



浙江大学
ZHEJIANG UNIVERSITY

Analog Security of Cyber-Physical Systems: A Sound Story of *Sensors*

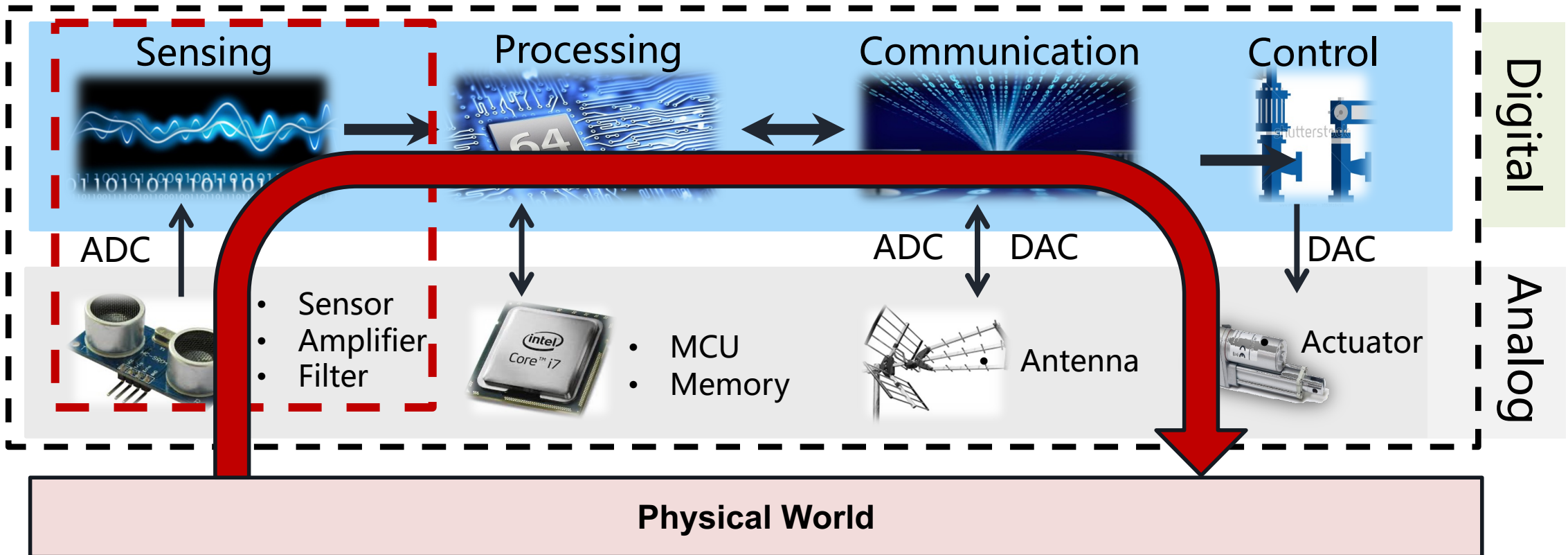
Chen Yan

USSLAB, Zhejiang University



智能系统安全实验室
UBIQUITOUS SYSTEM SECURITY LAB.

What's new? → Cyber - (Analog) - Physical



It's time to look at the physics of cybersecurity!

Sensors are everywhere

- Smartphone: >14 sensors
- Car: 60-100 sensors now;
~200 in the future
- Aircrafts
- Medical devices
- Home and office appliances
- Security
- Power grids
- Industrial plants
- Transportation



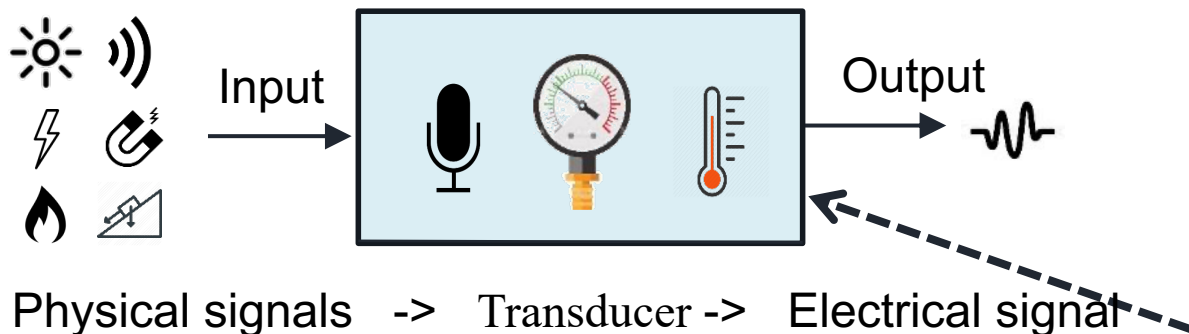
Questioning the trustworthiness of sensors



- Will sensors malfunction under malicious attacks?
- How will the system behave when sensors go wrong?
- How to make sensor measurements trustworthy?

What is inside a sensor module














Transducer



- Electromagnetic -> electrical [Electromagnetic induction]
- Mechanical -> electrical [Piezoelectricity]
- Radiant -> electrical [Photoconductivity]
- Magnetic -> electrical [Hall effect]
- Thermal -> electrical [Seebeck effect]
- Chemical -> electrical [Voltaic effect]

Types of Transducer

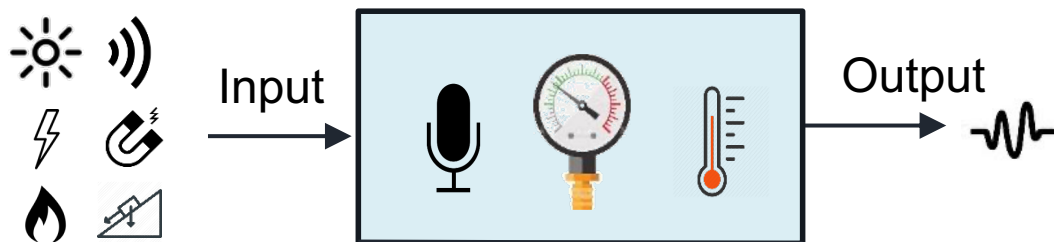
At least **13** types:

Acoustic		Radiation	
Electromagnetic		Pressure	
Optical		Force	
Attitude		Chemical	
Thermal		Flow	
Humidity		Proximity	
Navigation			

Reference: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_sensors

What is inside a sensor module

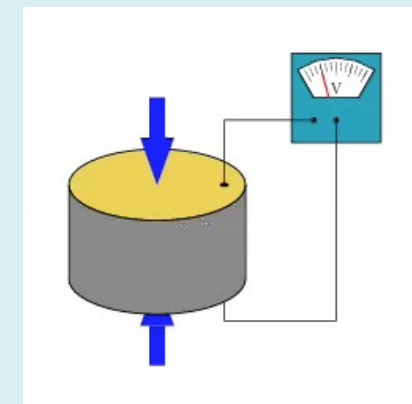
Transducer



Physical signals -> Transducer -> Electrical signal

- | | |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| • Electromagnetic -> electrical | [Electromagnetic induction] |
| • Mechanical -> electrical | [Piezoelectricity] |
| • Radiant -> electrical | [Photoconductivity] |
| • Magnetic -> electrical | [Hall effect] |
| • Thermal -> electrical | [Seebeck effect] |
| • Chemical -> electrical | [Voltaic effect] |

Piezoelectric Transducer



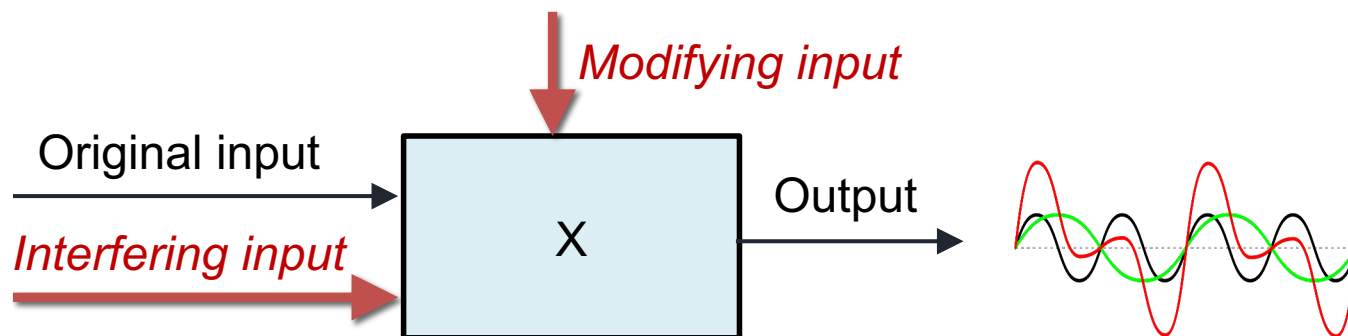
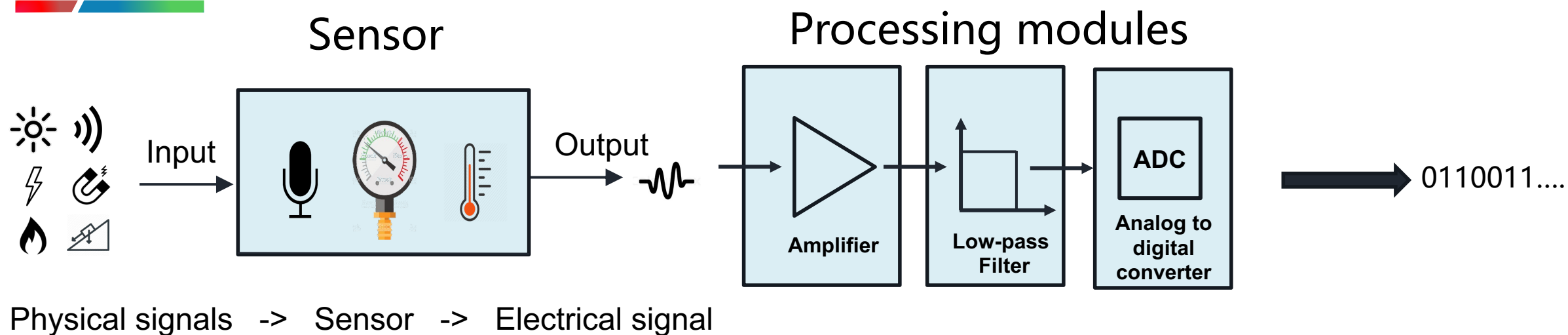
Pressure, acceleration, temperature, strain, or force

*Strain-charge
equations*

$$\begin{aligned}
 S &= sT + \delta^t E \\
 D &= \delta T + \epsilon E
 \end{aligned}$$

Sensors are vulnerable to transduction attack

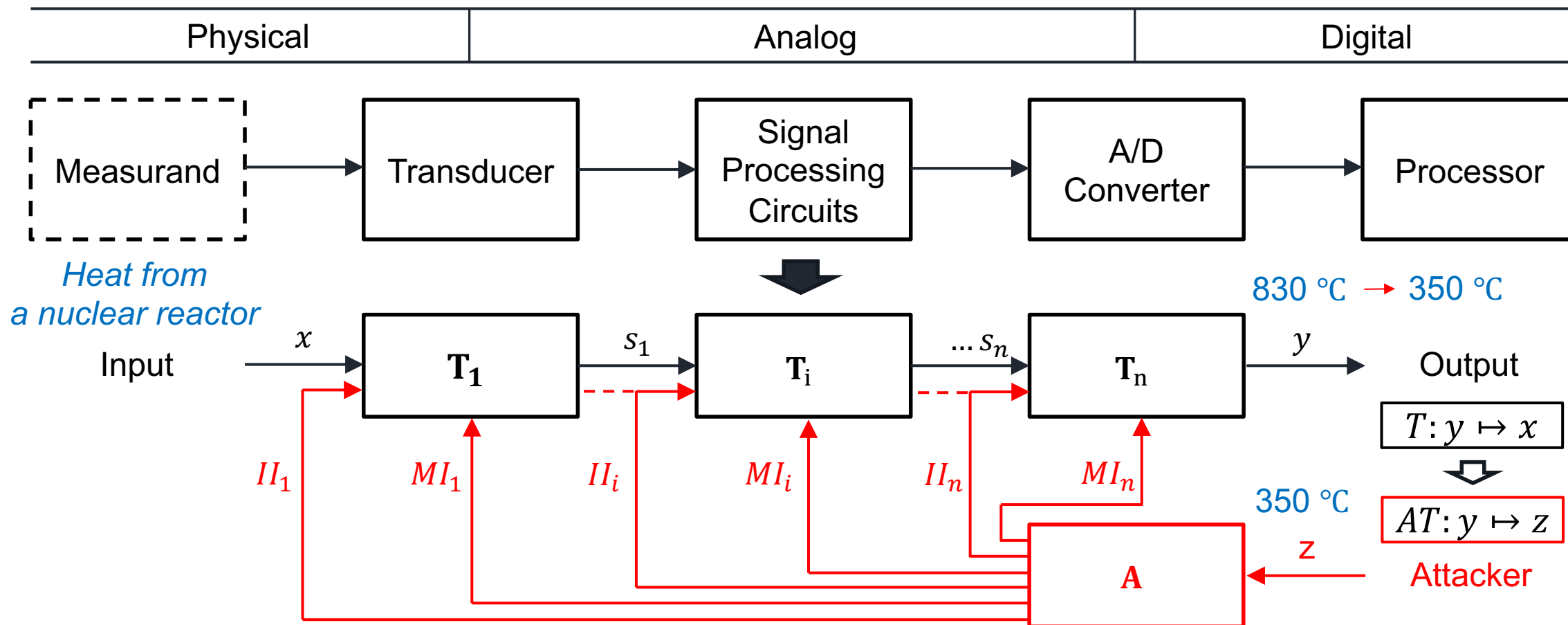
How do transduction attacks work?



Interfering inputs (II): those that are treated as linear superposition with the original inputs, e.g., noises.

Modifying inputs (MI): those that change the transfer functions, e.g., temperature.

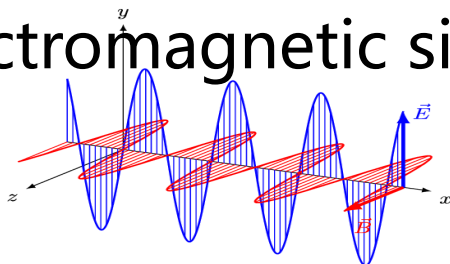
The framework of transduction attacks



Can we trust the sensor readings?

Malicious Signals

1. Electromagnetic signal



2. Acoustic signals



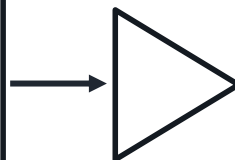
3. Light

4. Magnet

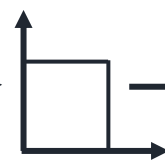
5. Heat



Sensor Modules



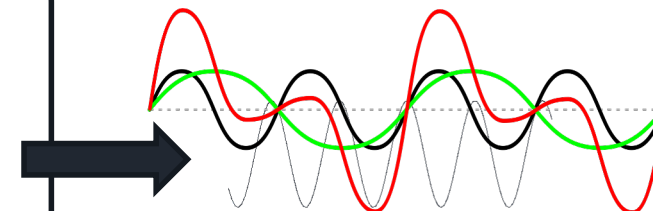
Amplifier



Low-pass Filter



Analog to
digital
converter



0110011....

Roadmap: a sound story

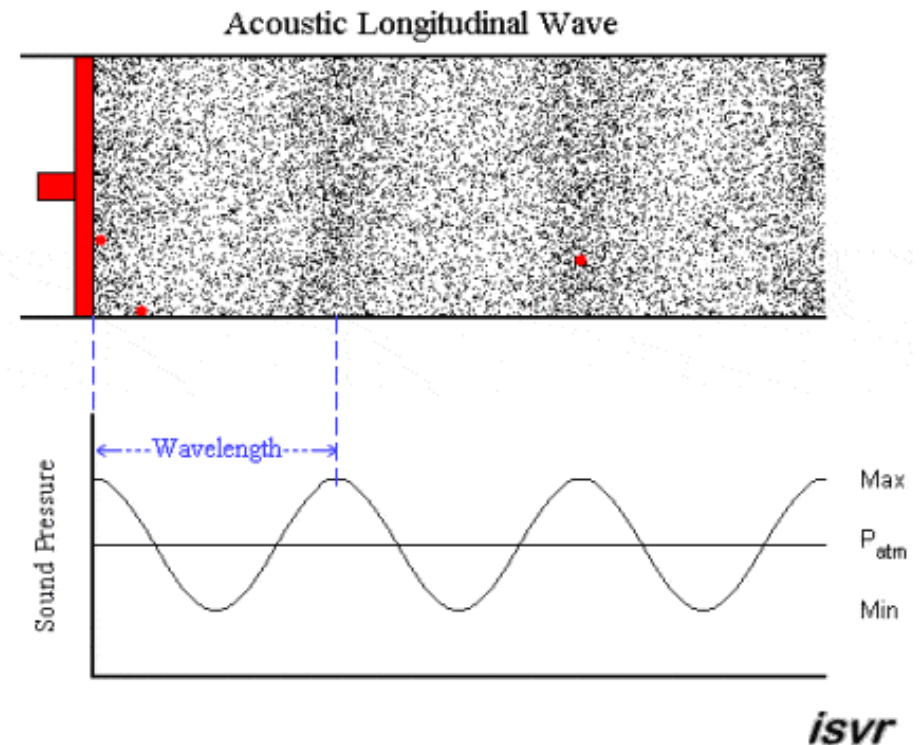


- **Sensors on autonomous vehicles---**TeslaHacking
- **Microphone and voice assistants---**DolphinAttack
- **Cameras+AI---**Poltergeist
- **Human ears---**Cuba event

What is a sound wave ?

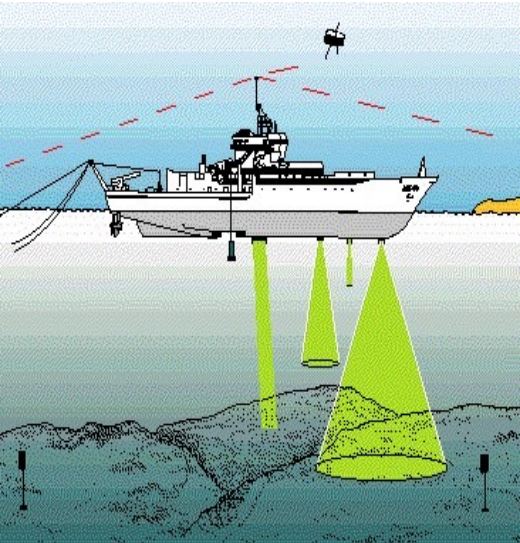
A pressure wave that fluctuates up and down around normal pressure

- **Hz:** the frequency
- **dB:** the intensity



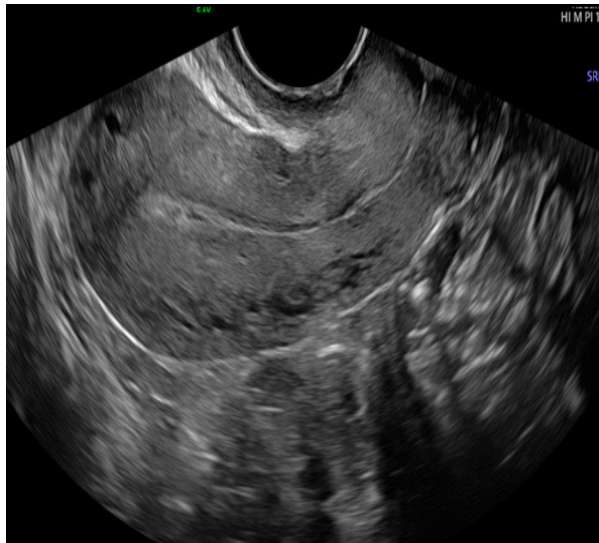
Where are sound waves used ?

Military



Sonar

Medicine



**Ultrasonic
detector**

Industrial processes



**Ultrasonic
thickness gauge**

Daily



**Ultrasonic
Cleaner**

SENSORS ON AUTONOMOUS VEHICLES



Analyzing and Enhancing the Security of Ultrasonic Sensors for
Autonomous Vehicles

Wenyuan Xu, Chen Yan, Weibin Jia, Xiaoyu Ji, Jianhao Liu

IEEE Internet of Things Journal 5 (6), 5015-5029

Sensors for Self-Driving

Cameras

Senses reflected light, limited when dark. Sees colour, so can be used to read signs, signals, etc.

LiDAR

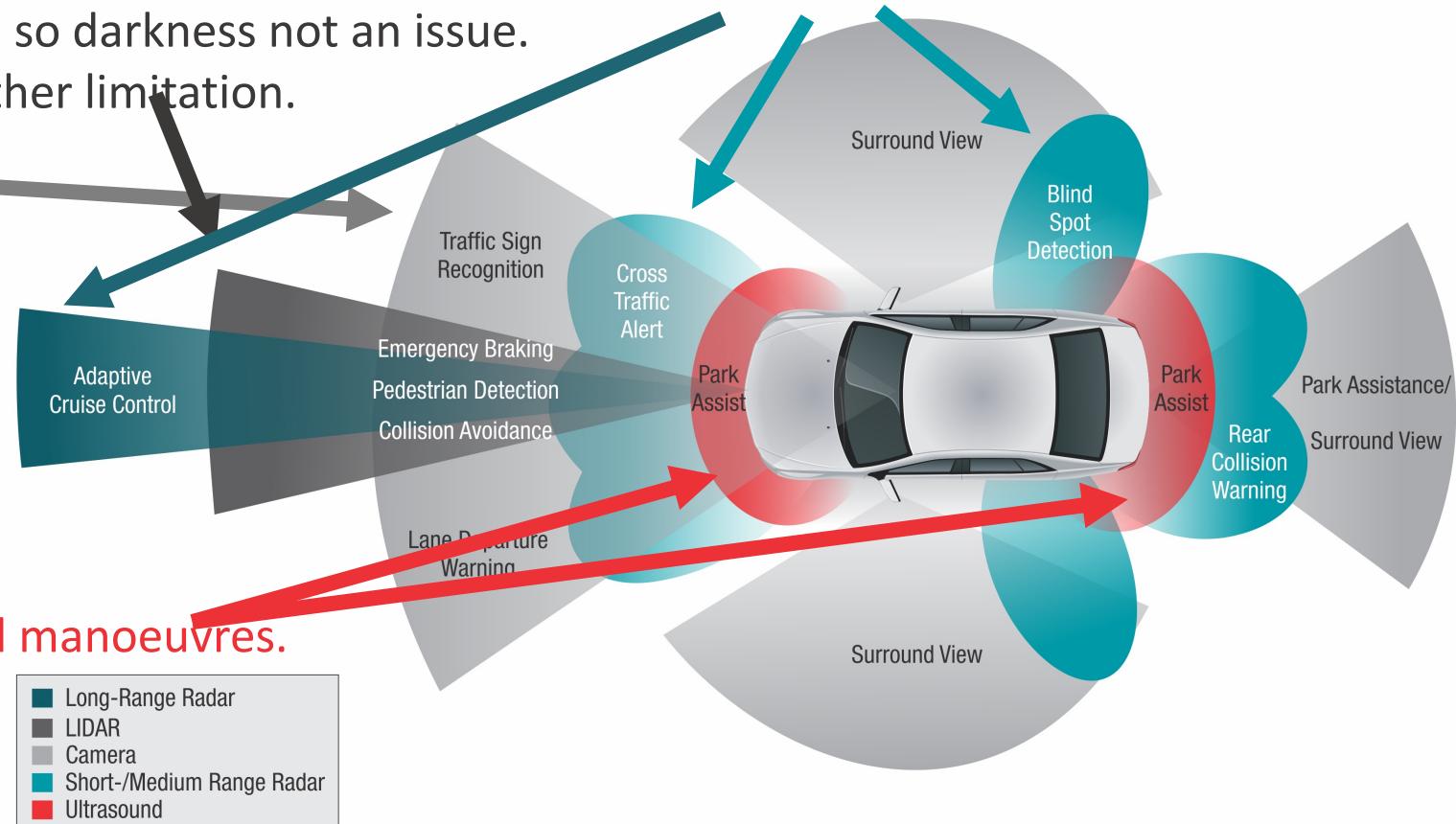
Emits light, so darkness not an issue. Some weather limitation.

Radar

Works in low light & poor weather, but lower resolution.

Ultrasonic Sensors

Limited to proximity, low speed manoeuvres.



Source: Texas Instruments

What will happen if sensors go wrong?

Sensors

Ultrasonic Sensors



Jamming

Spoofing

MMW Radars



Jamming

Spoofing

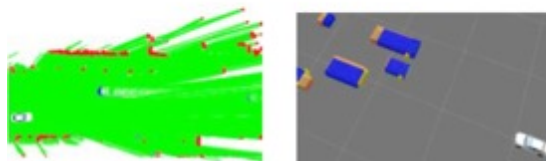
Cameras



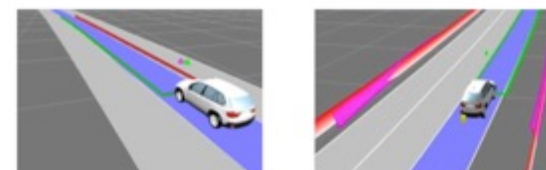
Blinding

Automated System

Representations and Fusion



Road Model and Localization



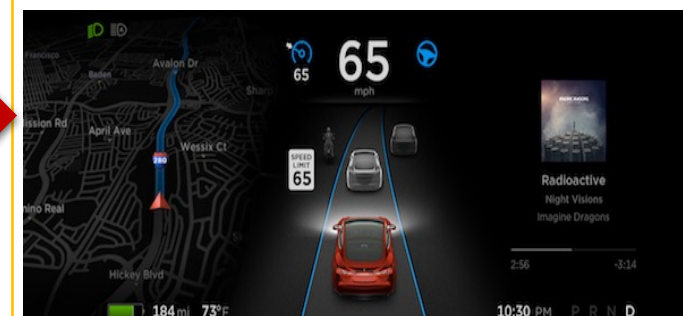
Situation Interpretation



Control



HMI Display



Tesla: A Tragic Loss

- First fatal crash while using Autopilot on May 7, 2016.
- Reliability of sensors.



Source: The New York Times

网易汽车

网易首页 应用

网易考拉

LOFTER

First Tesla Accident in China Caused by Autopilot

国内发生特斯拉第一起自动驾驶事故

2016-08-05 11:21:06 来源: 盖世汽车(上海)

Existing Sensors on Tesla Model S

One MMW Radar

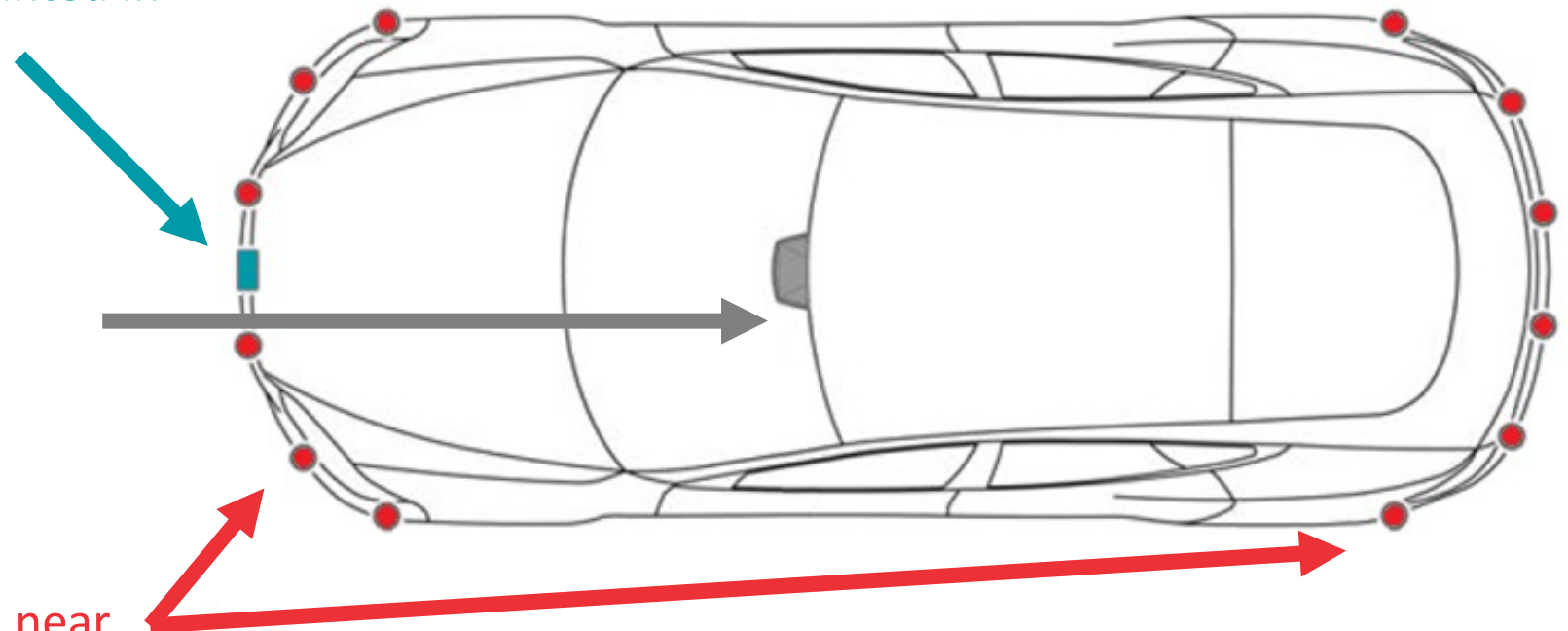
A Medium range Radar is mounted in the front grill.

One camera

A forward looking camera is mounted on the windshield under the rear view mirror.

12 ultrasonic sensors

Ultrasonic sensors are located near the front and rear bumpers.



HMI Display Mistakes – Demo on Tesla



Control Mistakes – Demo on Tesla



Attacking Ultrasonic Sensors

On Tesla, Audi, Volkswagen, and Ford

Ultrasonic Sensor

What is ultrasonic sensor?

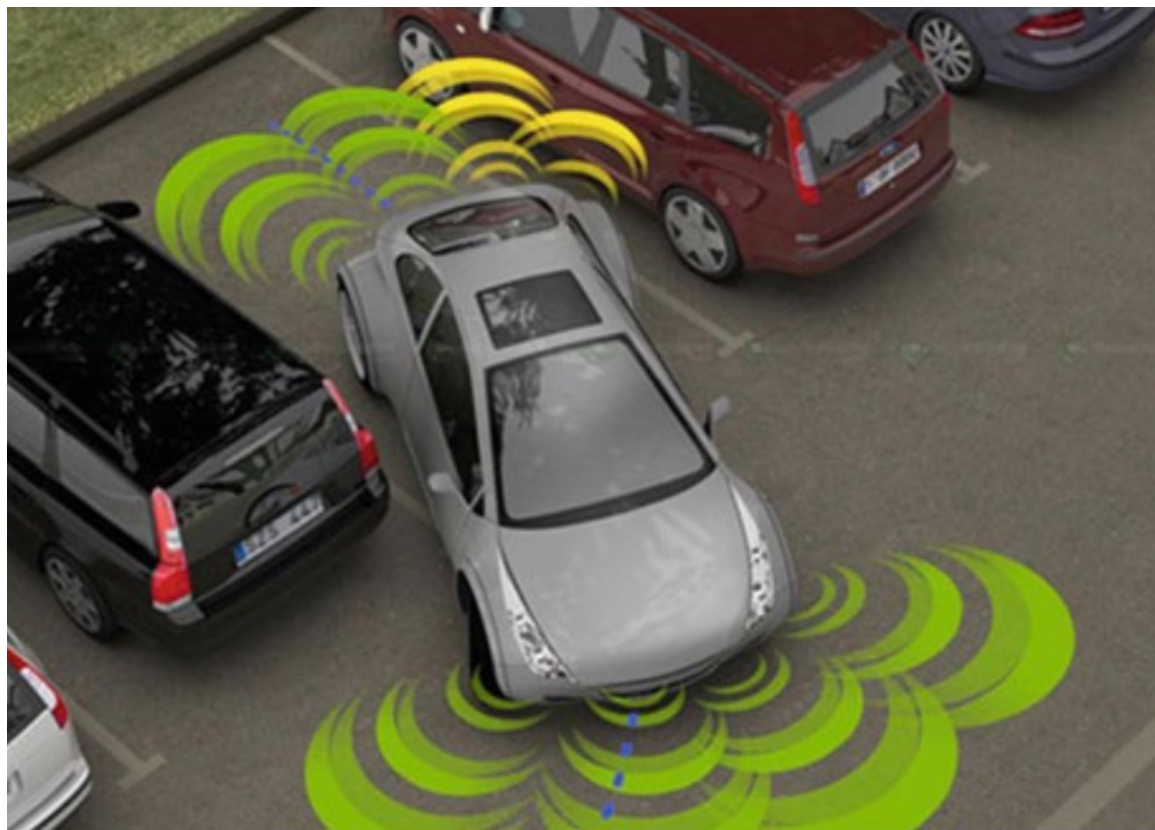
- Measures **distance**
- Proximity sensor ($< 2\text{m}$)

• Applications

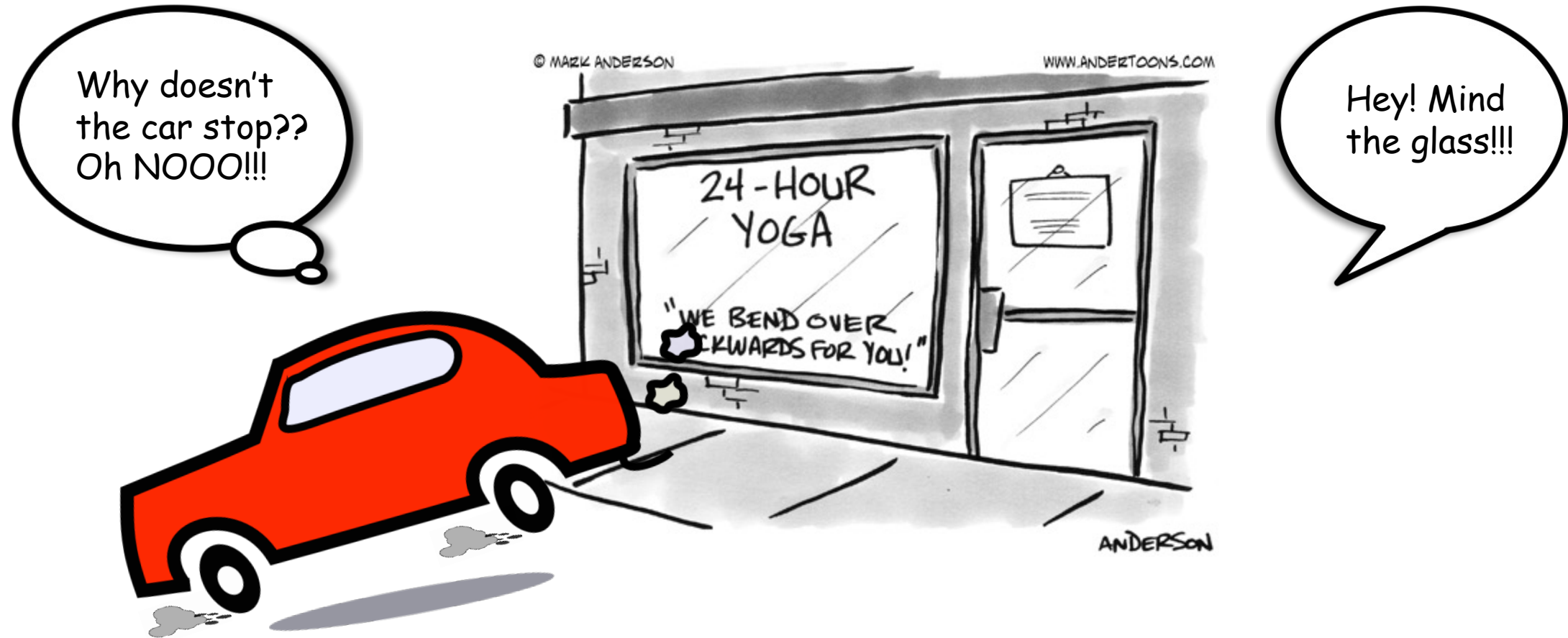
- Parking assistance
- Parking space detection
- Self parking
- Tesla's summon



Self-Parking & Distance display

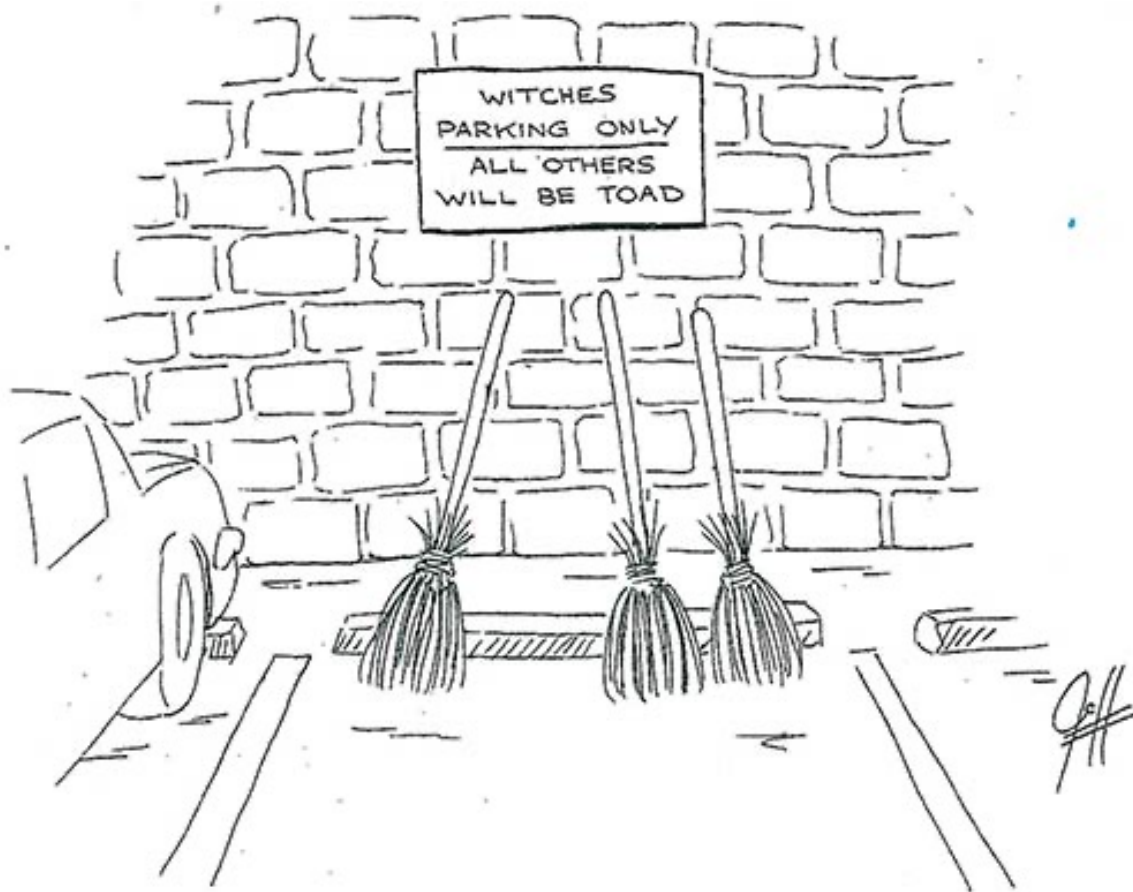


Misuse 1: The car doesn't stop while it should.





Misuse 2: The car stops while it shouldn't.

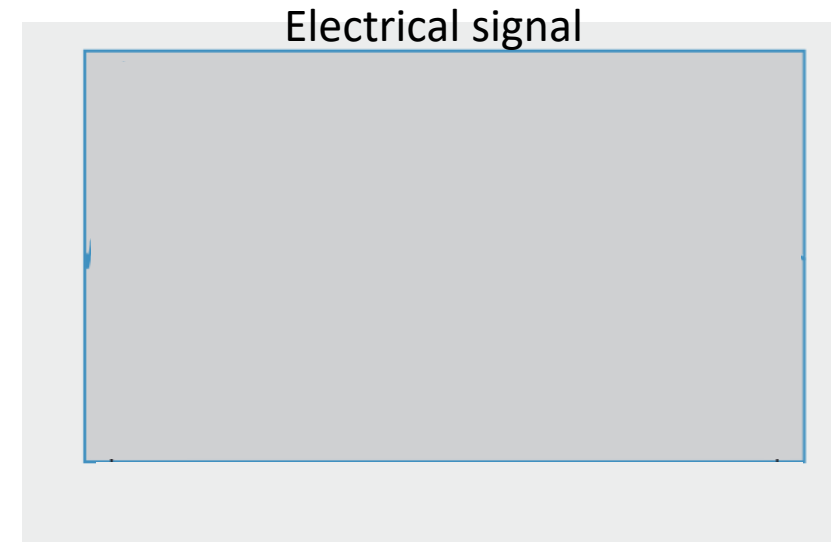
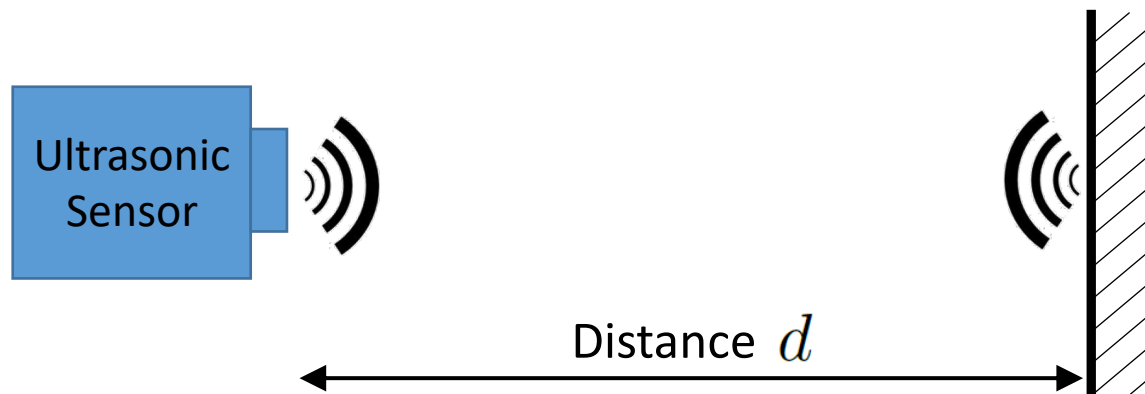


How do ultrasonic sensors work?

- Emit ultrasound and receive echoes
- Piezoelectric Effect
- Measure the propagation time (Time of Flight)
- Calculate the distance $d = 0.5 \cdot t_e \cdot c$



t_e : propagation time of echoes
 c : velocity of sound in air



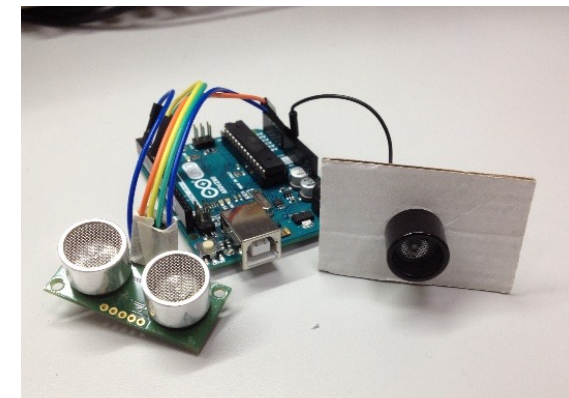
Attacking ultrasonic sensors

Attacks:

- **Jamming** – generates ultrasonic noises – **denial of service**
- **Spoofing** – crafts fake ultrasonic echo pulses – **alters distance**
- **Quieting** – diminishes original ultrasonic echoes – **hides obstacles**

Equipment:

- **Ultrasonic transducers (\$0.4)** – emit ultrasound
- **Signal suppliers – generate excitation signals**
 - Arduino (\$24.95)
 - Signal generator (~\$20)



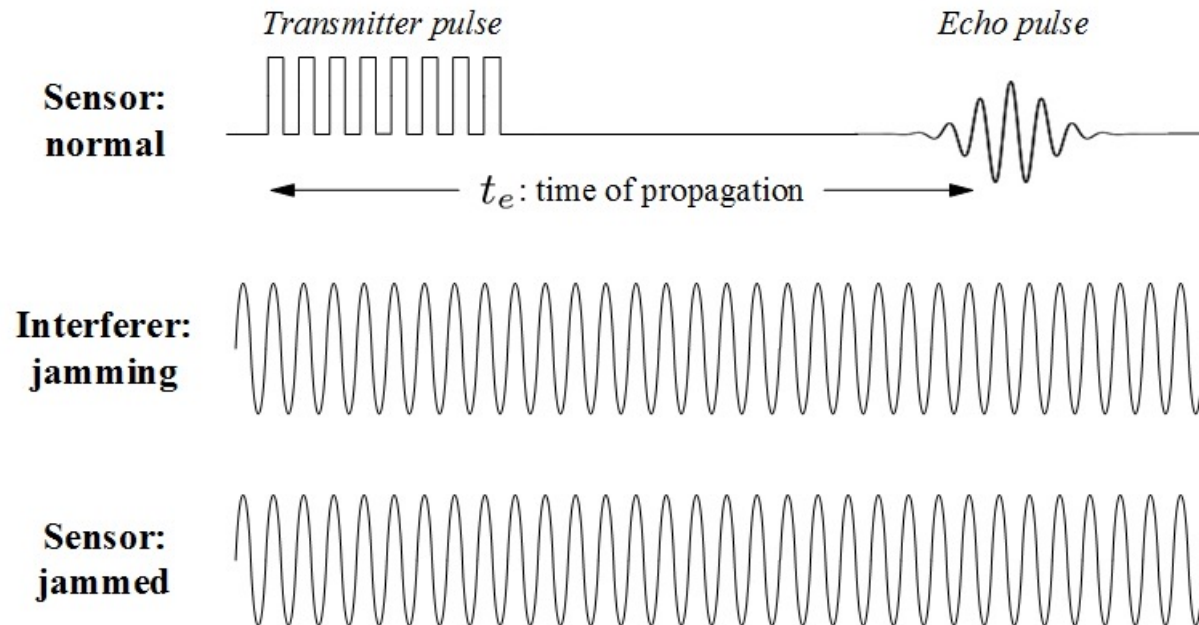
Jamming Attack

- **Basic Idea:**

- Injecting **ultrasonic noises**
- At resonant frequency (40 – 50 kHz)
- Causing **Denial of Service**

- **Tested ultrasonic sensors:**

- In laboratories: 8 models of stand-alone ultrasonic sensors
- Outdoors: Tesla, Audi, Volkswagen, Ford



Jamming Attack – in lab

• 8 models of ultrasonic sensors

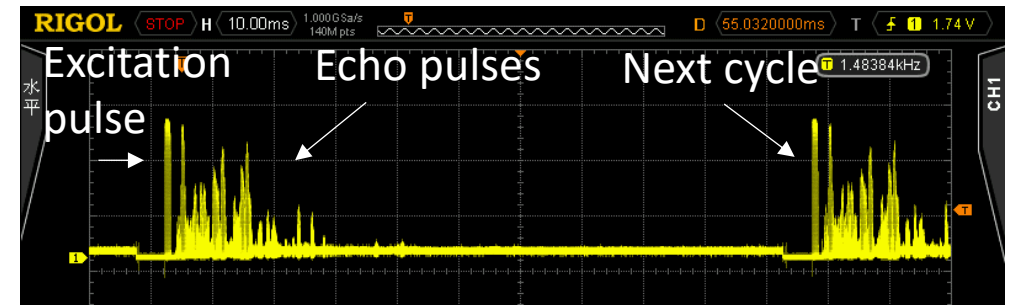
- HC-SR04
- SRF01
- SRF05
- MaxSonar MB1200
- JSN-SR04T
- FreeCars V4
- Grove ultrasonic ranger
- Audi Q3 sensors

• Sensor reading

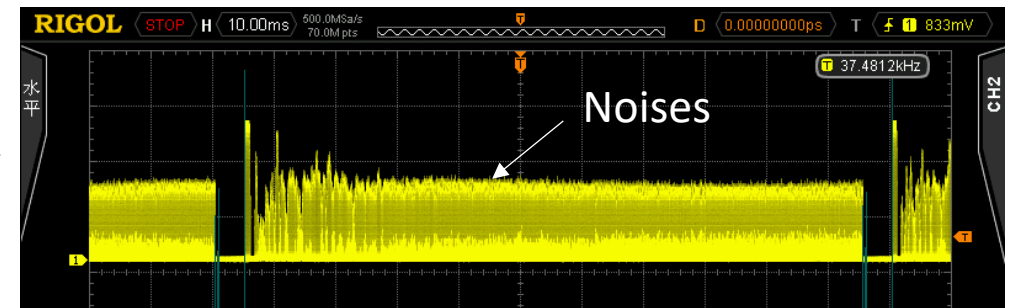
- **Zero** distance
- **Maximum** distance

No jamming

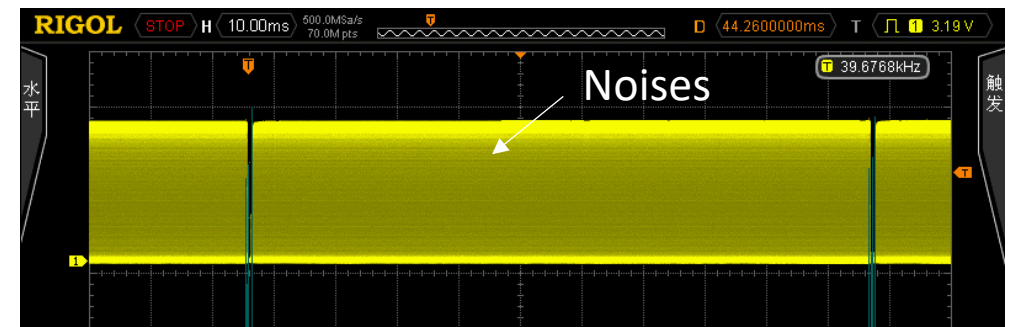
Received electrical signals at the sensor



Weak Jamming



Strong Jamming



How should cars behave to jamming?

Zero distance?

or

Maximum distance?

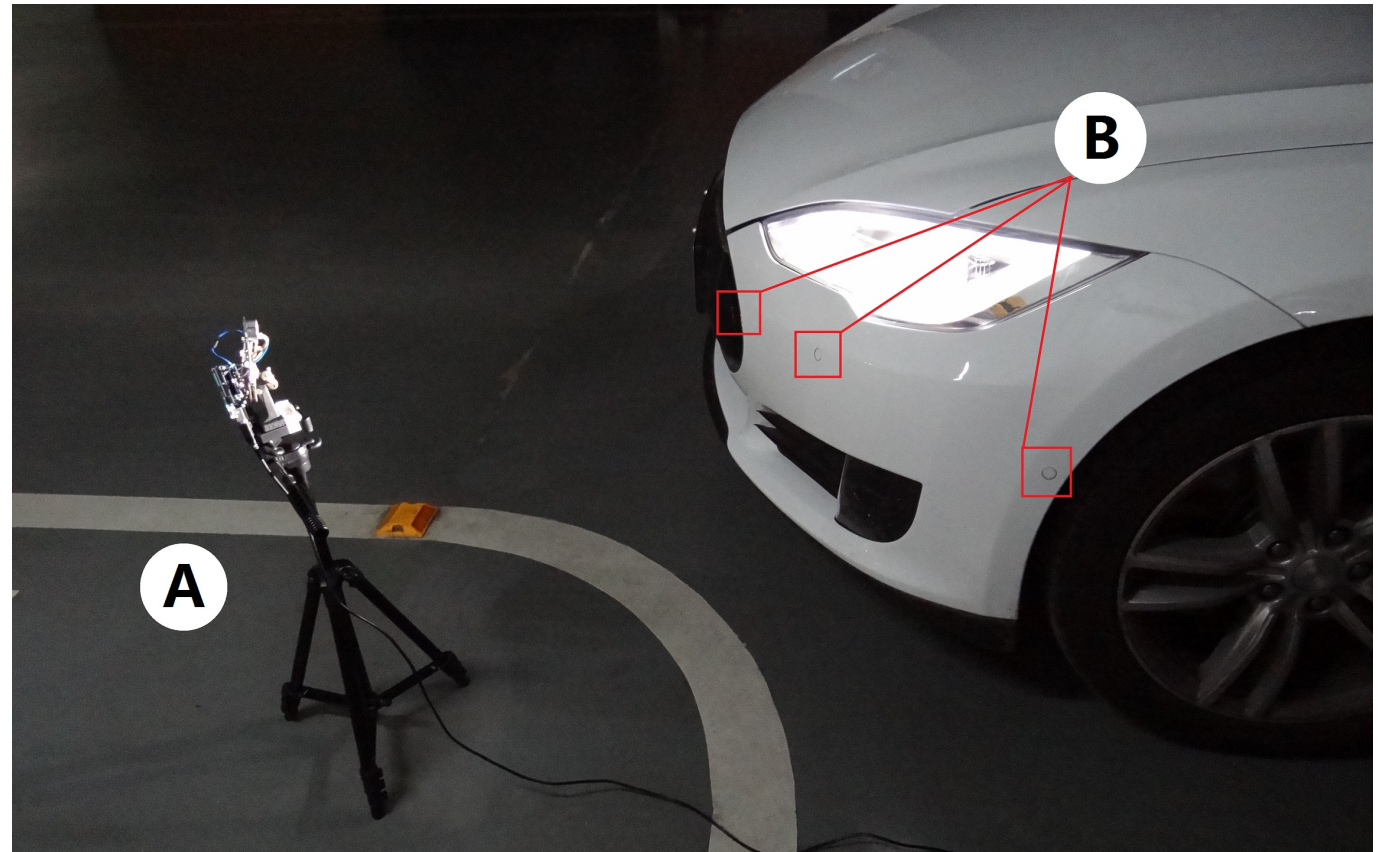
Jamming Attack – on vehicles

- **4 different vehicles**

- Audi Q3
- Volkswagen Tiguan
- Ford Fiesta
- Tesla Model S
 - Self parking
 - Summon

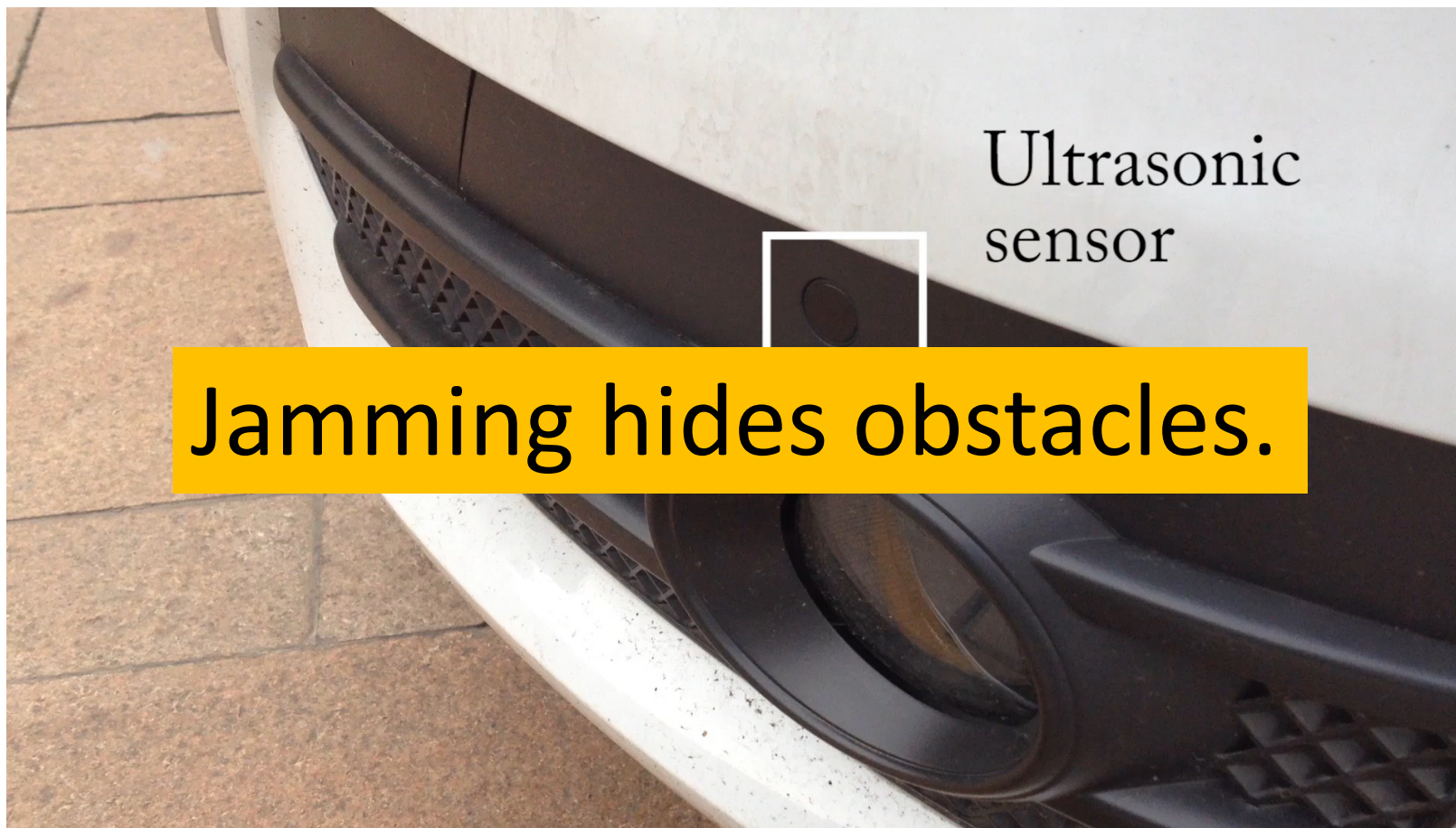
- **Results**

- **Maximum** distance



Experiment setup on Tesla Model S

Jamming Attack – Demo on Audi



Jamming Attack – Results

- **On ultrasonic sensors**
 - Zero or maximum distance
- **On vehicles with parking assistance**
 - Maximum distance
- **On self-parking and summon?**

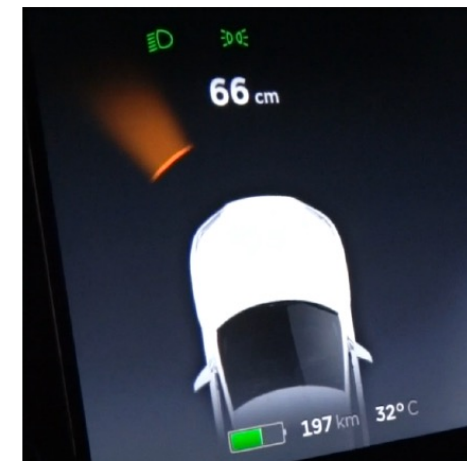
Note: If a sensor is unable to provide feedback, the instrument panel displays an alert message.



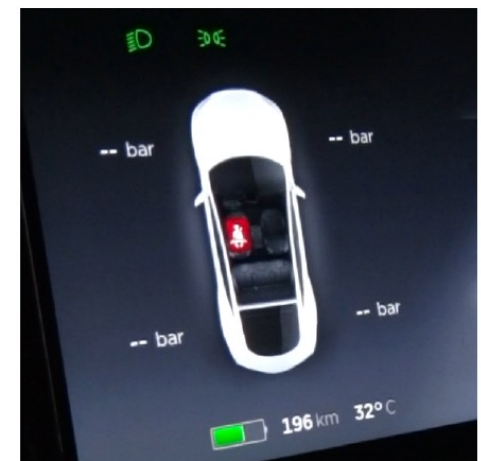
Audi Normal



Audi Jammed

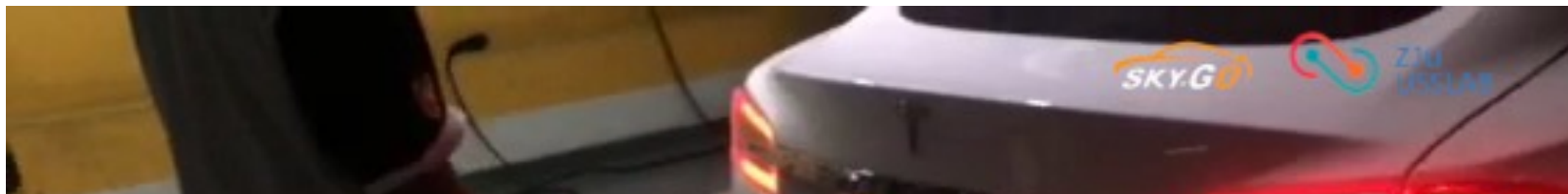


Tesla Normal



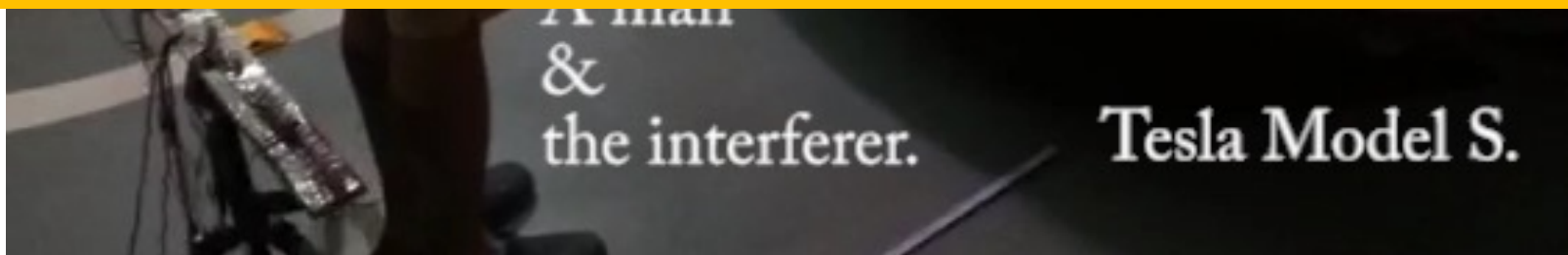
Tesla Jammed

Jamming Attack – Demo on Tesla Summon



The interferer was hit & stopped working.

Jamming distance can be increased.



Jamming Attack – Results

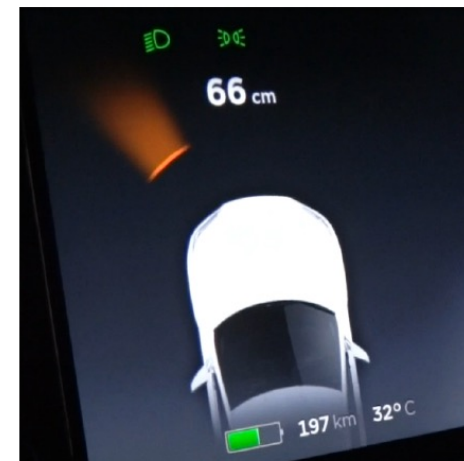
- **On ultrasonic sensors**
 - Zero or maximum distance
- **On vehicles with parking assistance**
 - Maximum distance
- **On self-parking and summon**
 - Car **does not stop** under strong jamming



Audi Normal



Audi Jammed



Tesla Normal

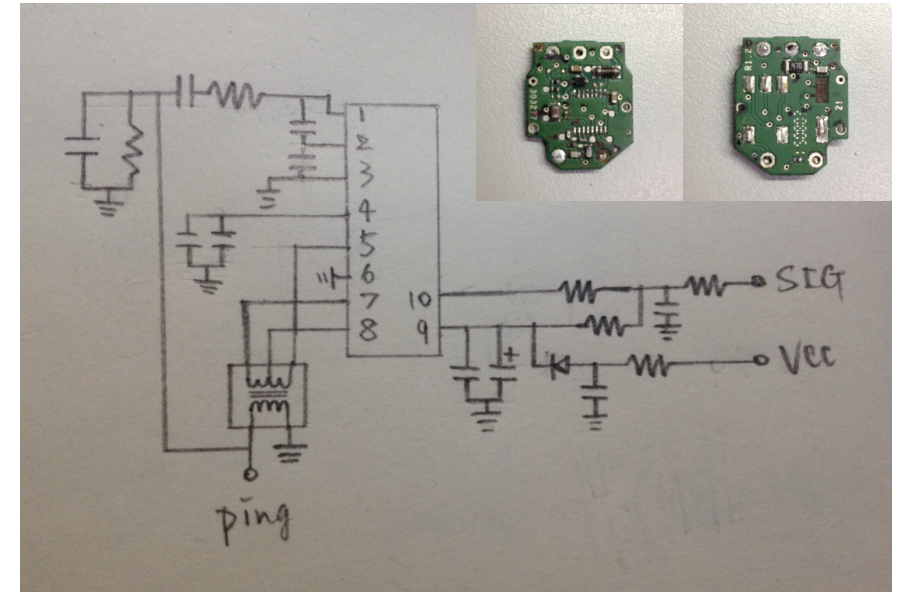
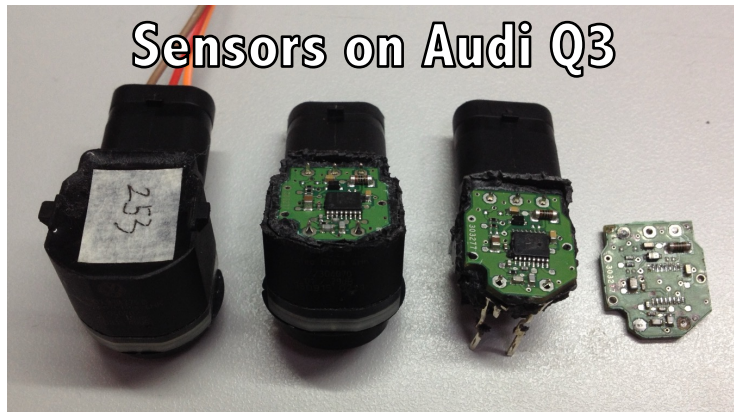
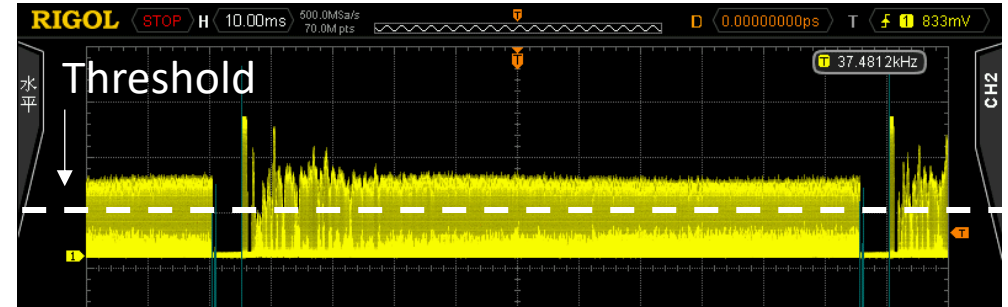


Tesla Jammed

Why Zero or Max distance?

Different sensor designs

- **Zero distance**
 - Compare with a **fixed threshold**
- **Maximum distance**
 - Application Specific IC!**

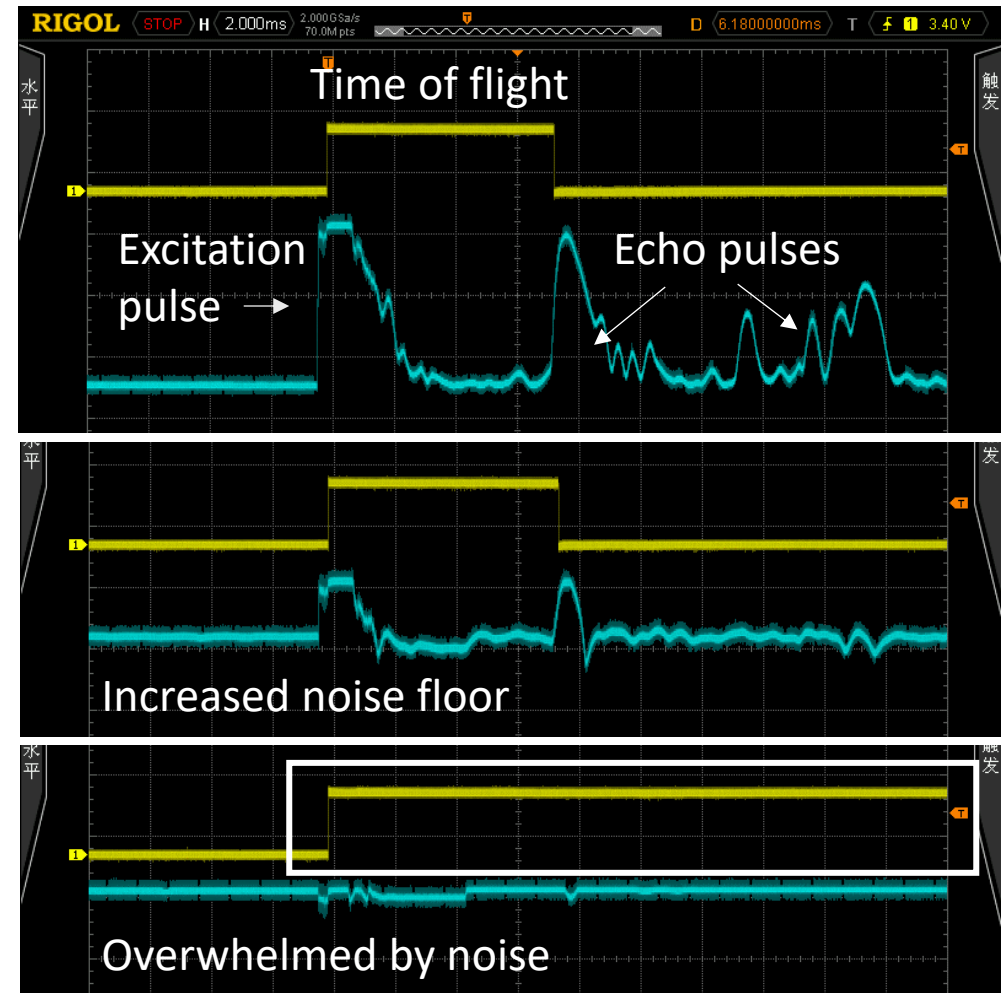
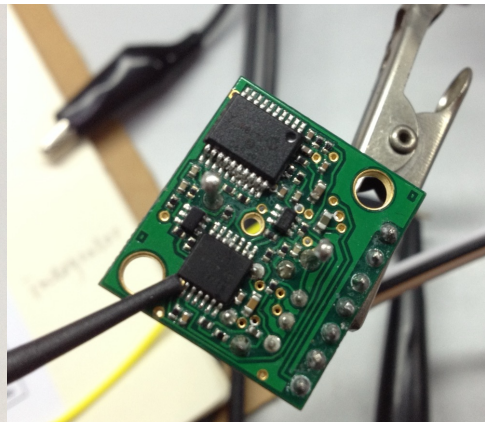


Why Zero or Max distance?

Different sensor designs

- **Zero distance**
 - Compare with a **fixed threshold**
- **Maximum distance**
 - **Adaptive threshold** (Noise Suppression)

No jamming



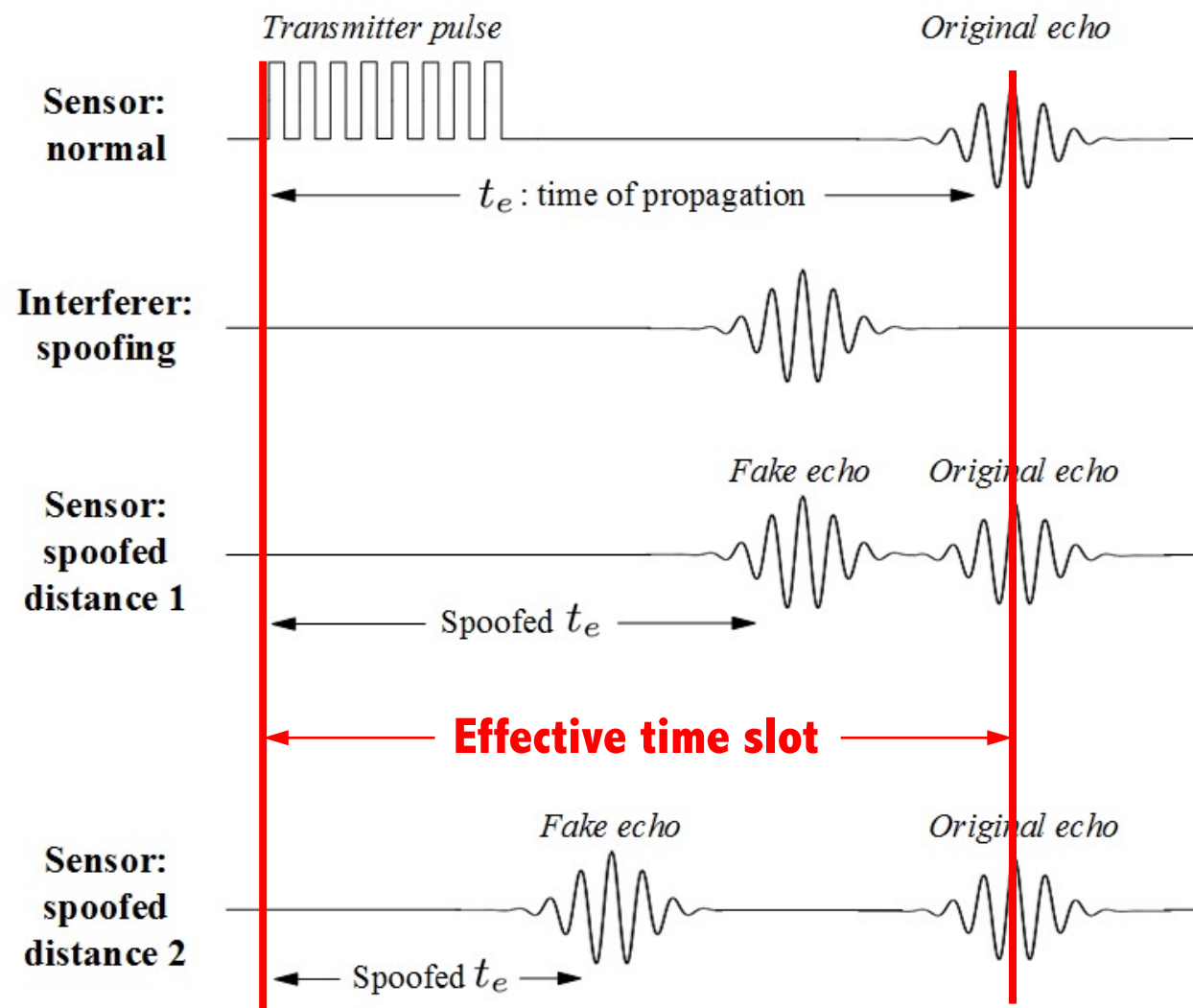
Spoofing Attack

Basic Idea

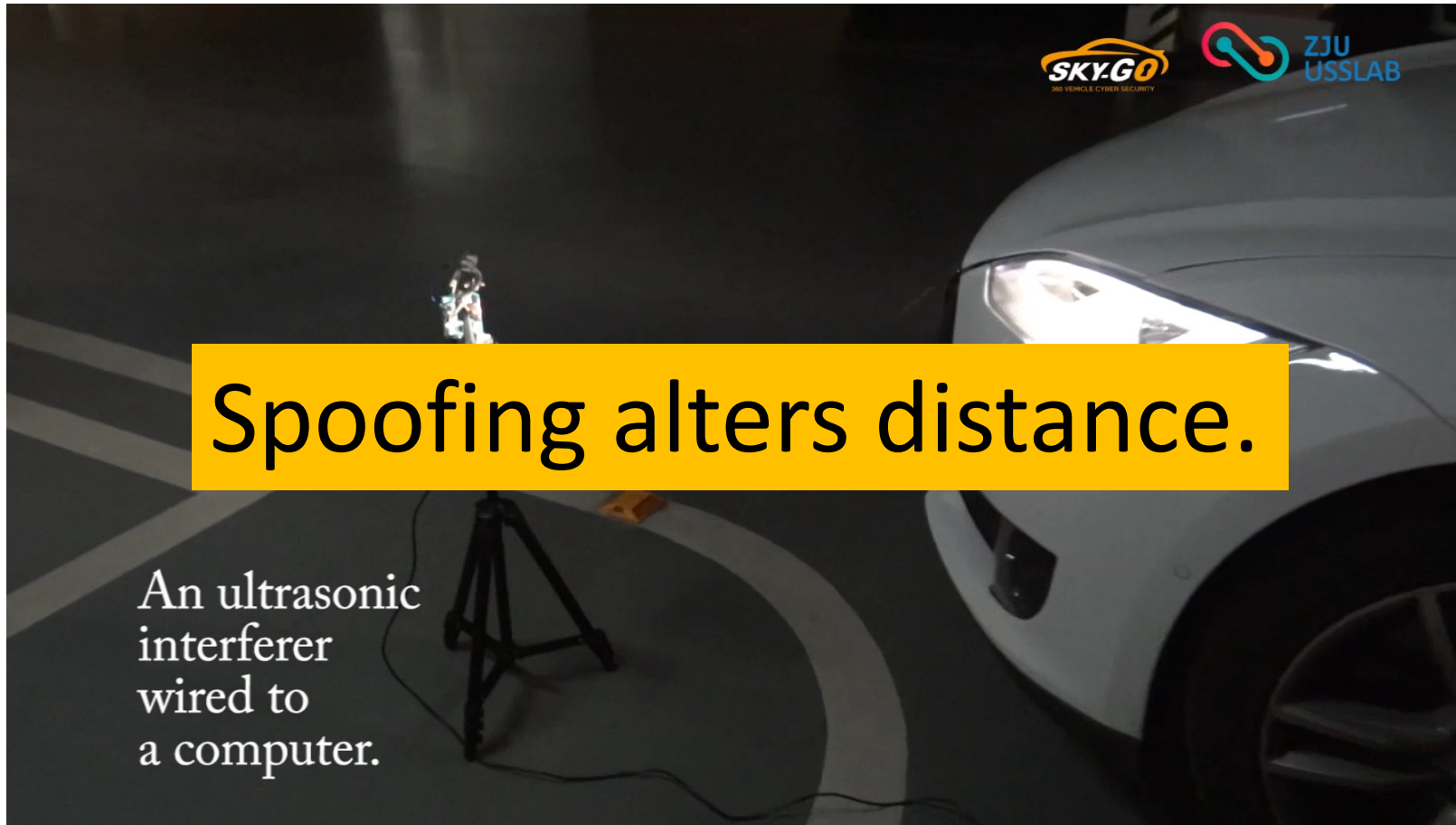
- Injecting ultrasonic pulses
- At certain time

Non-trivial

- Only the first justifiable echo will be processed
- **Effective time slot**



Spoofing Attack – Demo on Tesla



Spoofing Attack – Demo on Audi



Spoofing Attack – Results

- **Manipulate sensor readings**
 - On stand-alone ultrasonic sensors
 - On cars



Tesla Normal



Tesla Spoofed



Audi Spoofed

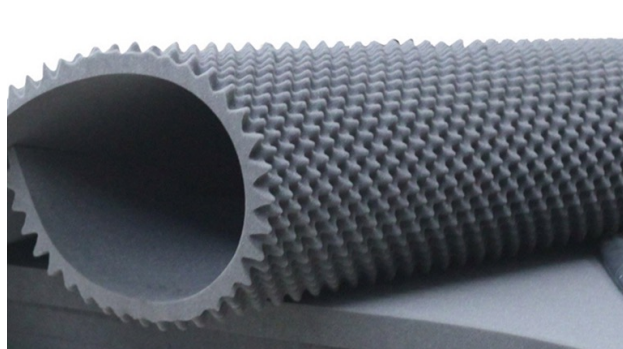
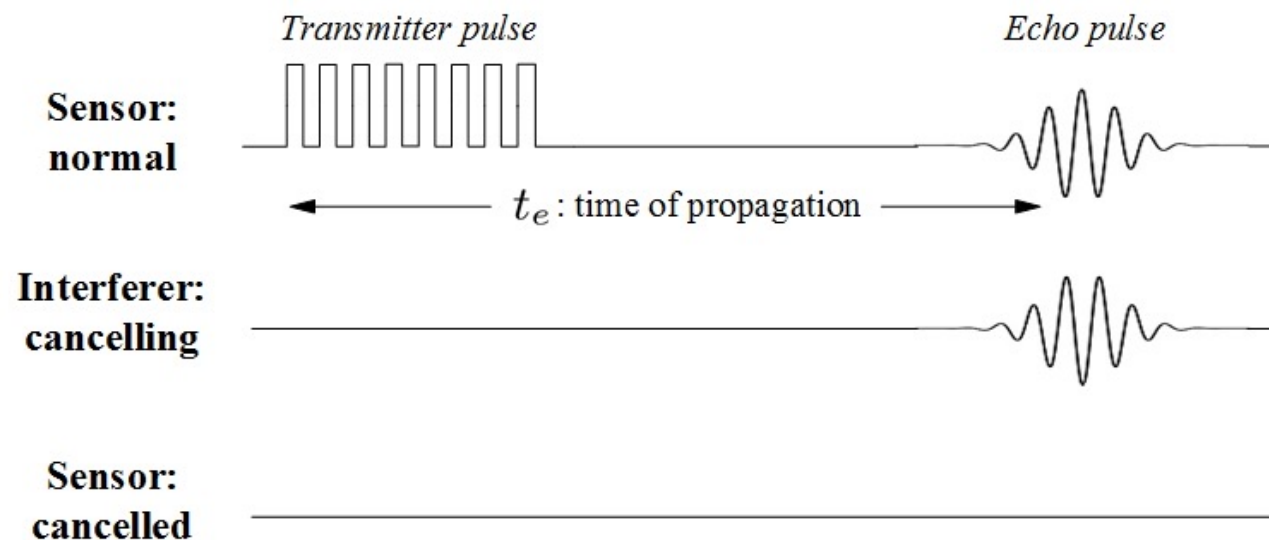
Acoustic Quieting

• Acoustic Cancellation

- Cancel original sound with ones of **reversed phase**
- Minor phase and amplitude adjustment

• Cloaking

- Sound absorbing materials (e.g., damping foams (\$3/m²))
- Same effect as jamming!



Cloaking Car – Demo

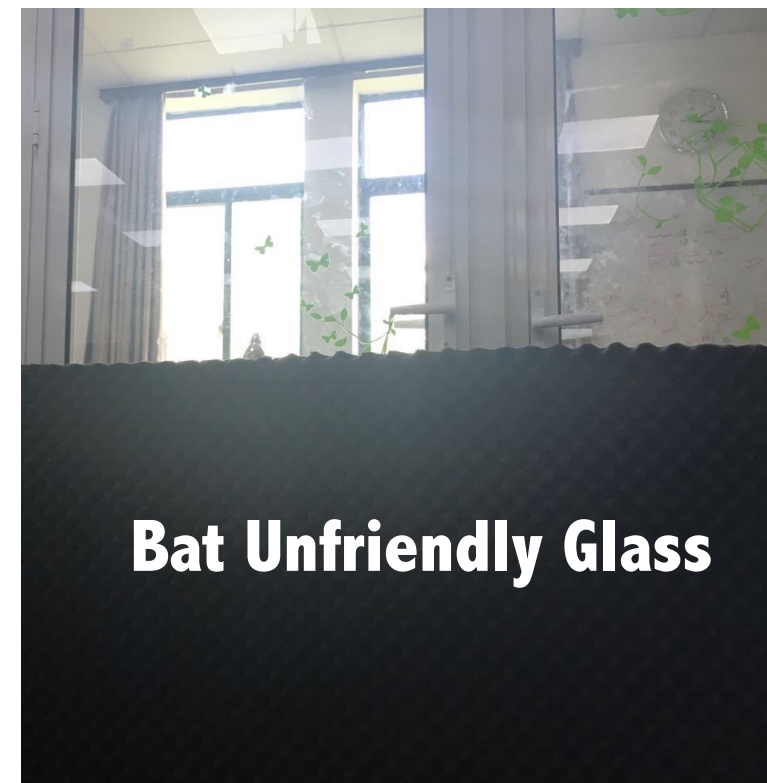


Cloaking Human – Demo



Invisible car! Invisible man! Invisible glass!

Whee!



MICROPHONES & VOICE ASSISTANTS



DolphinAttack: Inaudible Voice Commands

Guoming Zhang, Chen Yan, Tiancheng Zhang, Taiming Zhang, Xiaoyu Ji, Wenyuan Xu

Best Paper at ACM CCS 2017

Voice becomes an increasingly important interface



Smartphone



Smart speaker



PC & Tablet



Smart watch



Siri



Google Now



Alexa



Cortana

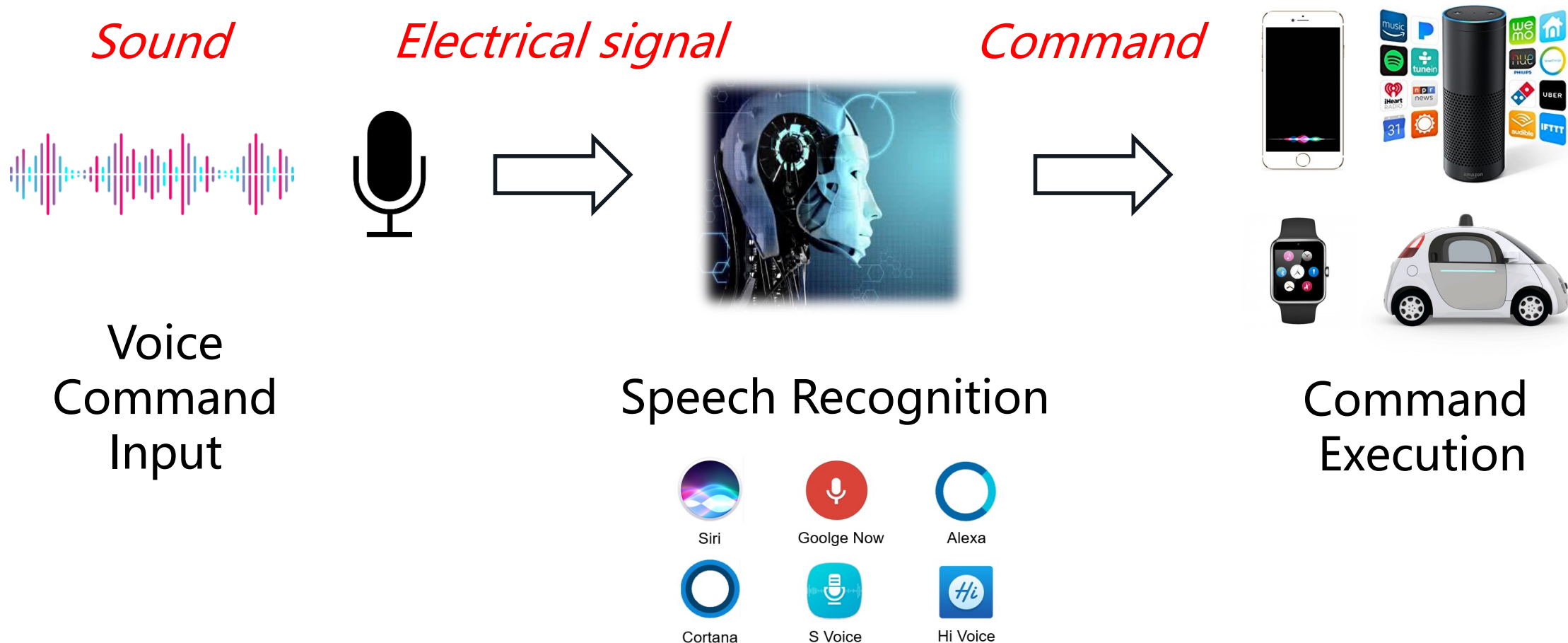


S Voice



Hi Voice

How do voice assistants work?



What can voice assistants do?



What can a **malicious user** achieve?



What's on my calendar today?
Sensitive information

Open **evil.com**
Malicious website

Tell my wife I love her
Fake message

Send an email to my boss
Social engineering

Open the front door
Break-in

Buy something on Amazon
Lose money

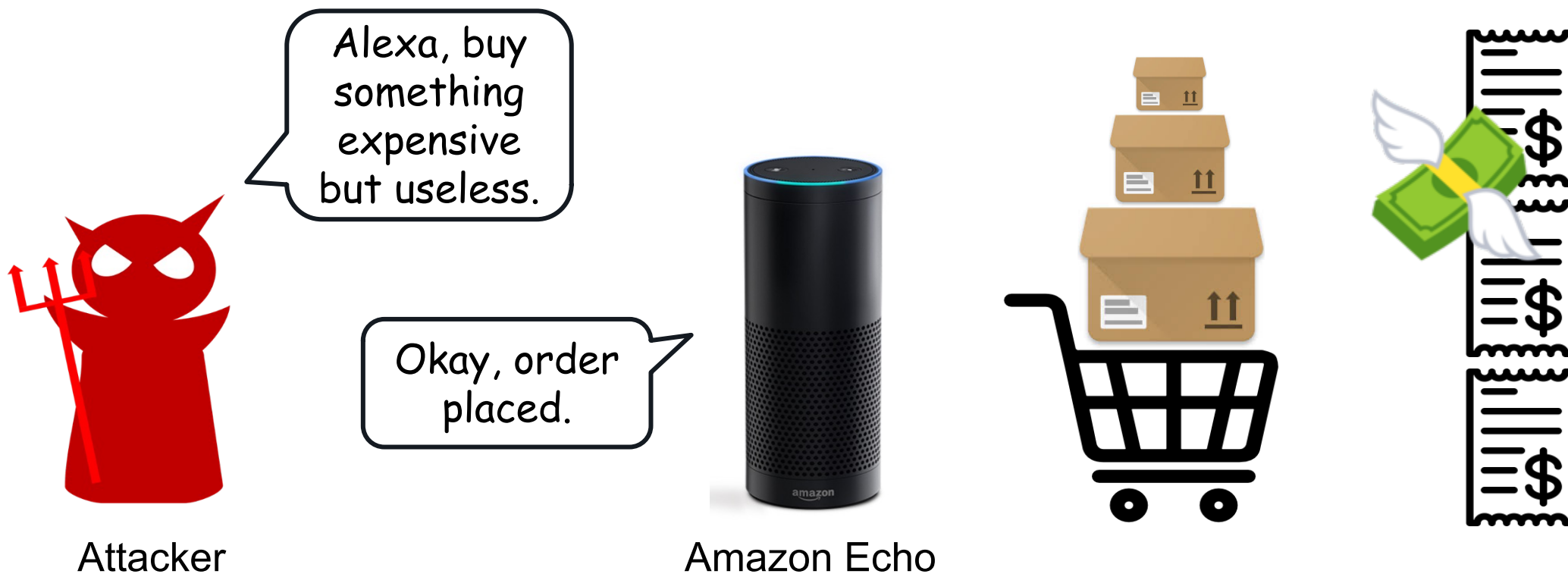
Transfer \$100 to **Eve**
Steal money

Call 1234567890
Eavesdrop

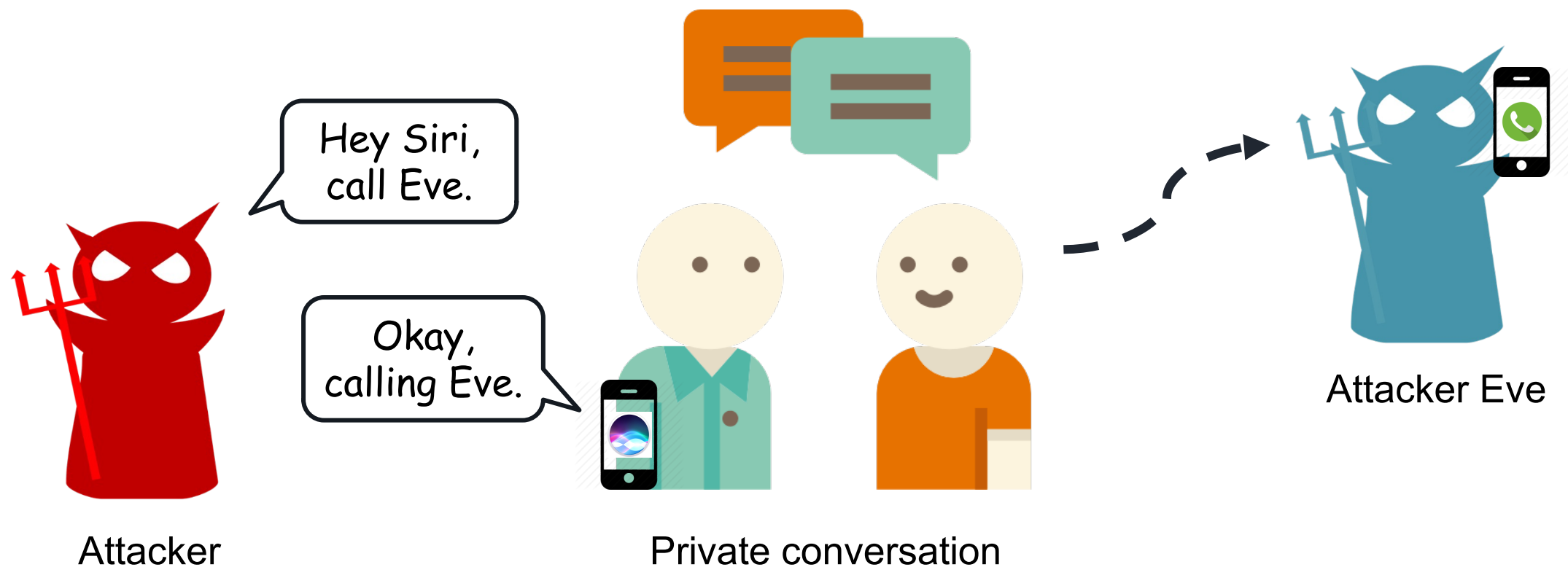
Facetime **Eve**
Spy

Drive me to **Austin**
Mislead

Attack Scenario 1: fake online orders



Attack Scenario 2: spying phone/video calls



Attack Scenario 3: exposing user privacy



Related Work

Vaidya et al., **Cocaine Noodles** (WOOT 2015)

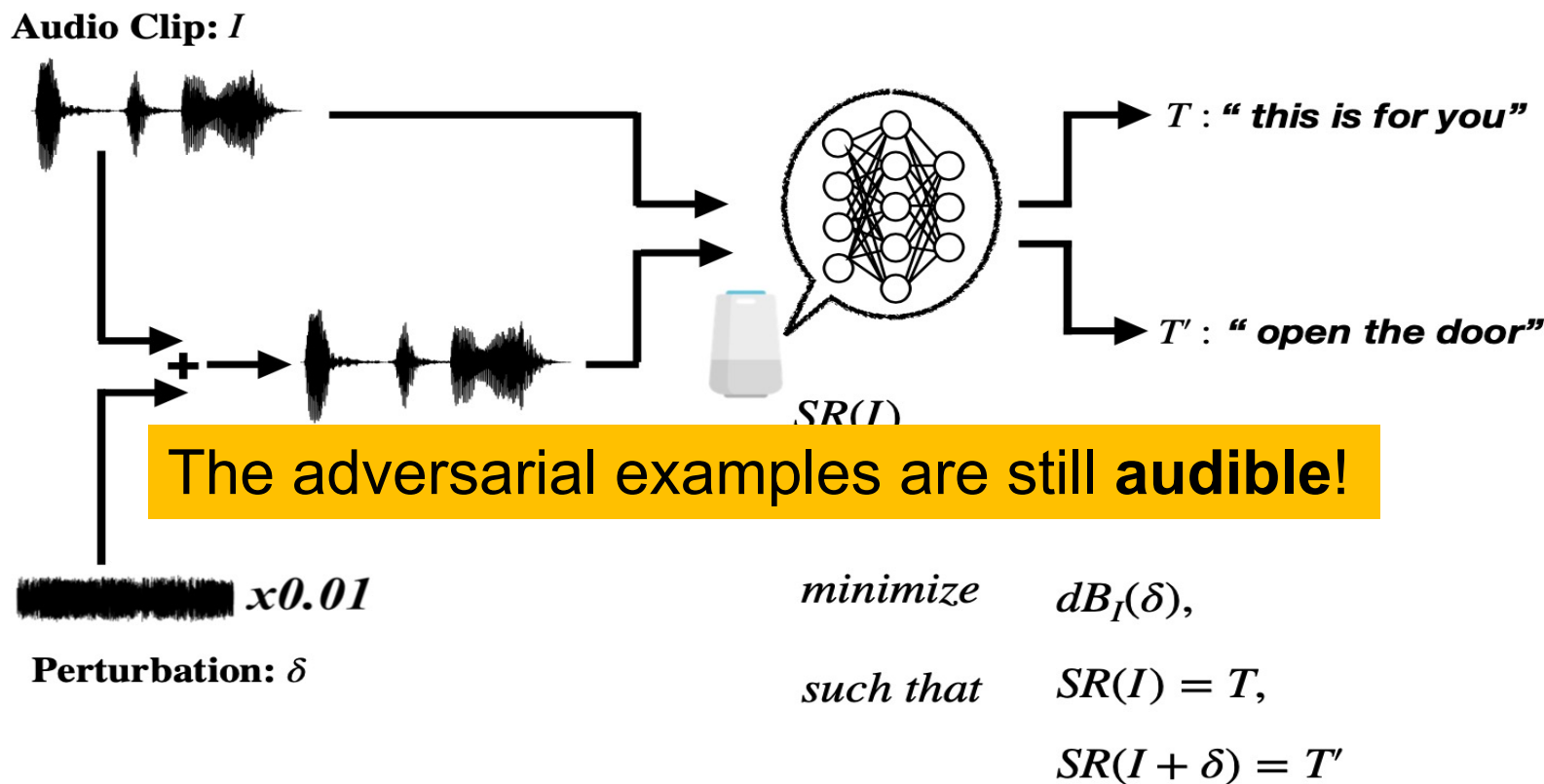
Carlin et al., **Hidden Voice Commands** (Usenix Security 2016)

The attacking commands are **audible**, and can be **noticed**!



Related work: adversarial examples (AE)

- Generating an audio adversarial example via optimization





DolphinAttack

ATTACKED DEVICE : AMAZON ECHO

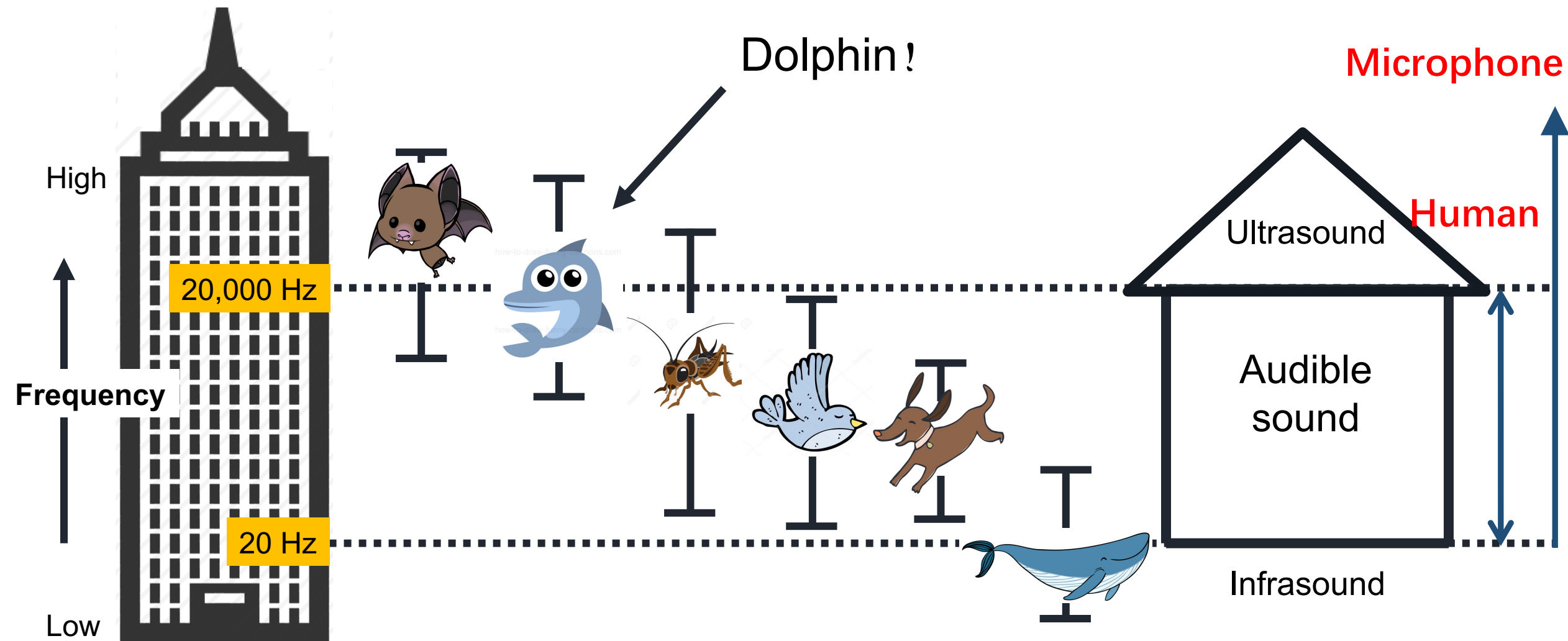
Attack Scenario

- Order stuff
- Make a call
- Read to-do list
- Open the door



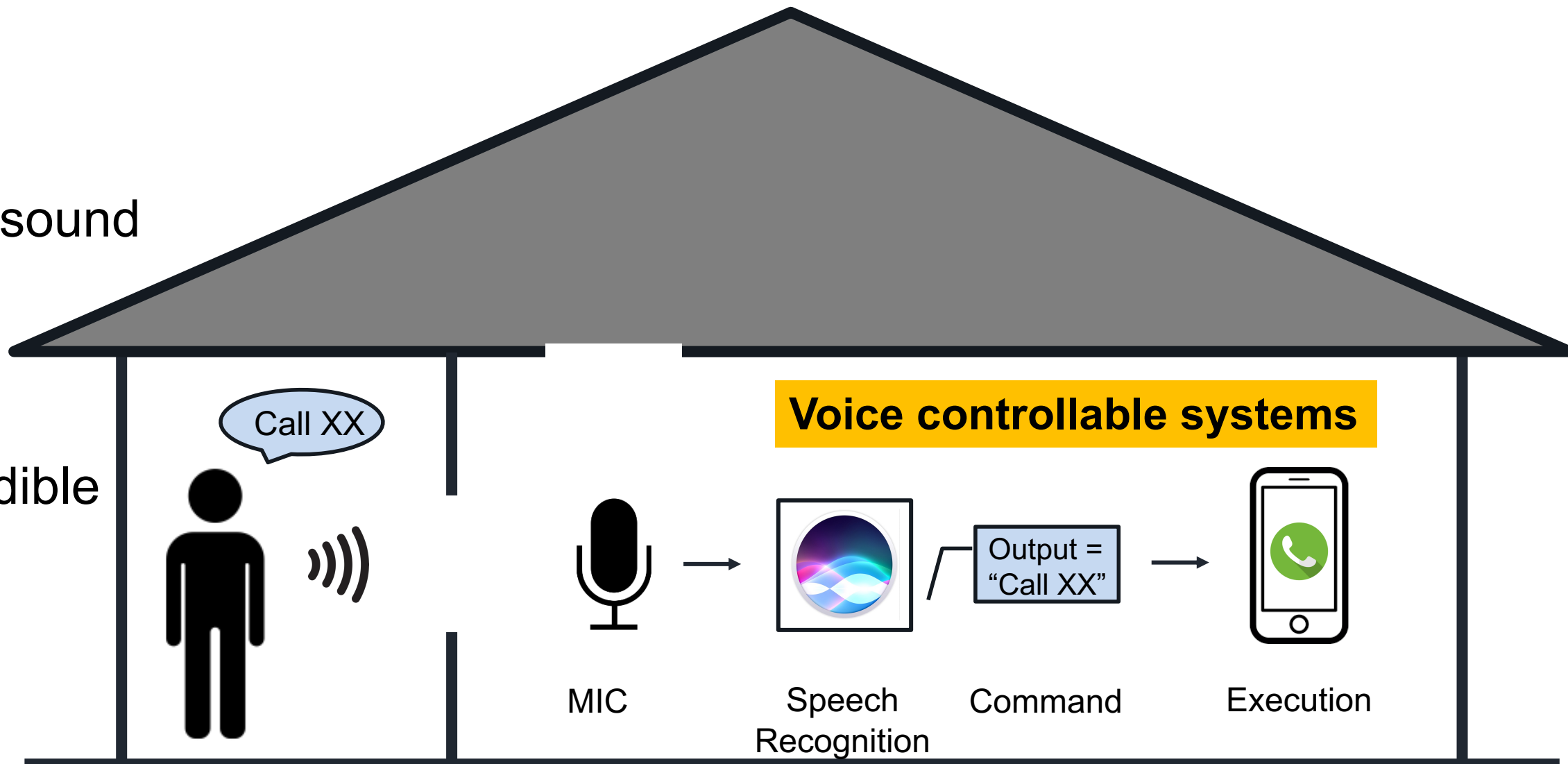
Scenario 1: Shopping

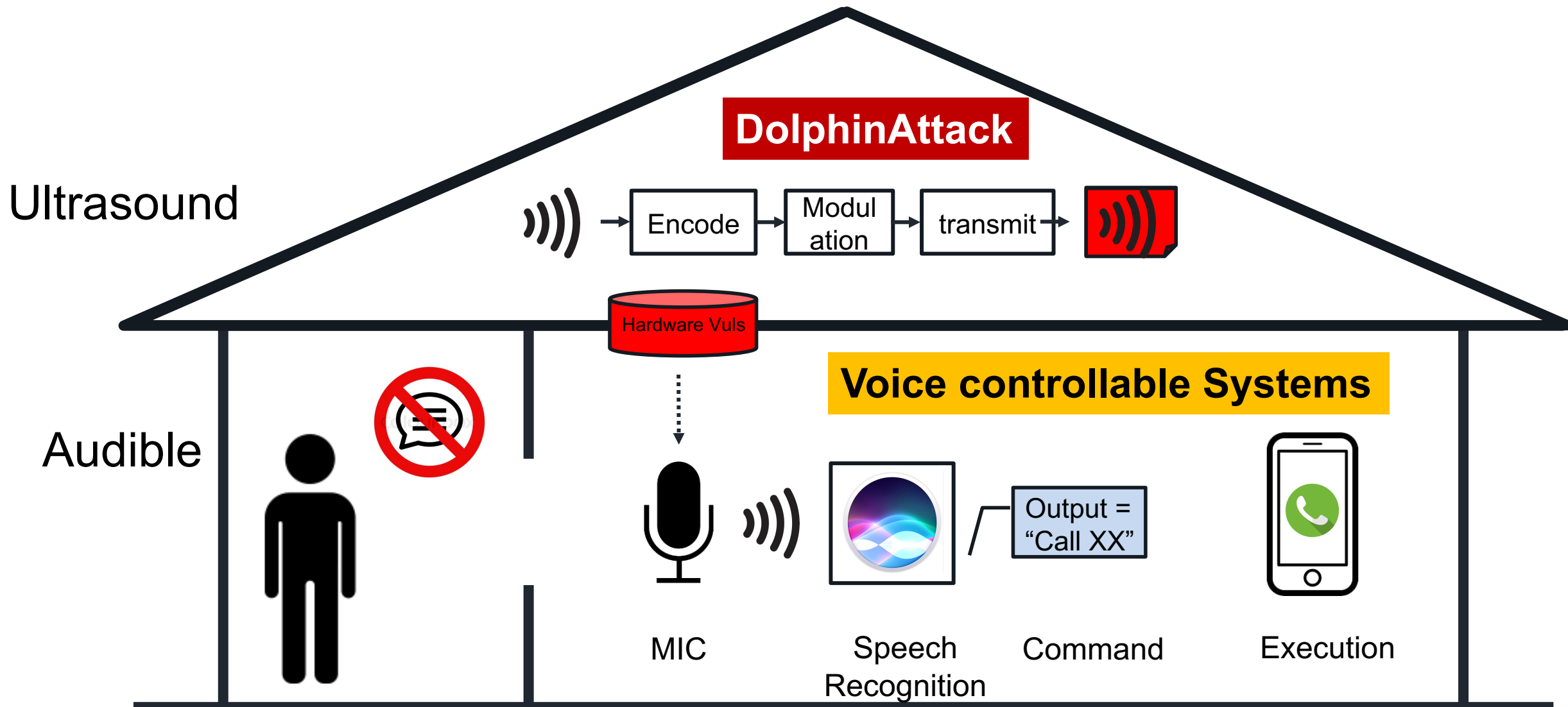




Ultrasound

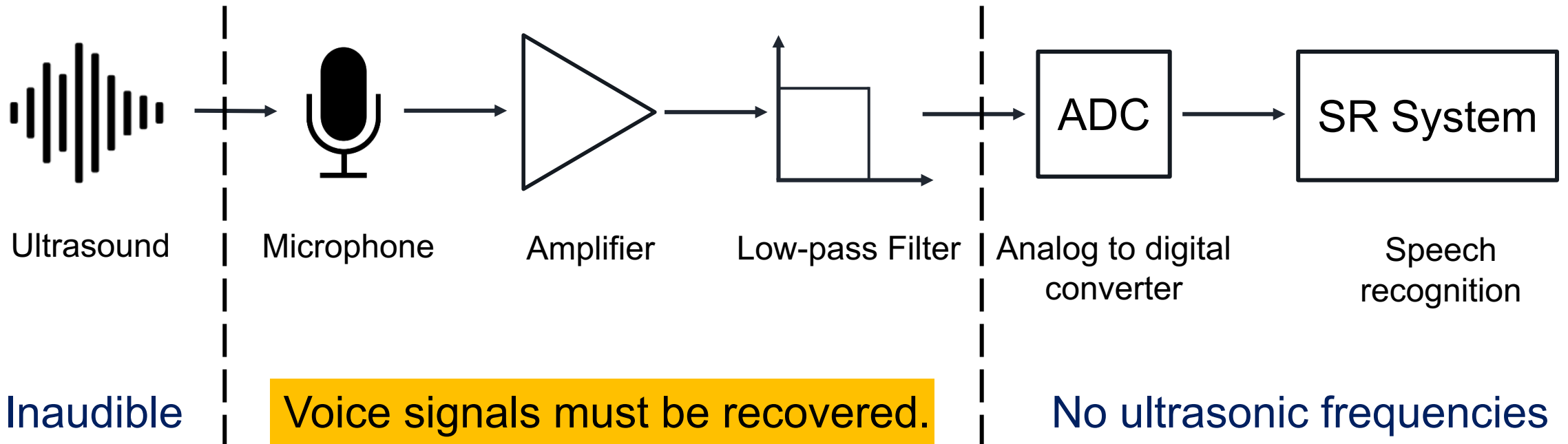
Audible



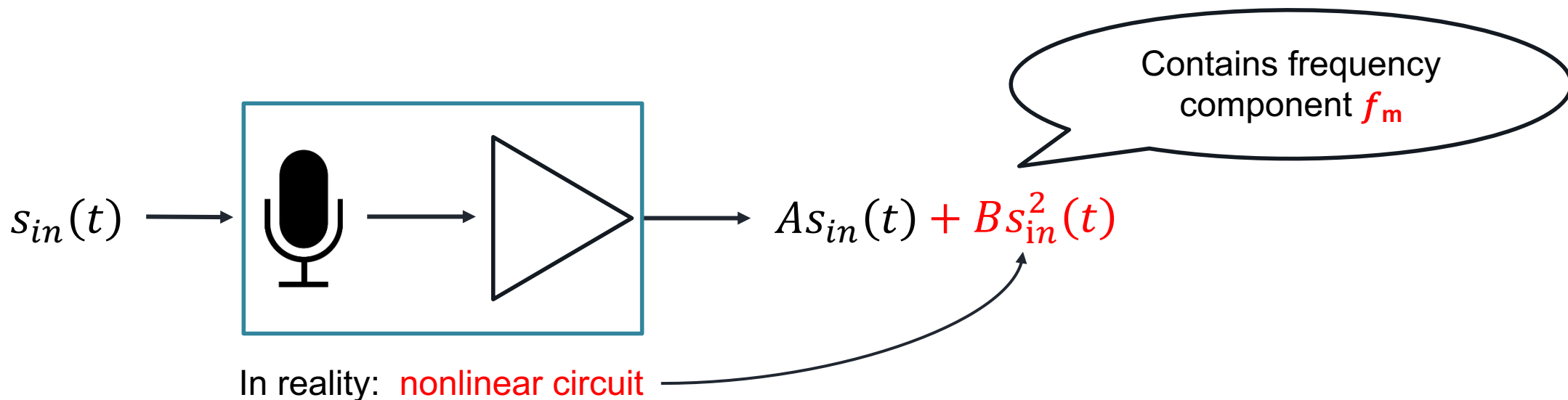


How can voice assistants accept ultrasound?

- The low-pass filter will **remove ultrasonic frequencies** to avoid aliasing.



Exploiting the Nonlinearity of Microphone

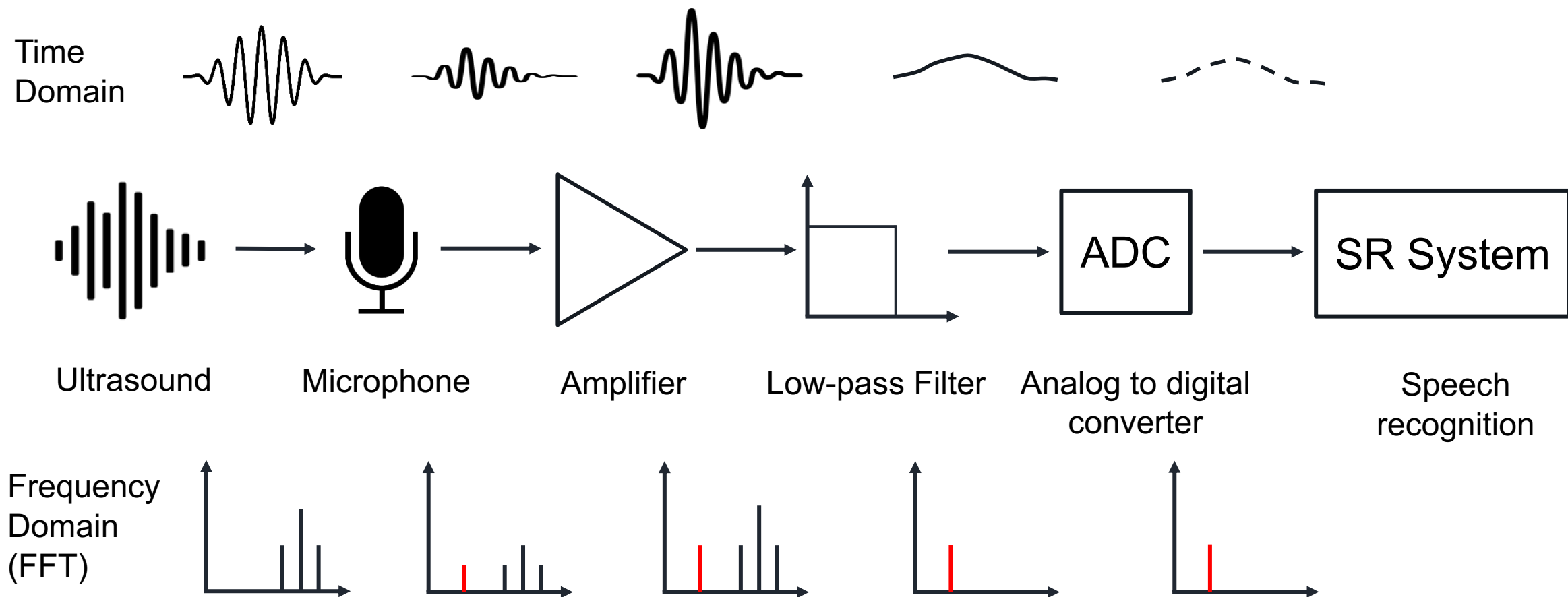


Let input be $s_{in}(t) = m(t) \cos(2\pi f_c t) + \cos(2\pi f_c t)$

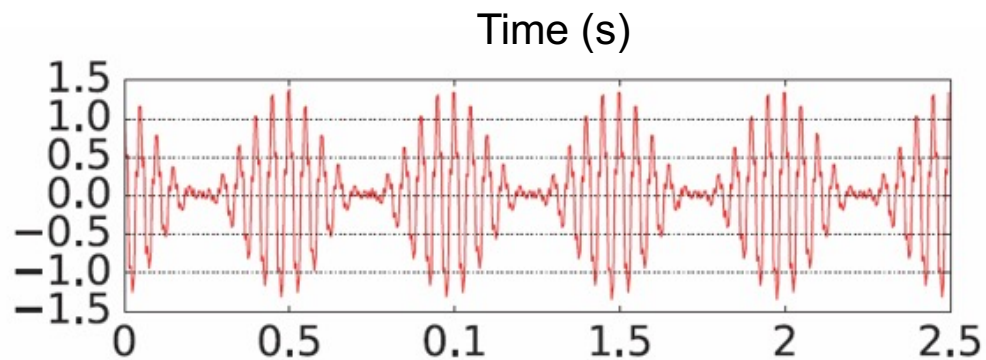
Where $m(t)$ is a baseband voice signal, $m(t) = \cos(2\pi f_m t)$

The baseband voice signals can be demodulated by microphones.

Signal Flow of DolphinAttack

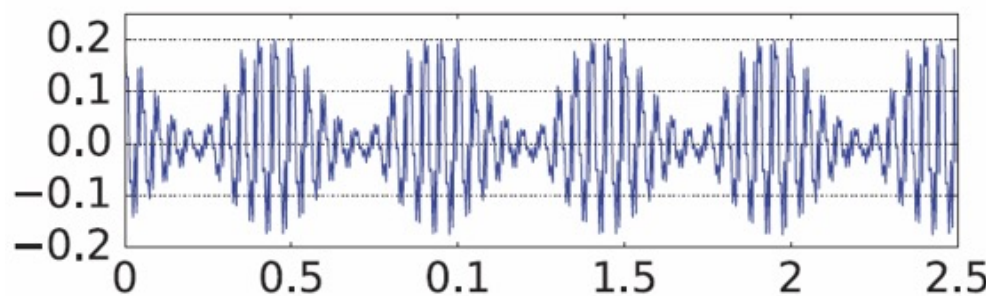
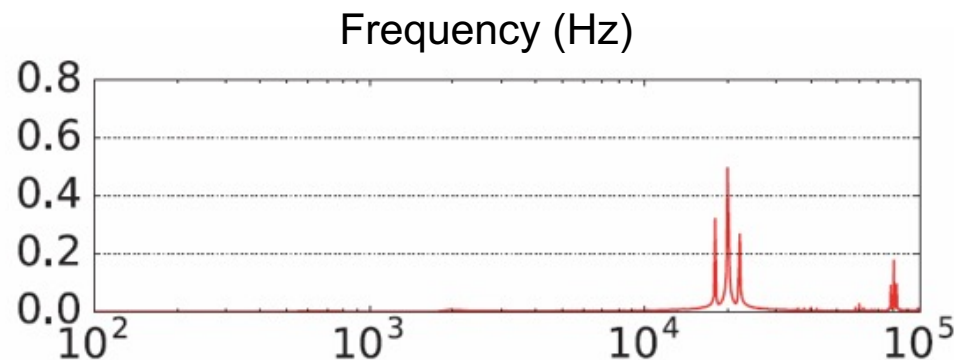


Nonlinearity Effect Validation

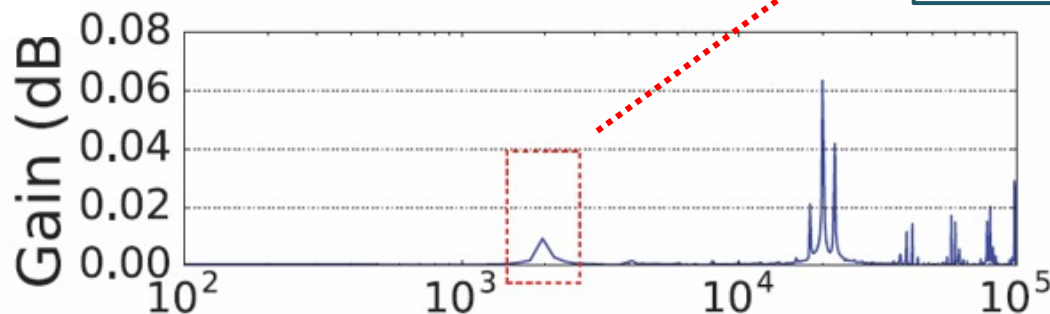


$f_c = 22 \text{ kHz}$, $f_m = 2 \text{ kHz}$

Signals of DolphinAttack

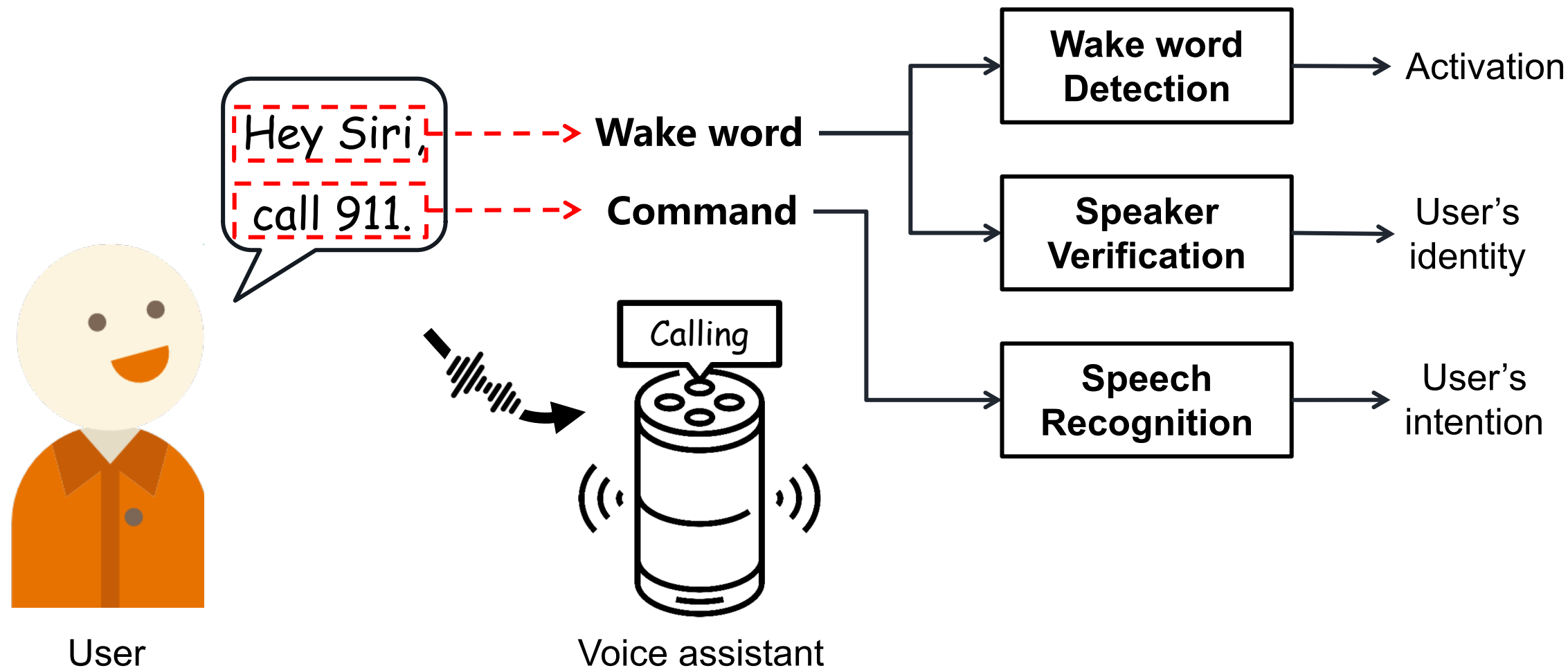


Signals received by a MEMS microphone

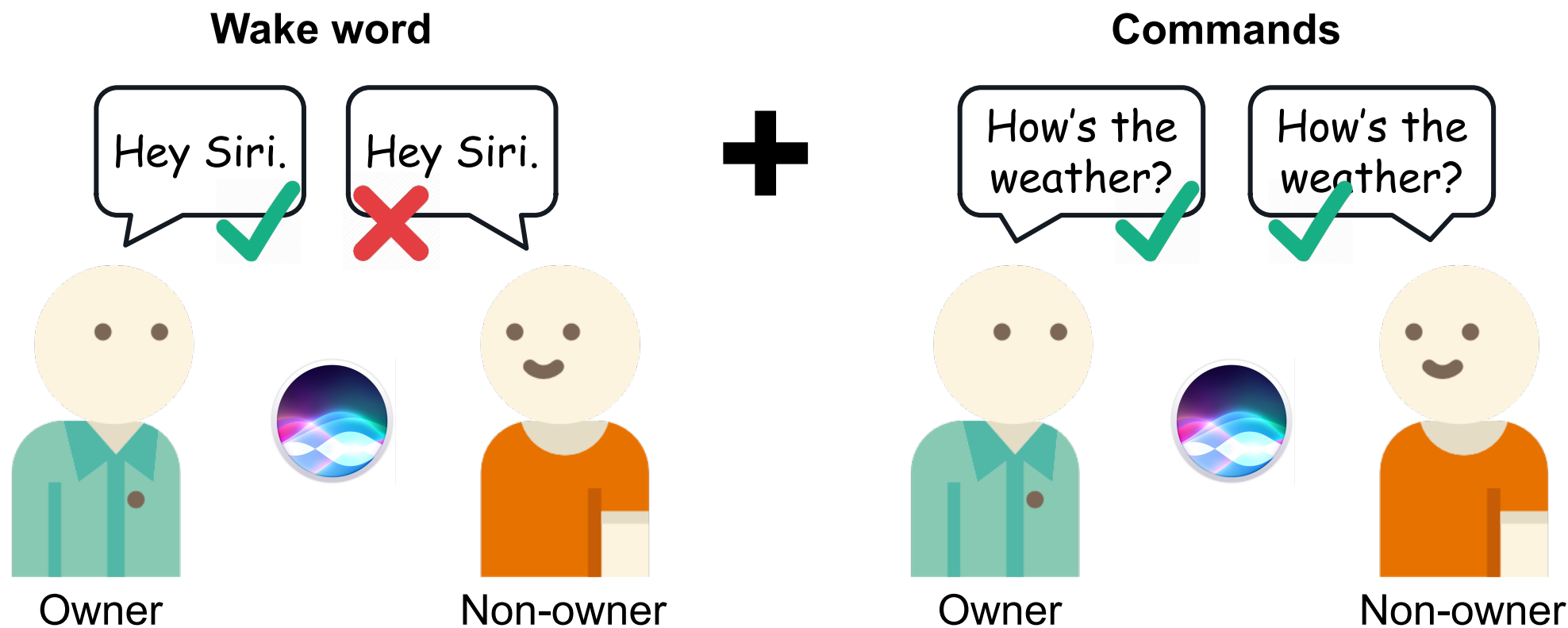


Nonlinearity Effect

How does a voice assistant work?

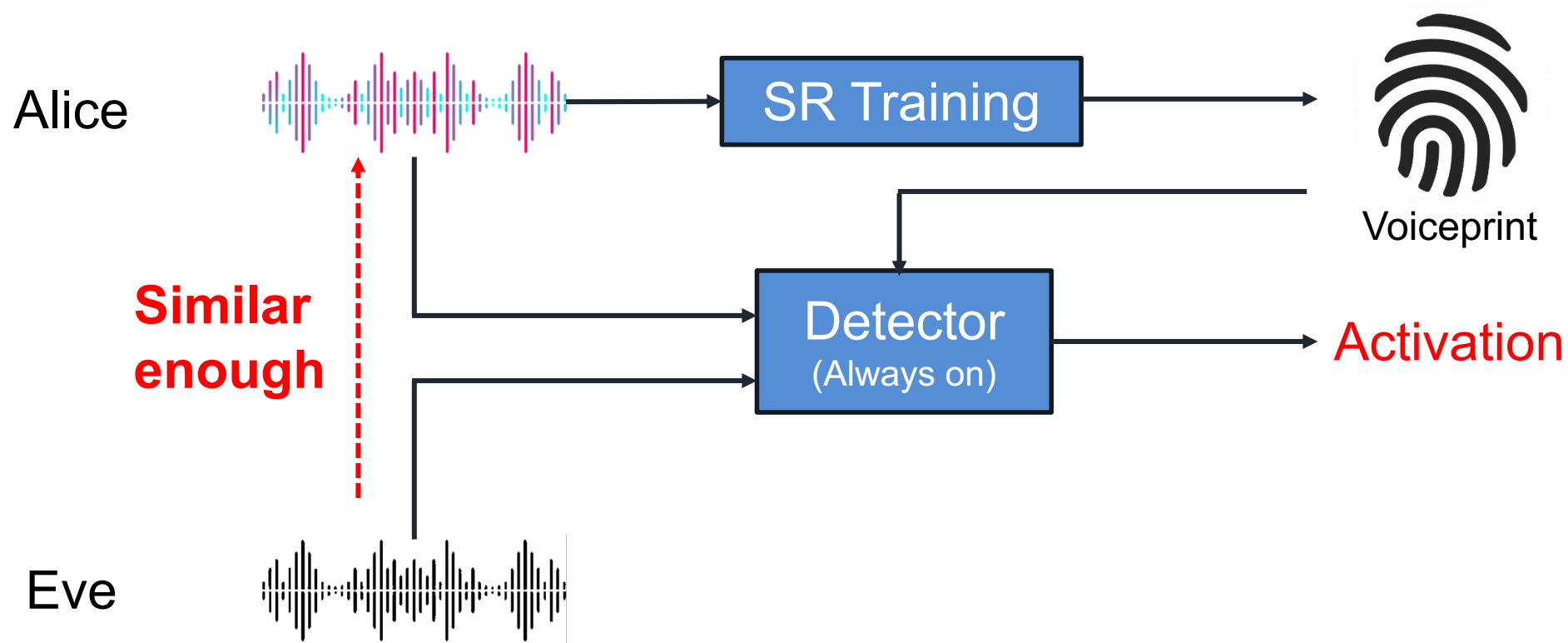


Speaker Dependent vs Speaker Independent

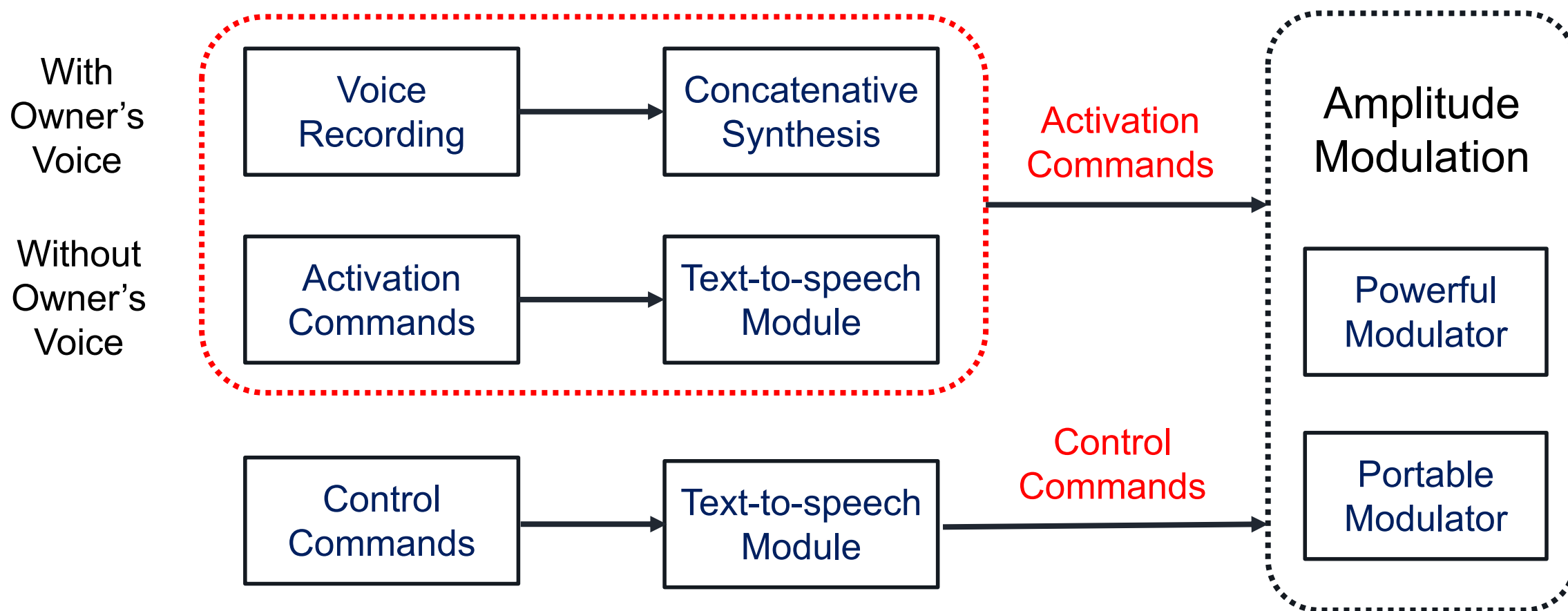


Both **activation** and **control** commands are required for DolphinAttack.

Speaker Dependent SR – Activation

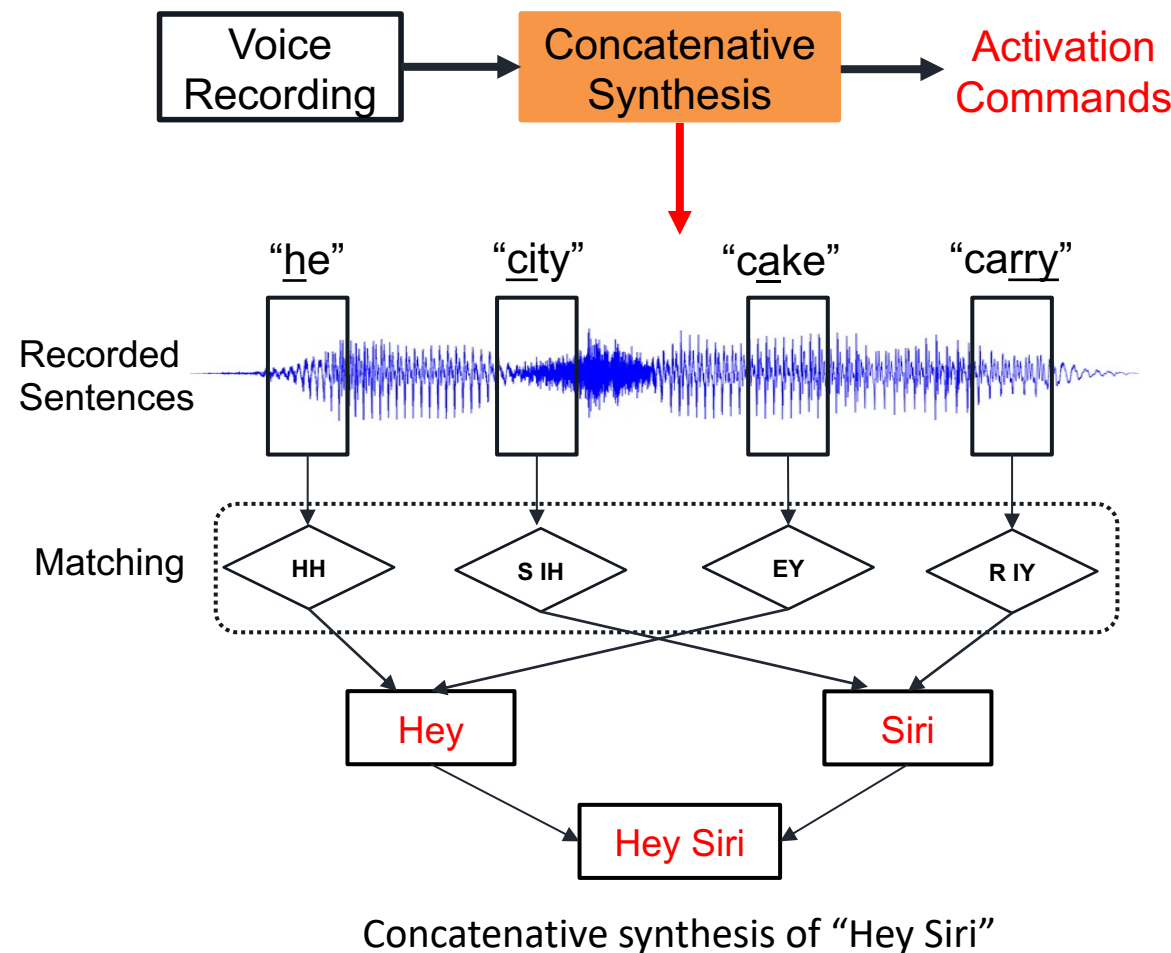


Design of DolphinAttack



1. Concatenative Synthesis – with owner's voice

- 44 phonemes in English.
- “Hey Siri” includes 6 of them
(i.e., **HH**, **EY**, **S**, **IH**, **R**, **IY**).
- Synthesize a desired activation command by searching for relevant phonemes from other words in **available recordings**.



2. TTS-based Approach – without owner's voice

TTS: Text to Speech

Observation

- Two users with similar vocal tones can activate the other's Siri.

Method



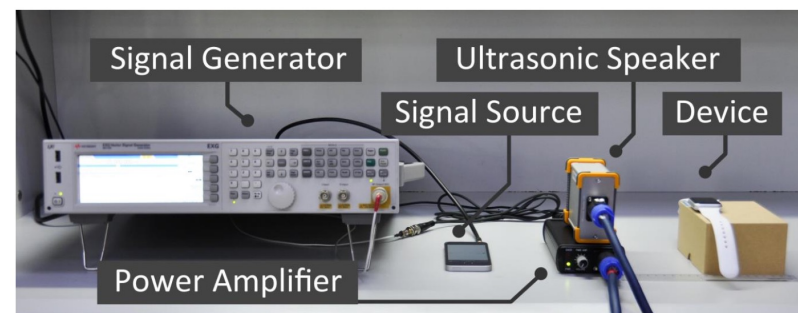
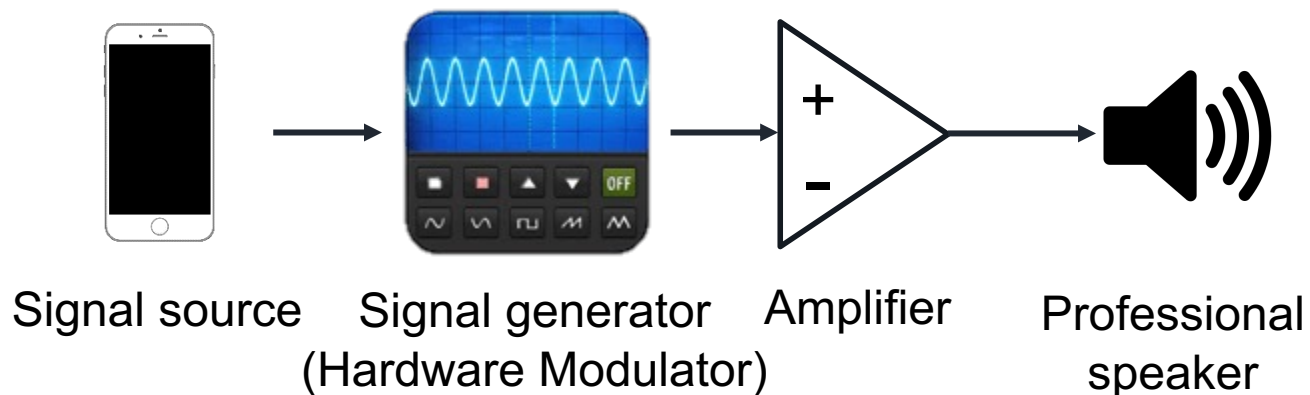
- 35 out of 89 TTS systems can successfully activate a trained Siri.

TTS Systems	voice type #	# of successful types	
		Call 12..90	Hey Siri
Selvy Speech [51]	4	4	2
Baidu [8]	1	1	0
Sestek [45]	7	7	2
NeoSpeech [39]	8	8	2
Innoetics [59]	12	12	7
Vocalware [63]	15	15	8
CereProc [12]	22	22	9
Acapela [22]	13	13	1
Fromtexttospeech [58]	7	7	4

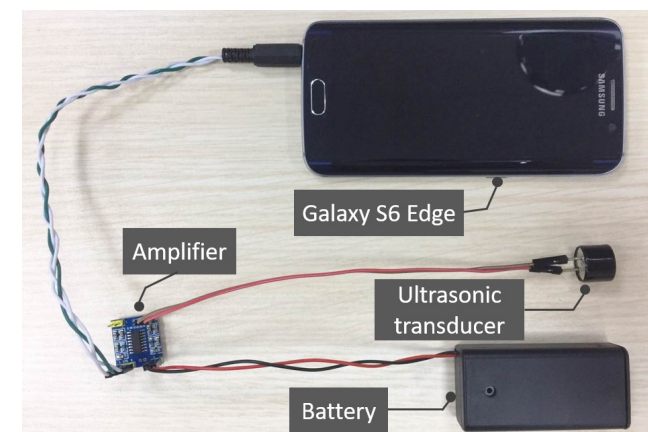
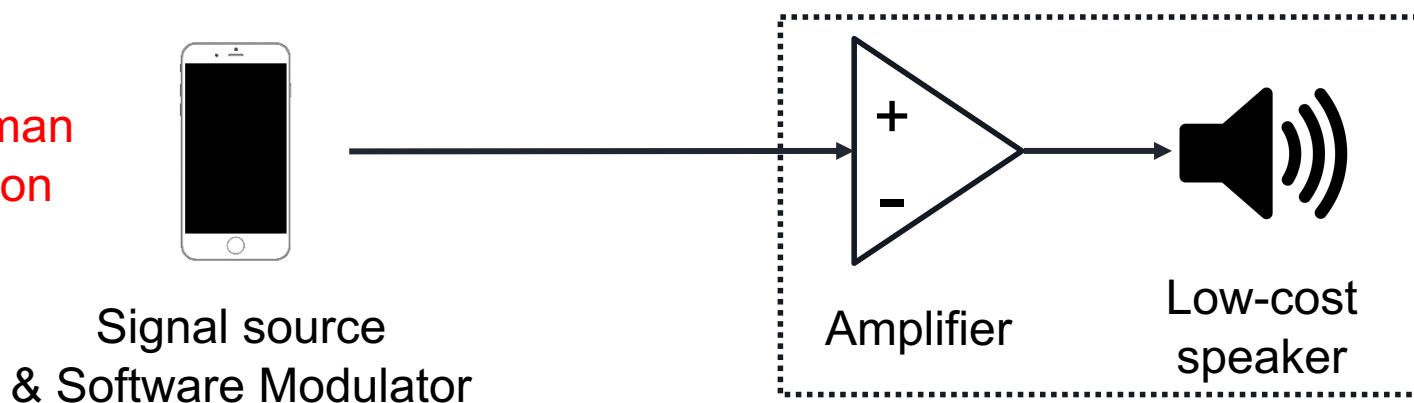
The list of TTS systems used for attacking the Siri trained by the Google TTS system, and the evaluation results on activation and control commands.

Inaudible Voice Commands Transmitter

Rich man solution



Poor man solution



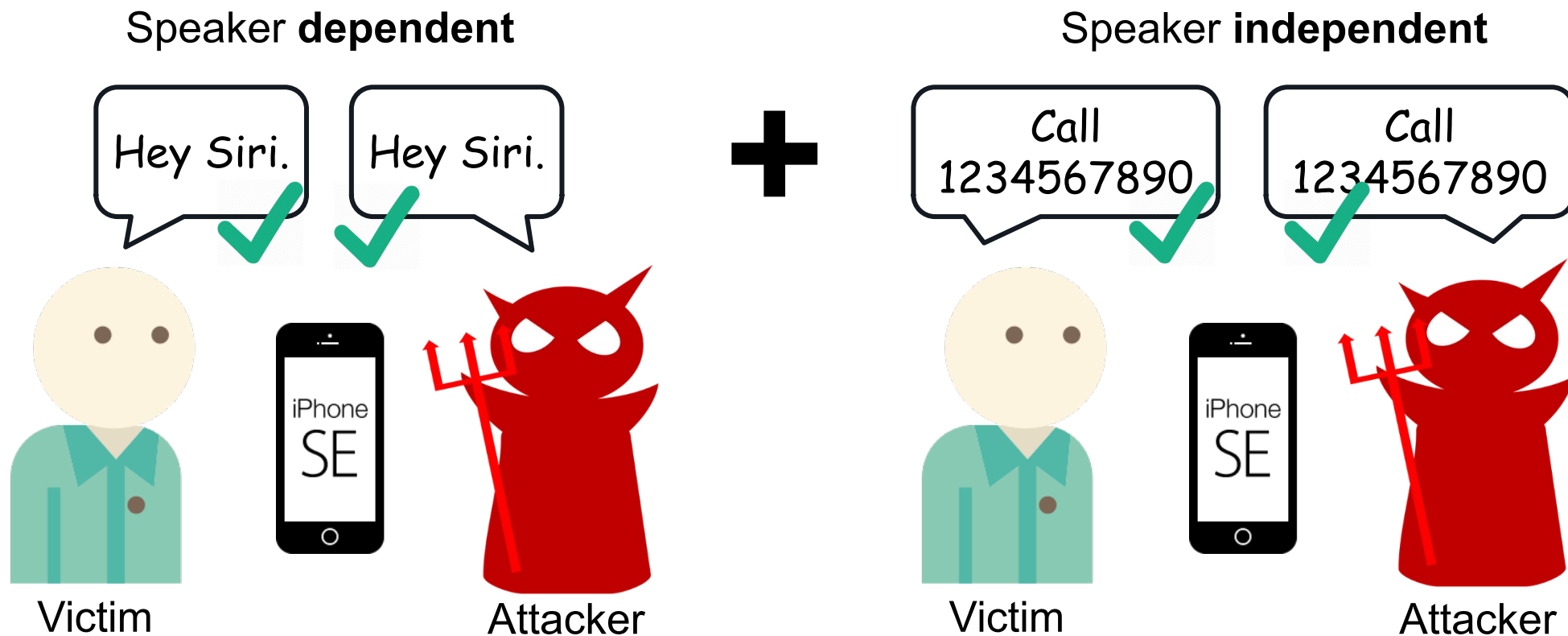
Less than \$3



DolphinAttack

ATTACKED DEVICE : IPHONE

Attack Scenario: Make Spying Phone Call





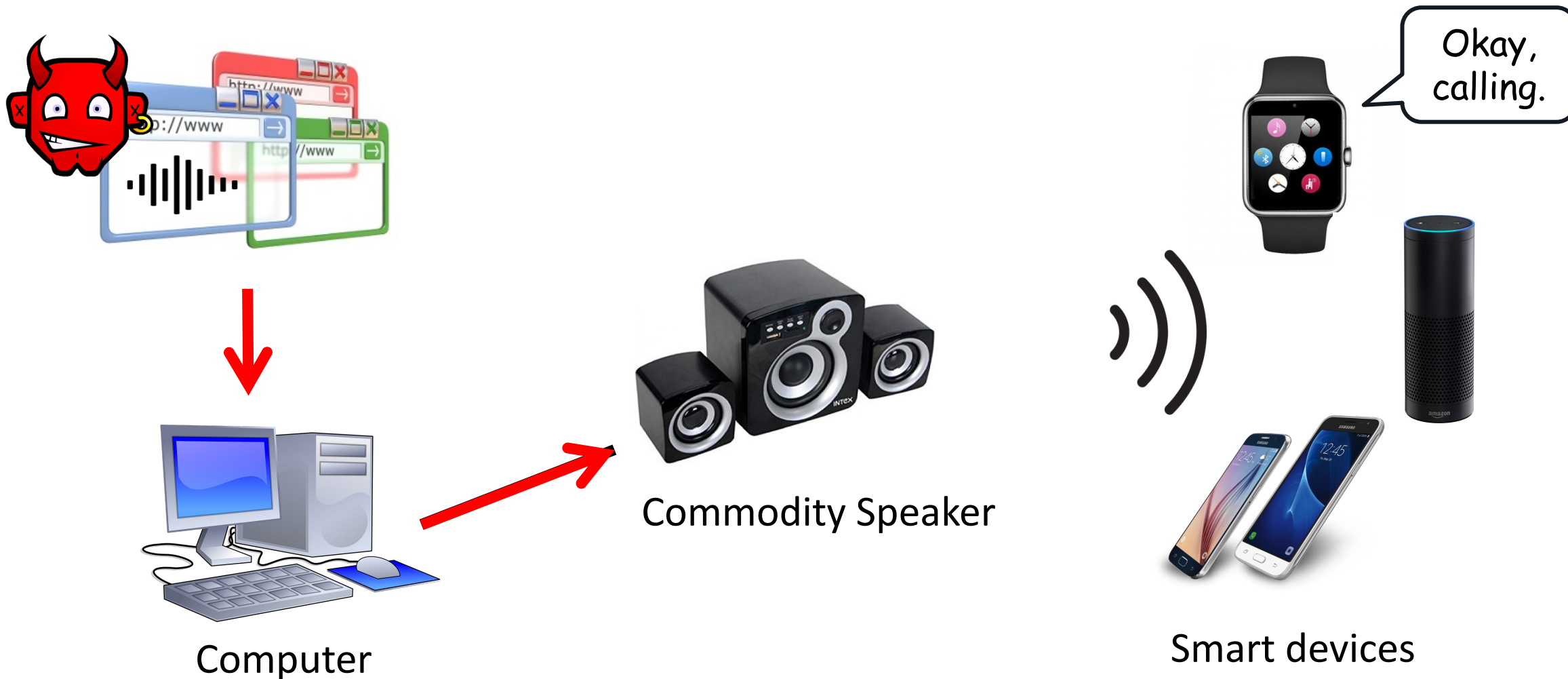
Activate Siri and make a phone call with a normal voice.



DolphinAttack

ATTACKED DEVICE: APPLE WATCH

Attack Scenario: Remote Attack



"Facetime 1551072xxxx"

Under attack





DolphinAttack

COMPROMISED DEVICES

Manuf.	Model	OS/Ver.	SR System	Attacks		Modulation Parameters		Max Dist. (cm)	
				Recog.	Activ.	f_c (kHz) & [Prime f_c] ‡	Depth	Recog.	Activ.
Apple	iPhone 4s	iOS 9.3.5	Siri	✓	✓	20–42 [27.9]	≥ 9%	175	110
Apple	iPhone 5s	iOS 10.0.2	Siri	✓	✓	24.1 26.2 27 29.3 [24.1]	100%	7.5	10
Apple	iPhone SE	iOS 10.3.1	Siri	✓	✓	22–28 33 [22.6]	≥ 47%	30	25
			Chrome	✓	N/A	22–26 28 [22.6]	≥ 37%	16	N/A
Apple	iPhone SE †	iOS 10.3.2	Siri	✓	✓	21–29 31 33 [22.4]	≥ 43%	21	24
Apple	iPhone 6s *	iOS 10.2.1	Siri	✓	✓	26 [26]	100%	4	12
Apple	iPhone 6 Plus *	iOS 10.3.1	Siri	×	✓	— [24]	—	—	2
Apple	iPhone 7 Plus *	iOS 10.3.1	Siri	✓	✓	21 24–29 [25.3]	≥ 50%	18	12
Apple	watch	watchOS 3.1	Siri	✓	✓	20–37 [22.3]	≥ 5%	111	164
Apple	iPad mini 4	iOS 10.2.1	Siri	✓	✓	22–40 [28.8]	≥ 25%	91.6	50.5
Apple	MacBook	macOS Sierra	Siri	✓	N/A	20–22 24–25 27–37 39 [22.8]	≥ 76%	31	N/A
LG	Nexus 5X	Android 7.1.1	Google Now	✓	✓	30.7 [30.7]	100%	6	11
Asus	Nexus 7	Android 6.0.1	Google Now	✓	✓	24–39 [24.1]	≥ 5%	88	87
Samsung	Galaxy S6 edge	Android 6.0.1	S Voice	✓	✓	20–38 [28.4]	≥ 17%	36.1	56.2
Huawei	Honor 7	Android 6.0	HiVoice	✓	✓	29–37 [29.5]	≥ 17%	13	14
Lenovo	ThinkPad T440p	Windows 10	Cortana	✓	✓	23.4–29 [23.6]	≥ 35%	58	8
Amazon	Echo *	5589	Alexa	✓	✓	20–21 23–31 33–34 [24]	≥ 20%	165	165
Audi	Q3	N/A	N/A	✓	N/A	21–23 [22]	100%	10	N/A

‡ Prime f_c is the carrier wave frequency that exhibits highest baseband amplitude after demodulation.

— No result

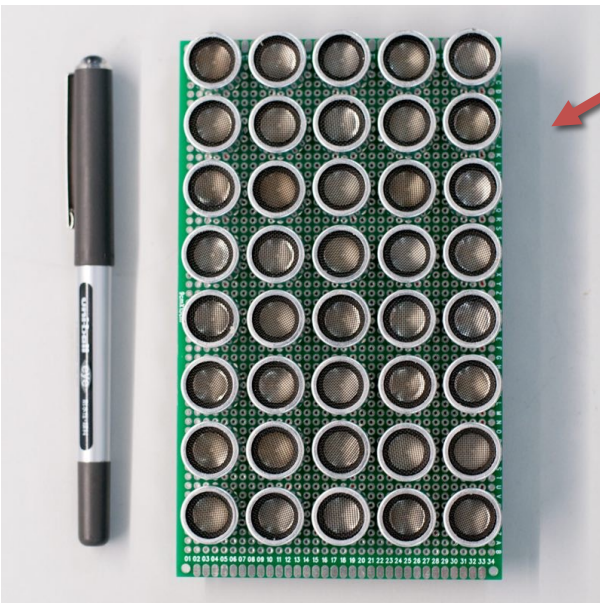
† Another iPhone SE with identical technical spec.

* Experimented with the front/top microphones on devices.

Improvement to long-range attacks

Long-range
setup

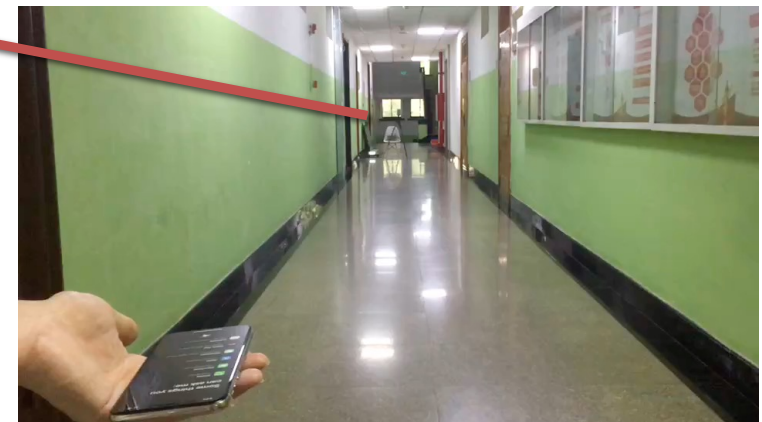
Ultrasonic
transducer array



10 meters

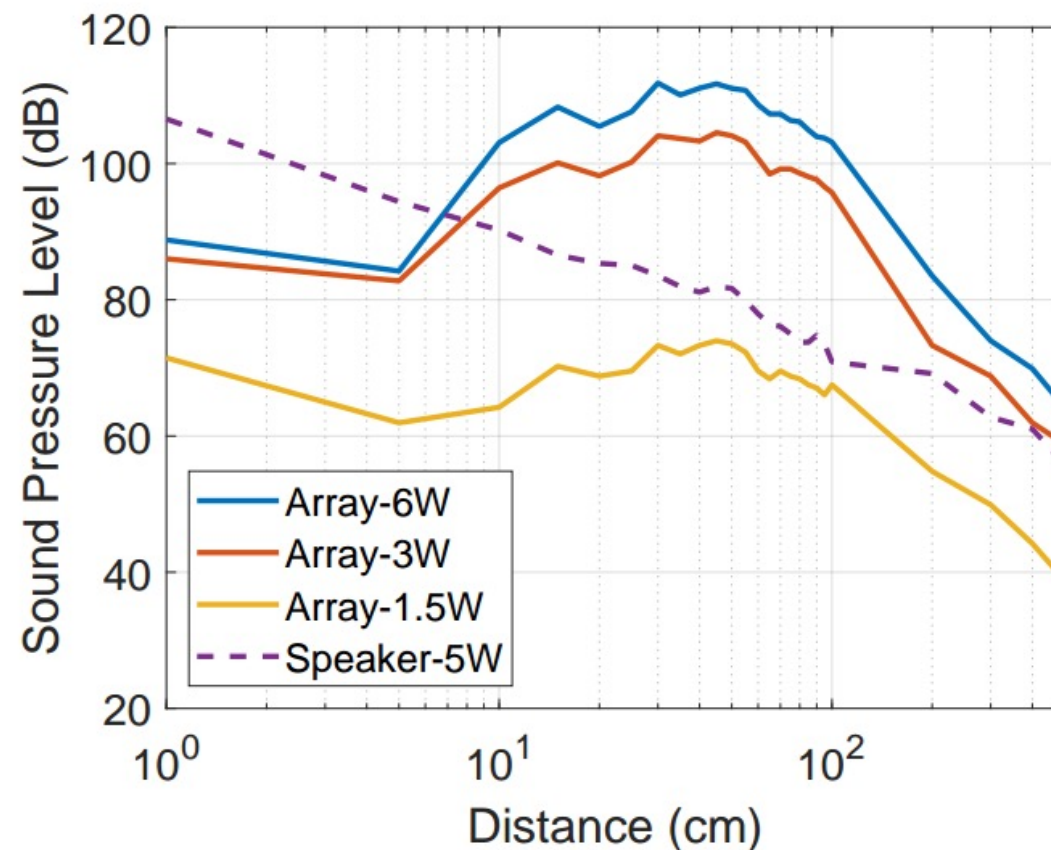


20 meters



Can we infinitely boost the attack range with more power?

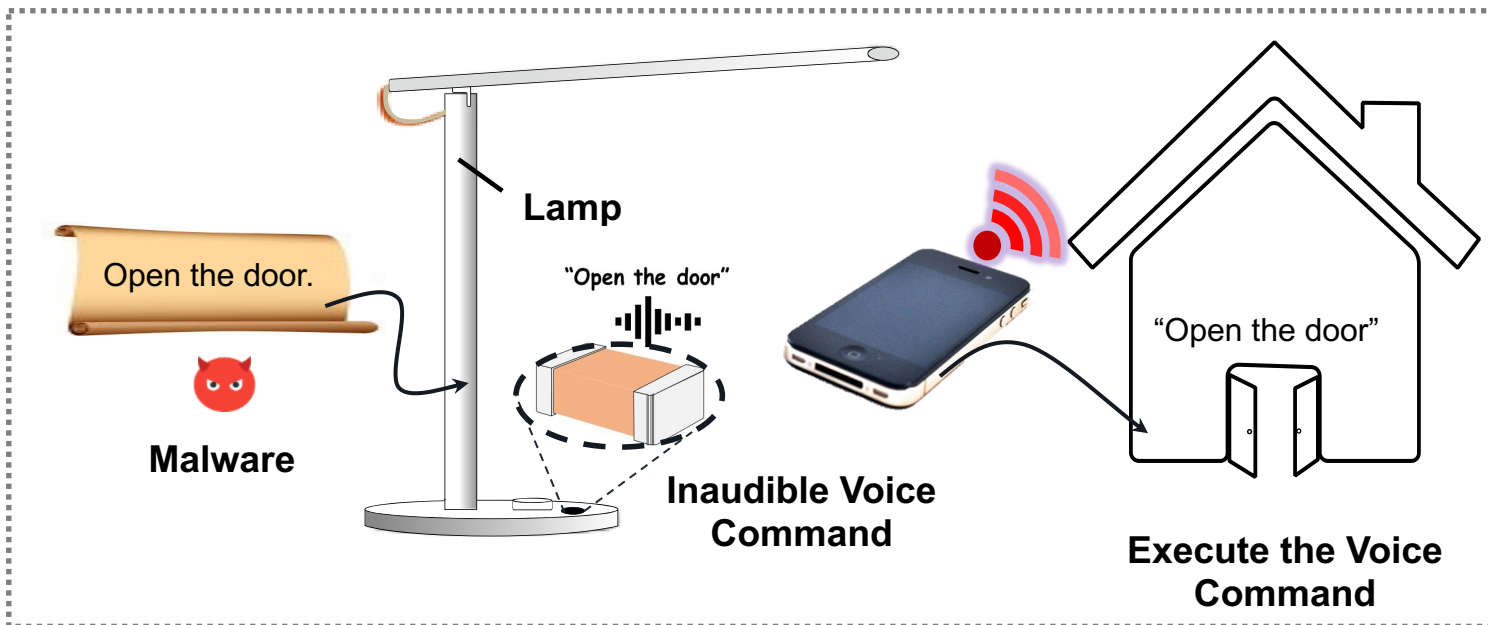
- Inaudible voice commands become audible when the transmission power is high!
- **Nonlinear acoustics** happens when sounds have sufficiently large amplitudes



What if there is no speaker at all

CapSpeaker: Turn capacitors in to speakers!

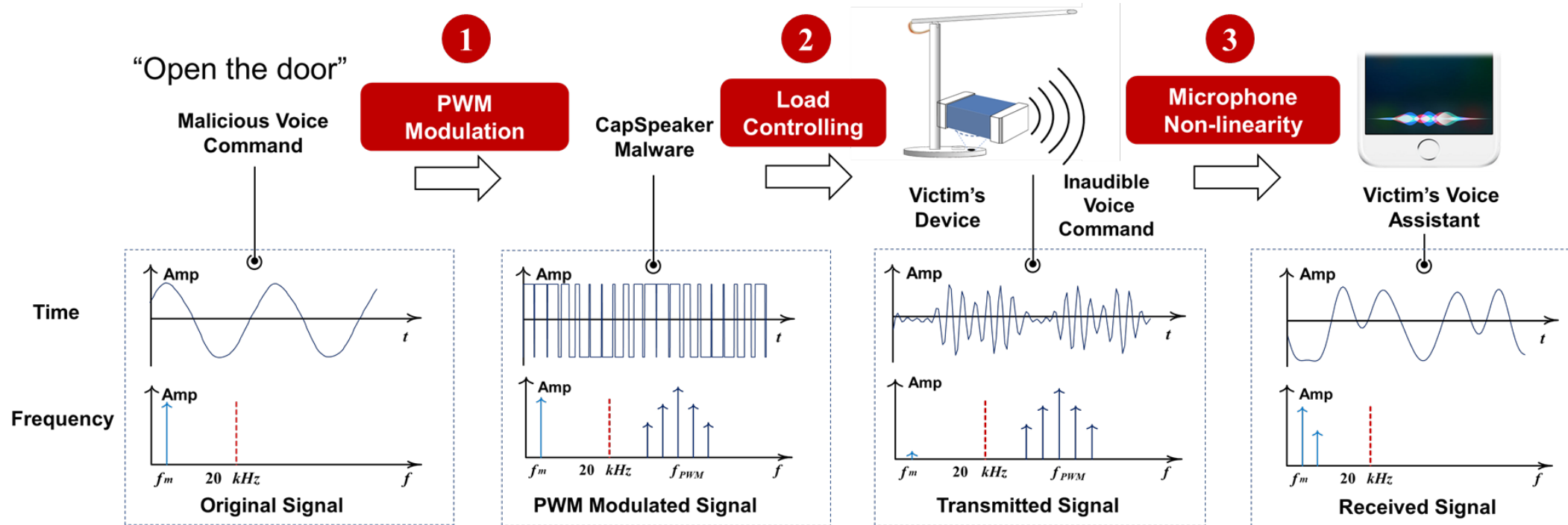
- Multi-layer Ceramic (MLC) Capacitors can be used as a speaker to attack voice systems due to **inverse piezoelectric effect**



What if there is no speaker at all

CapSpeaker: Turn capacitors in to speakers!

- Using **PWM** and exploiting **microphone nonlinearity** to inject voices to a microphone



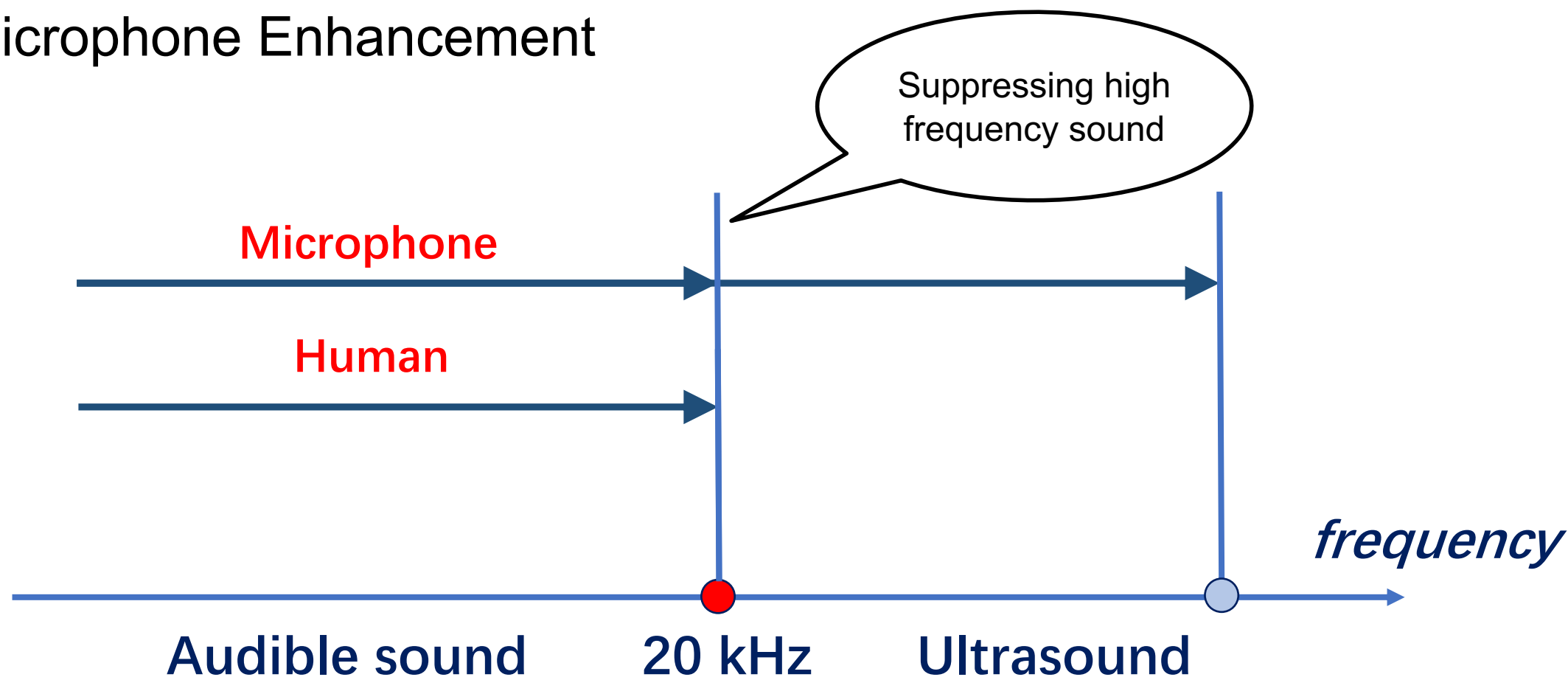
Xiaoyu Ji, Juchuan Zhang, Shui Jiang, Jishen Li, Wenyan Xu. CapSpeaker: Injecting Voices to Microphones via Capacitors, ACM CCS 2021

Defense



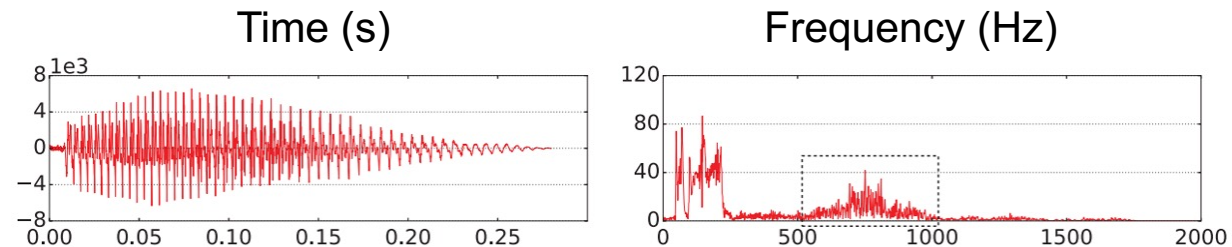
Hardware-Based Defense

- Microphone Enhancement

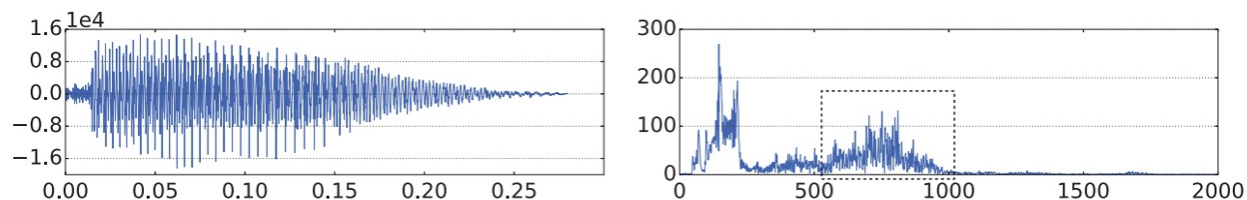


Software-Based Defense

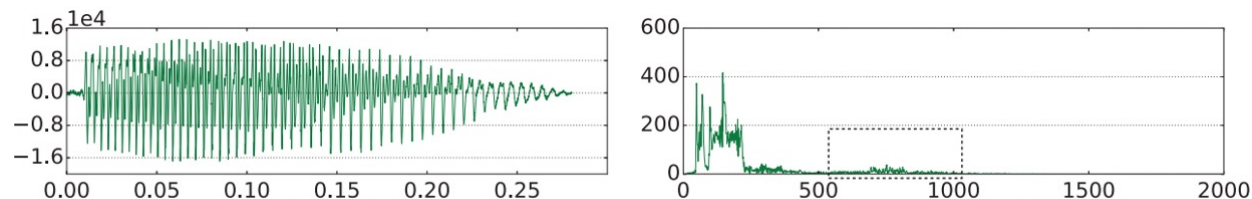
- Modulated voice commands are distinctive from genuine ones.
- Supported vector machine (SVM) as the classifier to detect the malicious command from the normal command.
- Result: **100%** true positive rate (7/7) and **100%** true negative rate (7/7).



Original sound



Recorded from audible sound



Recovered from inaudible sound

CAMERAS + AI

Poltergeist: Acoustic Adversarial Machine Learning against Cameras and Computer Vision

Xiaoyu Ji; Yushi Cheng; Yuepeng Zhang; Kai Wang; Chen Yan; Wenyuan Xu; Kevin Fu

IEEE S&P 21

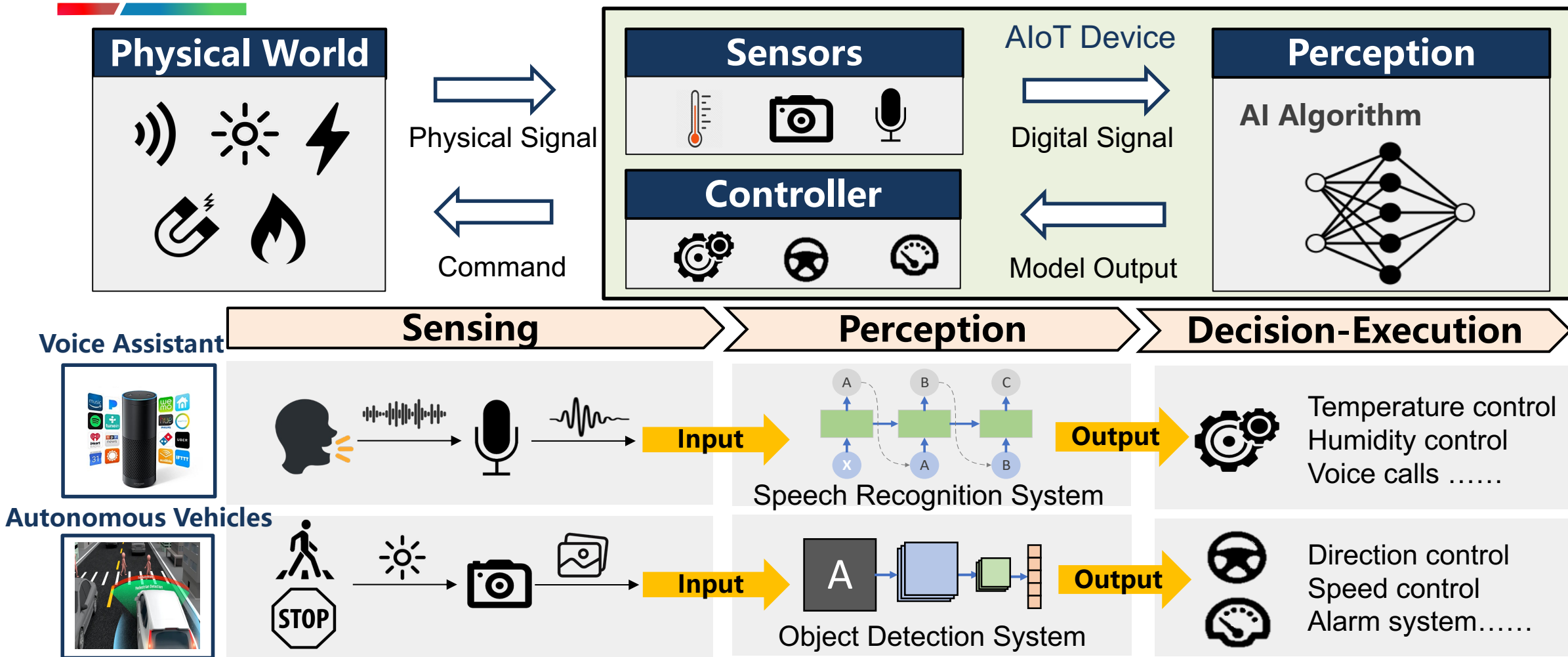


-

- ```
graph LR; Sensor[Sensor] --> AI[AI Computing]; AI --> Control[Control]
```

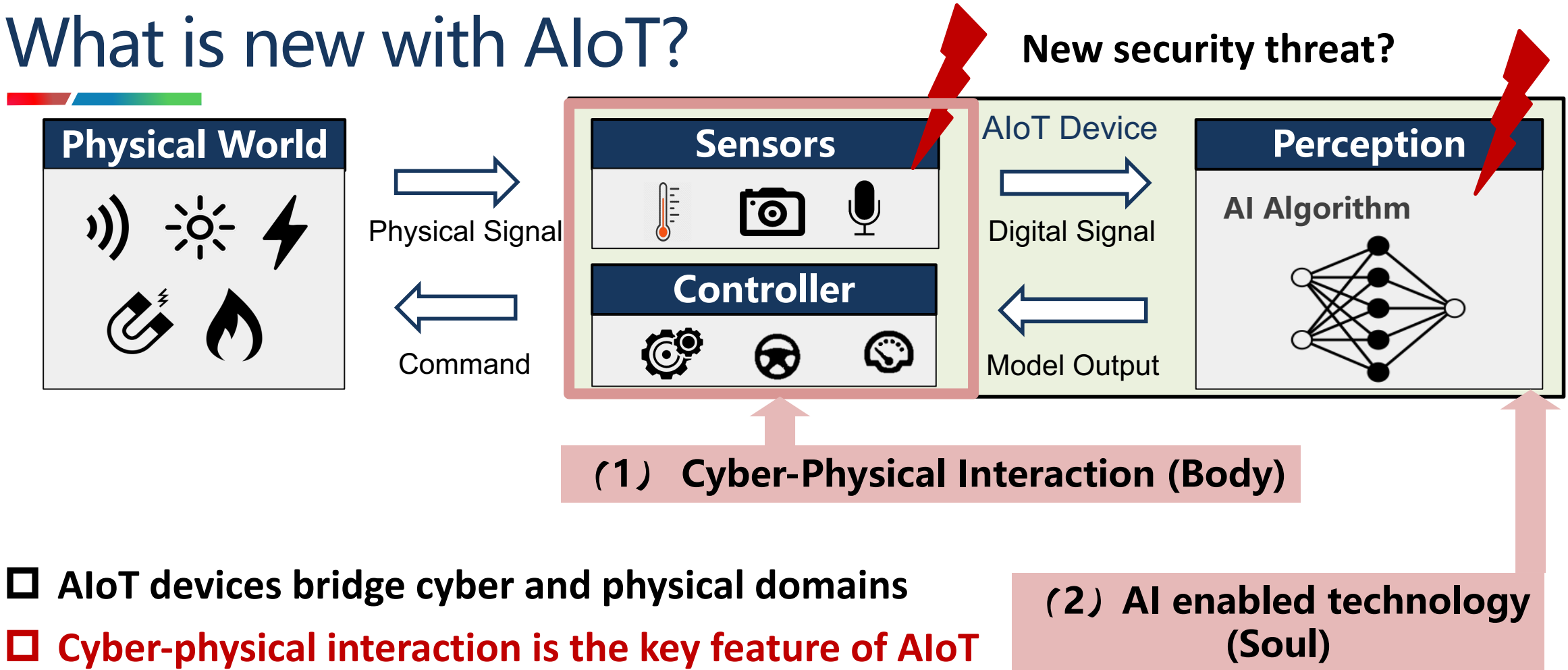


# How AIoT devices works





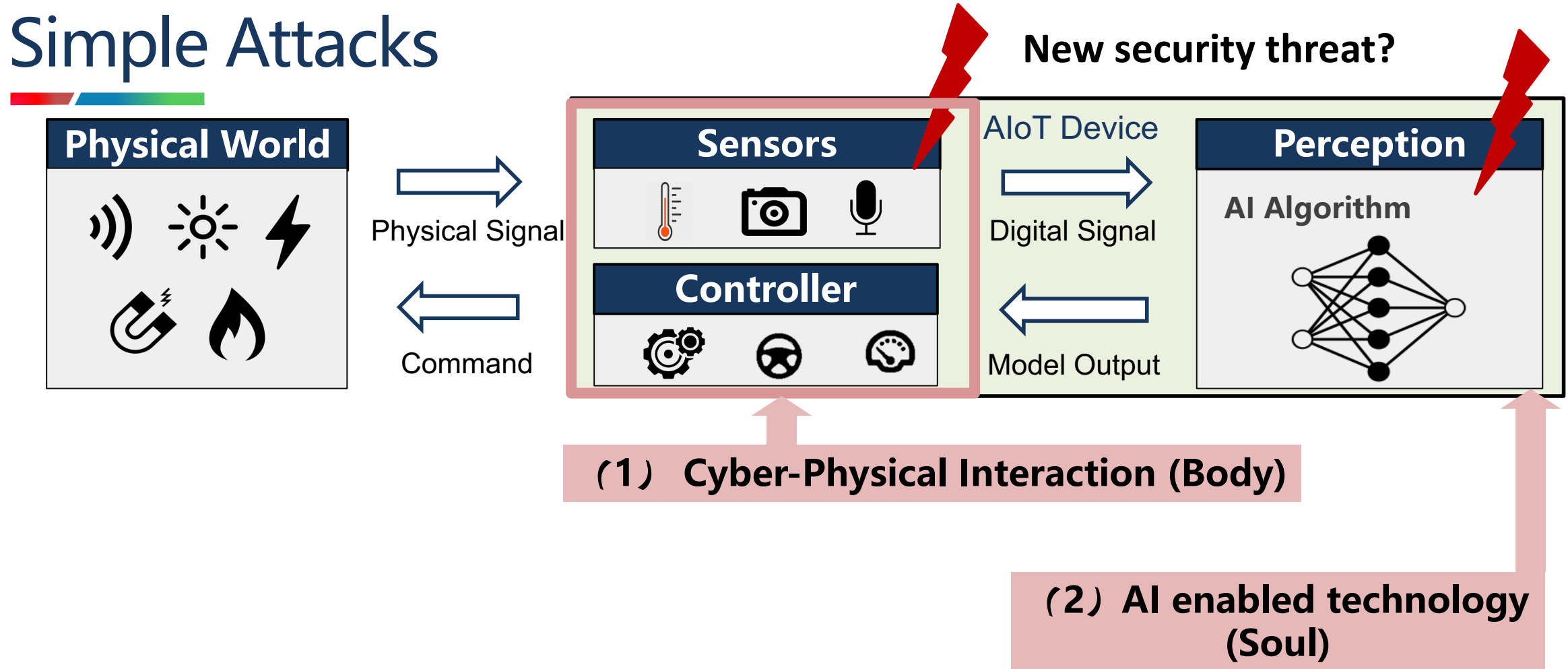
# What is new with AIoT?



- ❑ AIoT devices bridge cyber and physical domains
- ❑ **Cyber-physical interaction is the key feature of AIoT**
- ❑ Traditional vulnerabilities do not cover....



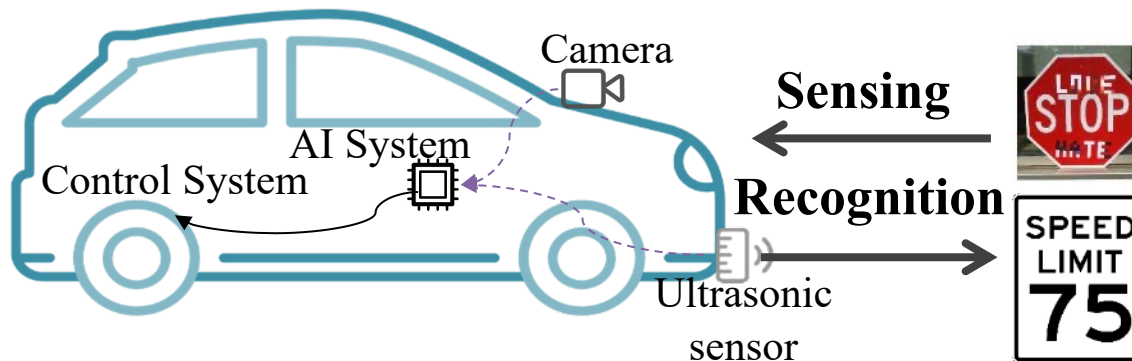
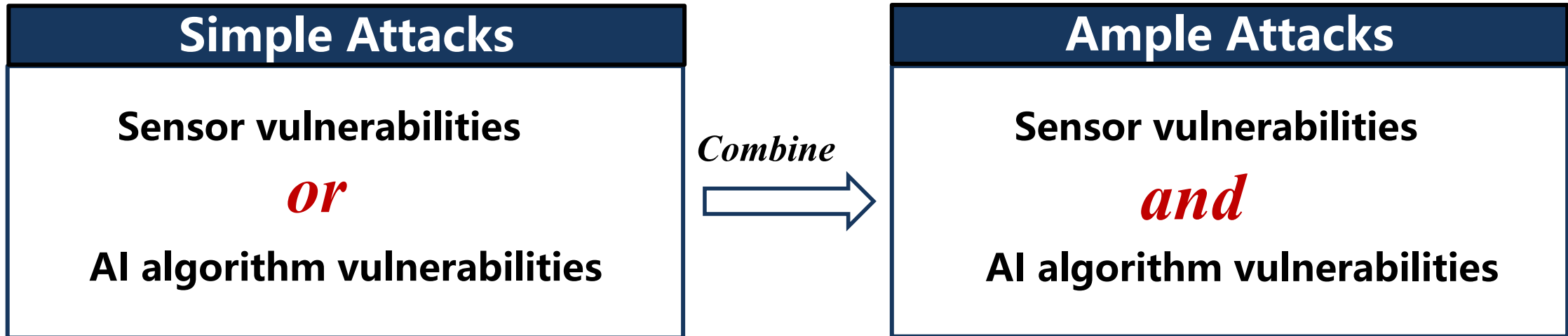
# Simple Attacks



❑ Simple Attacks utilize vulnerability of **each** component: Sensors OR AI Algorithms



# New AIoT Security Issues: AI + Sensing errors



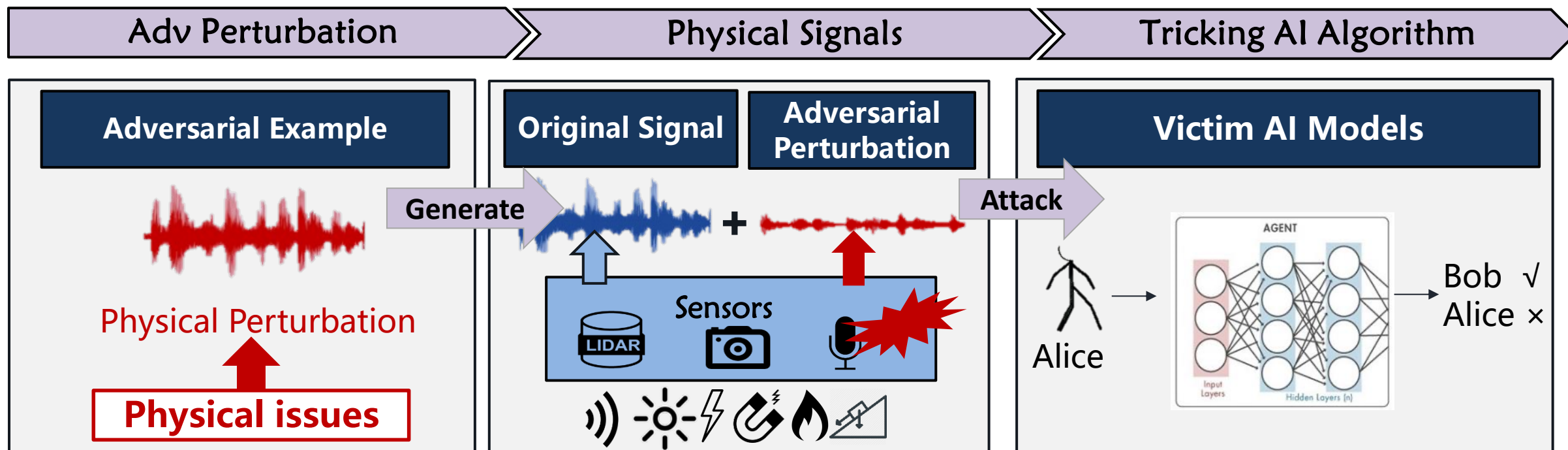
## Advantages:

- High concealment
- Physically achievable



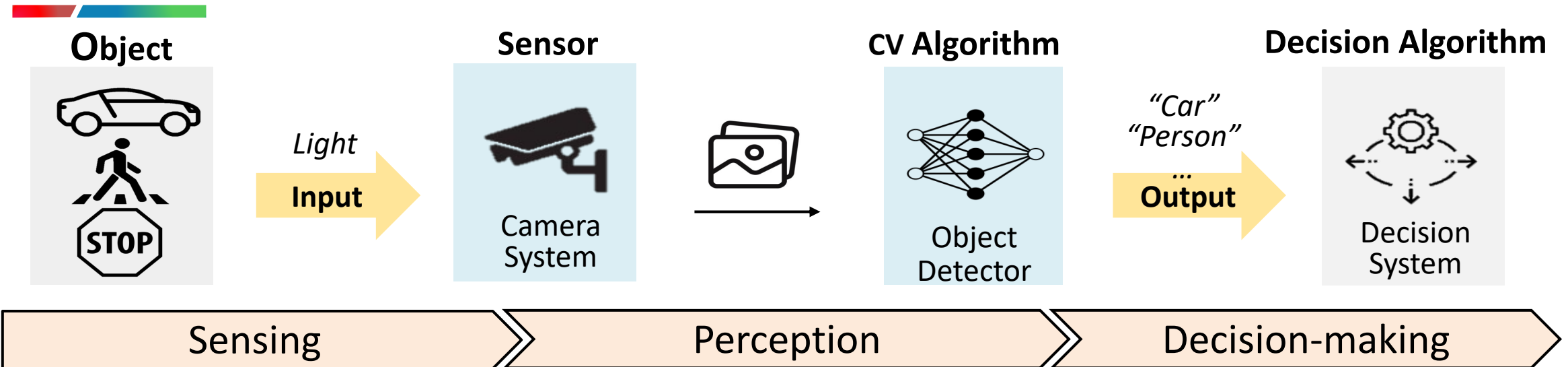
# Injecting **p**hysics into **A**dversarial **M**achine **L**earning

## AMpLe Attack

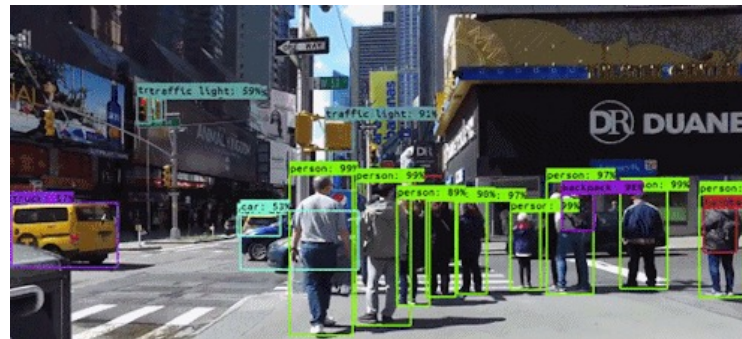




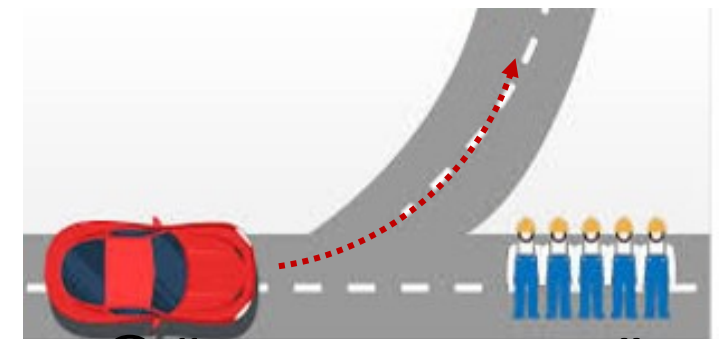
# Ample Attacks Case Study: Computer Vision in AV



① Camera sensing



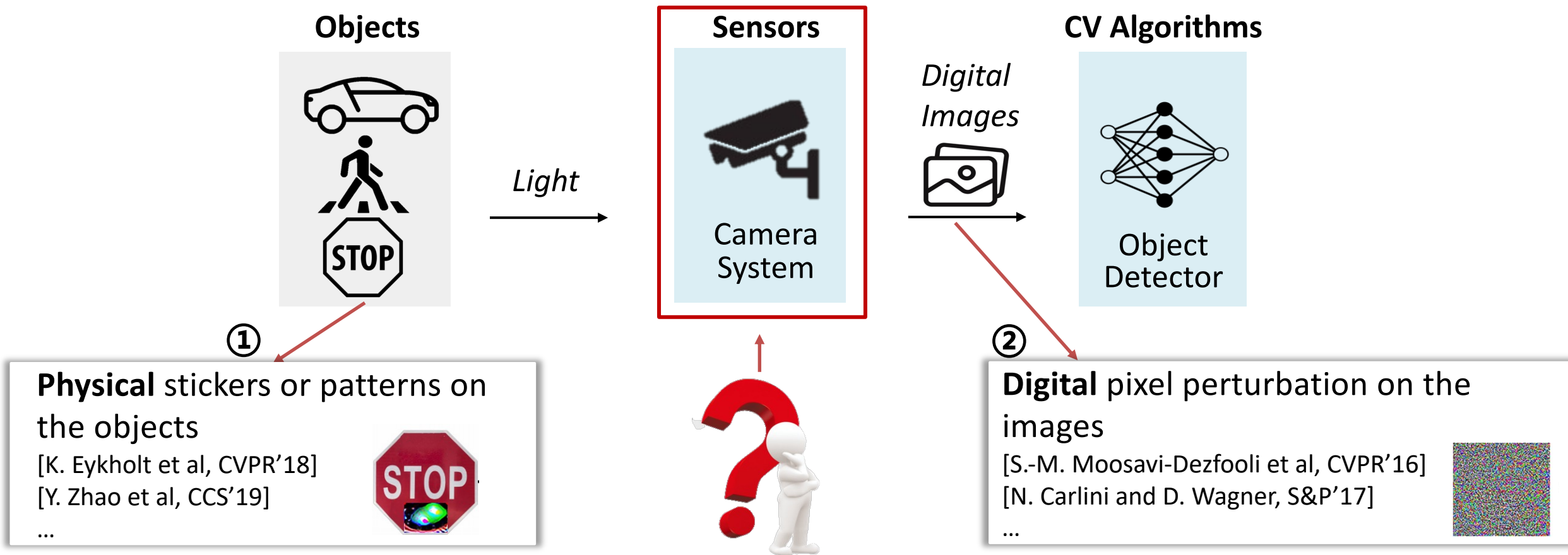
② Pedestrian detected



③ "Take a turn" or "Stop"



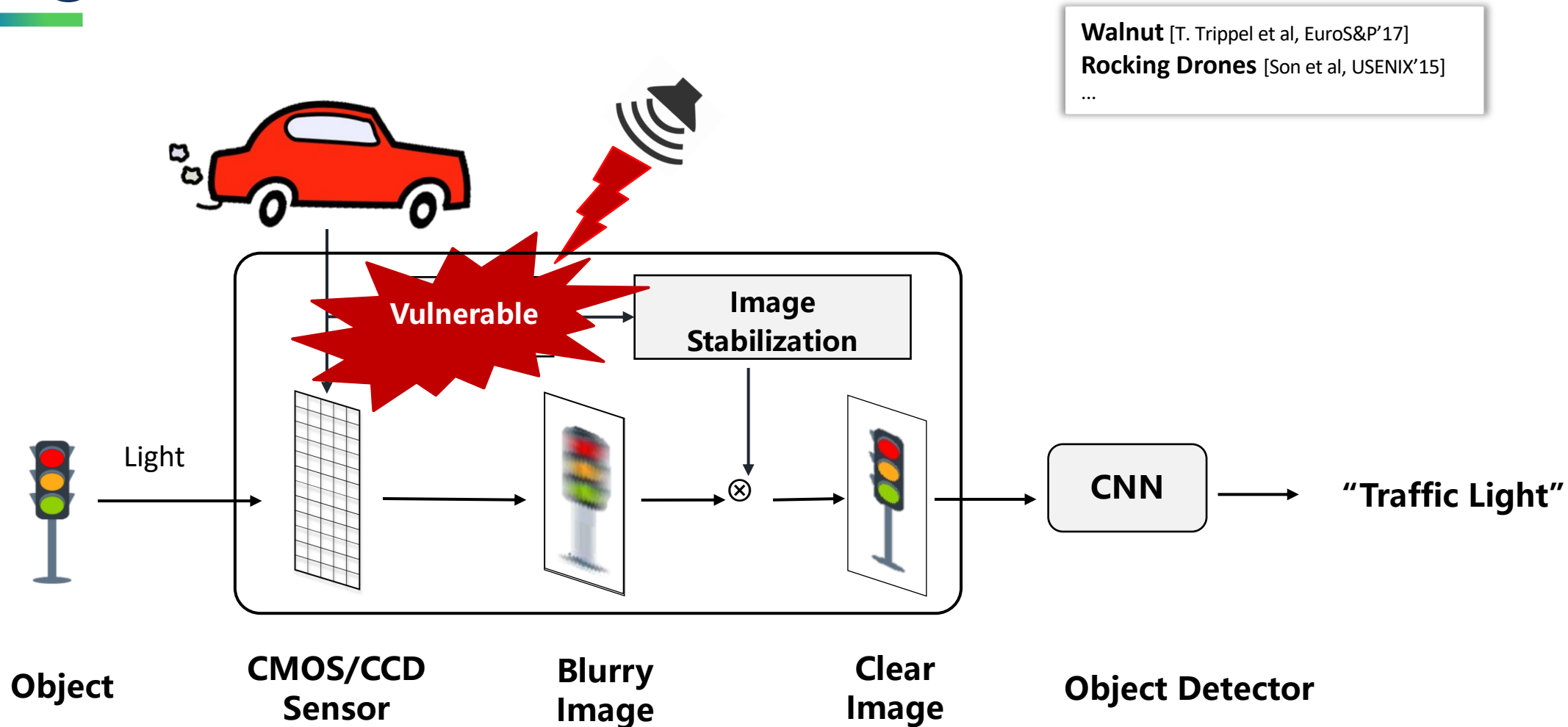
# Poltergeist Attack



*Can we achieve adversarial examples by attacking sensors?*



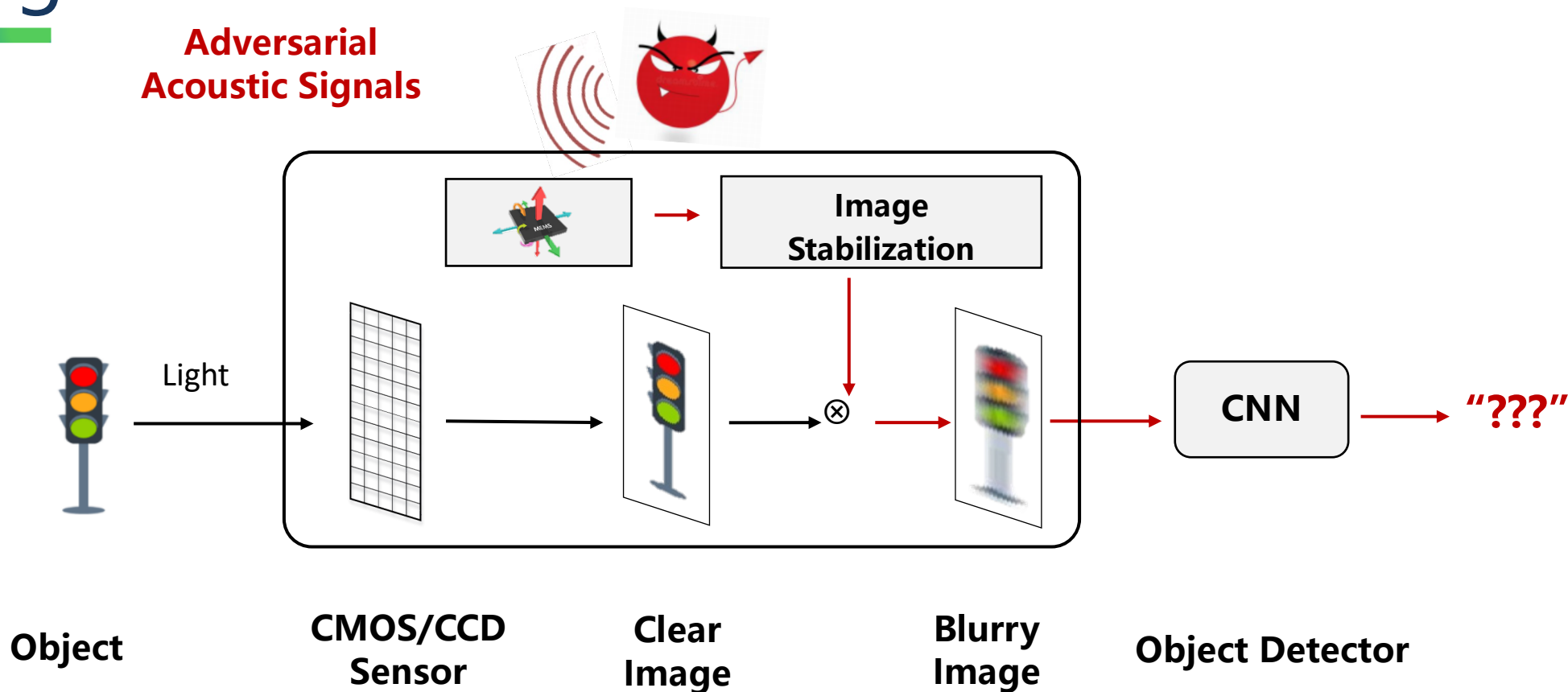
# Poltergeist Attack





# Poltergeist Attack

Adversarial  
Acoustic Signals



*Adversarial examples by injecting acoustic signals*



# Poltergeist Attack

**Hiding**  
“A” → None



No blur



slight, horizontal



medium, horizontal



heavy, horizontal

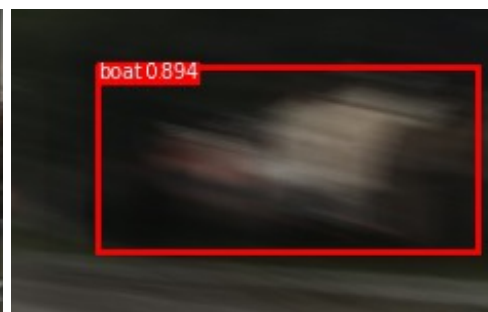
**Creating**  
None → “A”



No blur



slight, horizontal



heavy, inclined



heavy, horizontal

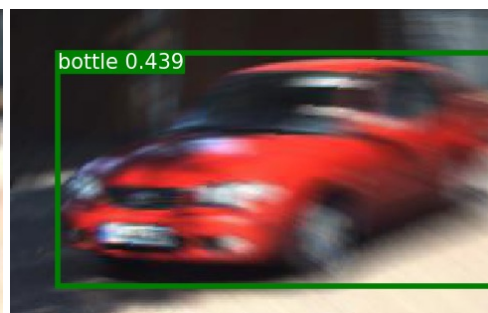
**Altering**  
“A” → “B”



No blur



slight, vertical



slight, anticlockwise



heavy, anticlockwise



# Real-world Evaluation

- ❑ **Target:** Samsung S20 smartphone in a moving vehicle
- ❑ **Attack device:** Ultrasonic Speaker
- ❑ **Scenes:**
  - City Lane
  - City Crossroad
  - Tunnel
  - Campus Road





# Real-world Attack Videos

Altering car into person   Creating truck  
Hiding the car

Ground Truth

Real-World Attack



Hiding the Car

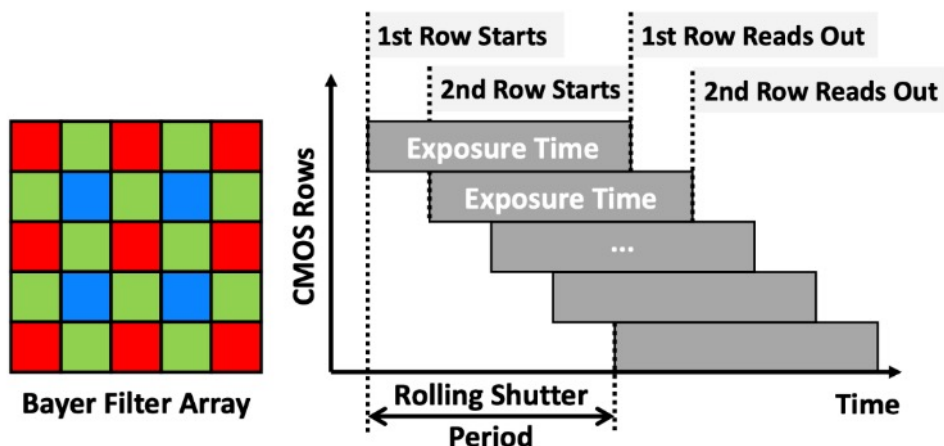


# Ample in CV: Rolling Color

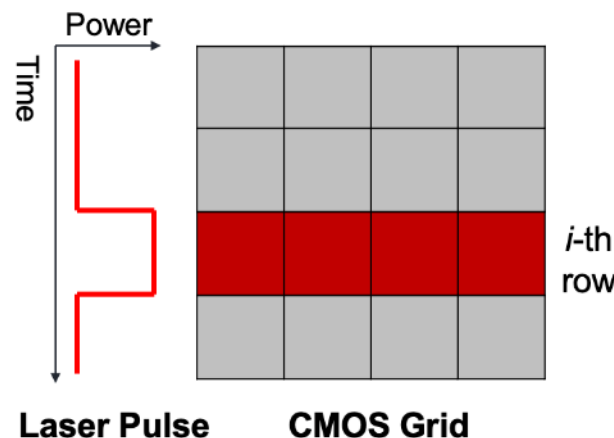
## Rolling Colors: using laser to fool traffic light recognition

- The **rolling shutter** mechanism in CMOS cameras can be exploited to inject color stripes into the captured image using modulated laser
- An elaborate color stripe can **fool traffic light recognition** (recognize red as green or vice versa)

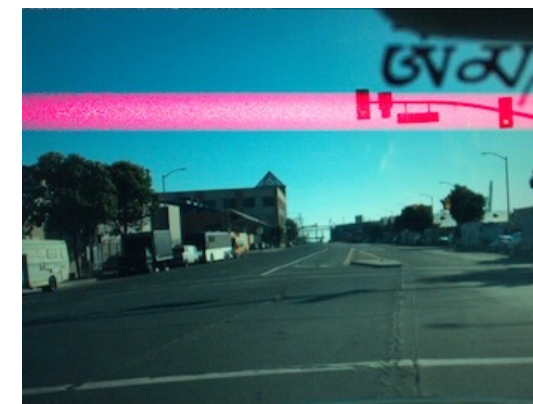
Rolling shutter mechanism



Attack design



Injected color stripe

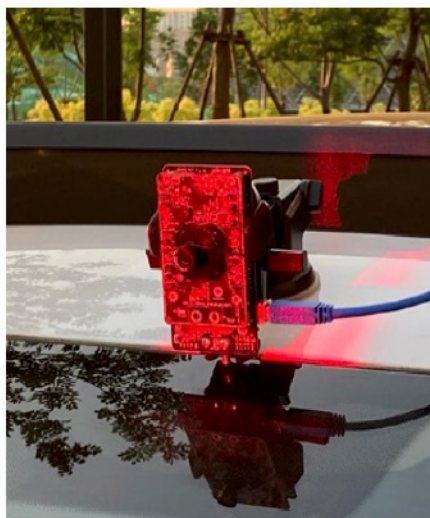




# Ample in CV: Rolling Color

## Rolling Colors: using laser to fool traffic light recognition

- Real-world attack evaluation on a moving vehicle using self-made attack equipment



Red → Green



Green → Red



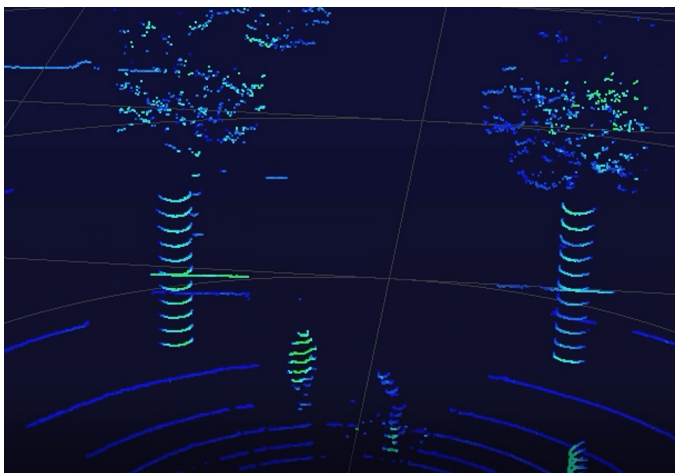
Chen Yan,; Zhijian Xu,; Zhanyuan Yin; Xiaoyu Ji and Wenyan Xu, Rolling Colors: Adversarial Laser Exploits against Traffic Light Recognition”, Usenix Security 2022



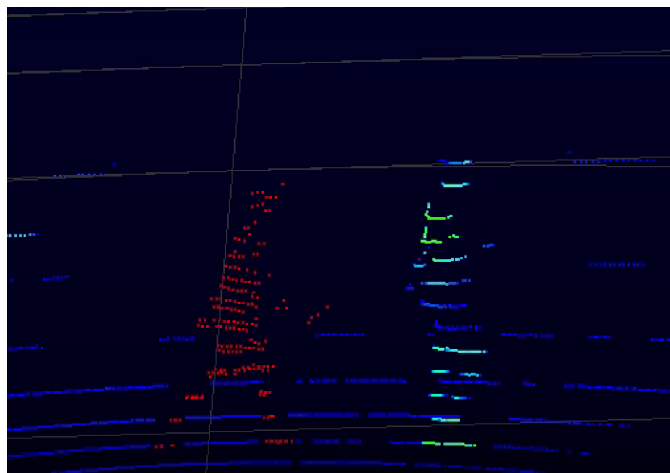
# AMple in Lidar

## PLA-LiDAR: using laser to spoof LiDAR-based 3D Object Detection!

- LiDAR can be spoofed due to its **periodic work cycle** and **lack of echo verification mechanism**.

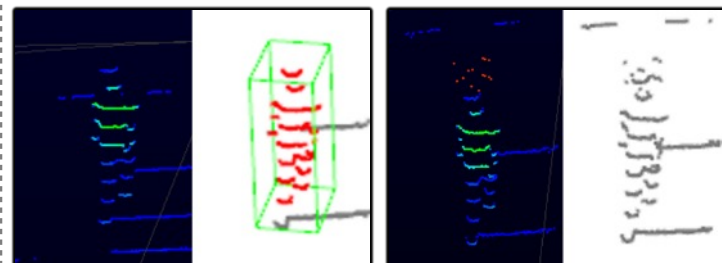


**Hiding.** Hide the point cloud of pedestrians and cyclists at 5 meters.



**Creating.** Create a fake pedestrian (left) next to the real pedestrian (right).

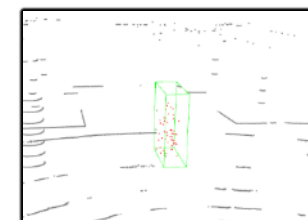
### Optimization-based Attack



benign

spoofing

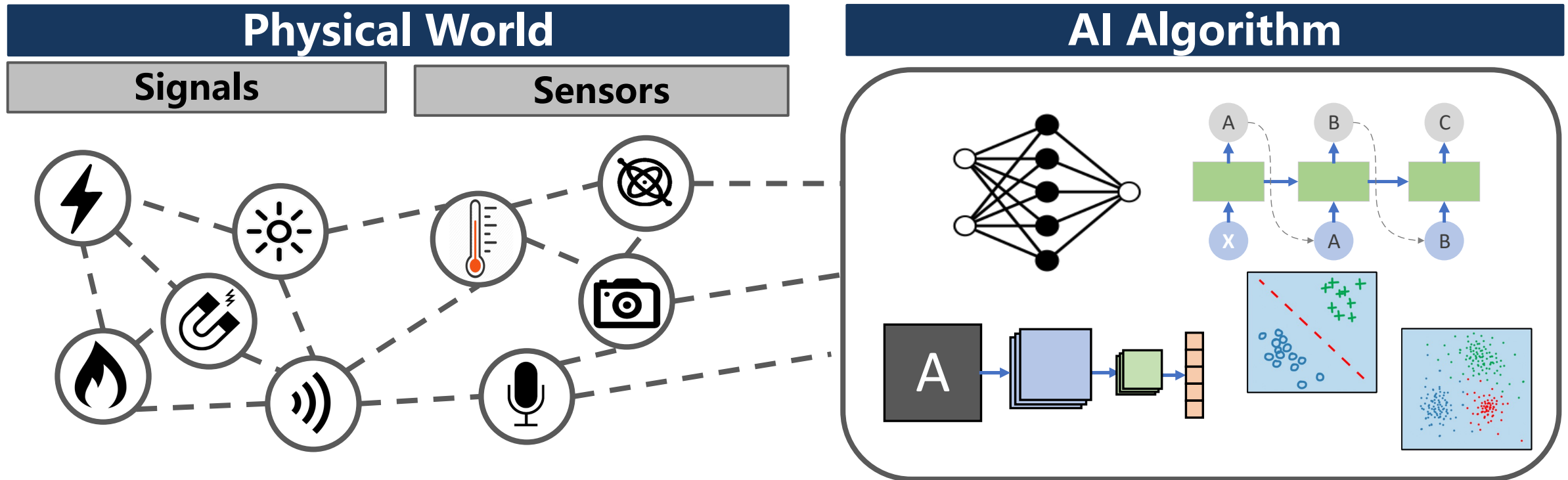
**Hiding.** Only a dozen adversarial points can keep the pedestrian undetected.



**Creating.** Just a few dozen adversarial points can be detected as a pedestrian.



# Other types of AMple attacks?



Inject alternative signals **covertly** and affecting systems



# Countermeasures

## Simple Attack

### ❑ Solutions for **Sensor** vulnerabilities

- Passive vs. Active
- Microprocessors should not blindly trust sensors
- Rethink ICs and hardware-software APIs

### ❑ Solutions for **AI** vulnerabilities

- Model:
  - Adversary training & Gradient hiding
- Input:
  - Detection & Rectification & Input denoising

.....

## AMpLe Attack

### ❑ MEMS Inertial Sensors Safeguarding

- Acoustic Isolation
- Secure Low-pass Filter, amplifier

### ❑ Image Stabilization Techniques

- Other types of Digital Image Stabilization

### ❑ Object Detection Algorithms

- Input Image De-blur
- Detection Model Improvement

### ❑ Sensor Fusion Techniques

- LiDARs, radars combined with cameras

.....

**Testing is important!**



# HUMAN EARS

On Cuba, diplomats, ultrasound, and intermodulation distortion

*Chen Yan, Kevin Fu, Wenyuan Xu*

Computers in Biology and Medicine 104, 250-266

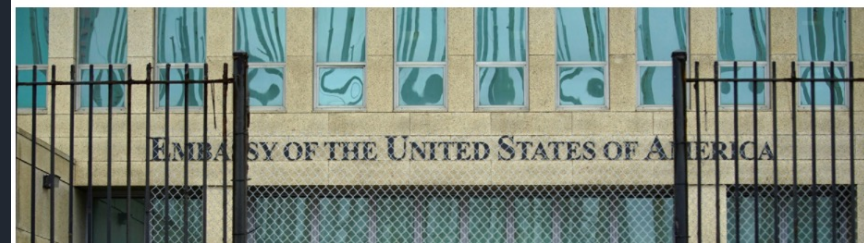
News | Semiconductors | Devices

1 Mar 2018 | 13:00 GMT

## Finally, a Likely Explanation for the “Sonic Weapon” Used at the U.S. Embassy in Cuba

Researchers say bad engineering, not a deliberate  
attack, may be to blame

By Jean Kumagai





# The most dangerous sound?

Two dozen US embassy workers in Cuba suffered headaches, hearing loss, and brain swelling—but no one knows why

**AP**

## Hearing loss of US diplomats in Cuba blamed on covert device

By MATTHEW LEE and MICHAEL WEISSENSTEIN  
Aug. 10, 2017

<https://www.foxnews.com/politics/hearing-loss-us-diplomats-cuba-blamed-covert-device>

**RELATED TOPICS**

- Cuba
- Politics
- Latin America
- North America
- Havana
- Barack Obama
- United States

More from



**CNN** politics 45 CONGRESS SECURITY THE NINE TRUMP/AMERICA 2018

## Sonic attacks in Cuba hit more diplomats than earlier reported, officials say

By Patrick Oppmann and Elise Labott, CNN  
Updated 5:36 PM ET, Sun August 20, 2017



**"ACOUSTIC ATTACK"**  
SOURCE: THIRD COUNTRY MAY BE INVOLVED IN CUBA MYSTERY  
Elise Labott | CNN Global Affairs Correspondent



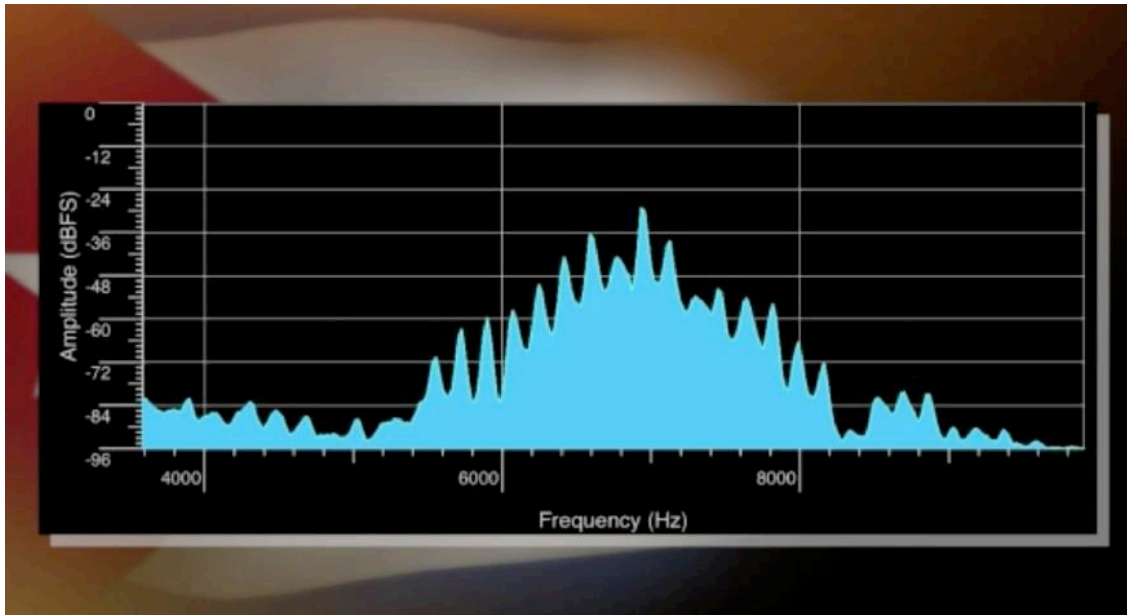
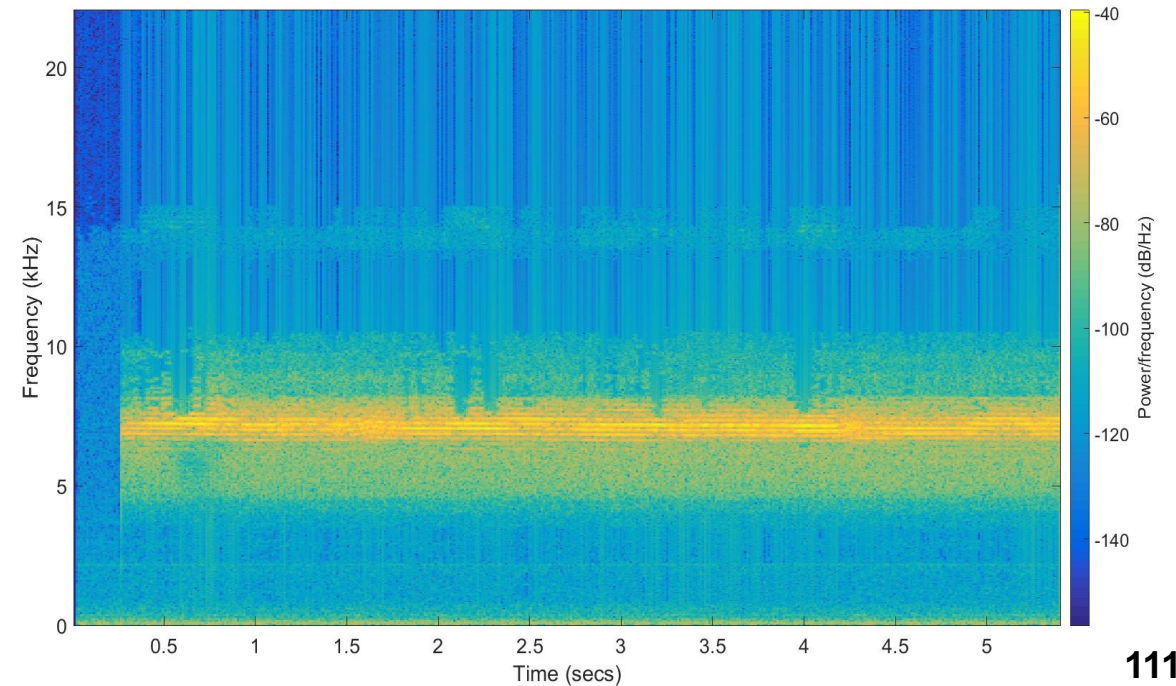
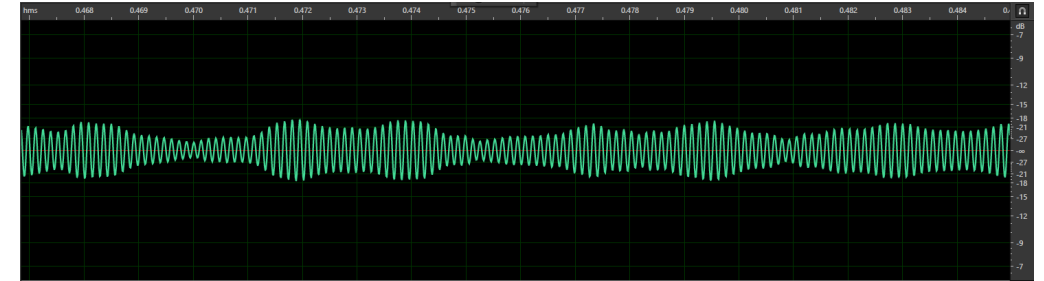
# The most dangerous sound?





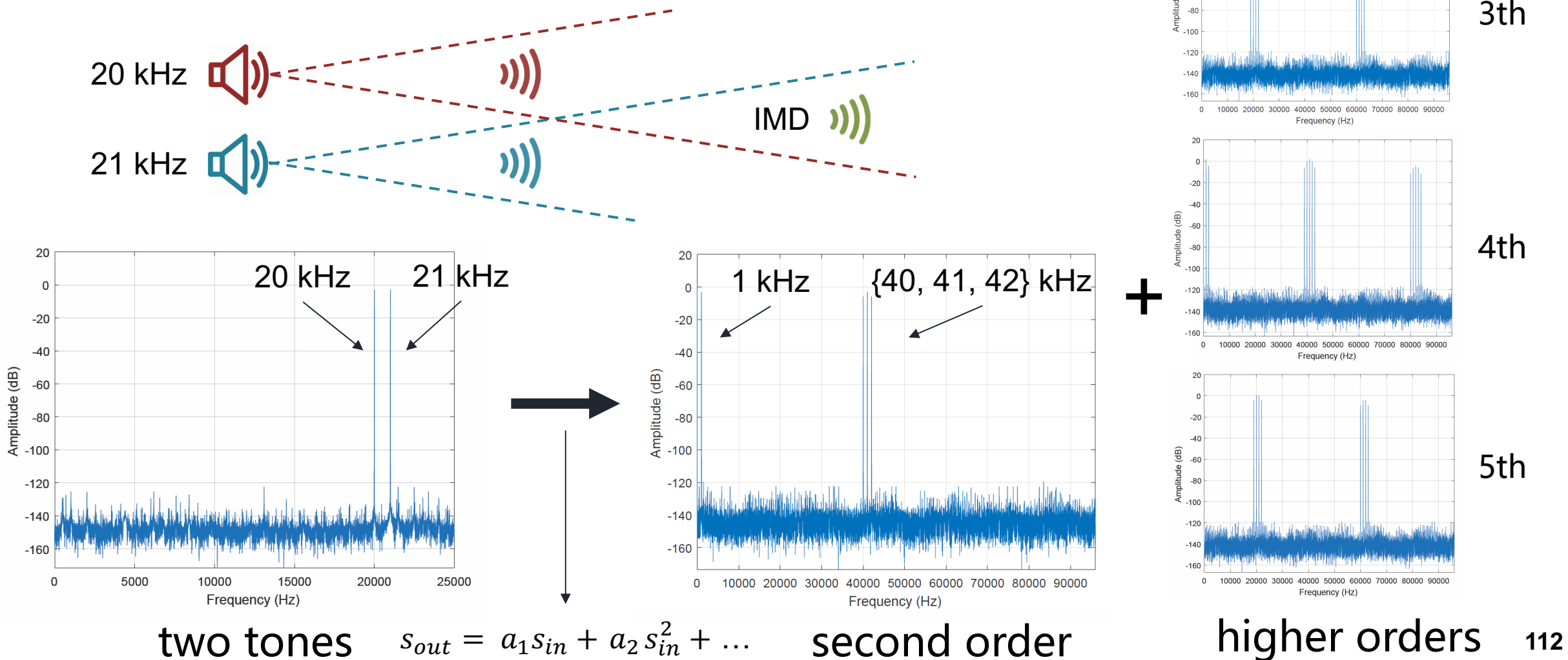
# Reverse engineering of the recording

- Analysis in the time and frequency domains
- Frequency peaks separated by 180 Hz around 7kHz





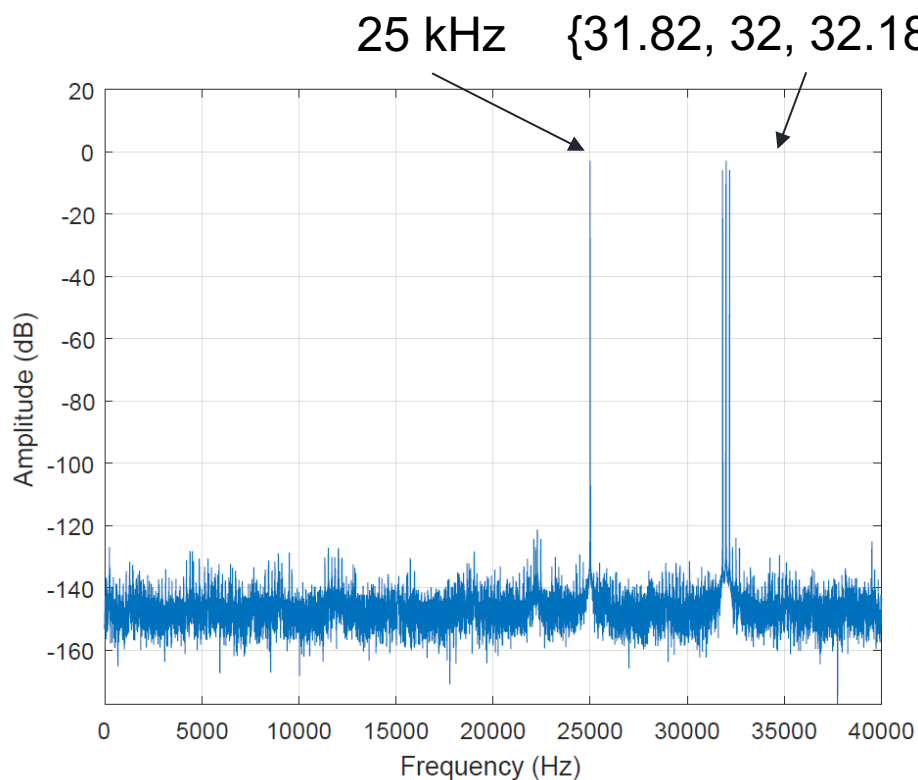
# IMD of two tones



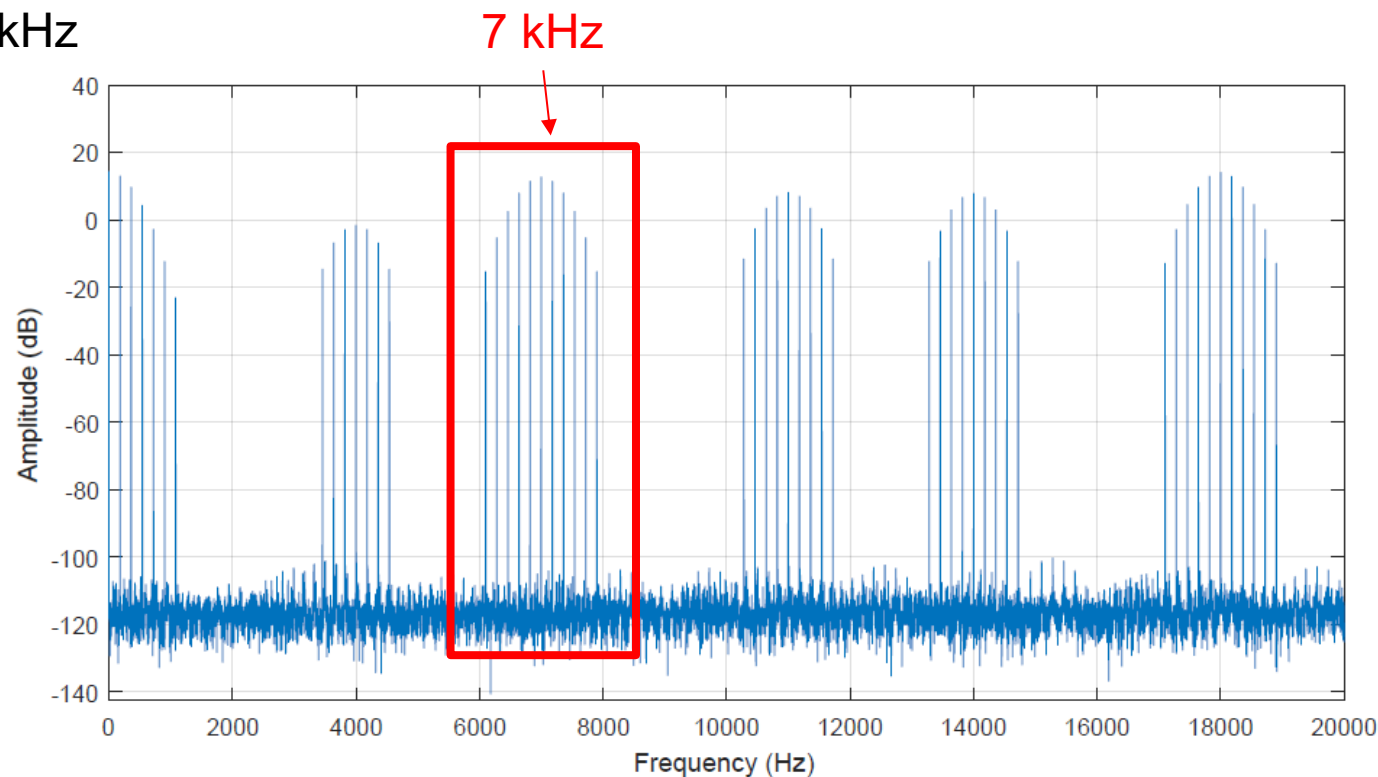


# IMD of an AM signal

- 25 kHz tone + AM signal (32 kHz carrier, 180 Hz baseband)



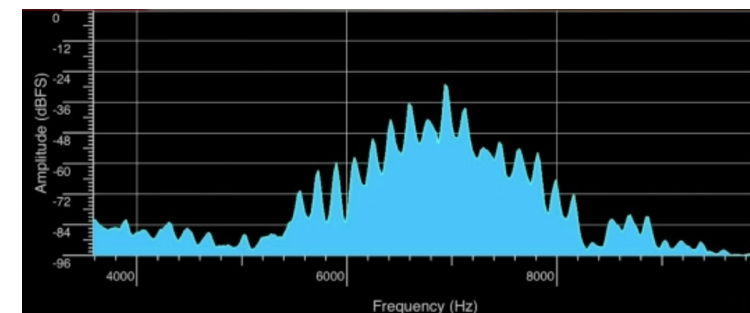
AM signal



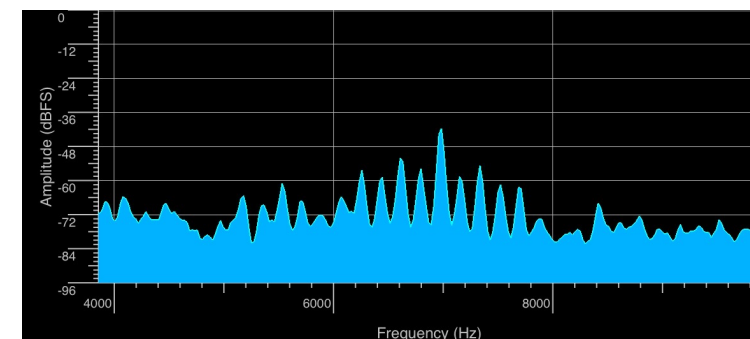
IMD under 20 kHz



# Reproducing the “dangerous sound”



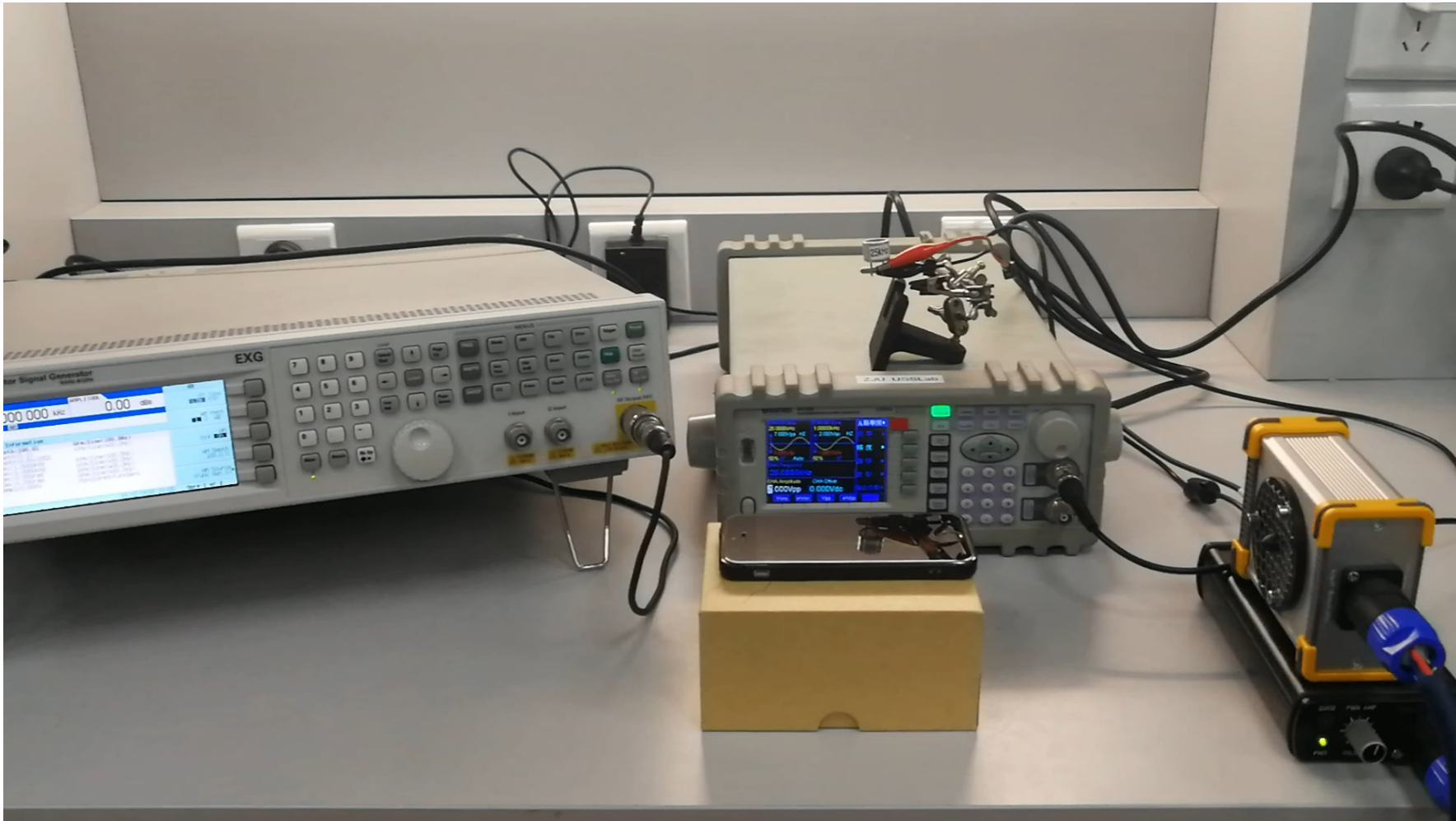
AP news



Reproduced



# Reproducing the “dangerous sound”





# Ultrasound sources in daily life





# Conclusions: Analog is the new digital

- Analog security risks
  - Analog Sensors --- RF
  - MEMS Sensors --- Acoustic
  - Active Sensors --- Sensing principle
- Solutions
  - Microprocessors should not blindly trust sensors
  - Rethink ICs and hardware-software APIs





# Questions and Answers

yanchen@zju.edu.cn

USSLab Homepage: [usslab.org](http://usslab.org)