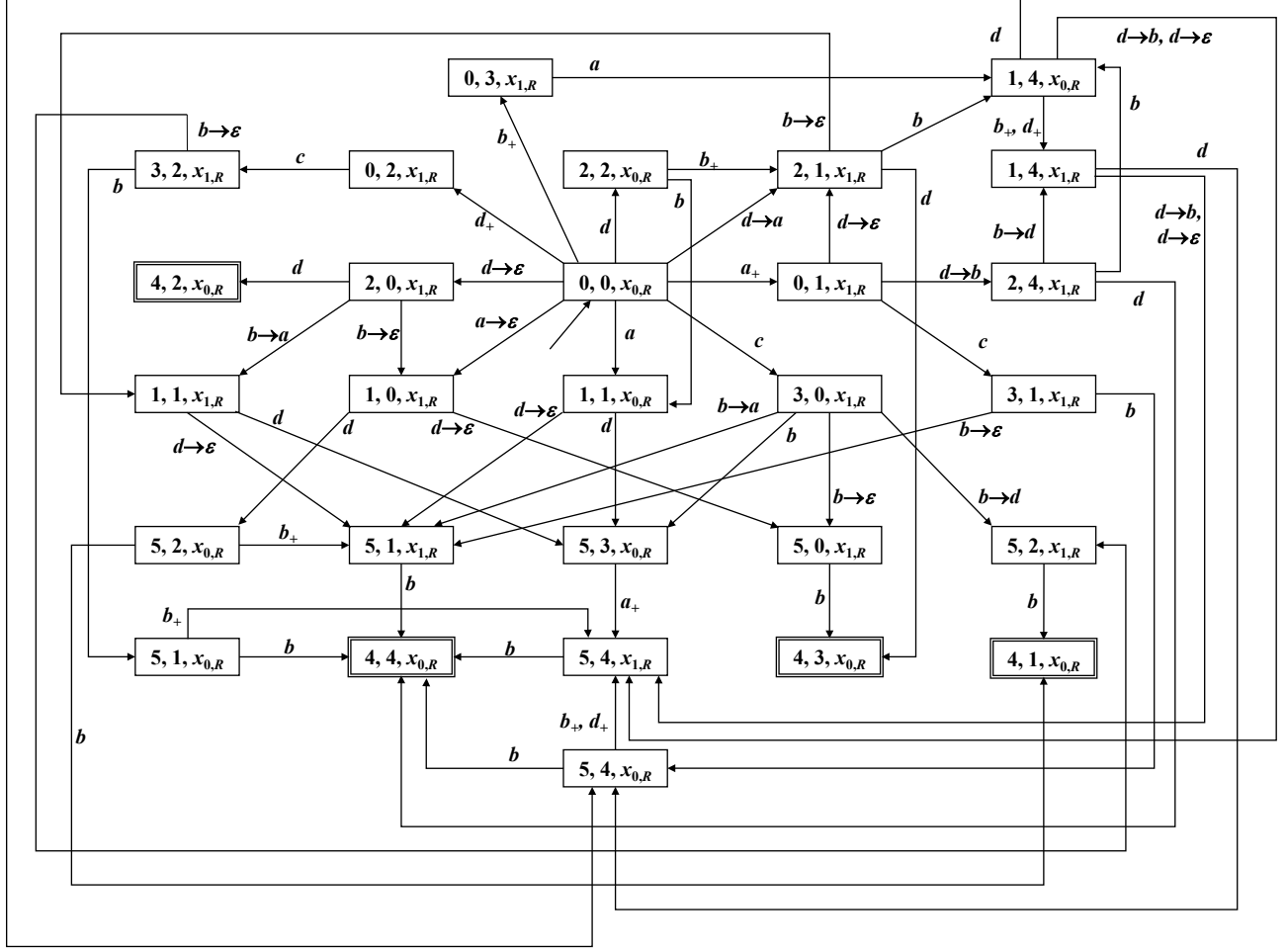
**Proposition 3:** Given a plant  $G$ , an attack structure  $G_P$ , and  $k \in \mathbb{N}^+$ , let  $G_K$  be the output of Algorithm 2 and  $L_k(G_P) = \{s \in L_m(G_P) \mid |P_A(s)| \leq k\}$ . It holds that  $L_m(G_K) = L_k(G_P)$ .

**Proof:** Consider the construction of  $G_K$ . Since  $\Sigma_H = \Sigma_{RD} \cup \Sigma_I$  and  $\Sigma_P = \Sigma_A = \Sigma_{RD} \cup \Sigma_I \cup \Sigma$ , we have  $L_m(G_K) = L_m(G_P \parallel H) = P_{(\Sigma_P \cup \Sigma_H)^* \rightarrow \Sigma_P}^{-1} L_m(G_P) \cap P_{(\Sigma_P \cup \Sigma_H)^* \rightarrow \Sigma_H}^{-1} L_m(H) = L_m(G_P) \cap P_A^{-1} L_m(H)$ . We show that  $L_m(G_K) \subseteq L_k(G_P)$ . Since  $\forall (x_{AR}, \omega) \in X_H$ ,  $\omega \geq 0$ , we have  $\forall w \in L_m(H)$ ,  $|w| \leq k$ . For any  $s \in L_m(G_K)$ , we have  $s \in L_m(G_P) \cap P_A^{-1} L_m(H)$ . Since  $P_A(L_m(G_P) \cap P_A^{-1} L_m(H)) \subseteq P_A(L_m(G_P)) \cap L_m(H)$ , we have  $P_A(s) \in L_m(H) \Rightarrow |P_A(s)| \leq k$ . It is obvious that  $\forall s \in L_m(G_K)$ ,  $s \in L_k(G_P)$ .

Then, we show that  $L_k(G_P) \subseteq L_m(G_K)$ . Let  $s \in L_k(G_P)$ . By  $s \in L_m(G_P)$  and  $|P_A(s)| \leq k$ , we know that  $P_A(s) \in L_m(G_{AR}^k(G))$  and  $\delta_{AR}^k((x_{0,AR}, k), P_A(s)) = (x_{AR}, \omega) \in X_{m,AR}^k$ , where  $\omega \geq 0$ .  $P_A(s)$  is retained in  $H$  since  $(x_{AR}, \omega)$  is not removed. Thus, we have  $P_A(s) \in L_m(H) \Rightarrow s \in P_A^{-1} L_m(H) \Rightarrow s \in L_m(G_K)$ .

In summary,  $L_k(G_P) = L_m(G_K)$ . ■

## IV. SUPPLEMENTARY CONTENTS ON EXAMPLES

A.  $G_P$  in Example 1

### B. Details of $G_{AR}(G)$ in Example 2

TABLE I  
DETAILS OF STATES IN  $G_{AR}(G)$

State	Components
$x_{0,AR}$	$\{(0, 0, x_{0,R}), (1, 1, x_{0,R}), (2, 2, x_{0,R}), (3, 0, x_{1,R}), (5, 3, x_{0,R})\}$
$x_{1,AR}$	$\{(2, 1, x_{1,R}), (0, 3, x_{1,R}), (1, 4, x_{0,R}), (4, 3, x_{0,R}), (5, 4, x_{0,R}), (4, 4, x_{0,R})\}$
$x_{2,AR}$	$\{(0, 2, x_{1,R}), (3, 2, x_{1,R}), (5, 1, x_{0,R}), (4, 4, x_{0,R})\}$
$x_{3,AR}$	$\{(0, 1, x_{1,R}), (3, 1, x_{1,R}), (5, 4, x_{0,R}), (5, 4, x_{1,R}), (4, 4, x_{0,R})\}$
$x_{4,AR}$	$\{(2, 1, x_{1,R}), (4, 3, x_{1,R}), (1, 4, x_{0,R}), (5, 4, x_{0,R}), (4, 4, x_{0,R})\}$
$x_{5,AR}$	$\{(2, 0, x_{1,R}), (4, 2, x_{0,R}), (5, 1, x_{1,R}), (4, 4, x_{0,R})\}$
$x_{6,AR}$	$\{(1, 0, x_{0,R}), (5, 2, x_{0,R}), (4, 1, x_{0,R})\}$
$x_{7,AR}$	$\{(5, 2, x_{1,R}), (4, 1, x_{0,R})\}$
$x_{8,AR}$	$\{(2, 4, x_{1,R}), (1, 4, x_{0,R}), (5, 4, x_{0,R}), (4, 4, x_{0,R})\}$
$x_{9,AR}$	$\{(5, 4, x_{1,R}), (4, 4, x_{0,R})\}$
$x_{10,AR}$	$\{(1, 1, x_{0,R}), (5, 3, x_{0,R})\}$
$x_{11,AR}$	$\{(1, 4, x_{1,R}), (5, 4, x_{0,R}), (4, 4, x_{0,R})\}$
$x_{12,AR}$	$\{(5, 0, x_{1,R}), (4, 3, x_{0,R})\}$
$x_{13,AR}$	$\{(5, 1, x_{1,R}), (4, 4, x_{0,R})\}$
$x_{14,AR}$	$\{(5, 1, x_{0,R}), (4, 4, x_{0,R})\}$

### C. Details of $G_{AR}^l(G)$ in Example 5

TABLE I  
DETAILS OF STATES  $x_{0,AR}^l - x_{10,AR}^l$  IN  $G_{AR}^l(G)$

State	$x_{AR}$	$\omega$
$x_{0,AR}^l$	$\{(0, 0, x_{0,R}), (1, 1, x_{0,R}), (2, 2, x_{0,R}), (3, 1, x_{1,R}), (3, 3, x_{0,R}), (4, 4, x_{0,R})\}$	1
$x_{1,AR}^l$	$\{(0, 1, x_{1,R}), (2, 3, x_{1,R}), (5, 4, x_{0,R})\}$	0
$x_{2,AR}^l$	$\{(2, 1, x_{1,R}), (5, 4, x_{0,R}), (0, 4, x_{1,R}), (4, 0, x_{1,R}), (0, 4, x_{0,R}), (4, 0, x_{0,R})\}$	0
$x_{3,AR}^l$	$\{(2, 4, x_{1,R}), (5, 0, x_{0,R}), (0, 0, x_{1,R}), (0, 0, x_{0,R}), (1, 1, x_{0,R}), (2, 2, x_{0,R}), (3, 1, x_{1,R}), (3, 3, x_{0,R}), (4, 4, x_{0,R})\}$	0
$x_{4,AR}^l$	$\{(1, 4, x_{1,R}), (2, 0, x_{0,R}), (3, 1, x_{0,R}), (4, 4, x_{0,R}), (0, 0, x_{0,R}), (1, 1, x_{0,R}), (2, 2, x_{0,R}), (3, 1, x_{1,R}), (3, 3, x_{0,R}), (3, 4, x_{1,R}), (0, 4, x_{0,R}), (4, 0, x_{0,R}), (4, 0, x_{1,R})\}$	0
$x_{5,AR}^l$	$\{(1, 4, x_{1,R}), (2, 0, x_{0,R}), (3, 1, x_{0,R}), (4, 4, x_{0,R}), (0, 0, x_{0,R}), (1, 1, x_{0,R}), (2, 2, x_{0,R}), (3, 1, x_{1,R}), (3, 3, x_{0,R}), (3, 4, x_{1,R}), (0, 4, x_{0,R}), (4, 0, x_{0,R})\}$	0
$x_{6,AR}^l$	$\{(2, 4, x_{1,R}), (5, 0, x_{0,R}), (0, 0, x_{1,R}), (0, 0, x_{0,R}), (1, 1, x_{0,R}), (2, 2, x_{0,R}), (3, 1, x_{1,R}), (3, 3, x_{0,R}), (4, 4, x_{0,R})\}$	-1
$x_{7,AR}^l$	$\{(2, 4, x_{1,R}), (5, 0, x_{0,R}), (0, 4, x_{1,R}), (0, 4, x_{0,R}), (4, 0, x_{0,R}), (4, 0, x_{1,R}), (2, 1, x_{1,R}), (5, 4, x_{0,R}), (4, 4, x_{1,R}), (0, 0, x_{1,R}), (0, 0, x_{0,R}), (1, 1, x_{0,R}), (2, 2, x_{0,R}), (3, 1, x_{1,R}), (3, 3, x_{0,R}), (4, 4, x_{0,R})\}$	-1
$x_{8,AR}^l$	$\{(2, 1, x_{1,R}), (5, 4, x_{0,R}), (0, 1, x_{1,R}), (2, 3, x_{1,R}), (4, 1, x_{1,R}), (0, 2, x_{0,R}), (1, 3, x_{0,R}), (3, 3, x_{1,R}), (4, 4, x_{0,R}), (0, 0, x_{0,R}), (1, 1, x_{0,R}), (2, 2, x_{0,R}), (3, 1, x_{1,R}), (3, 3, x_{0,R})\}$	-1
$x_{9,AR}^l$	$\{(2, 0, x_{1,R}), (3, 1, x_{0,R}), (4, 4, x_{0,R}), (0, 0, x_{0,R}), (1, 1, x_{0,R}), (2, 2, x_{0,R}), (3, 1, x_{1,R}), (3, 3, x_{0,R}), (0, 0, x_{1,R}), (2, 4, x_{1,R}), (5, 0, x_{0,R}), (4, 0, x_{1,R}), (0, 4, x_{0,R}), (4, 0, x_{0,R})\}$	-1
$x_{10,AR}^l$	$\{(2, 4, x_{1,R}), (5, 0, x_{0,R}), (0, 4, x_{1,R}), (0, 4, x_{0,R}), (4, 0, x_{0,R}), (4, 0, x_{1,R}), (4, 4, x_{1,R}), (0, 0, x_{1,R}), (0, 0, x_{0,R}), (1, 1, x_{0,R}), (2, 2, x_{0,R}), (3, 1, x_{1,R}), (3, 3, x_{0,R}), (4, 4, x_{0,R})\}$	-1

### REFERENCES

- [1] R. Su, "Supervisor synthesis to thwart cyber attack with bounded sensor reading alterations," *Automatica*, vol. 94, pp. 35-44, 2018.
- [2] R. Meira-Góes, E. Kang, R. H. Kwong, and S. Lafortune, "Synthesis of sensor deception attacks at the supervisory layer of cyber-physical systems," *Automatica*, vol. 121, p. 109172, 2020.