

# Pruning Defense on Backdoored Networks

## ECE-GY 9163 ML for Cyber Security Lab 2 Report

Kunal Kashyap (kk4564)

### Objective

Design a backdoor detector for BadNets trained on the YouTube Face dataset using the pruning defense discussed in class. The detector will take as input:

1.  $B$ , a backdoored neural network classifier with  $N$  classes.
2.  $D_{\text{valid}}$ , a validation dataset of clean, labelled images.

The output is  $G$ , a repaired BadNet.  $G$  has  $N+1$  classes, and given unseen test input, it must:

1. Output the correct class if the test input is clean. The correct class will be in  $[1, N]$ .
2. Output class  $N+1$  if the input is backdoored.

$G$  will be designed using the pruning defense that we discussed in class. That is, we will prune the last pooling layer of BadNet  $B$  by removing one channel at a time from that layer. Channels should be removed in decreasing order of average activation values over the entire validation set. Every time we prune a channel, we will measure the new validation accuracy of the new pruned badnet. We will stop pruning once the validation accuracy drops atleast  $X\%$  below the original accuracy. This will be our new network  $B'$ .

Now, our goodnet  $G$  works as follows. For each test input, we will run it through both  $B$  and  $B'$ . If the classification outputs are the same, i.e., class  $i$ , we will output class  $i$ . If they differ we will output  $N+1$ .

### Results

We were able to create 3 different repaired BadNets with different levels of accuracy drop (2%, 4% and 10%). Below you can see the plot and table for changes in Clean Validation Accuracy and Attack Success Rate as a function of Fraction of Channels Pruned.

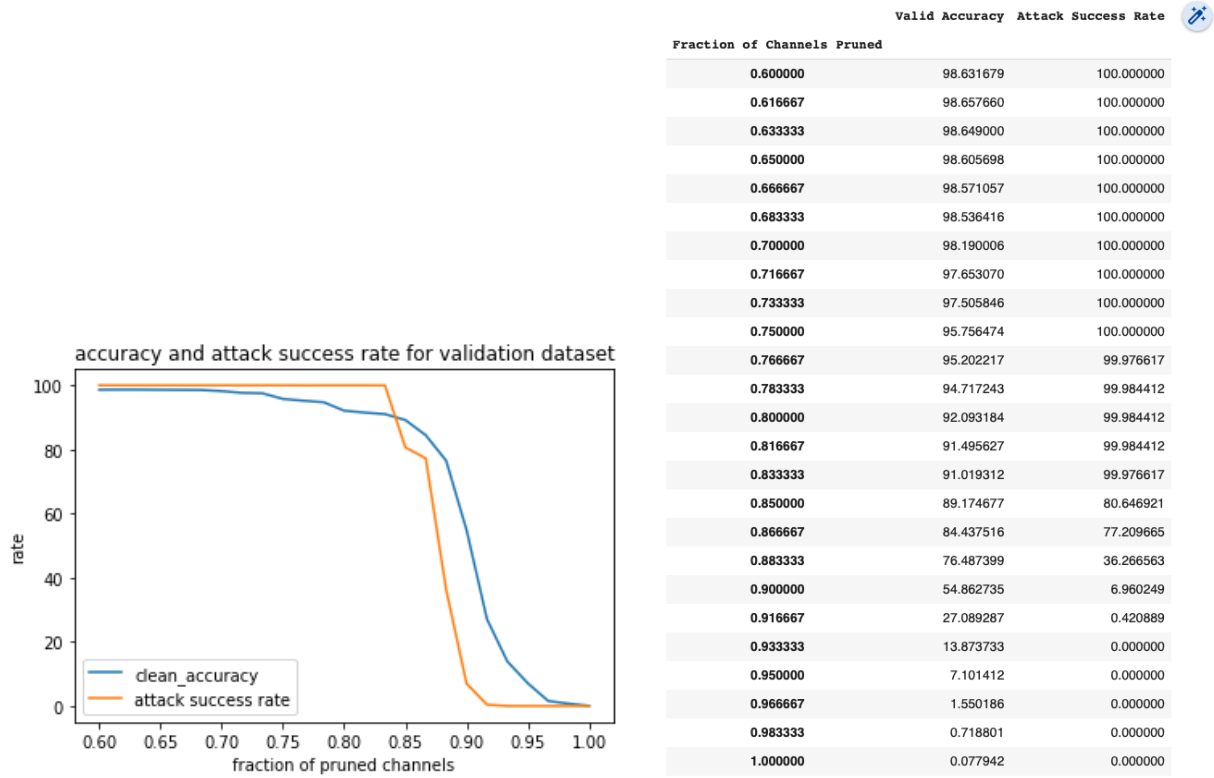


Figure 1: Clean Accuracy and Attack Success Rate as a function of Pruned Channels

In the table below, we see the final test accuracies and attack success rate for the 3 Repaired BadNets:

Model	Clean Test Accuracy (in %)	Attack Success Rate (in %)
RepairedNetX2	95.744	100
RepairedNetX4	92.127	99.984
RepairedNetX10	84.333	77.209

Table 1: Clean Accuracy and Attack Success Rate for final Repaired BadNets

## Conclusion

We conclude that pruning is a good technique to defend against backdoored neural networks, but it is not very effective. In the results we can see that the clean accuracies suffer a great loss with minimal loss in the attack success rate. The GitHub repository link with all the code and files:

<https://github.com/kunalkashyap855/pruning-defense-on-backdoored-networks>