



## Security threats emerging from the interaction between digital activity and radio transceivers

Menaces de sécurité à la frontière entre le bruit électromagnétique et les émetteurs-récepteurs radio

Giovanni Camurati

December 8<sup>th</sup>, 2020, Sophia-Antipolis, France

# Members of the Jury

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## Supervisor

Prof. Dr. Aurélien Francillon, EURECOM

## Co-supervisor

Prof. Dr. Ludovic Apvrille, Télécom Paris

## Reviewers

Prof. Dr. Srđan Čapkun, ETH Zurich

Dr. Markus Kuhn, University of Cambridge

Dr. Rabéa Ameur-Boulifa, Télécom Paris

José Lopes Esteves, Agence nationale de la Sécurité des Systèmes d'Information

Prof. Dr. Raymond Knopp, EURECOM

Prof. Dr. Wenyuan Xu (Guest), Zhejiang University

*Thank you for being  
"here" today!*

# Something about me

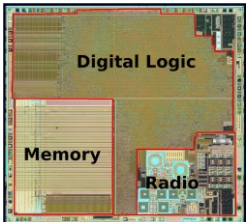
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**Giovanni Camurati**

@GioCamurati

<https://giocamurati.github.io>



**Security**

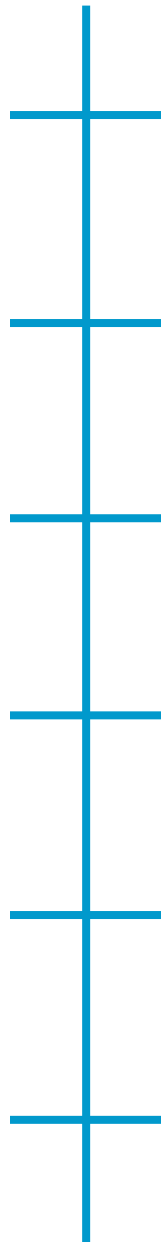
Hardware + Software + Radio



**PhD Student**

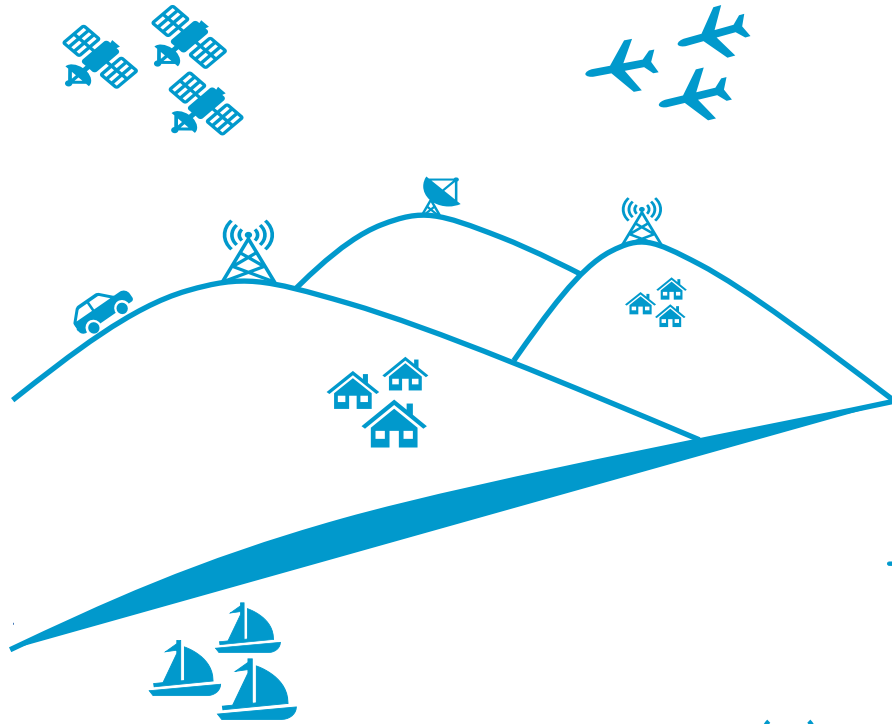
EURECOM

Sophia-Antipolis, France



+	Context
+	Challenges & Contributions
+	Screaming Channels
+	Noise-SDR
+	Future Work
+	Conclusion





# How many radios?

Broadcast    Radar    IoT  
Positioning    Mobile  
Embedded

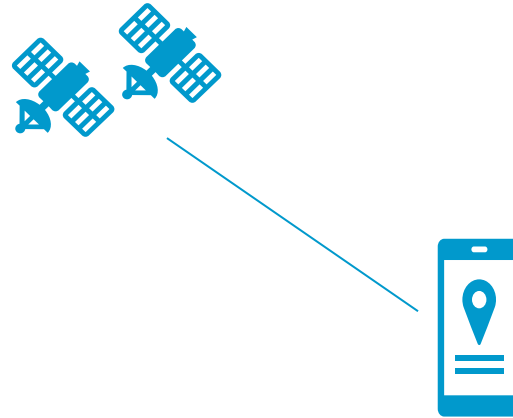


# How many radios are there on one smartphone?



# How many radios are there on one smartphone?

GNSS (km)



# How many radios are there on one smartphone?

GNSS (km)

Cellular (km)



# How many radios are there on one smartphone?

GNSS (km)

Cellular (km)

FM (km)



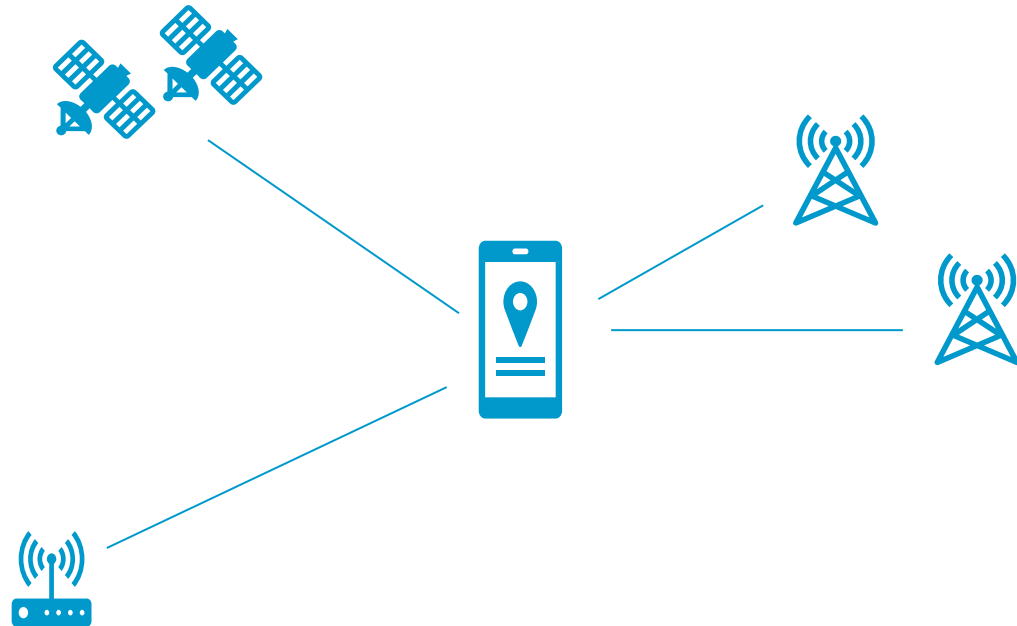
# How many radios are there on one smartphone?

GNSS (km)

Cellular (km)

FM (km)

WiFi (m)



# How many radios are there on one smartphone?

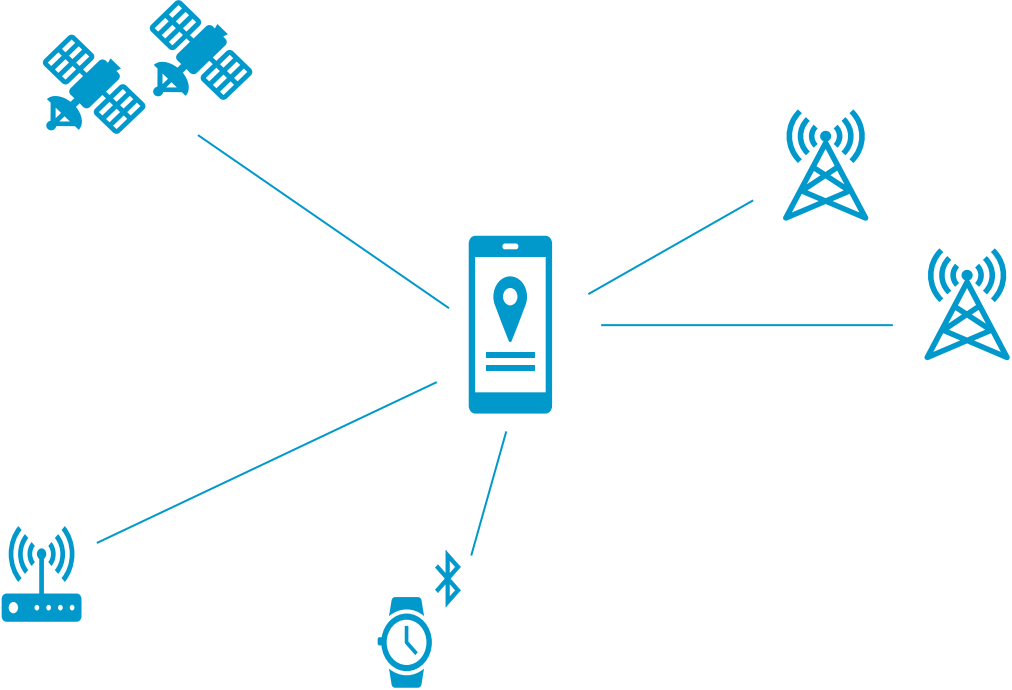
**GNSS (km)**

**Cellular (km)**

**FM (km)**

**WiFi (m)**

**BT/BLE (m)**



# How many radios are there on one smartphone?

**GNSS (km)**

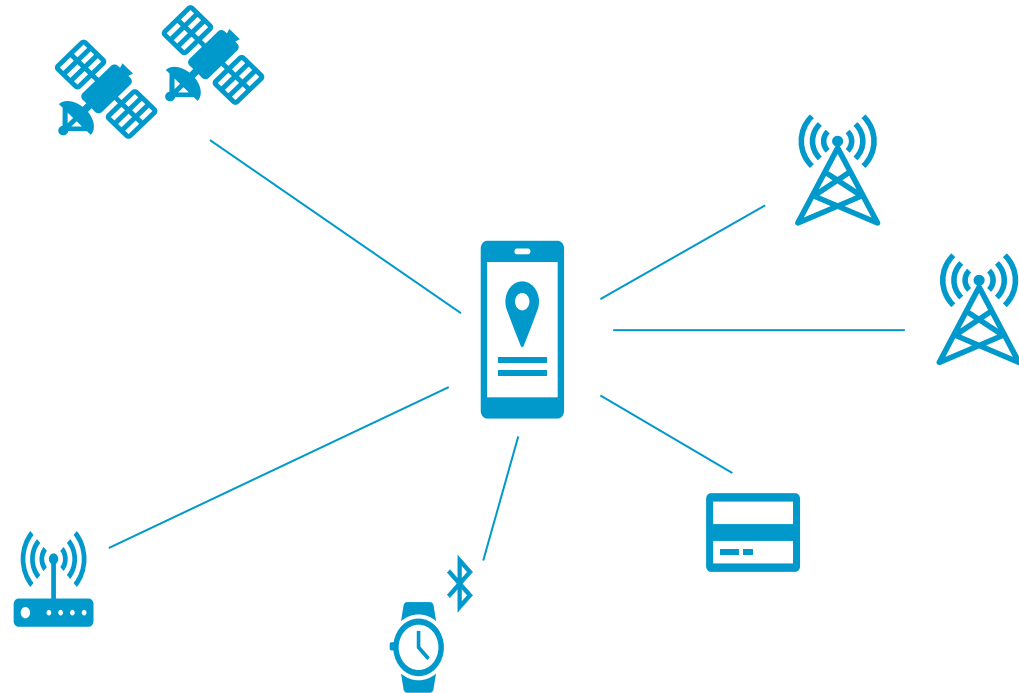
**Cellular (km)**

**FM (km)**

**WiFi (m)**

**BT/BLE (m)**

**NFC (mm)**





# How many radios are there on one smartphone?

GNSS (km)

Cellular (km)

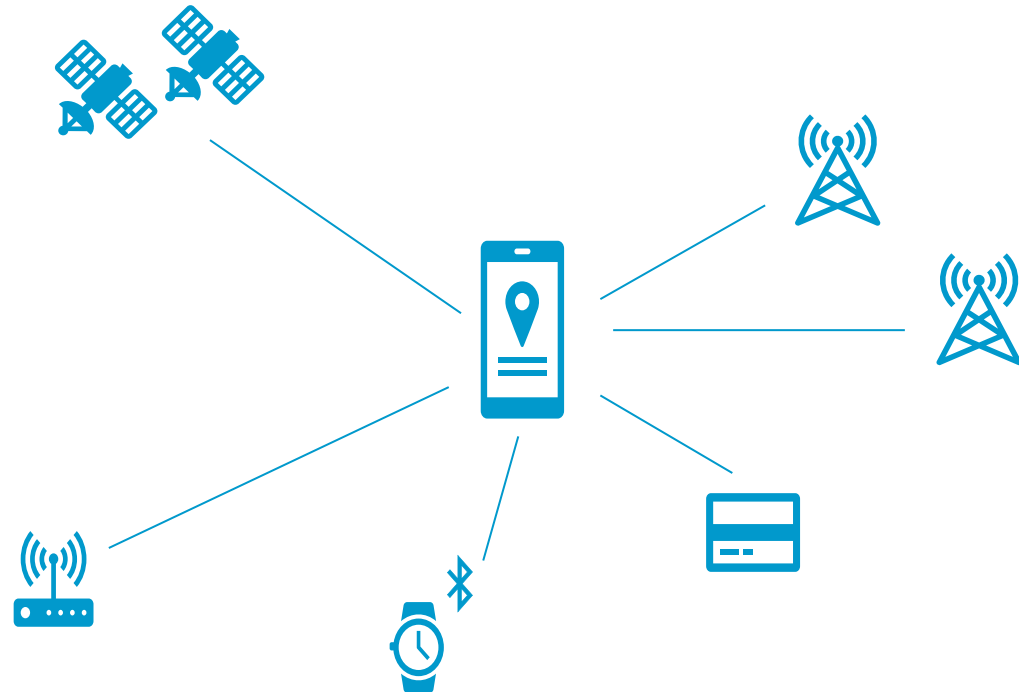
FM (km)

WiFi (m)

BT/BLE (m)

NFC (mm)

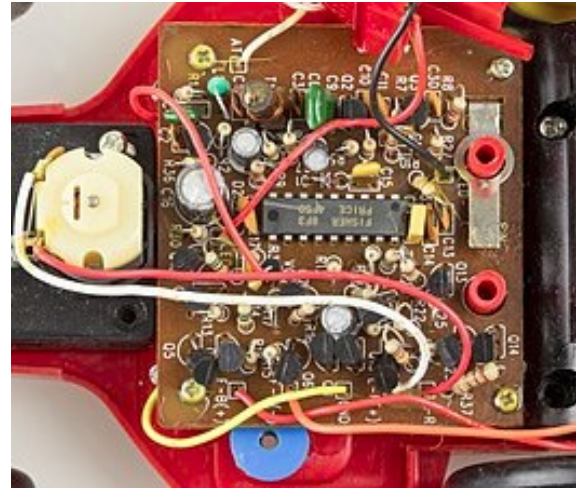
UWB, ANT, ...



# Integration



1950



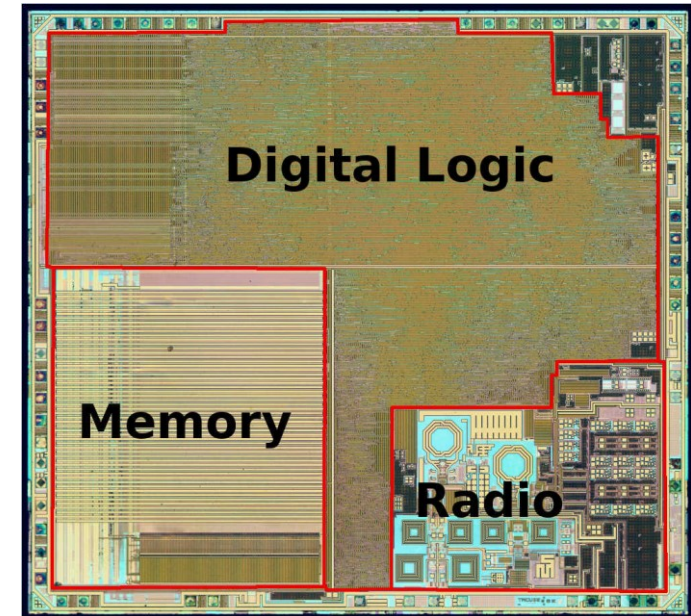
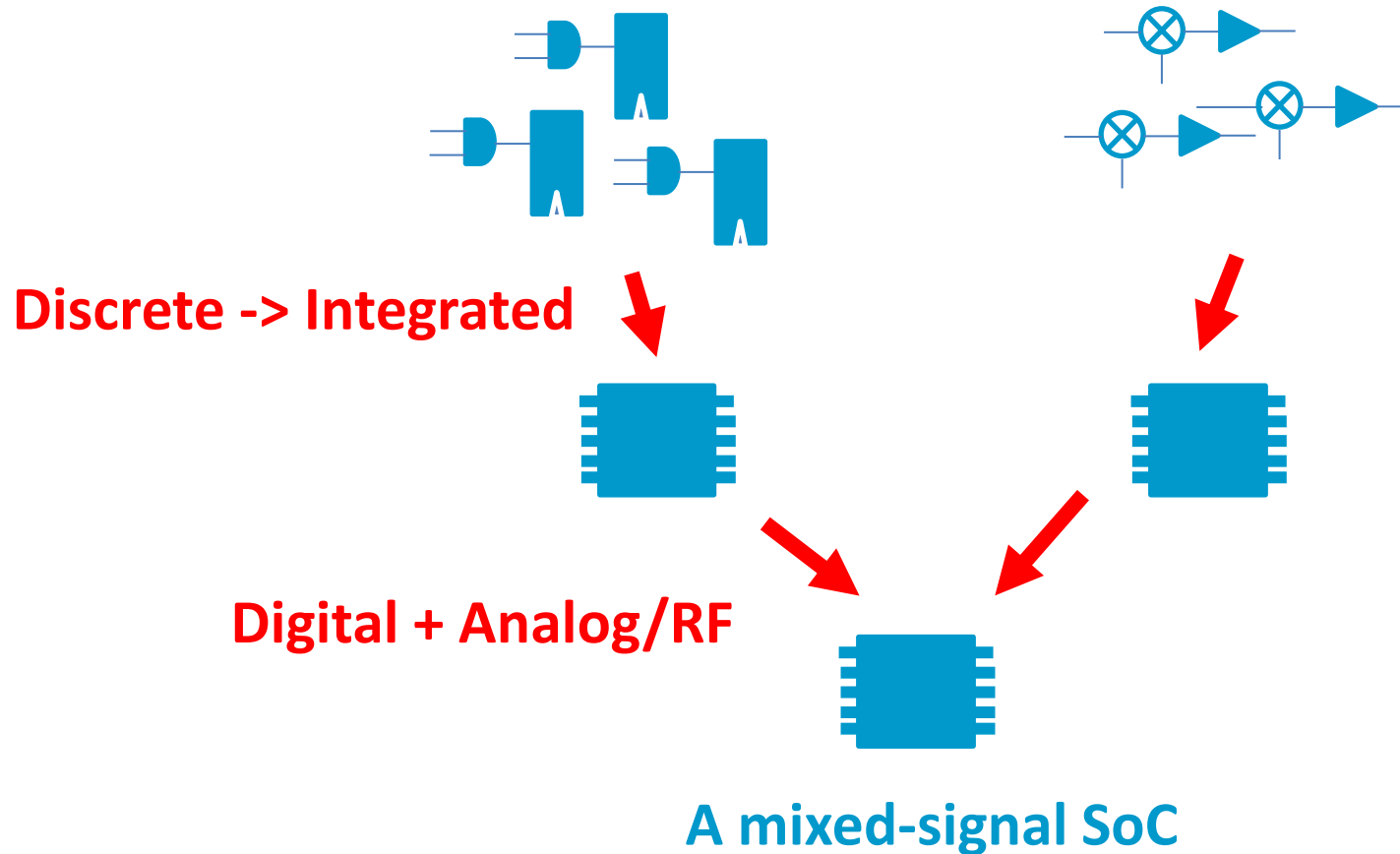
© Raimond Spekking / CC BY-SA 4.0 (via Wikimedia Commons) ([https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Fisher-Price\\_Car\\_2825\\_-\\_electronics\\_only-92706.jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Fisher-Price_Car_2825_-_electronics_only-92706.jpg)), <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/4.0/legalcode>

1992



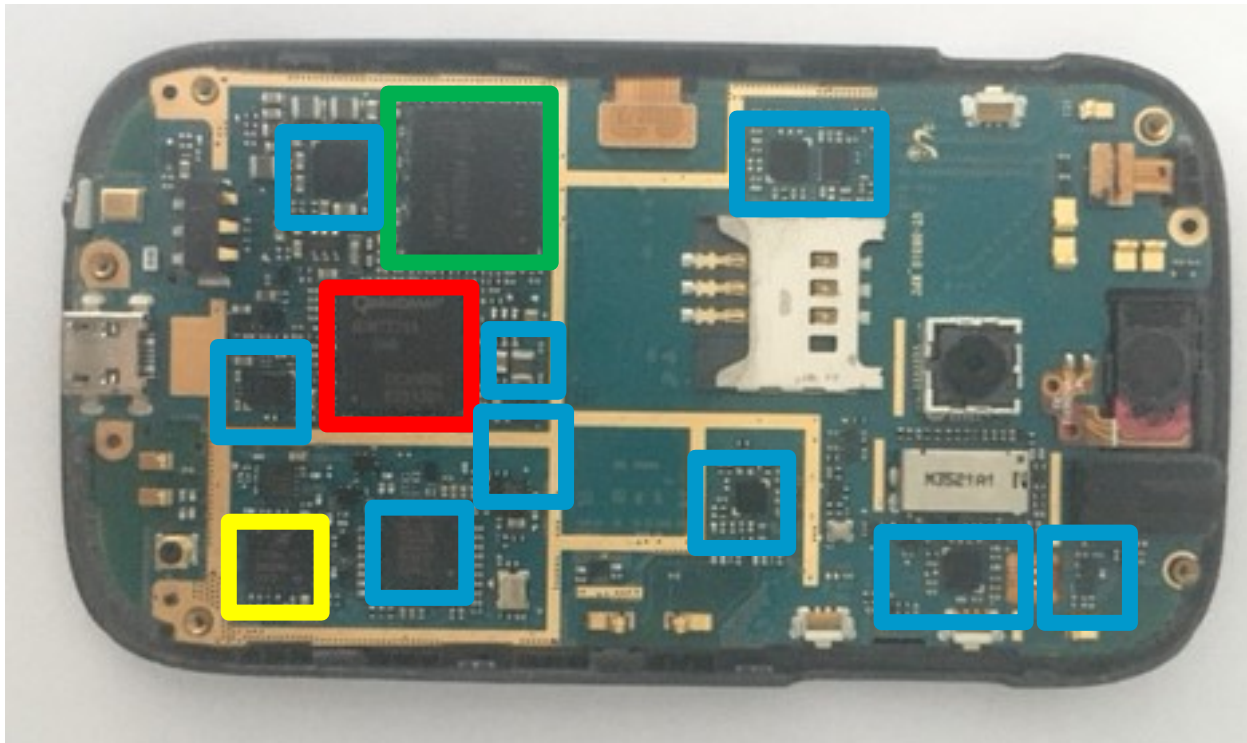
2020

# Integration (Chip)

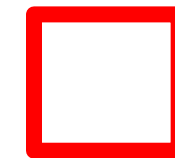


nRF51822 - Bluetooth LE SoC : weekend die-shot" - CC-BY-  
Modified with annotations. Original by zeptobars  
<https://zeptobars.com/en/read/nRF51822-Bluetooth-LE-SoC-Cortex-M0>

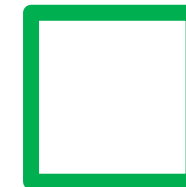
# Integration (Platform)



**A complex platform  
(an old one, easy to open ...)**



**CPU, GPU,  
GSM, ...**



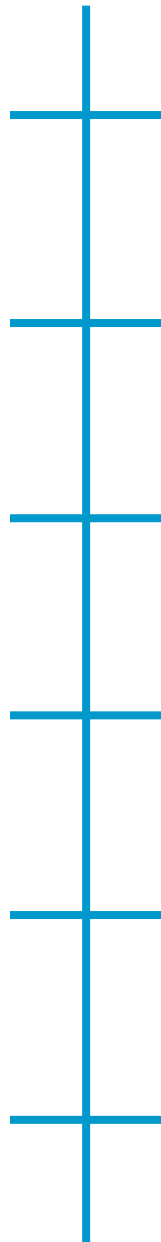
**eMCP  
(eMMC + LPDDR)**



**GSM + GPRS**



**Much more (GPS,  
FM, WiFi, ...)**

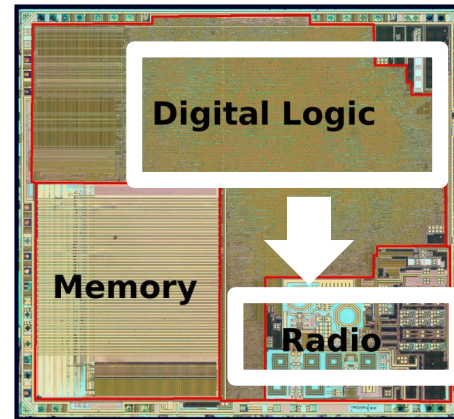
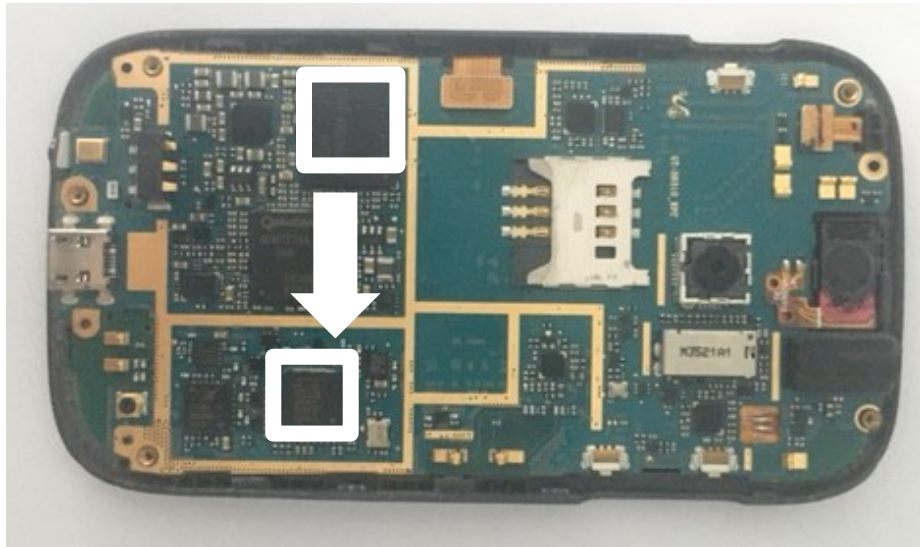





+	Context
+	<b>Challenges &amp; Contributions</b>
+	Screaming Channels
+	Noise-SDR
+	Future Work
+	Conclusion

# Challenge 1: Integration issues



# EM(RF) Interference between electronic components



-  Emitter “Aggressor”
-  Noise coupling path
-  Receptor “Victim”

K. Slattery and H. Skinner, “Platform Interference in Wireless Systems: Models, Measurement, and Mitigation” (Newnes, 2011).

S. Bronckers et al., “Substrate Noise Coupling in Analog/RF Circuits” (Norwood, MA, USA: ARTECH HOUSE, 2009).

# Complex modeling/design, expensive simulation/test

**CROSS TALK**

**MODEL**

Time domain

$$V_{ME} = j\omega [M_{ME}^{ind} + M^{cap}] V_g(\omega)$$

$$V_{ME}(t) = \frac{d}{dt} [M_{ME}^{ind} + M^{cap}] V_g(t) = [M_{ME}^{ind} + M^{cap}] \frac{d}{dt} V_g(t)$$

$$M_{ME}^{cap} = \frac{R_{oc} R_{sc} C_m R_e}{R_{oc} R_{sc} + R_e} = \frac{C_m R_e R_{sc}}{R_{oc} + R_e}$$

$$M_{ME}^{ind} = \frac{R_{oc} R_{sc}}{R_{oc} + R_{sc}} \frac{L_m}{R_{oc} + R_e} = \frac{C_m R_e R_{sc}}{R_{oc} + R_e}$$

COUPLING FACTOR  $k = \frac{M}{\sqrt{L_1 L_2}} = \frac{C_m}{\sqrt{(C_1 + C_m)(C_2 + C_m)}}$

$$\frac{C_m}{C_1} = \frac{\sqrt{(C_1 + C_m)(C_2 + C_m)}}{\sqrt{C_1 C_2}} = \frac{1}{Z_{01}} \cdot \frac{1}{Z_{02}}$$

**Modeling of cross-talk  
(personal notes)**

**Virtual compliance** src: <https://youtu.be/Qn9p7grrQfU>

**CISPR 22 RADIATED EMISSIONS INCLUDING TURN TABLE**

**CISPR22**

Ansys

EMI/EMC Workflows in Ansys HFSS

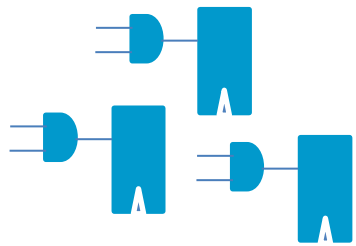
1,226 views · Sep 22, 2020

17 0 SHARE SAVE ...

**Ansys HFSS virtual  
compliance simulation**



# Additional problem: coexistence of different types

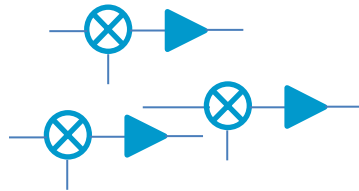


## Digital circuits

Noise source

Extrinsic deterministic noise

Distinctive noise properties



## Analog/RF circuits

Sensitive to noise

Intrinsic random noise

Thermal noise, flicker noise, ...



## Coupling

Path for the noise

Overlap in frequency

K. Slattery and H. Skinner, "Platform Interference in Wireless Systems: Models, Measurement, and Mitigation" (Newnes, 2011).

A. Afzali-Kusha et al., "Substrate Noise Coupling in SoC Design: Modeling, Avoidance, and Validation," Proceedings of the IEEE (December 2006).

# Challenge 2: Securing the wireless medium

# Security challenge

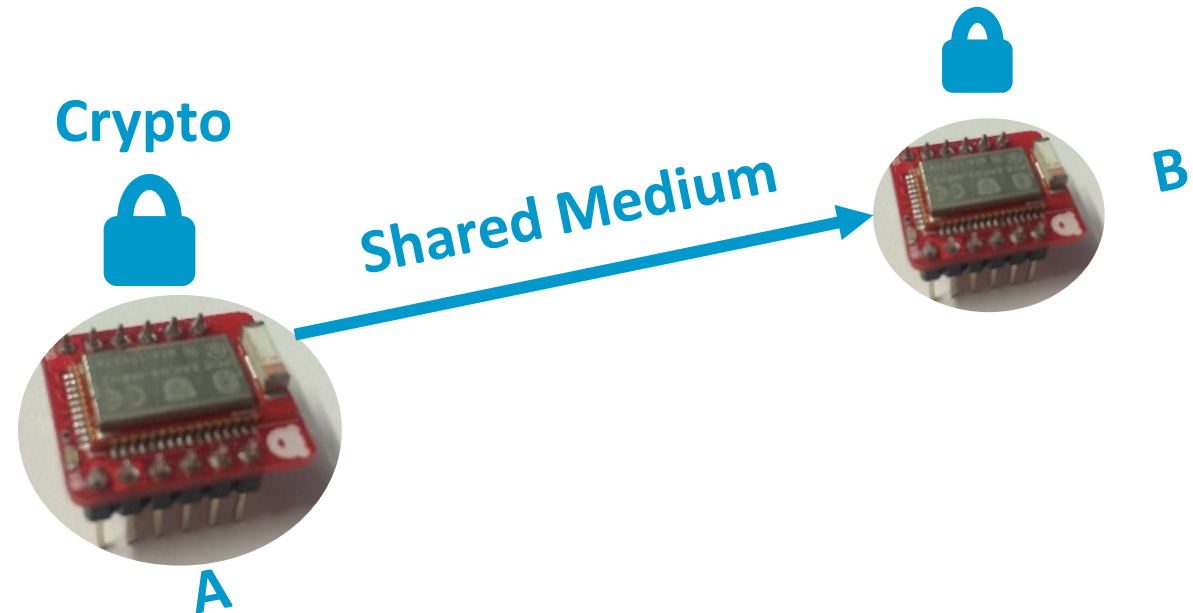
**Shared medium**

**Many attack possibilities**

**Easy access**

**Harder in the past**

**Easier now (e.g., SDRs)**



Example: S. Kamkar, "Drive It like You Hacked It: New Attacks and Tools to Wirelessly Steal Cars," DEFCON 23 (2015).

# Security challenge

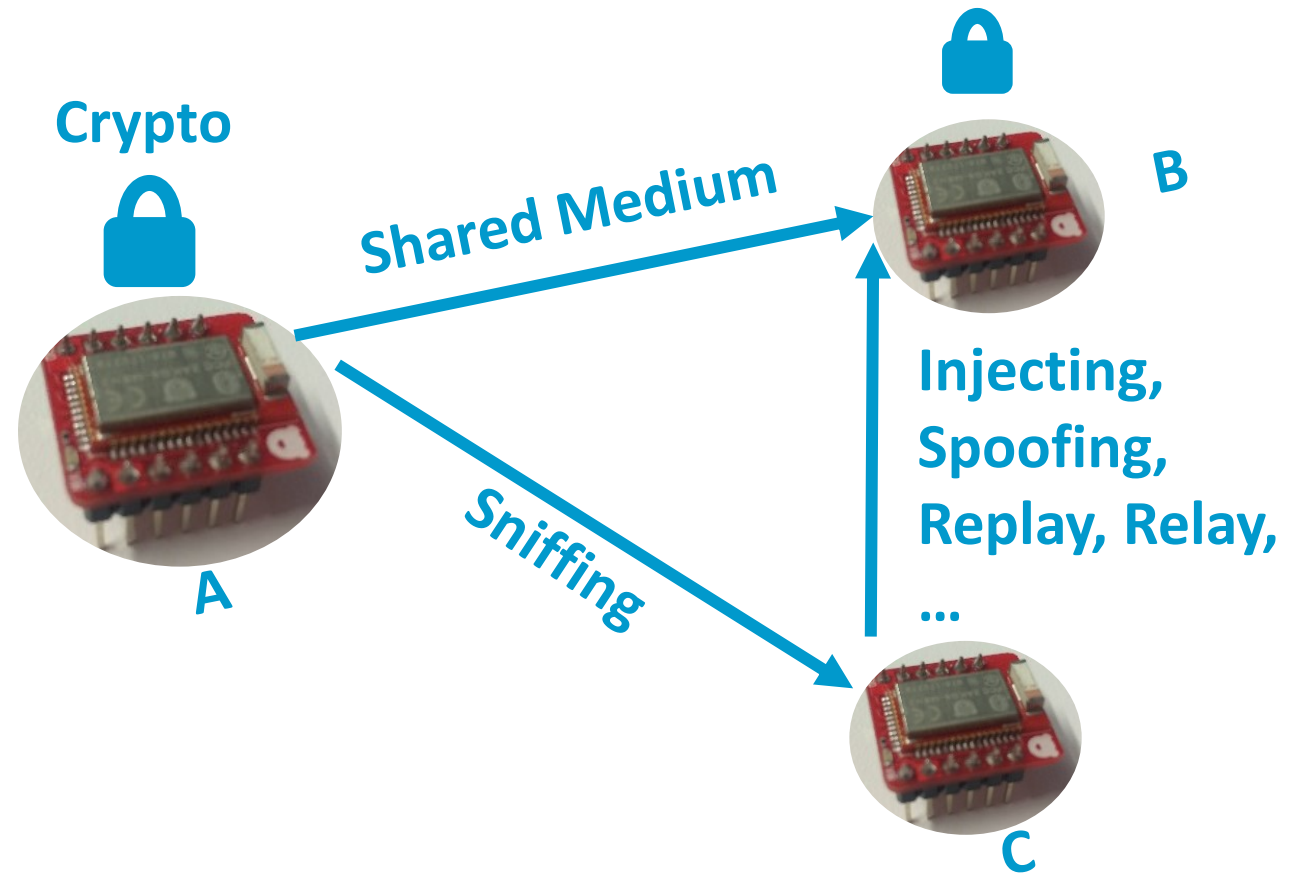
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# Security challenge

## Shared medium

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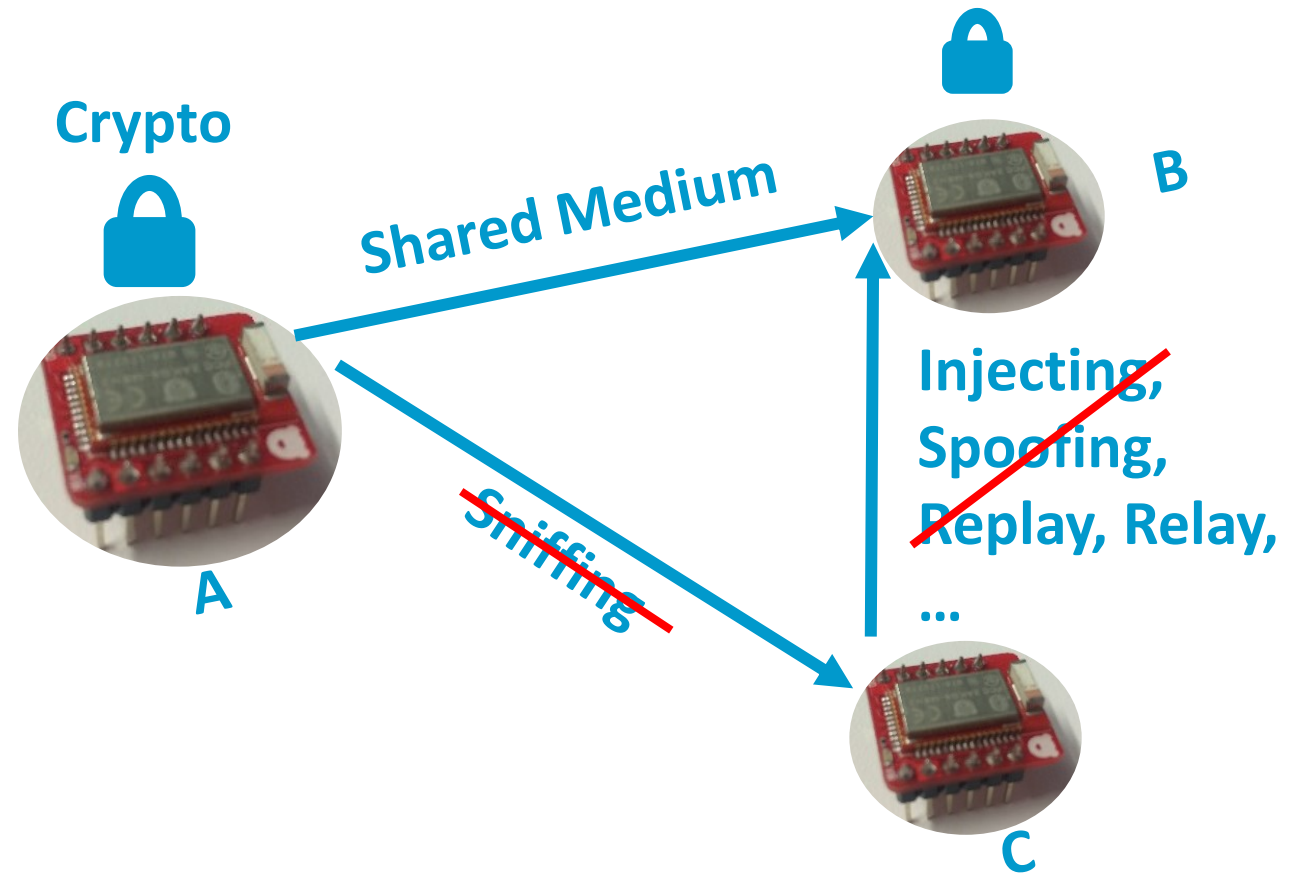
## Easy access

Harder in the past

Easier now (e.g., SDRs)

## Crypto and Protocols

Integrity, Confidentiality, Etc.



Example: S. Kamkar, "Drive It like You Hacked It: New Attacks and Tools to Wirelessly Steal Cars," DEFCON 23 (2015).

# Challenge 3: Unintended emanations

# Emission security “EmSec”

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R. J. Anderson, “Security Engineering - a Guide to Building Dependable Distributed Systems” (2. Ed.) (Wiley, 2008).

# Emission security “EmSec”

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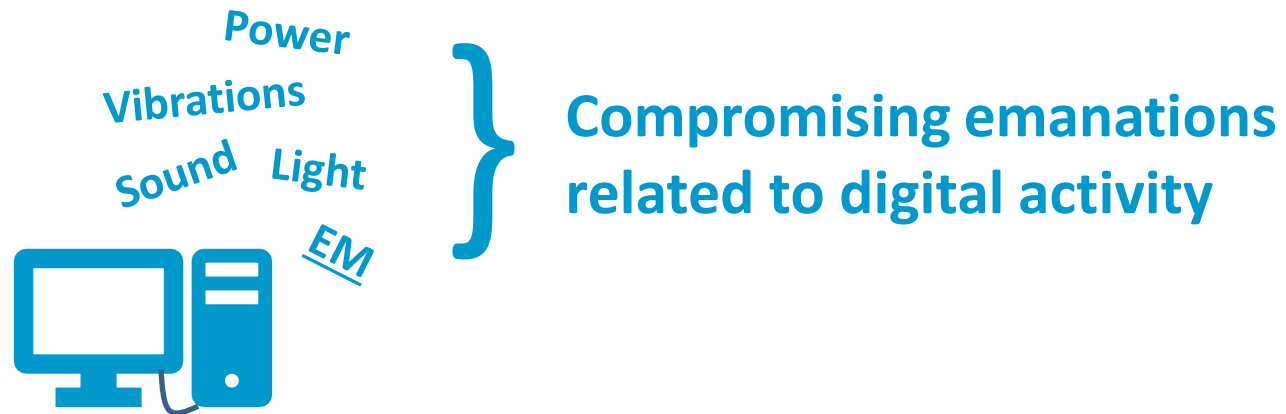


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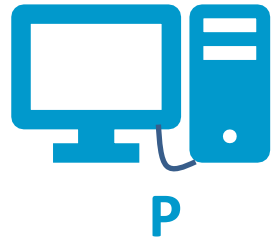
# Some categories (informal, non exhaustive)

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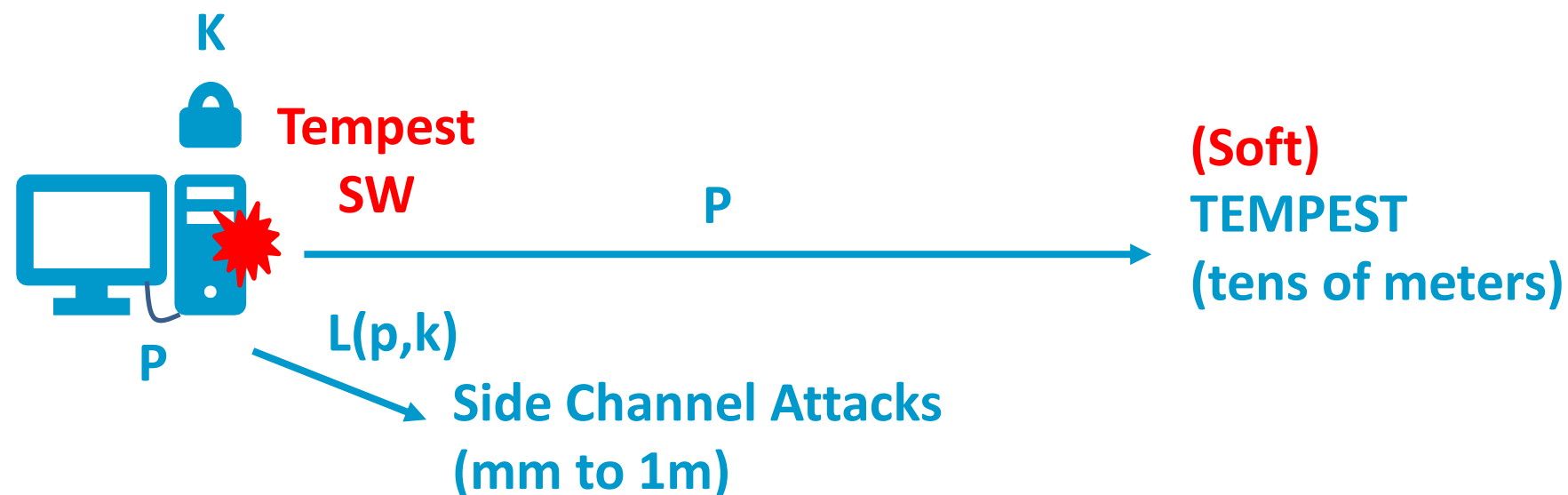


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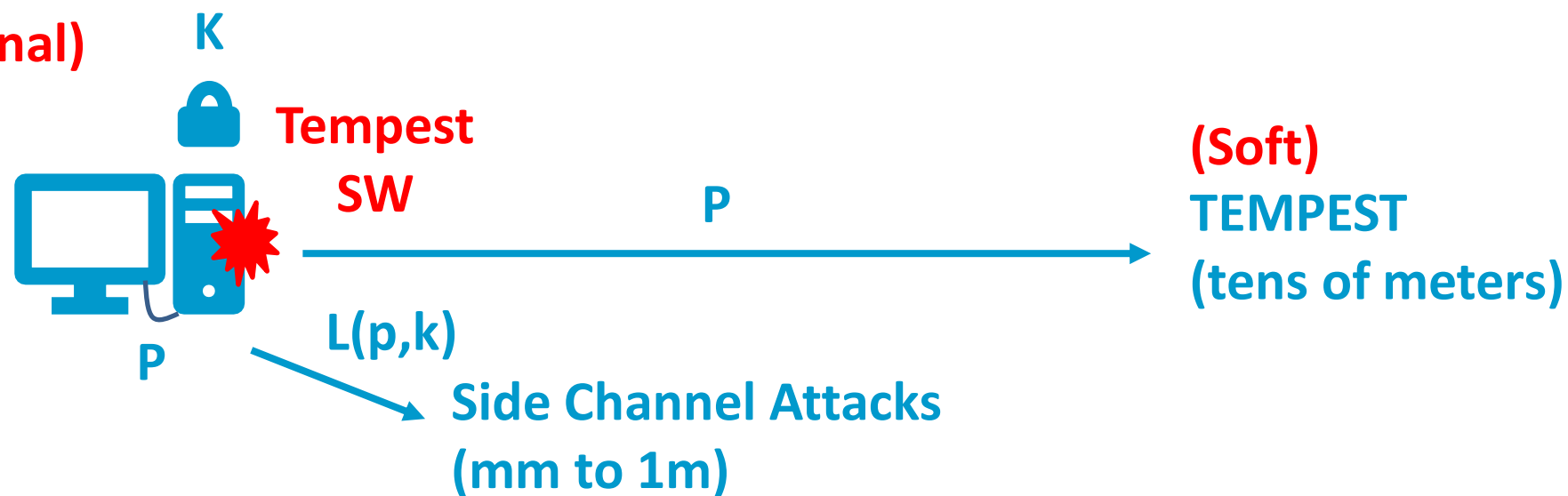
D. Agrawal et al., “The EM Side-Channel(s),” in *CHES* 2002.

C. Ramsay and J. Lohuis, *TEMPEST Attacks against AES*, 2017.



# Some categories (informal, non exhaustive)

**Active stimulation**  
(ambient/intentional)  
(mm to meters)



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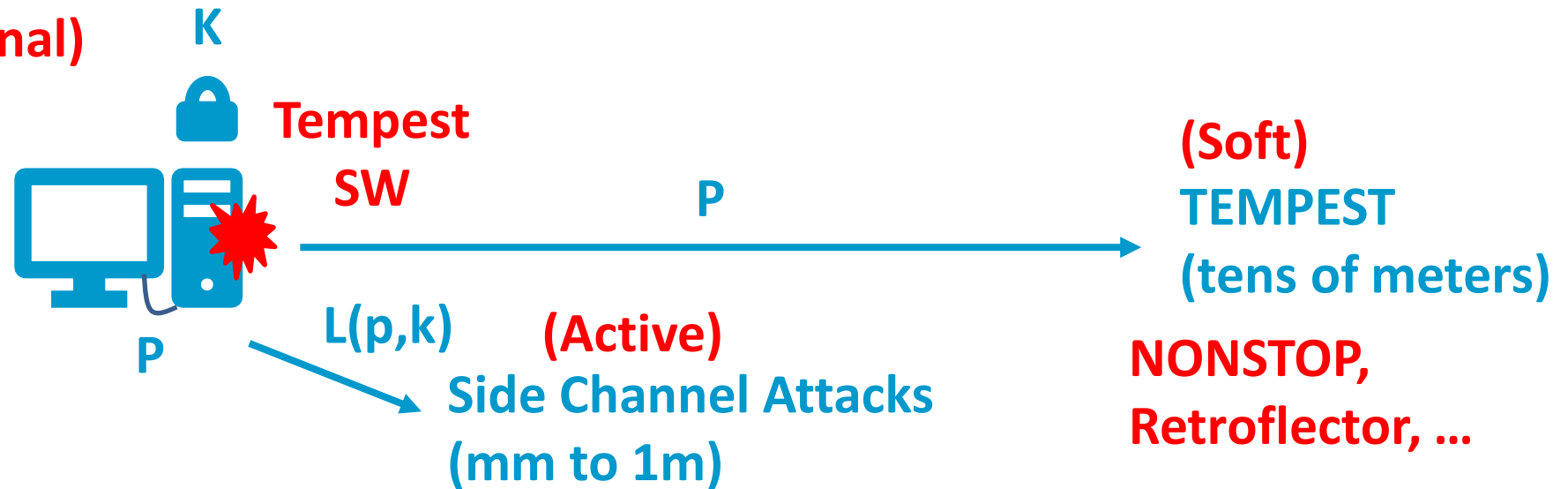
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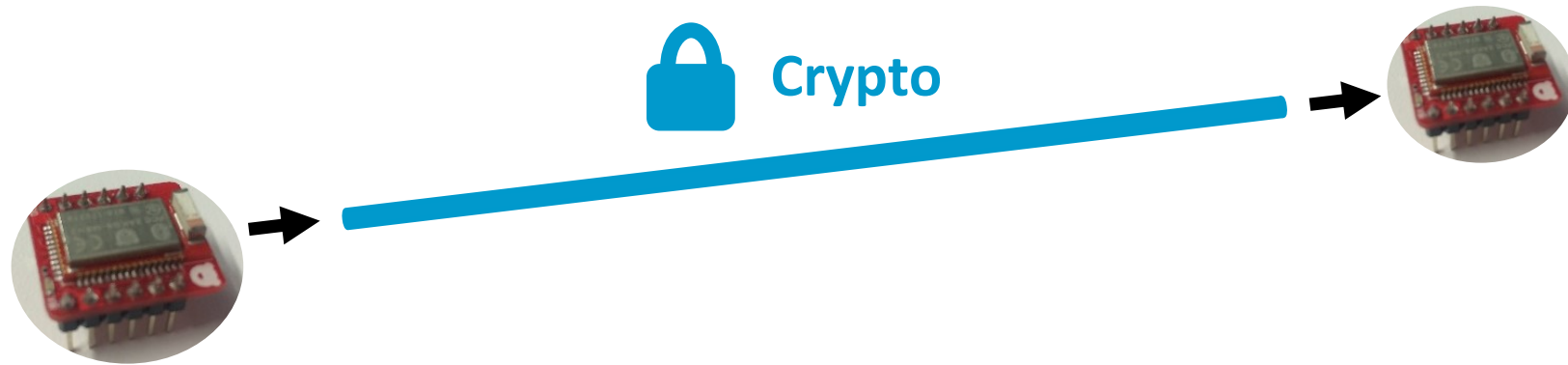
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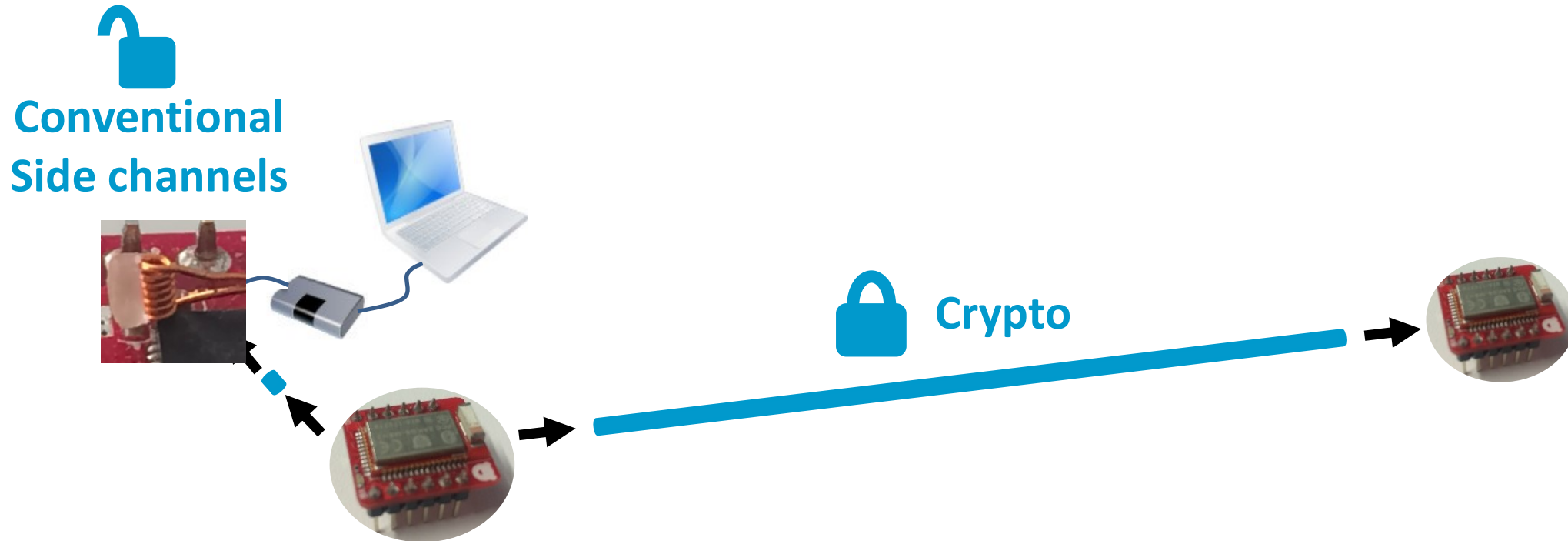
A. T. Marketos, “Active Electromagnetic Attacks on Secure Hardware” (PhD Thesis, University of Cambridge, UK, 2011).

# Side channels against communication devices

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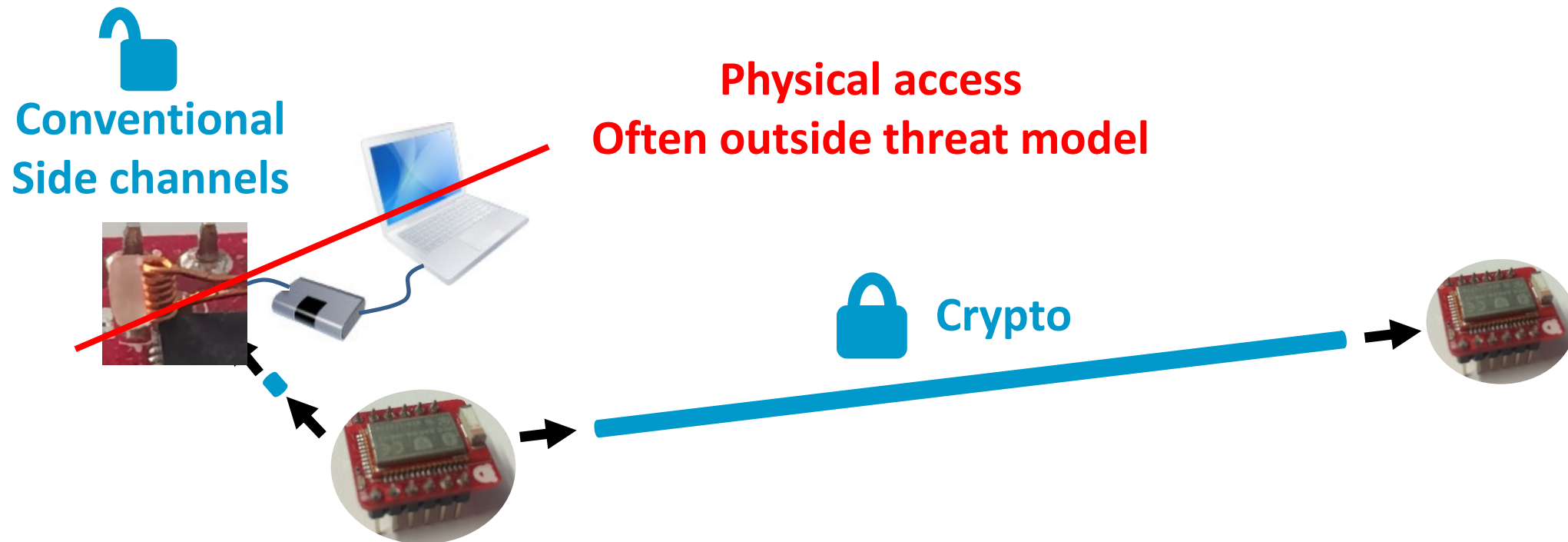
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A. Biryukov, D. Dinu, and Y. Le Corre, "Side-Channel Attacks Meet Secure Network Protocols," in ACNS 2017.

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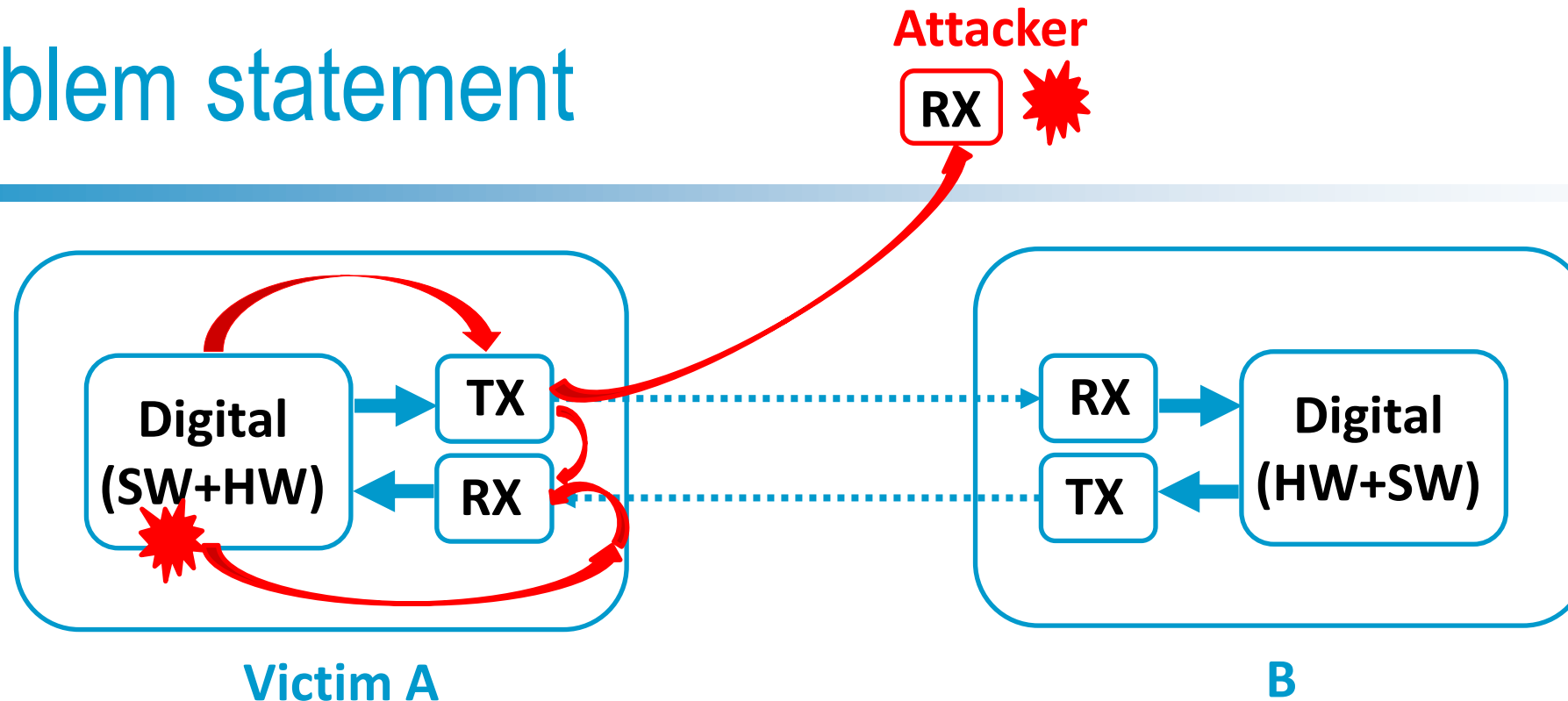
C. O'Flynn and Z. Chen, "Power Analysis Attacks Against IEEE 802.15.4 Nodes," in COSADE 2016.

AES Implementation Resistant to Side-Channel Analysis Attacks? - Discussion Forum - Mbed TLS (Previously PolarSSL)

Putting all together:

Security threats emerging from the  
interaction between digital activity and  
radio transceivers

# Problem statement



## Security research question

(EmSec)  
(EMI/RFI)  
(WiSec)

**Does logic activity produce physical leakages that flow from digital components to radio blocks breaking the security of the wireless links?**

**E.g., confidentiality, authenticity**

# Some related work in this direction

---

**Parasitic backscattering in RFID  
(Load modulation in NFC)**

**{ Power modulates impedance seen by reader  
Side-channels up to 1m**

T. Plos, "Susceptibility of UHF RFID Tags to Electromagnetic Analysis," in RSA Conference 2008.



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**Parasitic backscattering in RFID  
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**Backscattering in WiFi cards**

**Card state (on/off) changes impedance  
Covert channels**

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Covert channels**

**Second-Order Soft-TEMPEST**

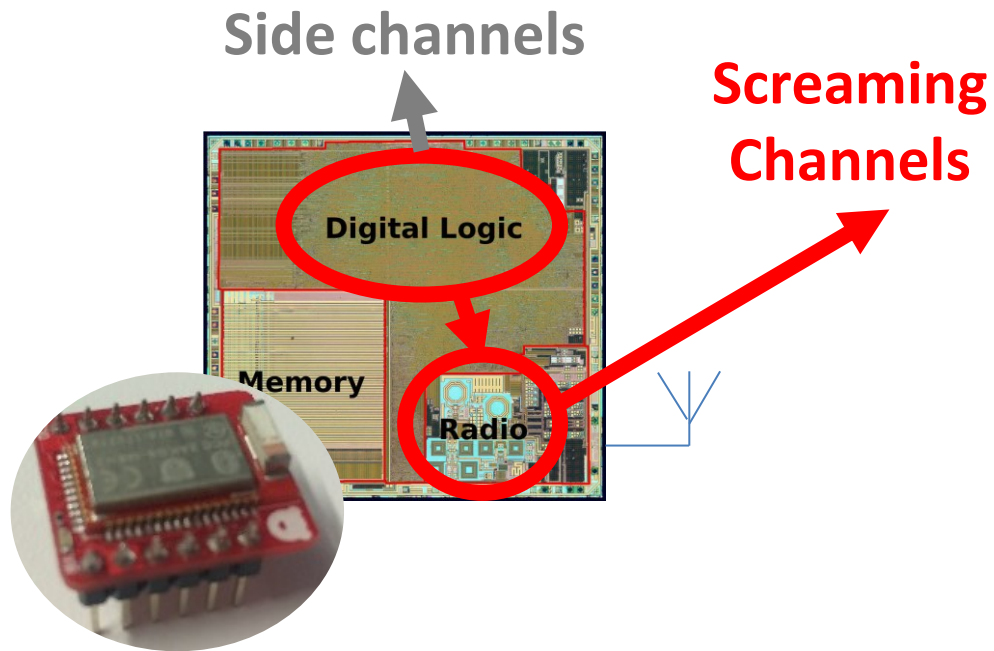
**Soft-TEMPEST + cascaded effects  
Polyglot covert channel on WiFi**

T. Plos, "Susceptibility of UHF RFID Tags to Electromagnetic Analysis," in RSA Conference 2008.

Z. Yang, Q. Huang, and Q. Zhang, "NICScatter: Backscatter as a Covert Channel in Mobile Devices," in MobiCom 2017.

E. Cottais, J. Lopes Esteves, and C. Kasmi, "Second Order Soft-TEMPEST in RF Front-Ends: Design and Detection of Polyglot Modulations," EMC EUROPE 2018.

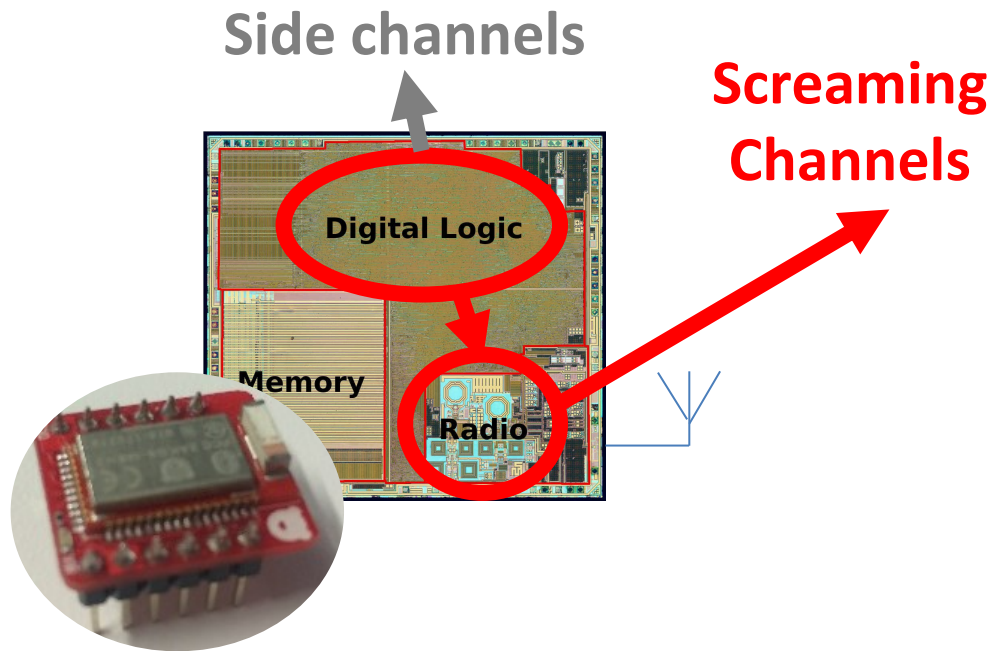
# Contributions: two novel security problems



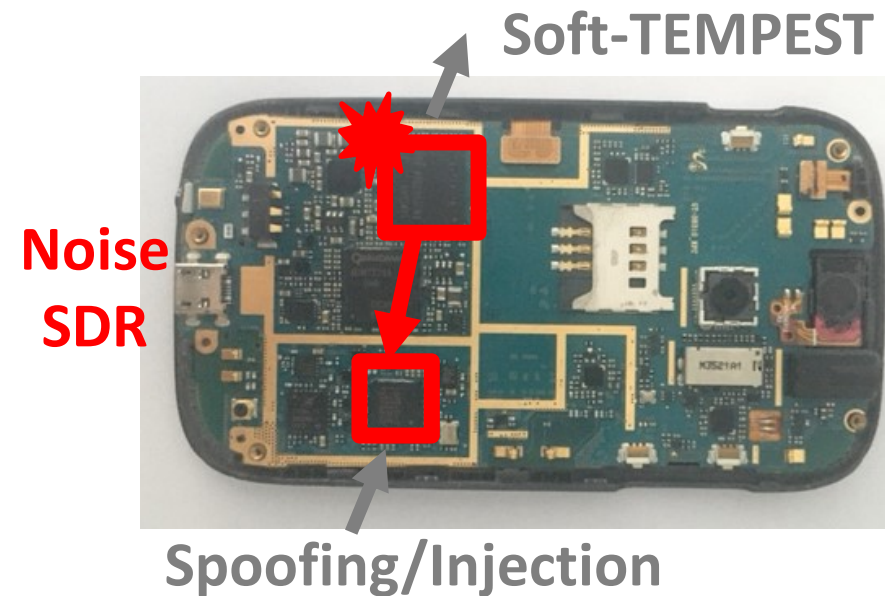
## **Screaming Channels (Digital to TX)**

Passive side channel leakage from digital activity to the radio transmitter and the radio channel

# Contributions: two novel security problems



**Screaming Channels (Digital to TX)**  
Passive side channel leakage from digital activity to the radio transmitter and the radio channel



**Noise-SDR (Digital to RX)**  
Active arbitrary modulation of digital noise to generate valid signals to inject in other receivers

# Publications

## **Screaming Channels: When Electromagnetic Side Channels Meet Radio Transceivers**

Giovanni Camurati, Sebastian Poeplau, Marius Muench, Tom Hayes, Aurélien Francillon  
*Proceedings of the 25th ACM conference on Computer and communications security (CCS)*, Toronto, Canada (acceptance rate: 16.6%)

Third place at the CSAW Europe applied research competition 2018

## **Understanding Screaming Channels: From a Detailed Analysis to Improved Attacks**

Giovanni Camurati, Aurélien Francillon, François-Xavier Standaert  
*IACR Transactions on Cryptographic Hardware and Embedded Systems (CHES 2020)*

Google Bughunter Hall of Fame Honorable Mention

## **Noise-SDR: Shaping Arbitrary Radio Signals Out of Noise on Modern Smartphones**

Giovanni Camurati, Aurélien Francillon  
*Under submission (major revision)*

## **SoC Security Evaluation: Reflections on Methodology and Tooling**

Nassim Corteggiani, Giovanni Camurati, Marius Muench, Sebastian Poeplau, Aurélien Francillon  
*Accepted for publication in IEEE Design and Test, Special Issue on Hack@DAC*

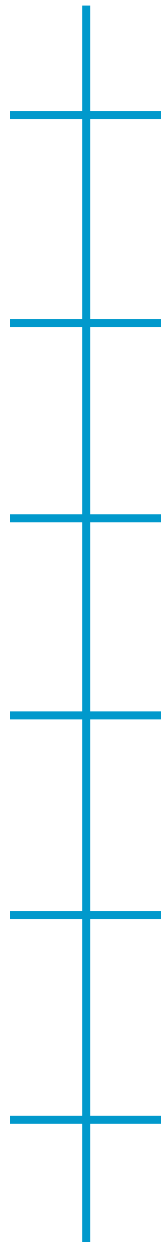
## **Inception: System-wide Security Testing of Real-World Embedded Systems Software**

Nassim Corteggiani, Giovanni Camurati, Aurélien Francillon  
*27th USENIX Security Symposium (USENIX Security 18)*, Baltimore, MD (acceptance rate: 19.1%)

Screaming  
Channels

Noise-SDR

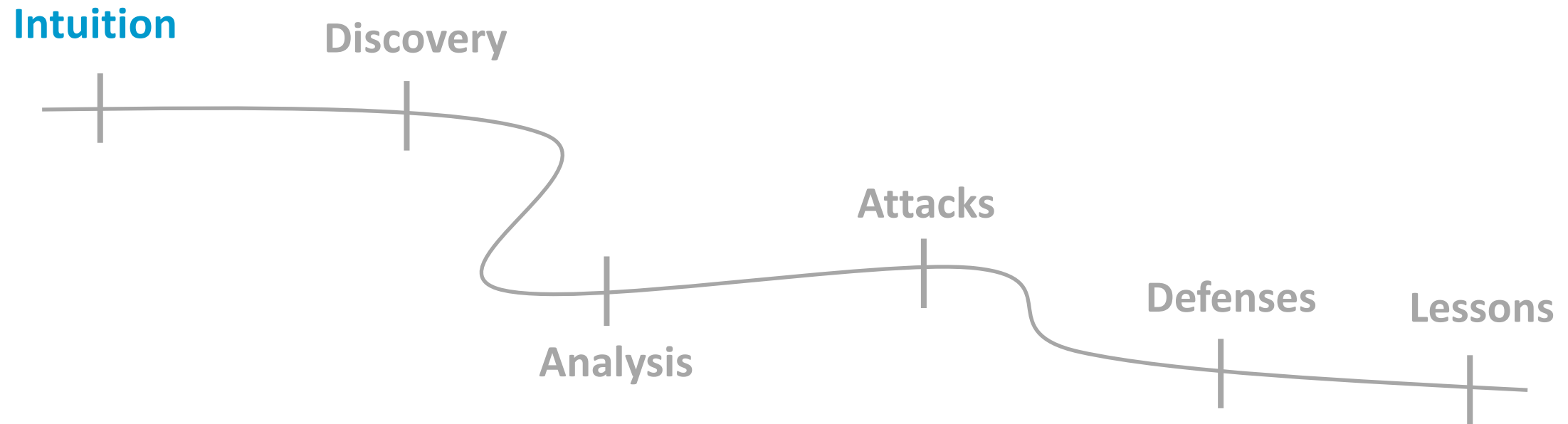
Other



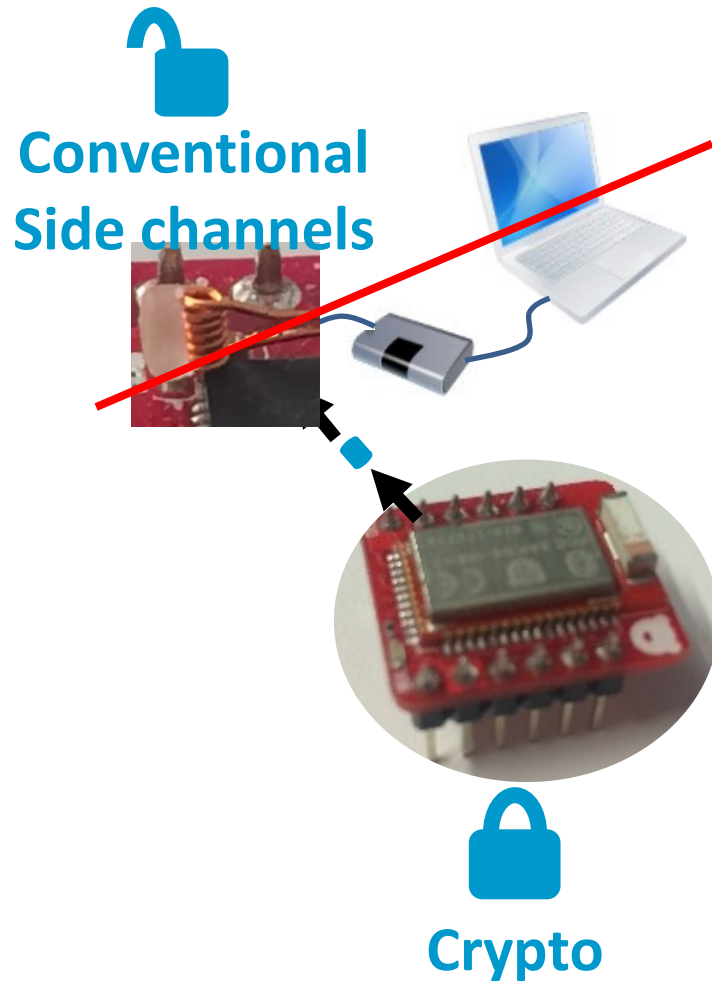
+	Context
+	Challenges & Contributions
+	<b>Screaming Channels</b>
+	Noise-SDR
+	Future Work
+	Conclusion

# Studying a novel side channel

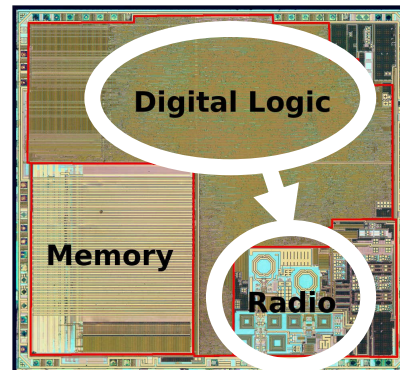
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# Screaming Channels

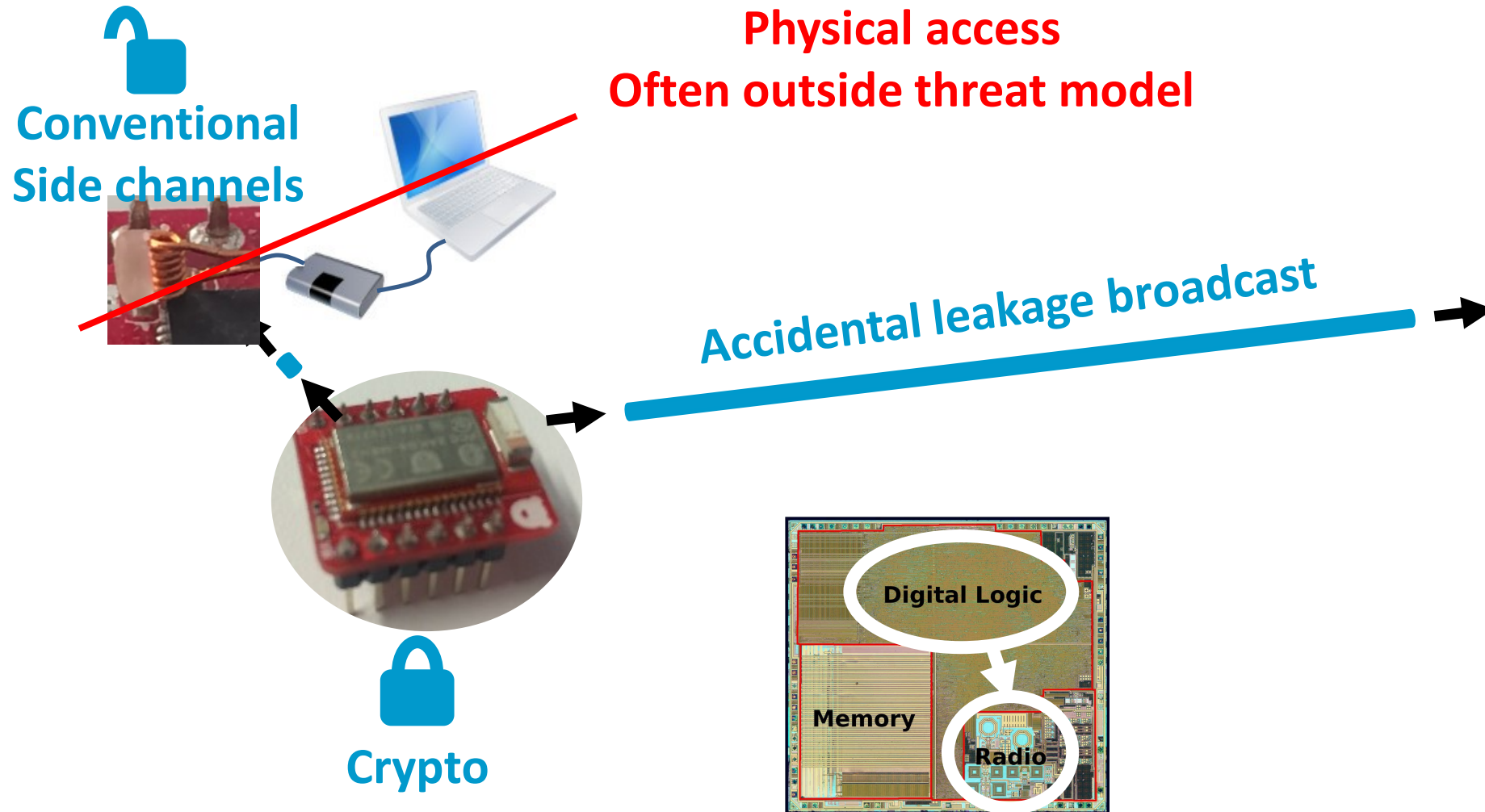


Physical access  
Often outside threat model



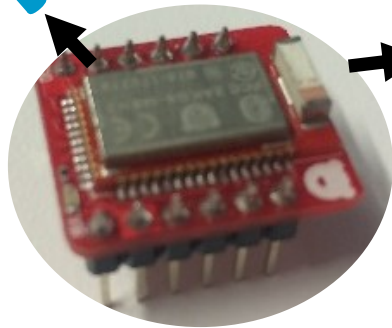
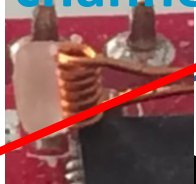


# Screaming Channels



# Screaming Channels

  
Conventional  
Side channels

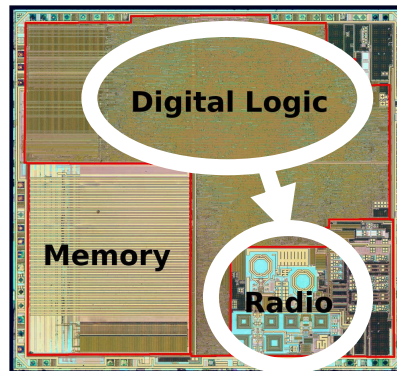


  
Crypto

**Physical access**  
**Often outside threat model**

**Accidental leakage broadcast**

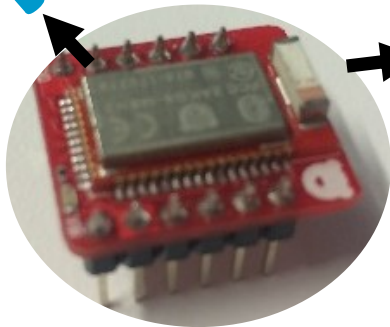
**Screaming  
Channels**



# Screaming Channels

Digital activity visible at large distance

  
Conventional  
Side channels

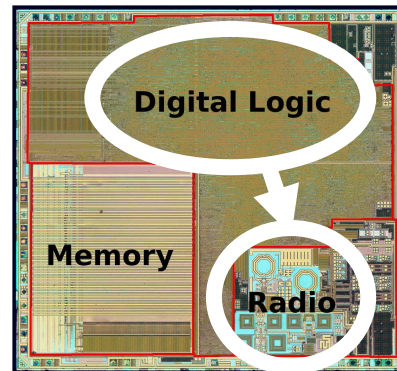


  
Crypto

Physical access  
Often outside threat model

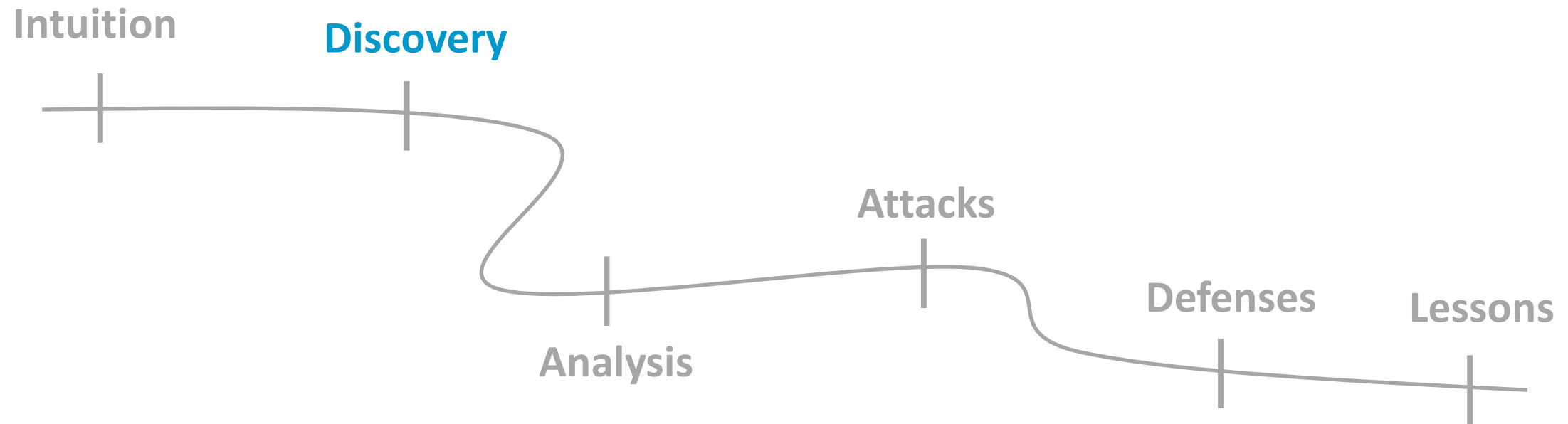
Accidental leakage broadcast

Screaming  
Channels 



# Studying a novel side channel

---



# Identifying a possible target

Computation

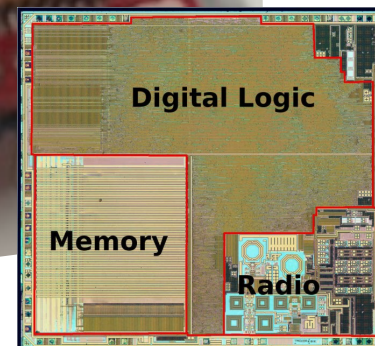
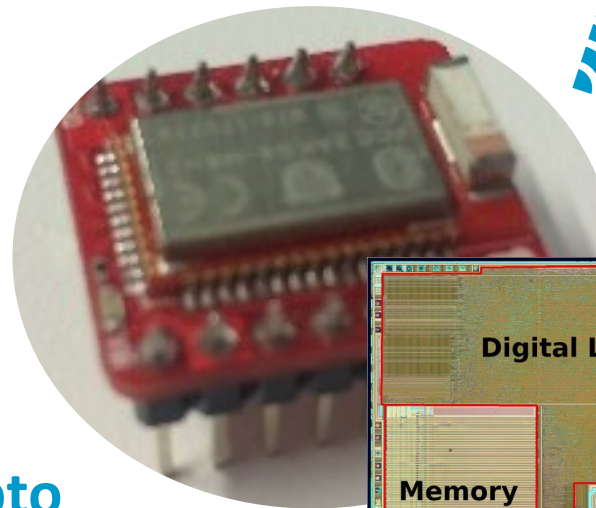
Arm Cortex-M4 @64MHz



Wireless communication  
BLE @2.4GHz

Sensing & Actuation

Crypto  
(SW/HW)



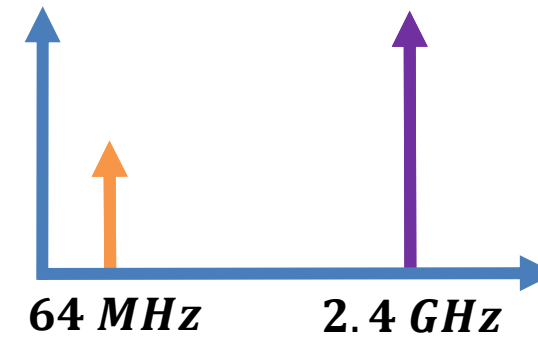
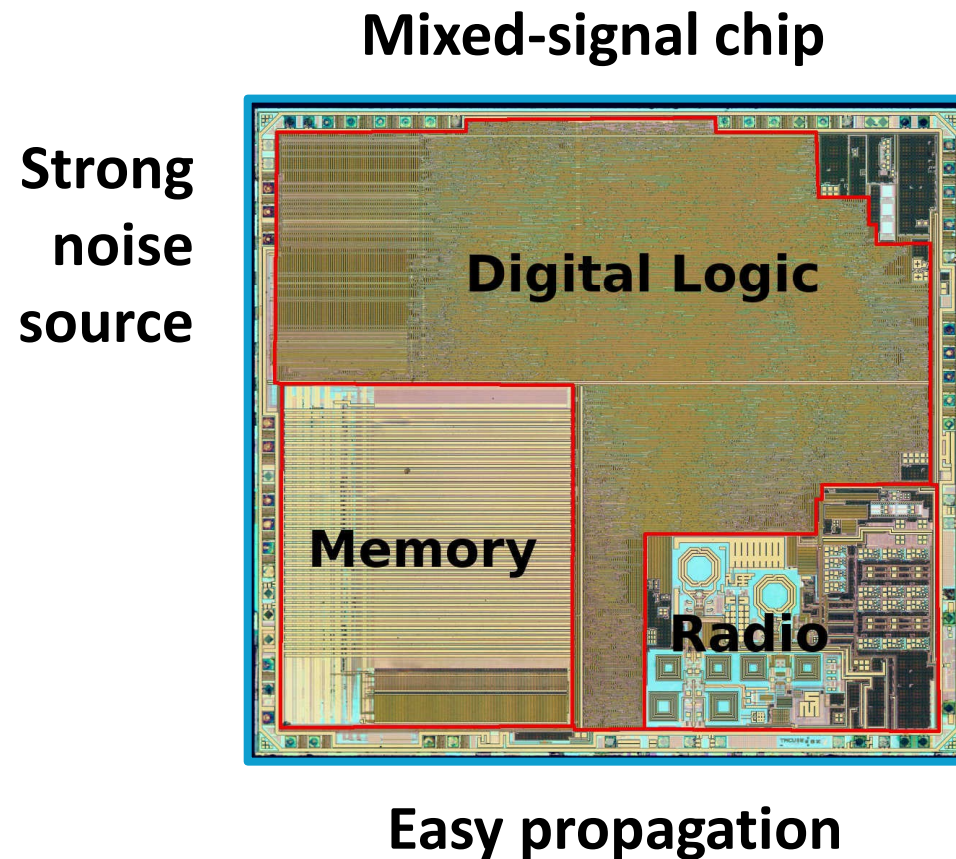
All in one chip

“Mixed-signal”

Low cost, low power

Easy to integrate

# Observing the signal



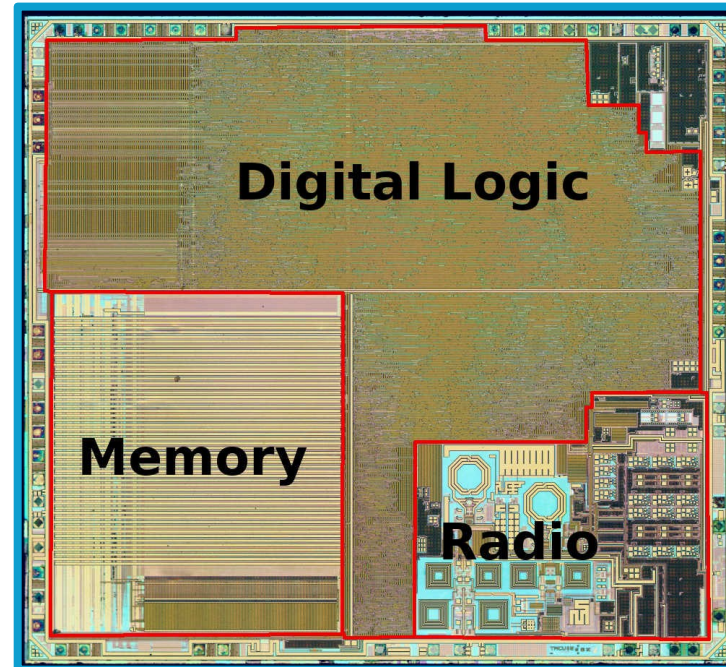


# Observing the signal

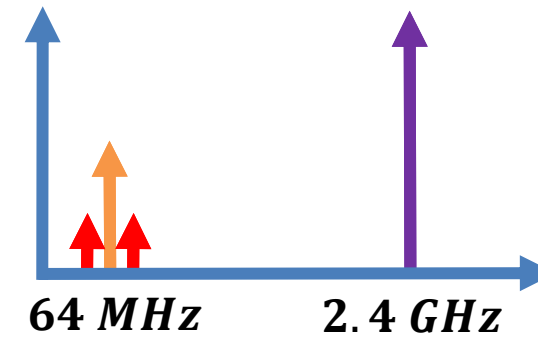
**Conventional Side  
Channel Leak**

**Strong  
noise  
source**

**Mixed-signal chip**



**Easy propagation**

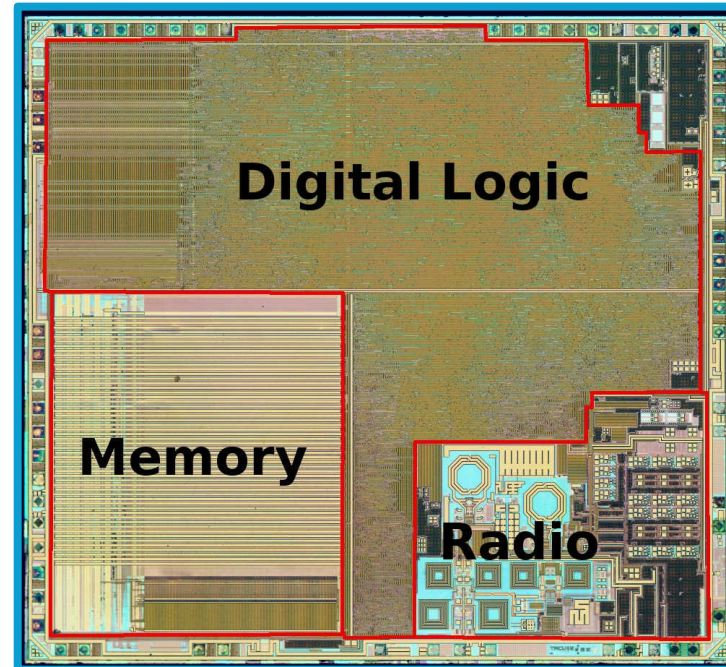


# Observing the signal

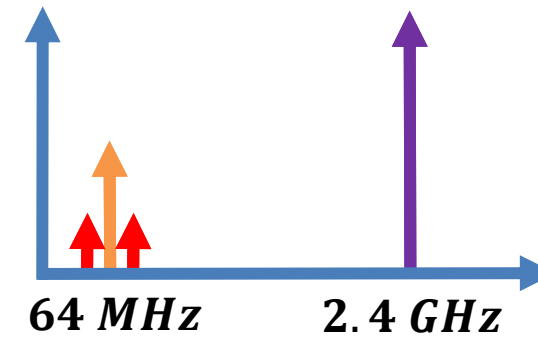
**Conventional Side  
Channel Leak**

**Strong  
noise  
source**

**Mixed-signal chip**



**Easy propagation  
Leak Propagation**



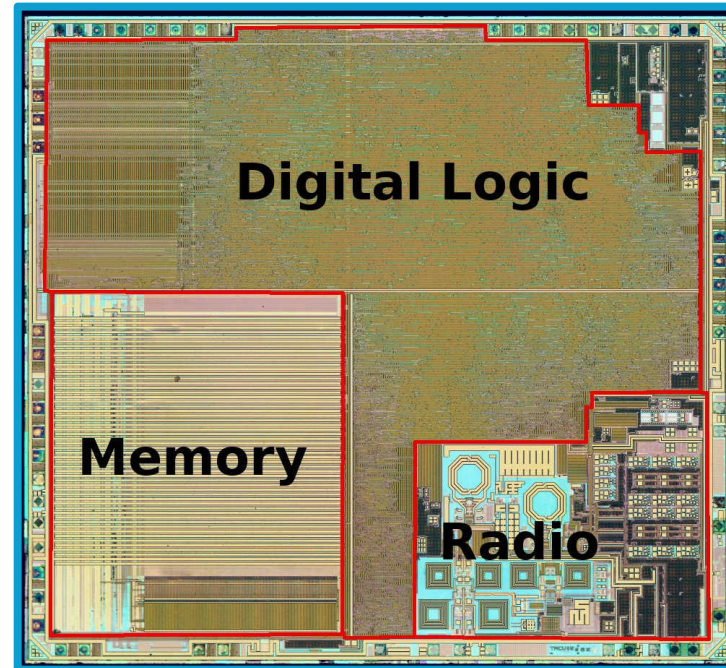


# Observing the signal

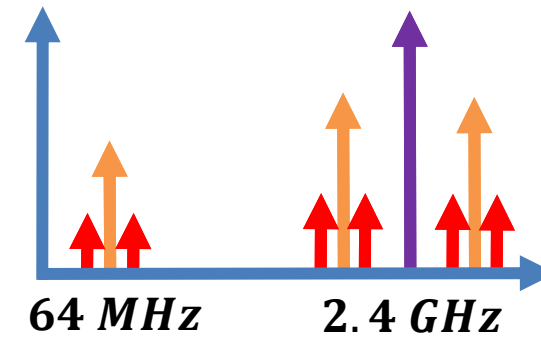
**Conventional Side Channel Leak**

**Strong noise source**

**Mixed-signal chip**



**Easy propagation**  
**Leak Propagation**



**Leak Is Broadcast**

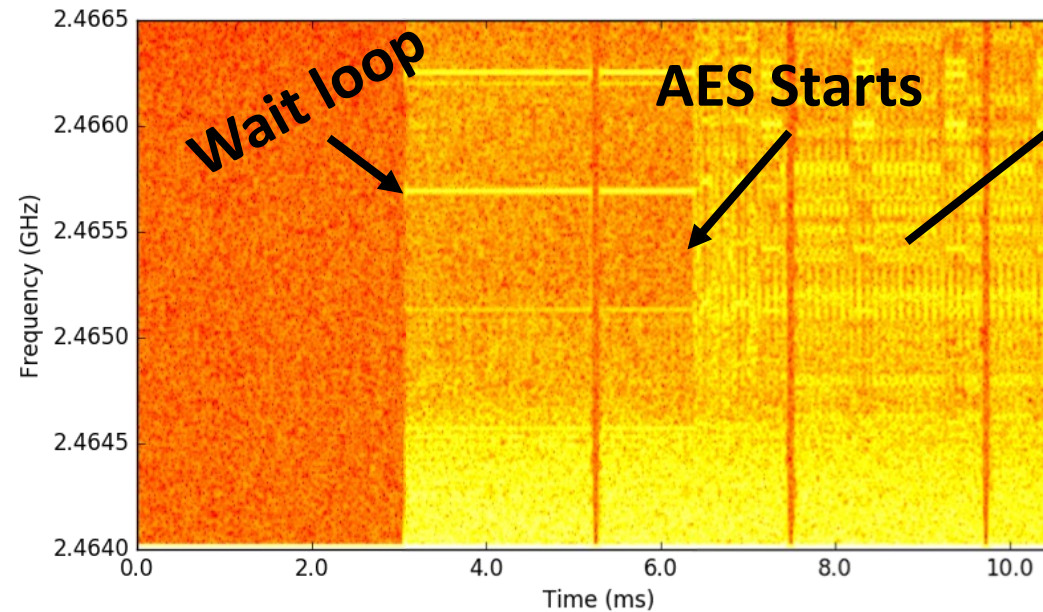
# Identifying an attack model: app layer software AES

Antenna + SDR RX

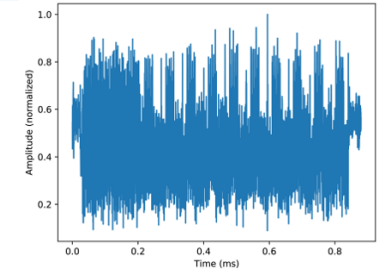


Cortex-M4  
+ BLE TX

Radio Off   Radio TX   AES On



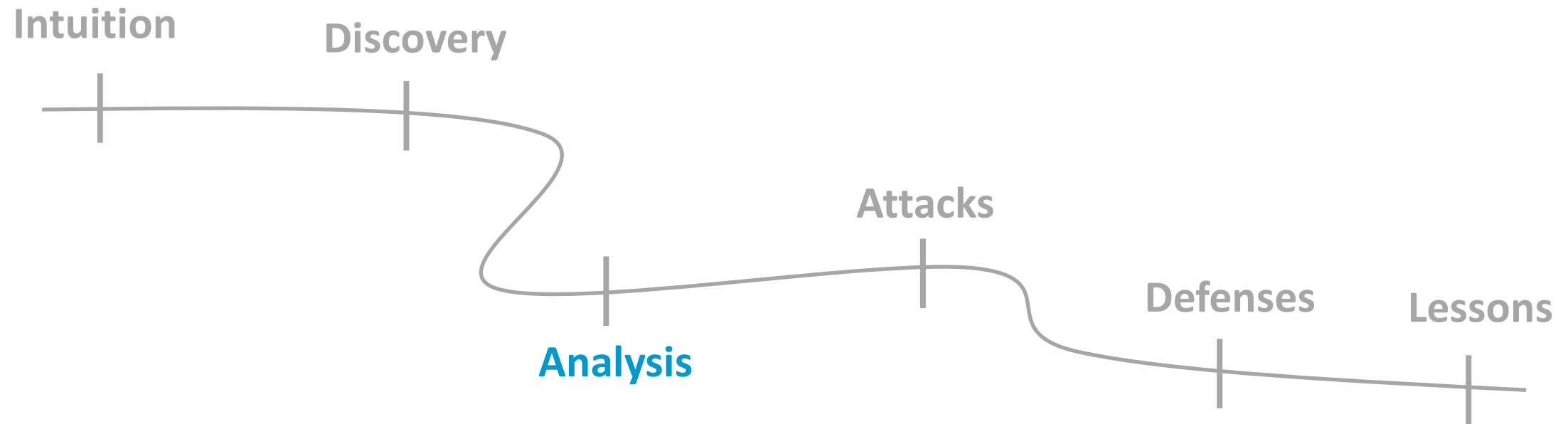
Noise   Packet



Time domain

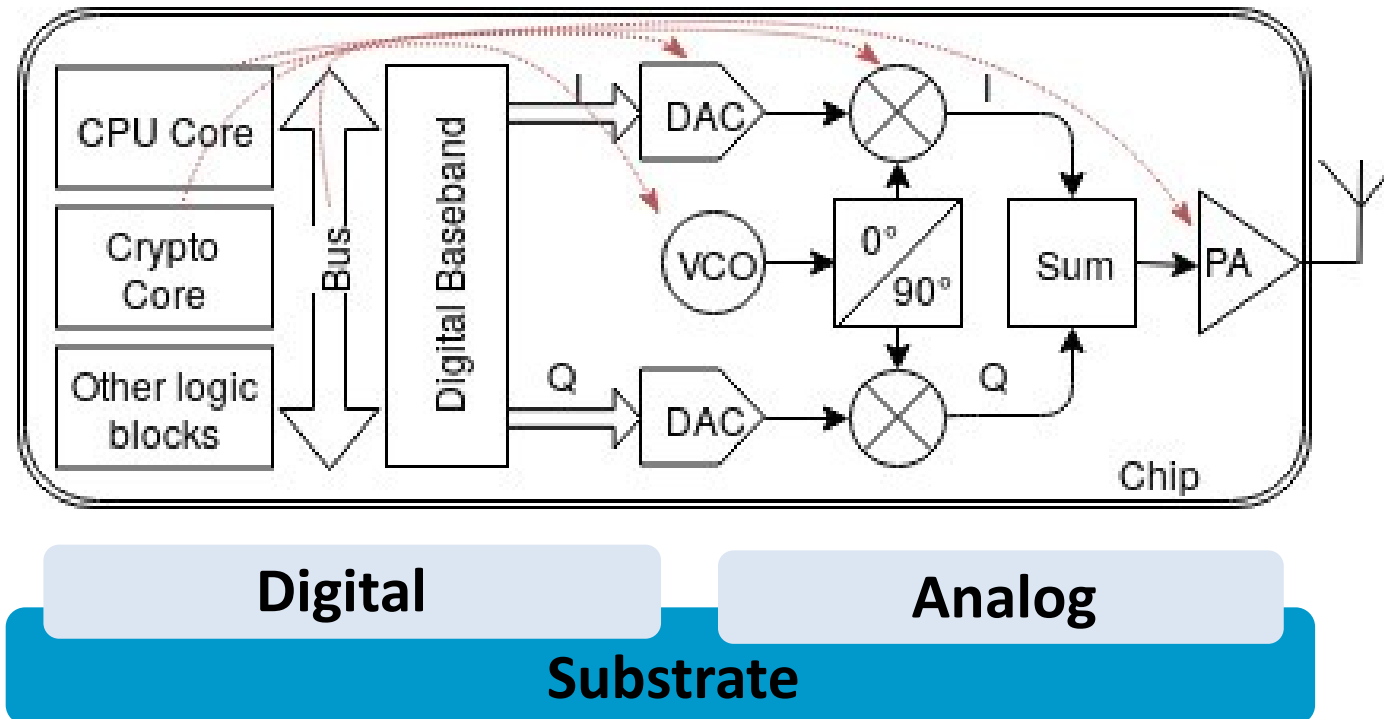
# Studying a novel side channel

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# Studying the root cause

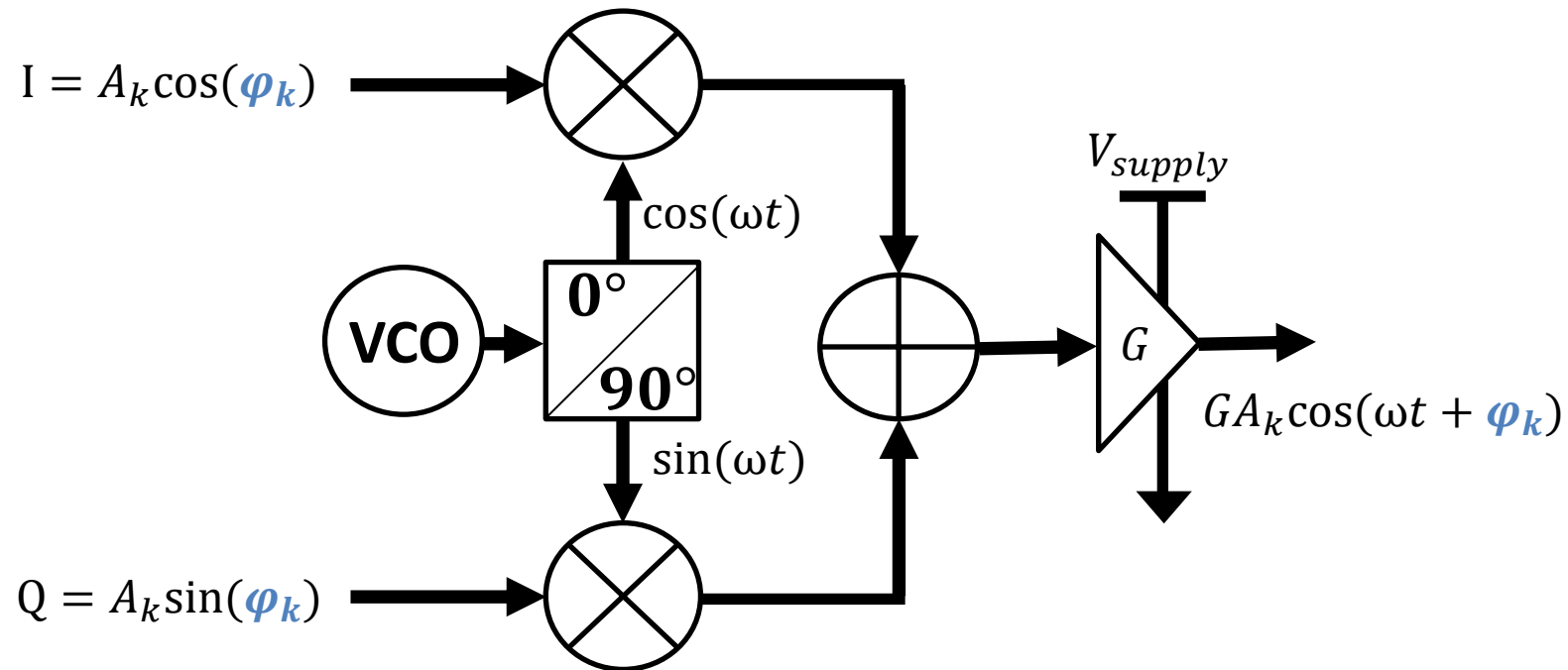
## Many Possible coupling paths



Examples: A. Behzad, "Wireless LAN Radios: System Definition to Transistor Design" (IEEE Press Series on Microelectronic Systems) (Hoboken, NJ, USA: John Wiley & Sons, Inc., 2008).

# Studying the root cause

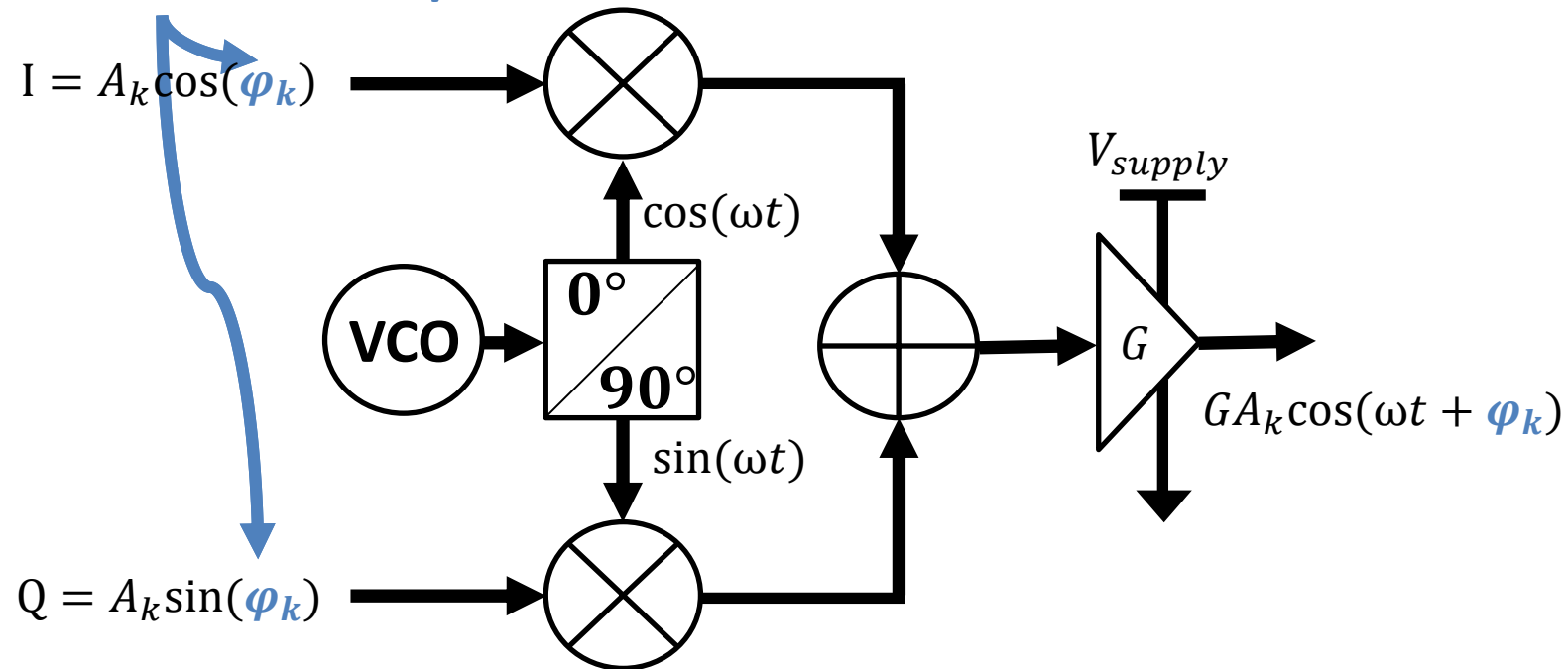
Practical case we observed



# Studying the root cause

## BT (GFSK modulation)

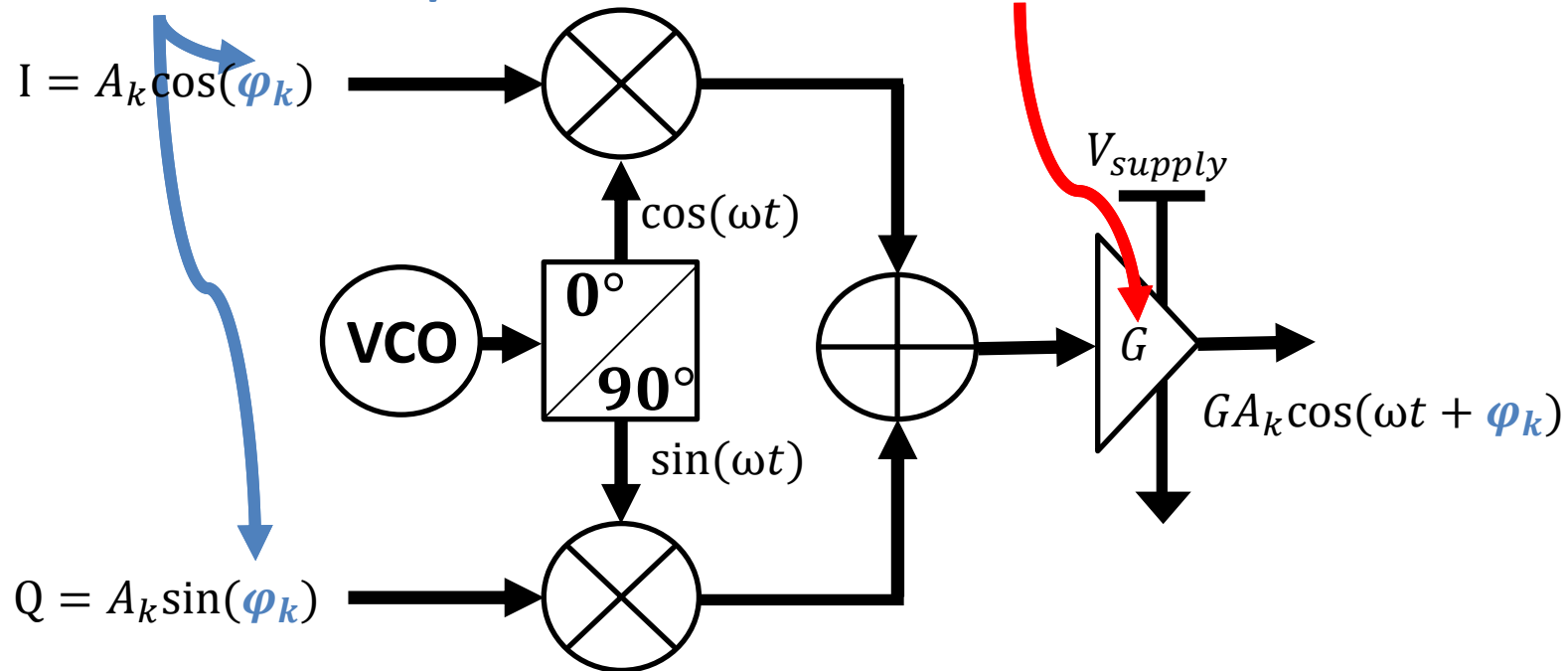
Practical case we observed



# Studying the root cause

Practical case we observed

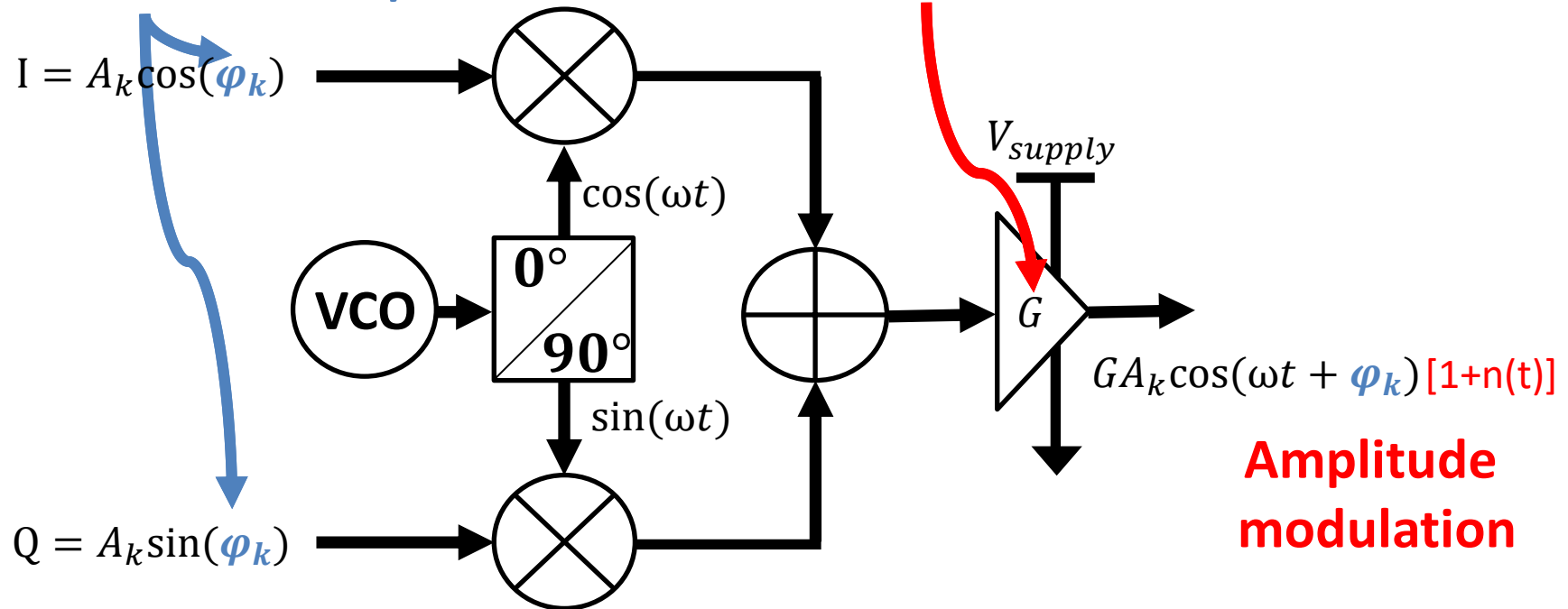
BT (GFSK modulation)



# Studying the root cause

Practical case we observed

BT (GFSK modulation)



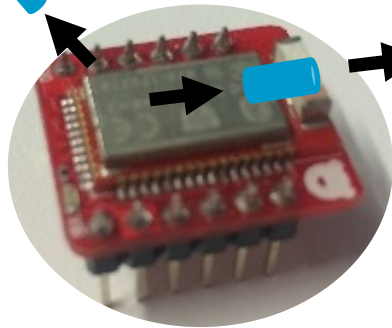


# Detailed experimental study of a novel channel

Conventional



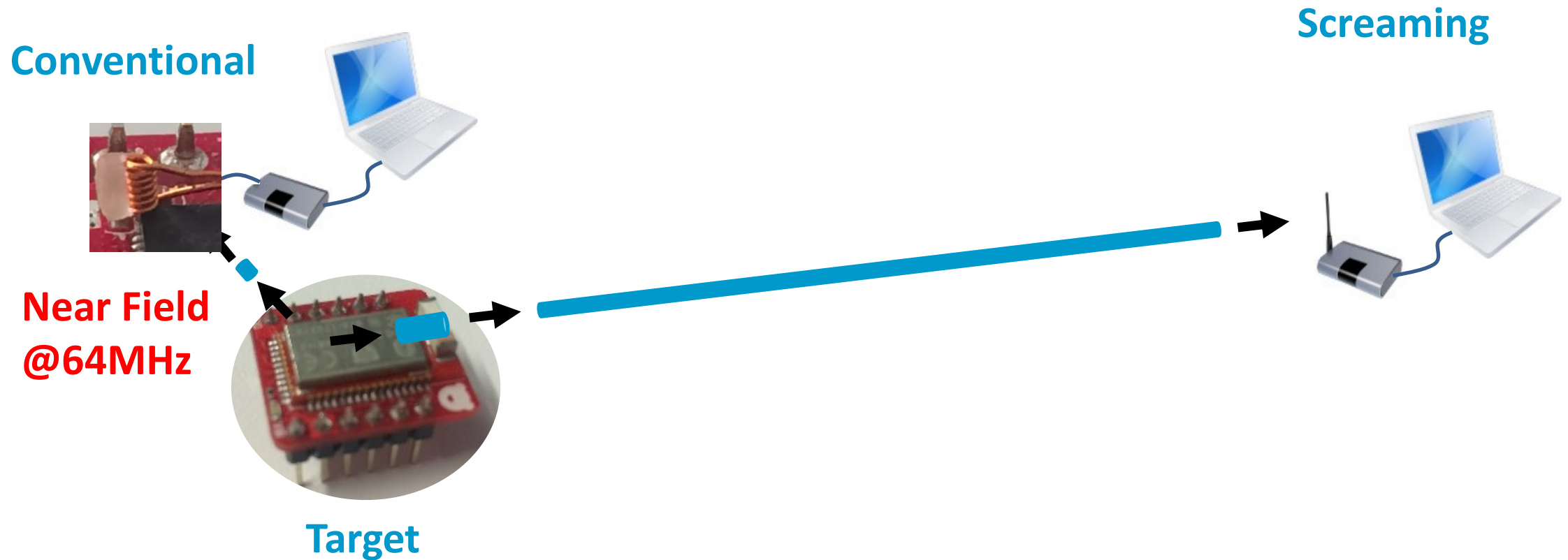
Screaming



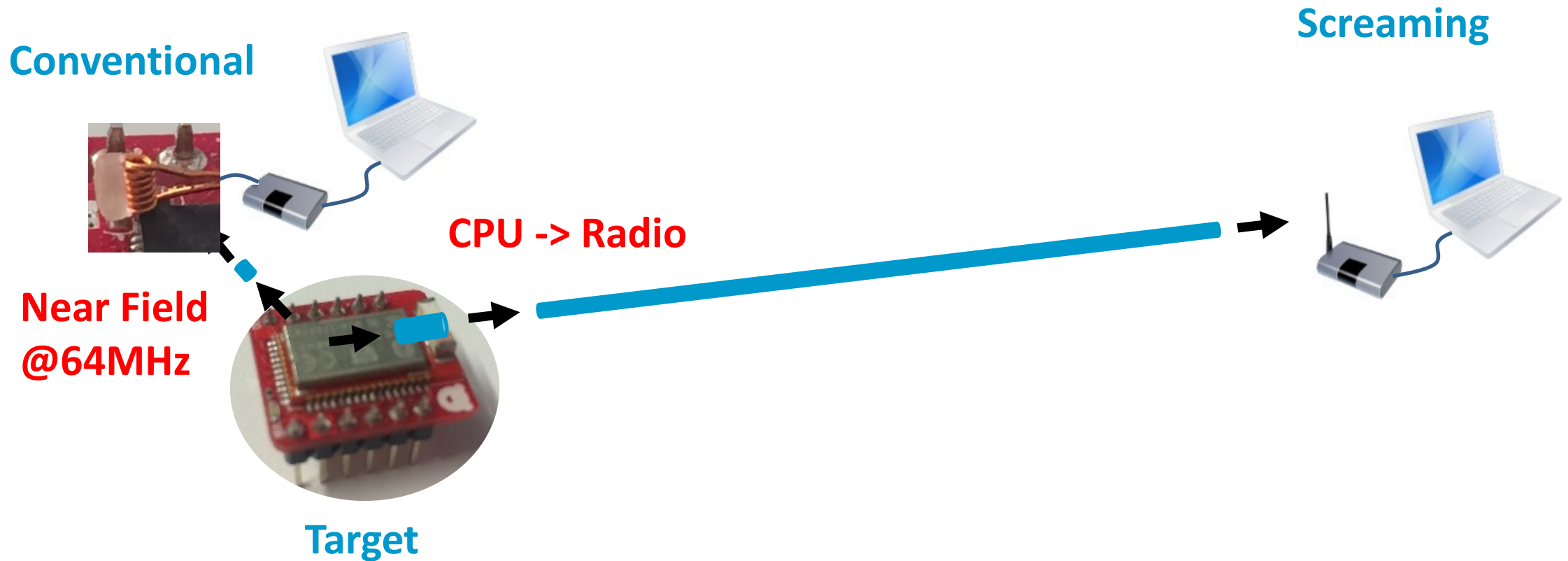
Target



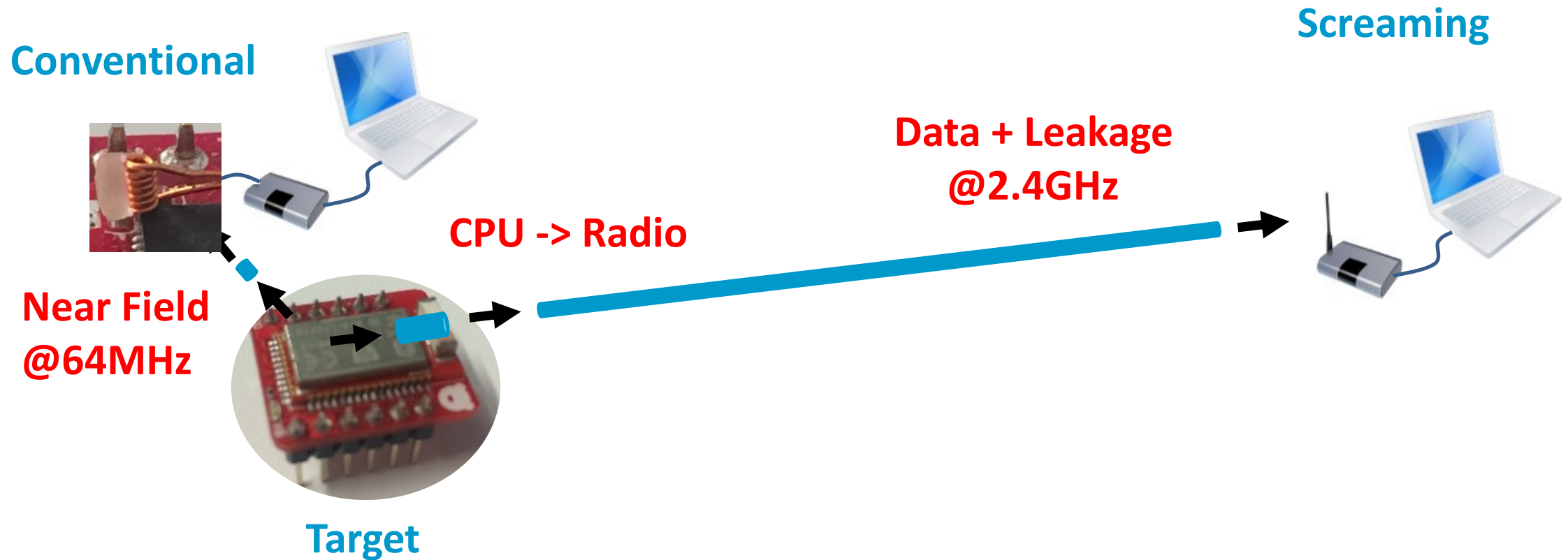
# Detailed experimental study of a novel channel



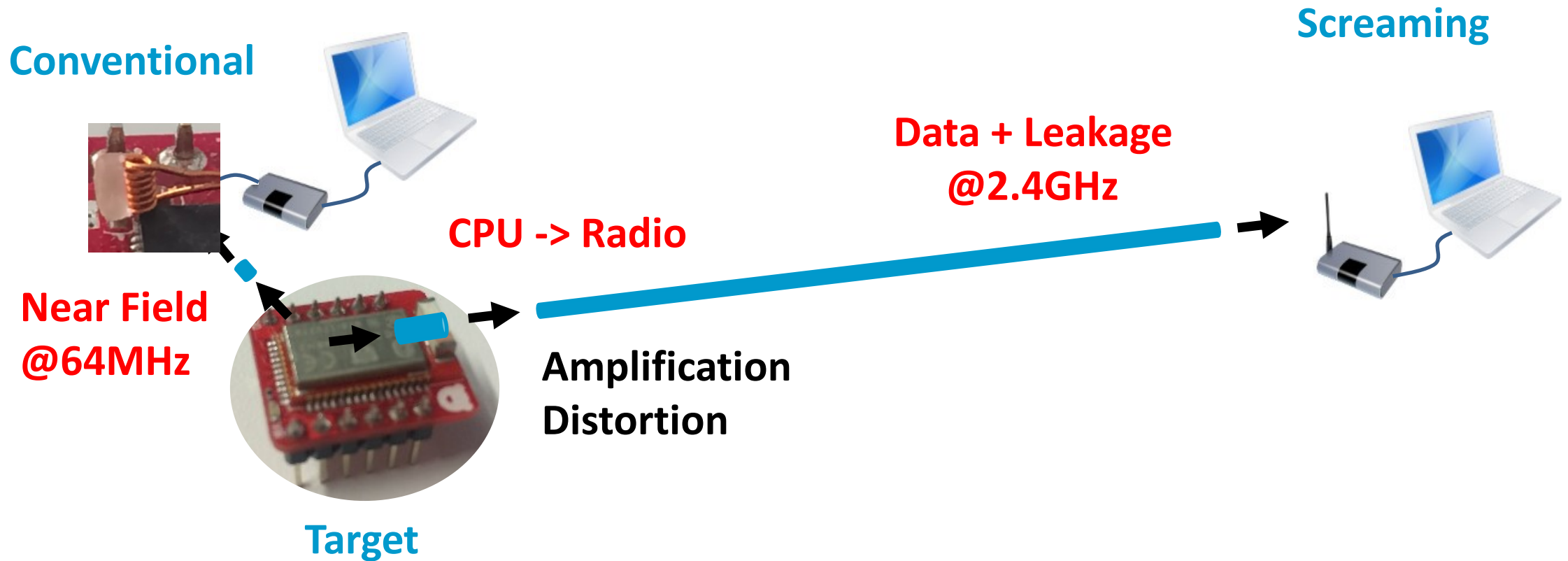
# Detailed experimental study of a novel channel



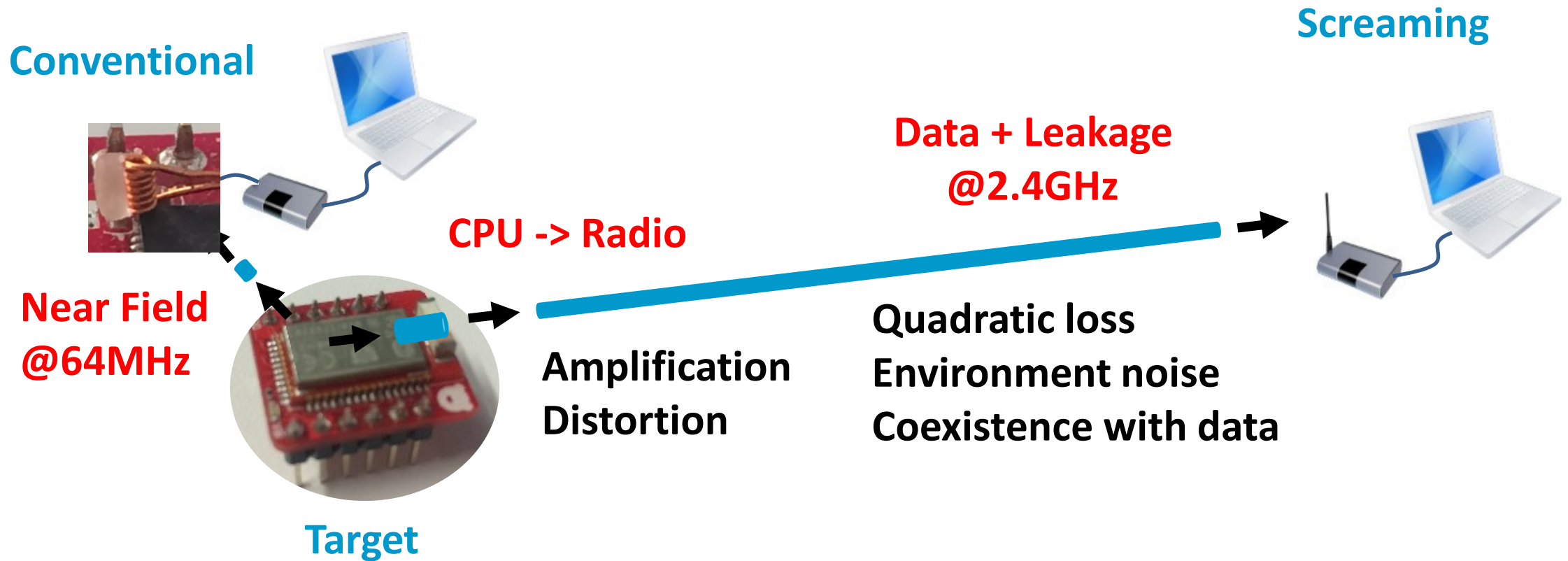
# Detailed experimental study of a novel channel



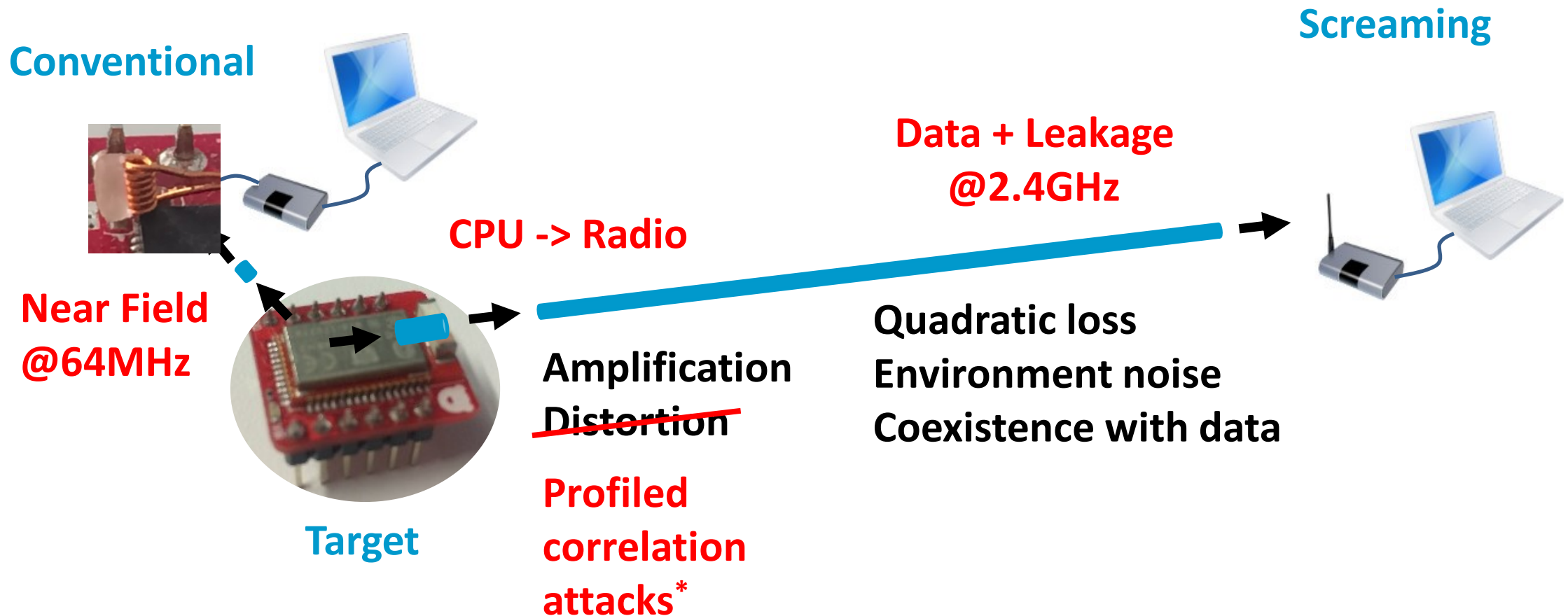
# Detailed experimental study of a novel channel



# Detailed experimental study of a novel channel

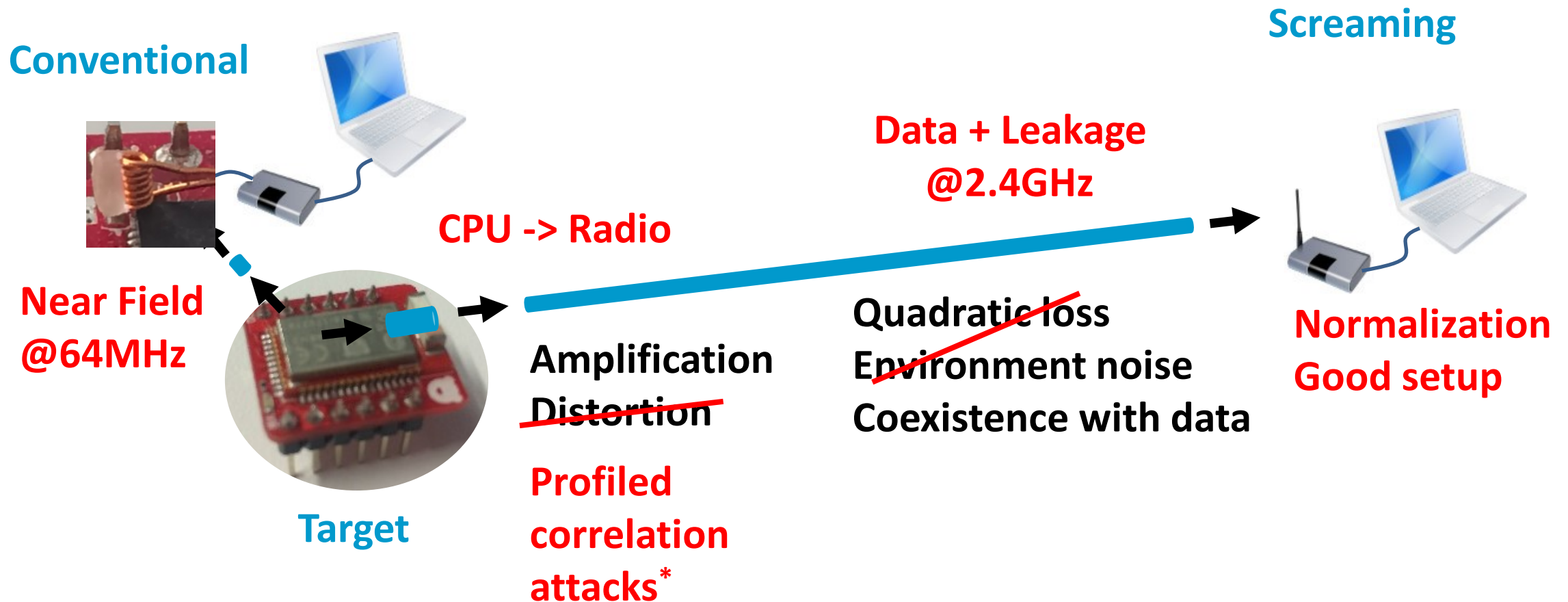


# Detailed experimental study of a novel channel



\*F. Durvaux and F.-X. Standaert, "From Improved Leakage Detection to the Detection of Points of Interests in Leakage Traces," in EUROCRYPT 2016.

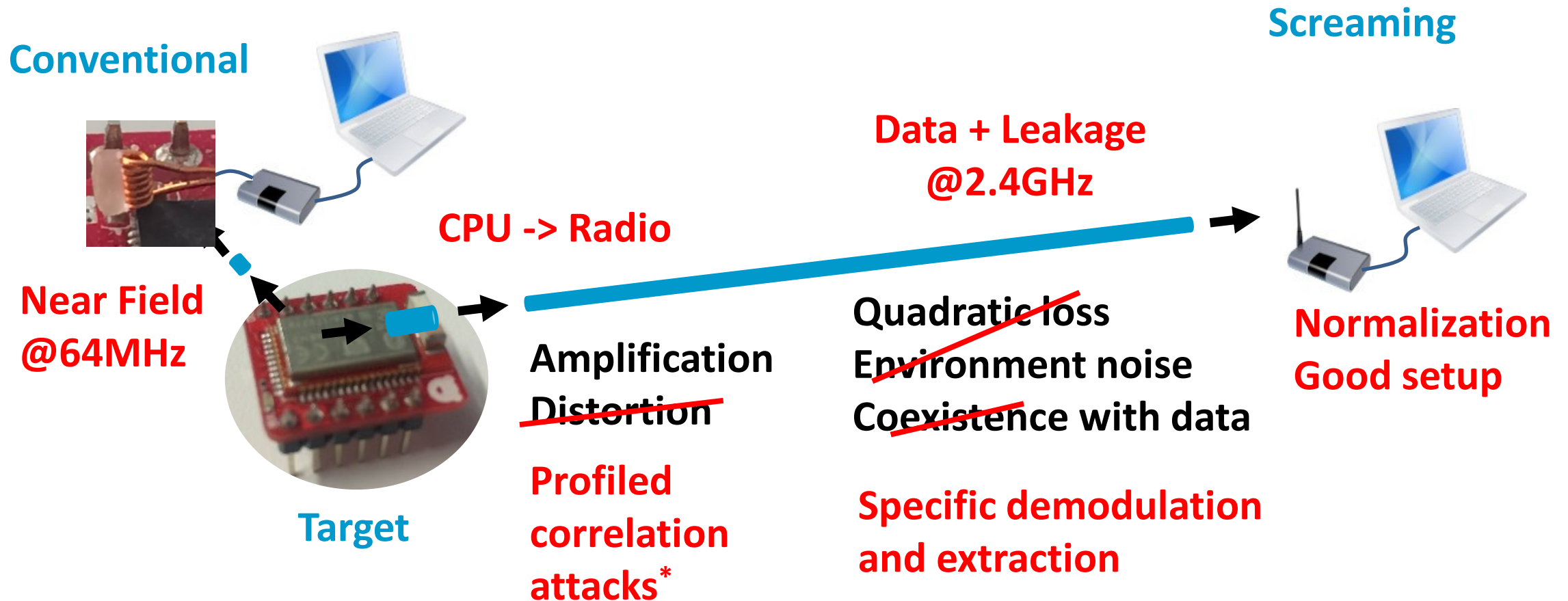
# Detailed experimental study of a novel channel



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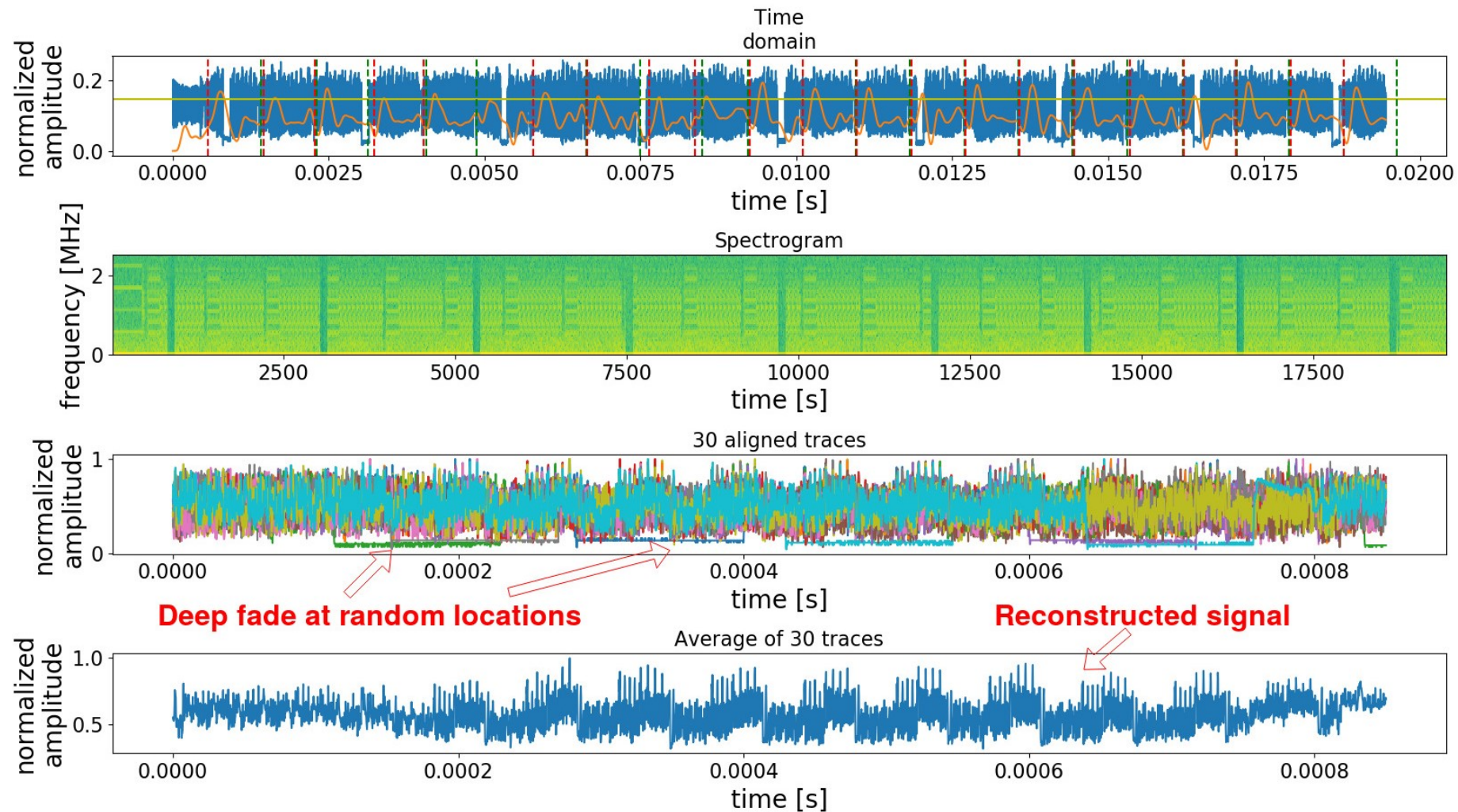


# Detailed experimental study of a novel channel

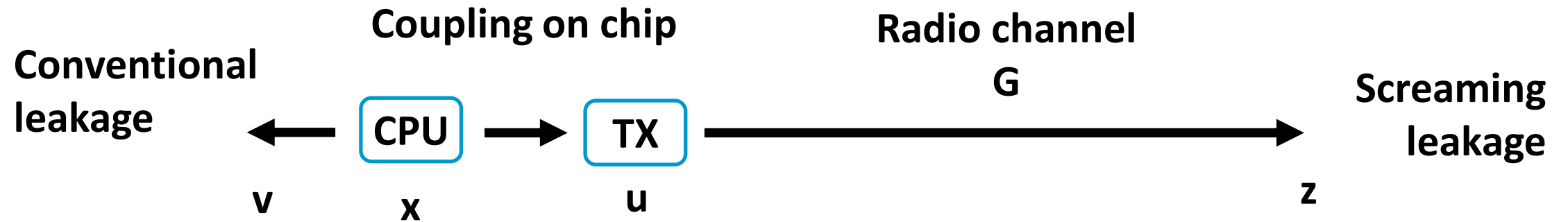


\*F. Durvaux and F.-X. Standaert, "From Improved Leakage Detection to the Detection of Points of Interests in Leakage Traces," in EUROCRYPT 2016.

# Example: data-leakage coexistence



# Example: distorted leakage model

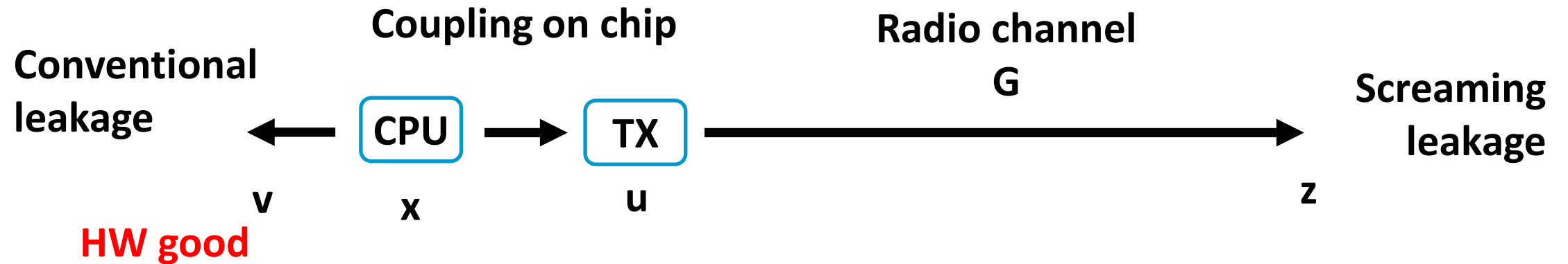


\*F. Durvaux and F.-X. Standaert, "From Improved Leakage Detection to the Detection of Points of Interests in Leakage Traces," in EUROCRYPT 2016.

\*\*F.-X. Standaert et al., "An Overview of Power Analysis Attacks Against Field Programmable Gate Arrays," Proceedings of the IEEE 94, no. 2 (2006).

\*\*\*W. Schindler, K. Lemke, and C. Paar, "A Stochastic Model for Differential Side Channel Cryptanalysis," in CHES 2005.

# Example: distorted leakage model

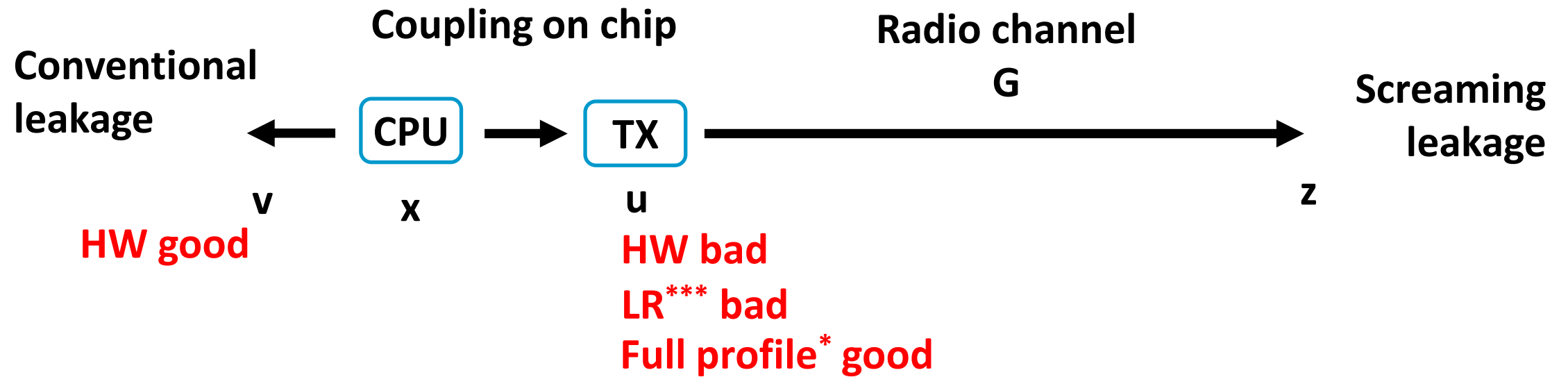


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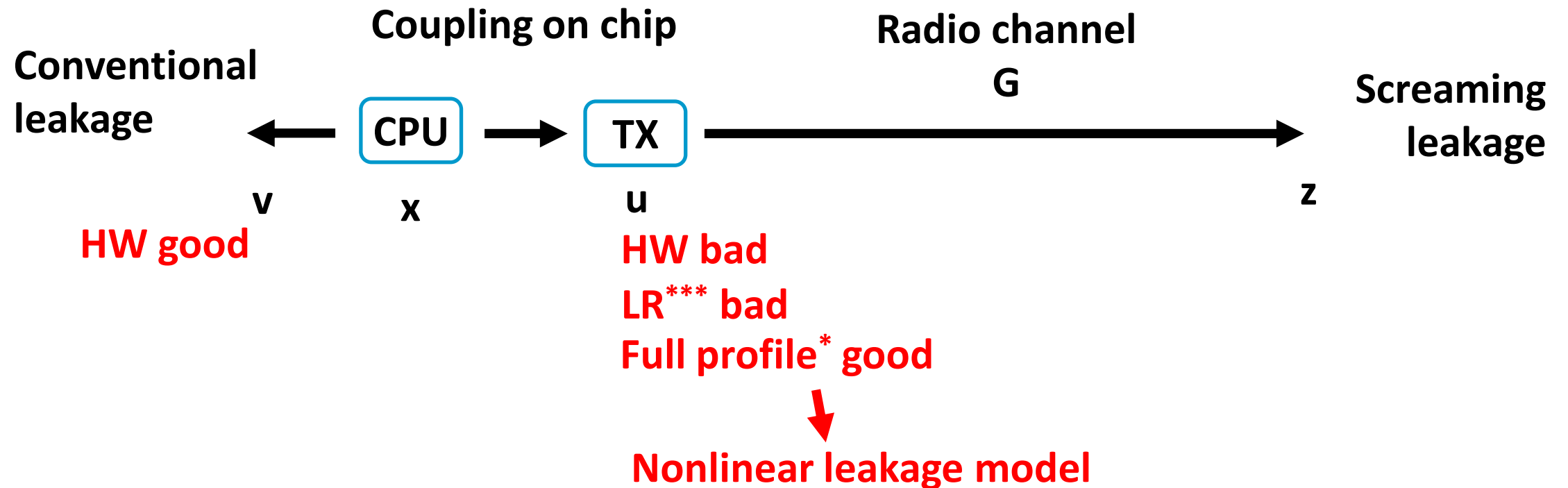


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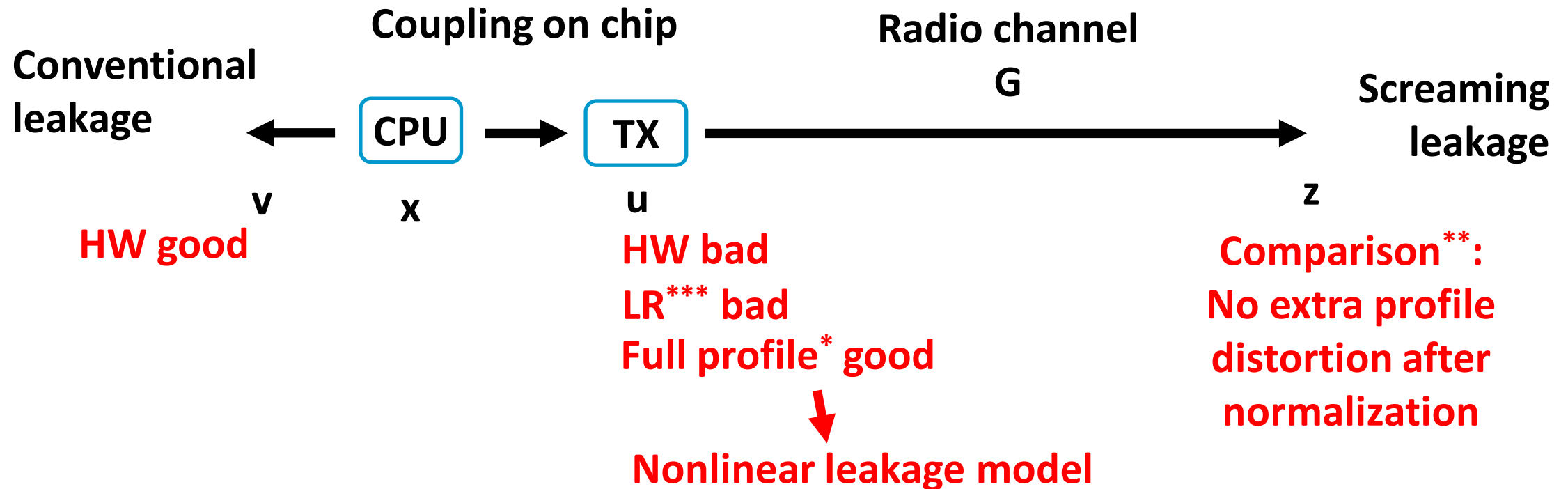


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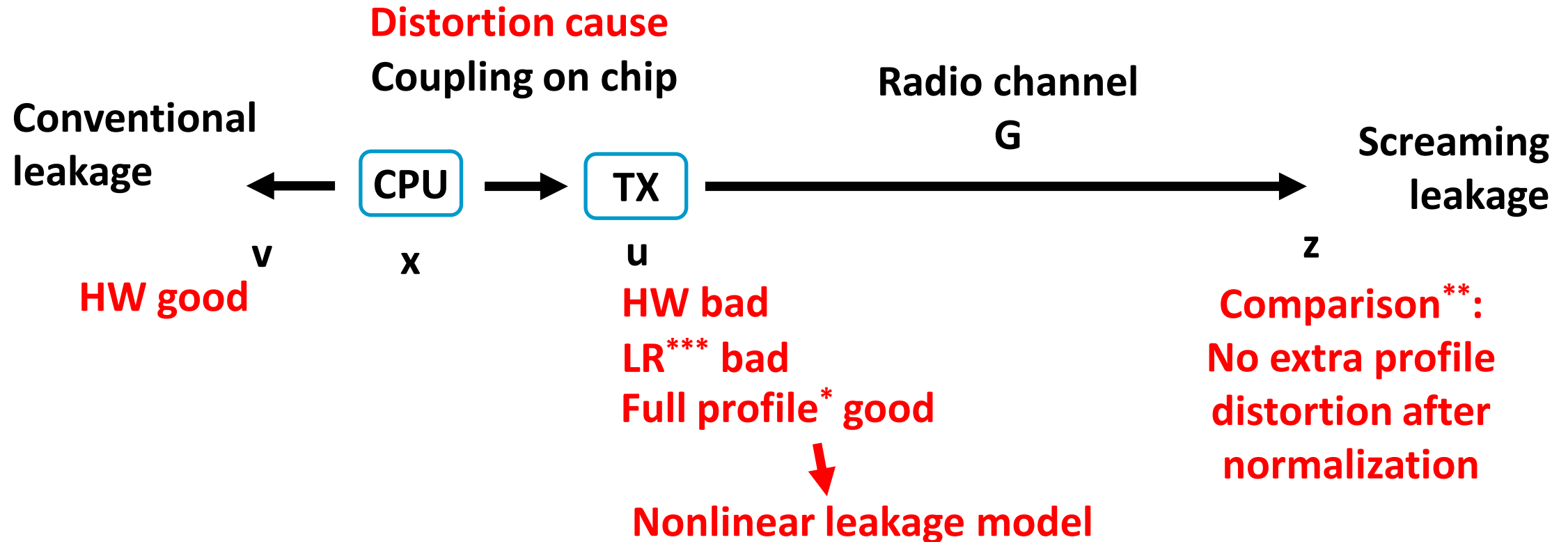


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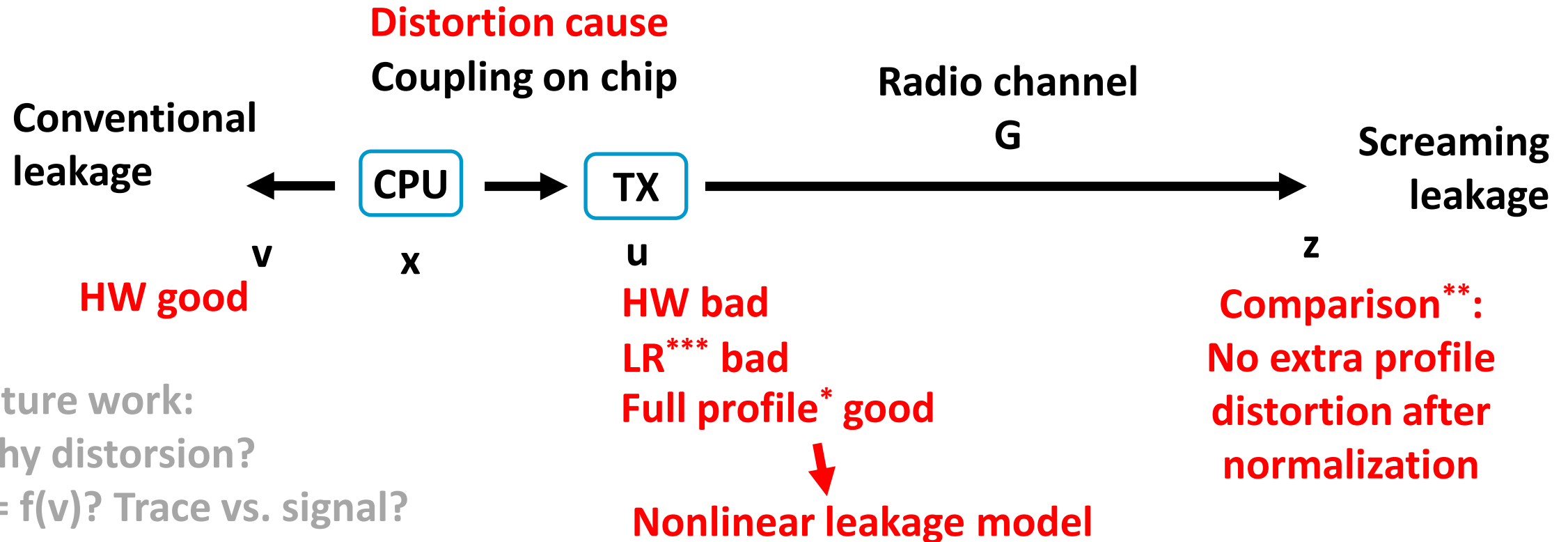
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\*\*\*W. Schindler, K. Lemke, and C. Paar, "A Stochastic Model for Differential Side Channel Cryptanalysis," in CHES 2005.



# Example: distorted leakage model



Future work:  
Why distortion?  
 $y = f(v)$ ? Trace vs. signal?  
Channel state? Memory effect?

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\*\*F.-X. Standaert et al., "An Overview of Power Analysis Attacks Against Field Programmable Gate Arrays," Proceedings of the IEEE 94, no. 2 (2006).

\*\*\*W. Schindler, K. Lemke, and C. Paar, "A Stochastic Model for Differential Side Channel Cryptanalysis," in CHES 2005.

# Example: profile comparison with distance

	d (m)	environment	antenna	$\hat{r}(P_i, P_2), -\log_{10}(p)$	$max \rho, r_z$
$P_2$	0.10	home	standard	1.00, inf	0.79, 75.72
$P_3$	0.20	home	standard	0.96, 142.77	0.77, 72.30
$P_4$	1.00	office	directional	0.40, 10.32	0.41, 30.66
$P_5$	5.00	anechoic	directional	0.96, 139.51	0.85, 89.84
$P_6$	10.00	anechoic	directional	0.92, 107.80	0.77, 71.71

**High correlation  
between profiles**

**High correlation  
at each distance**

**What really matters are setup quality and environment noise**

# Example: Profile reuse

**Challenging distance**  
**No control**  
**Profiling is hard**



**Target**



D. P. Montminy et al., "Improving Cross-Device Attacks Using Zero-Mean Unit-Variance Normalization," J. Cryptographic Engineering 3, no. 2 (2013).

N. Hanley et al., "Empirical Evaluation of Multi-Device Profiling Side-Channel Attacks," in IEEE SIPS 2014.

O. Choudary and M. G. Kuhn, "Template Attacks on Different Devices," in COSADE 2014.

M. Abdelaziz Elaabid and S. Guilley, "Portability of Templates," J. Cryptographic Engineering 2, no. 1 (2012).

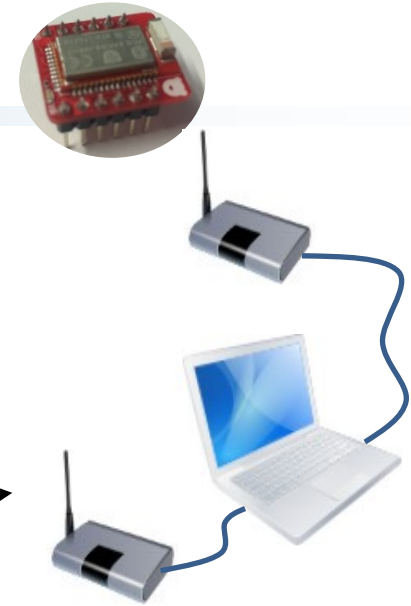
# Example: Profile reuse

Another similar device

**Challenging distance**  
**No control**  
**Profiling is hard**



**Target**



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# Example: Profile reuse

Another similar device

Challenging distance  
No control  
~~Profiling is hard~~

Profile in favorable  
controlled conditions



Target



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# Example: Profile reuse

Another similar device

Challenging distance  
No control  
~~Profiling is hard~~

Profile in favorable  
controlled conditions

The profile can be reused here



Target



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# Example: Profile reuse

Another similar device

Challenging distance  
No control  
~~Profiling is hard~~

Profile in favorable  
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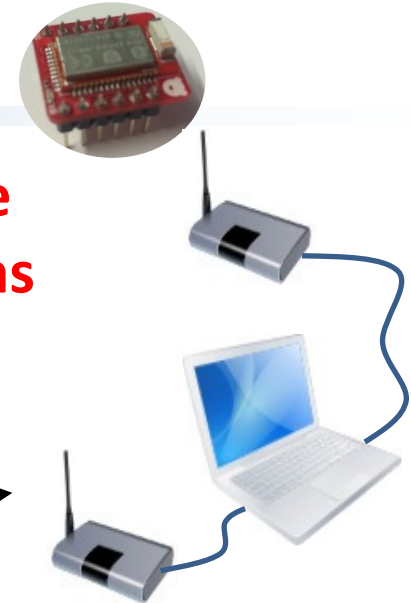
The profile can be reused here



Target



Per-trace z-score normalization  
as channel estimation



D. P. Montminy et al., "Improving Cross-Device Attacks Using Zero-Mean Unit-Variance Normalization," J. Cryptographic Engineering 3, no. 2 (2013).

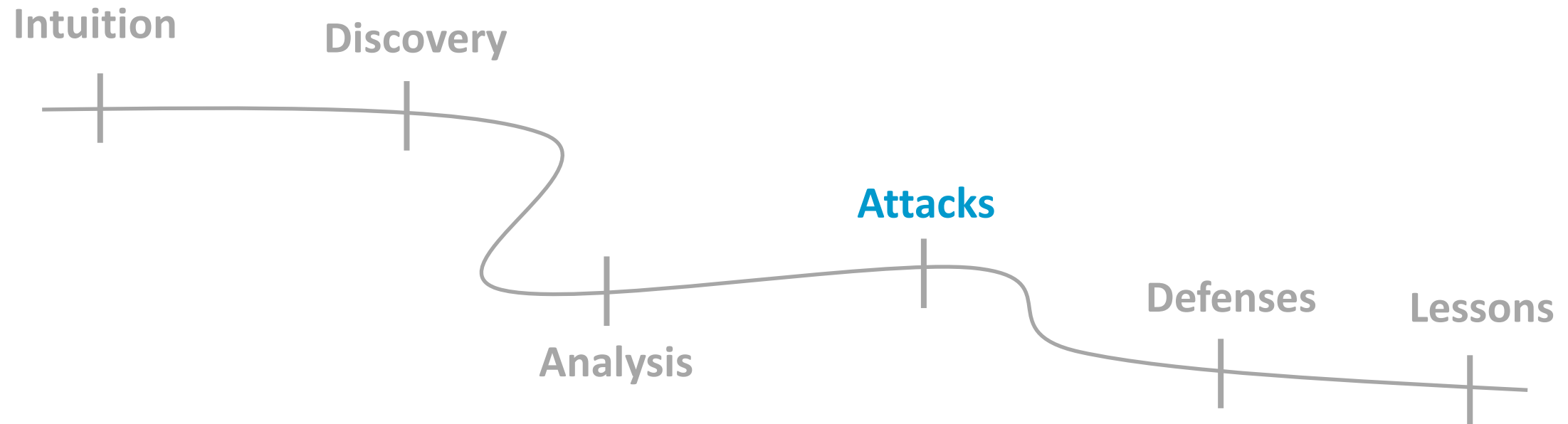
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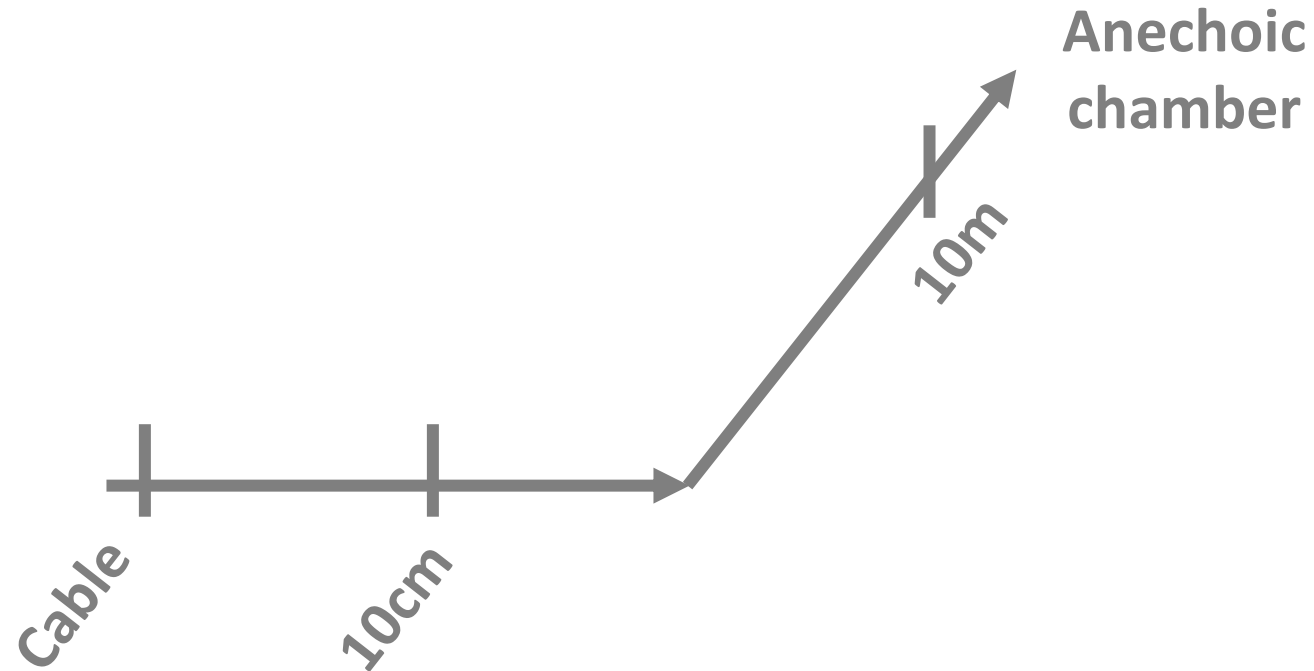
# Studying a novel side channel

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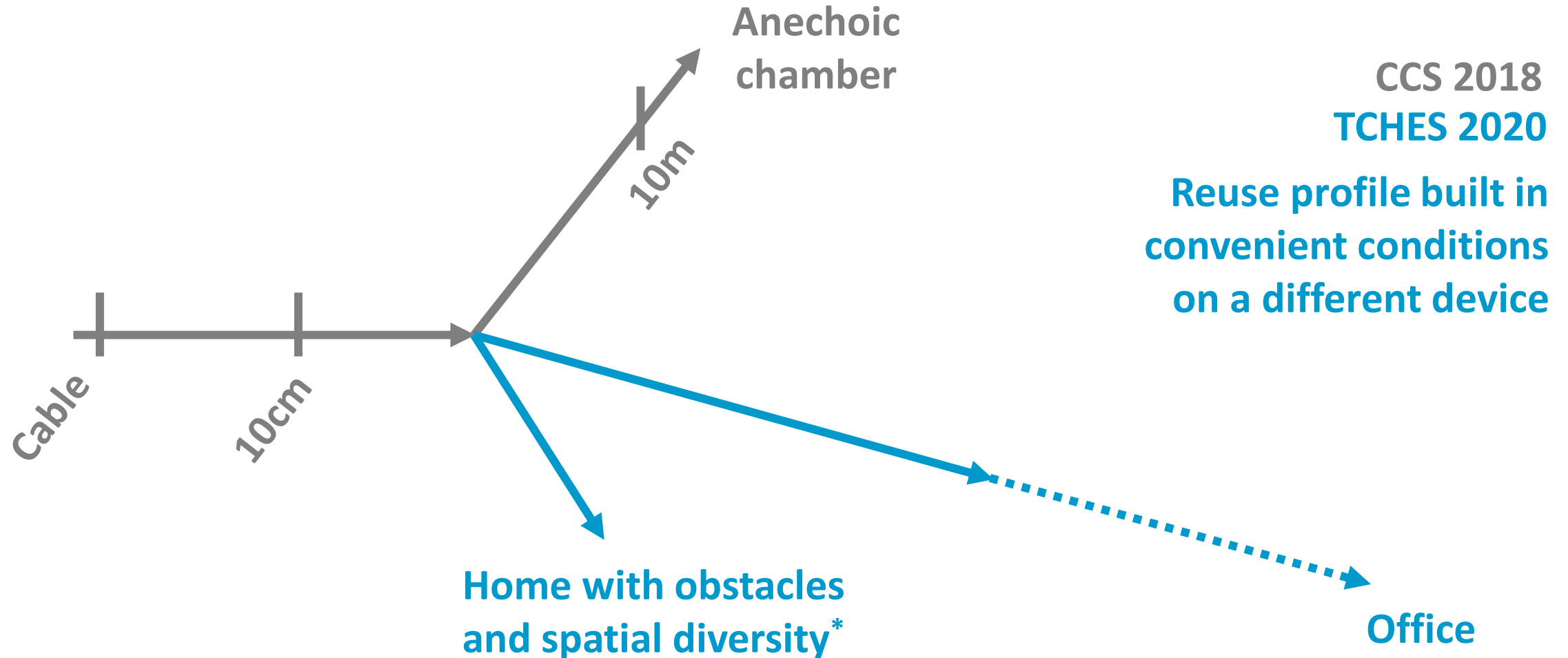


# Attacks at large distance in realistic environments



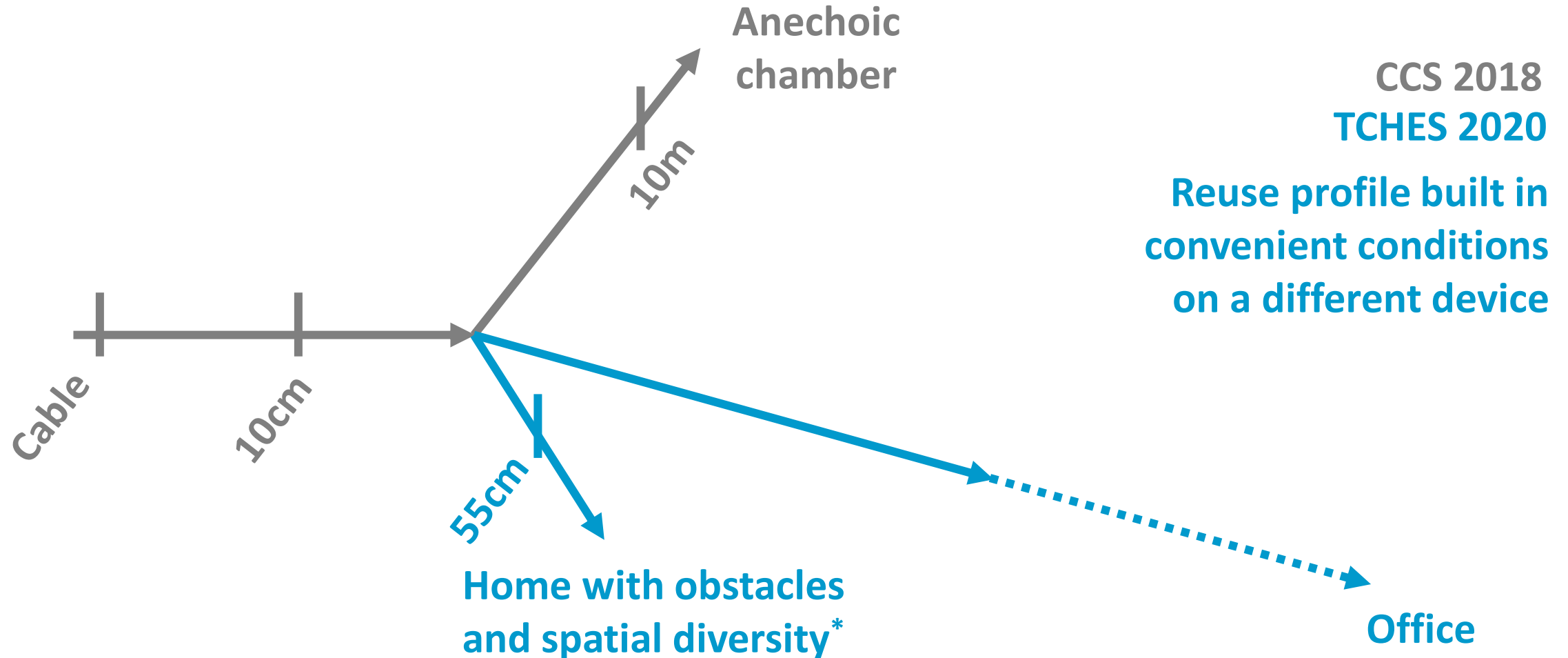
CCS 2018

# Attacks at large distance in realistic environments



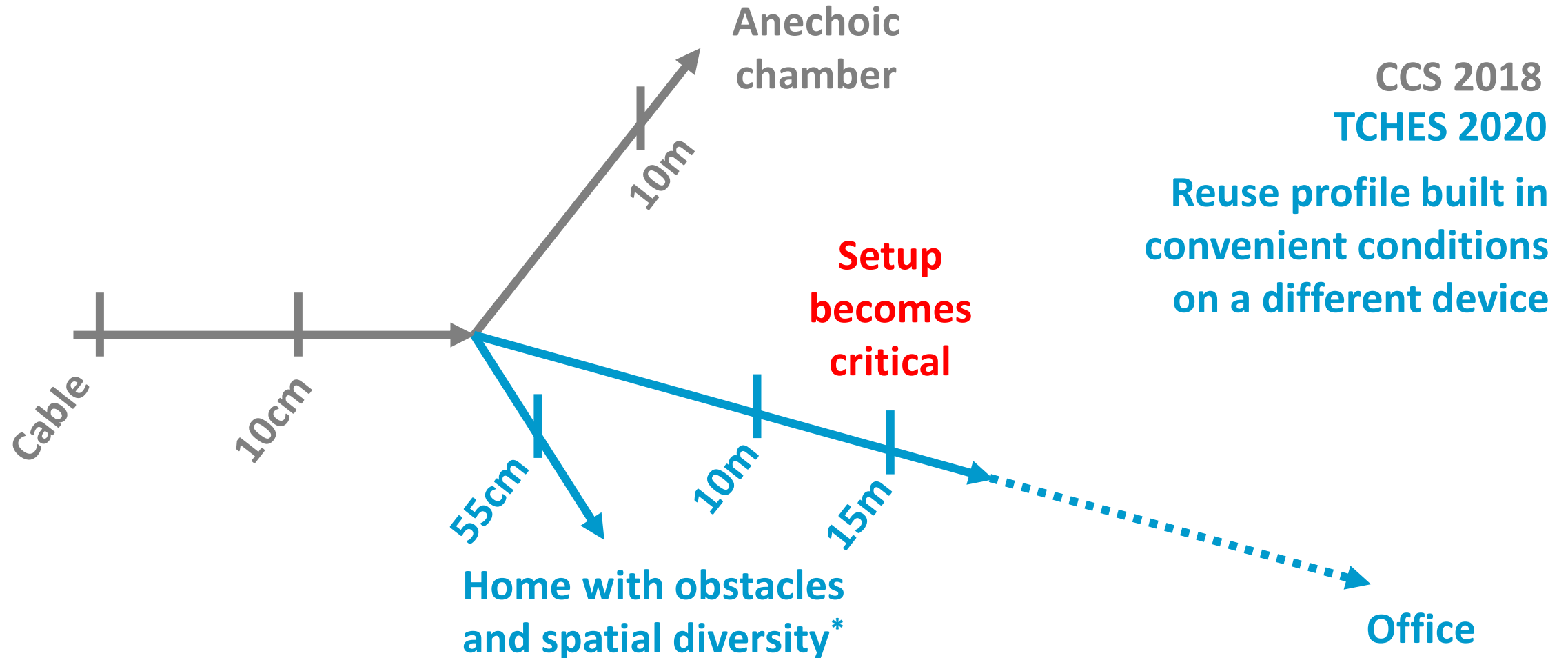
\*D. G. Brennan, "Linear Diversity Combining Techniques," Proceedings of the IRE 47, no. 6 (1959).

# Attacks at large distance in realistic environments



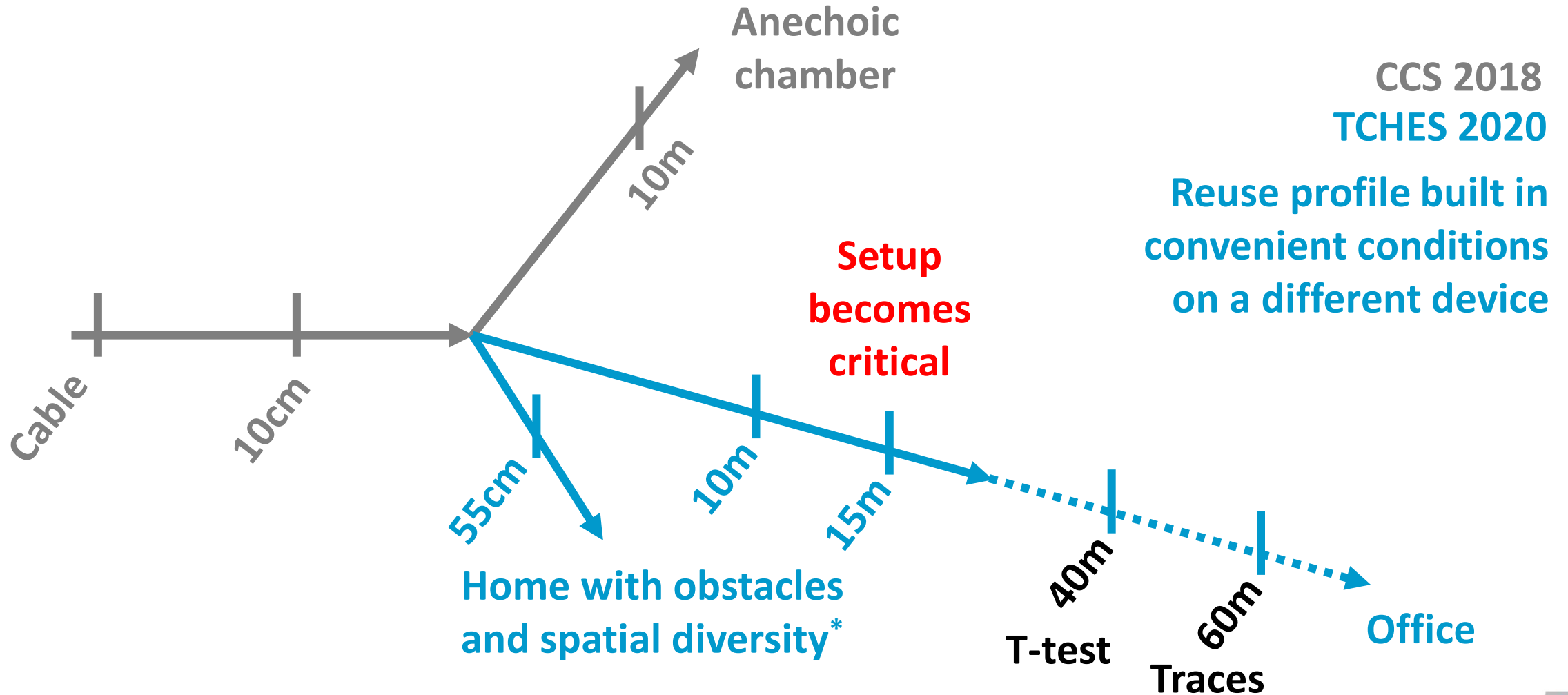
\*D. G. Brennan, "Linear Diversity Combining Techniques," Proceedings of the IRE 47, no. 6 (1959).

# Attacks at large distance in realistic environments

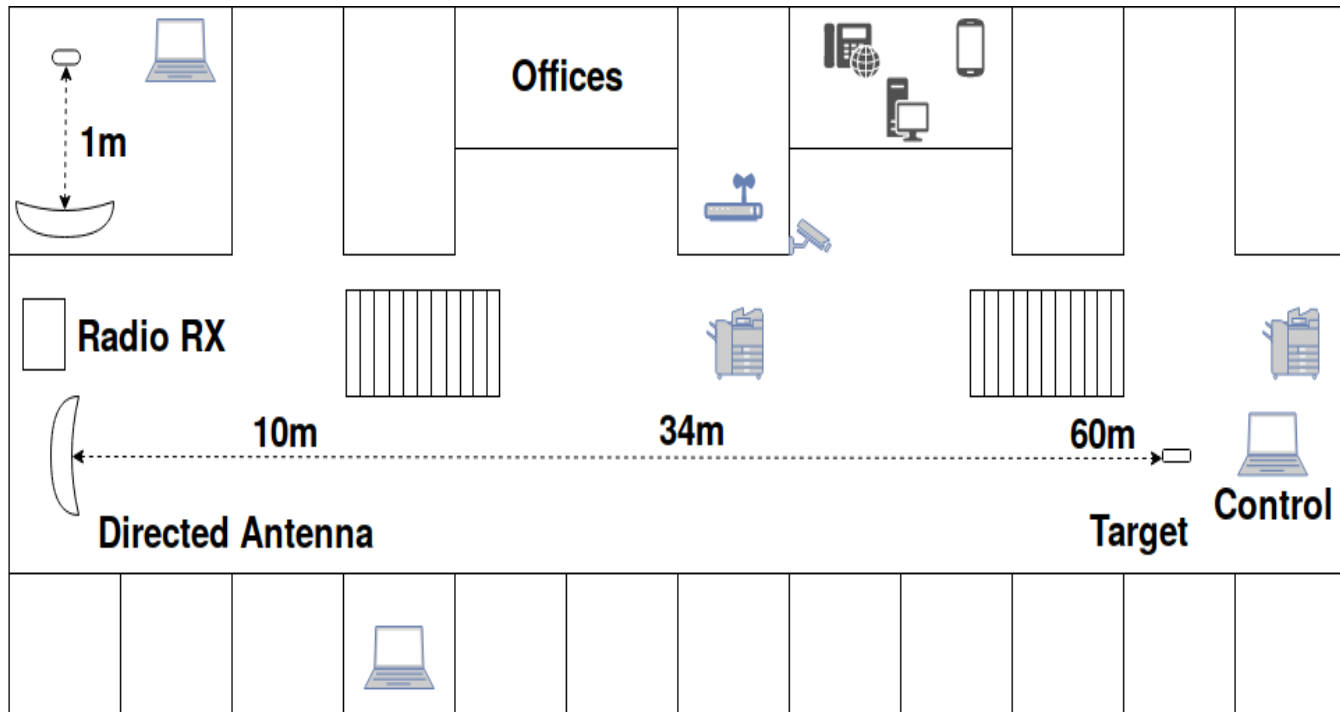


\*D. G. Brennan, "Linear Diversity Combining Techniques," Proceedings of the IRE 47, no. 6 (1959).

# Attacks at large distance in realistic environments



\*D. G. Brennan, "Linear Diversity Combining Techniques," Proceedings of the IRE 47, no. 6 (1959).



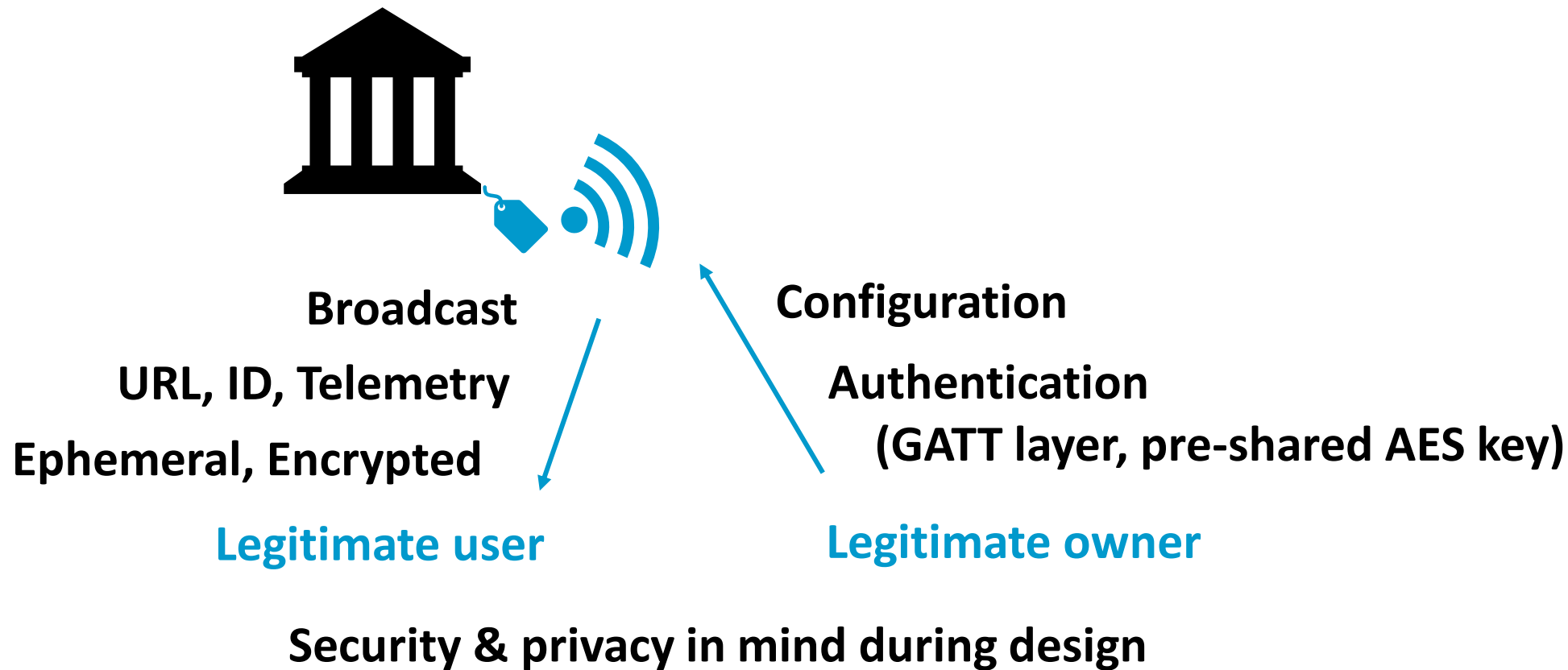
## Simple Profiling

Connection via cable  
(10k x 500 traces)

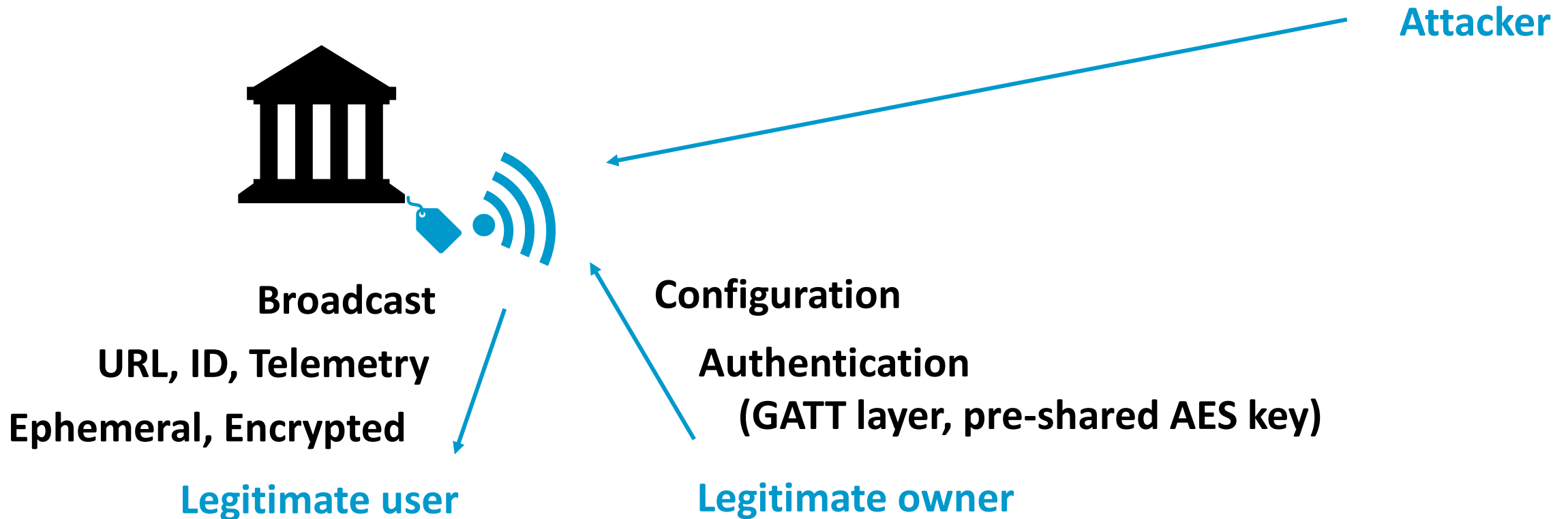
## Complex Attack

Different instance and time  
15m (5k x 1000 traces,  $2^{23}$ , hard)

# Attacking Google Eddystone Beacons authentication



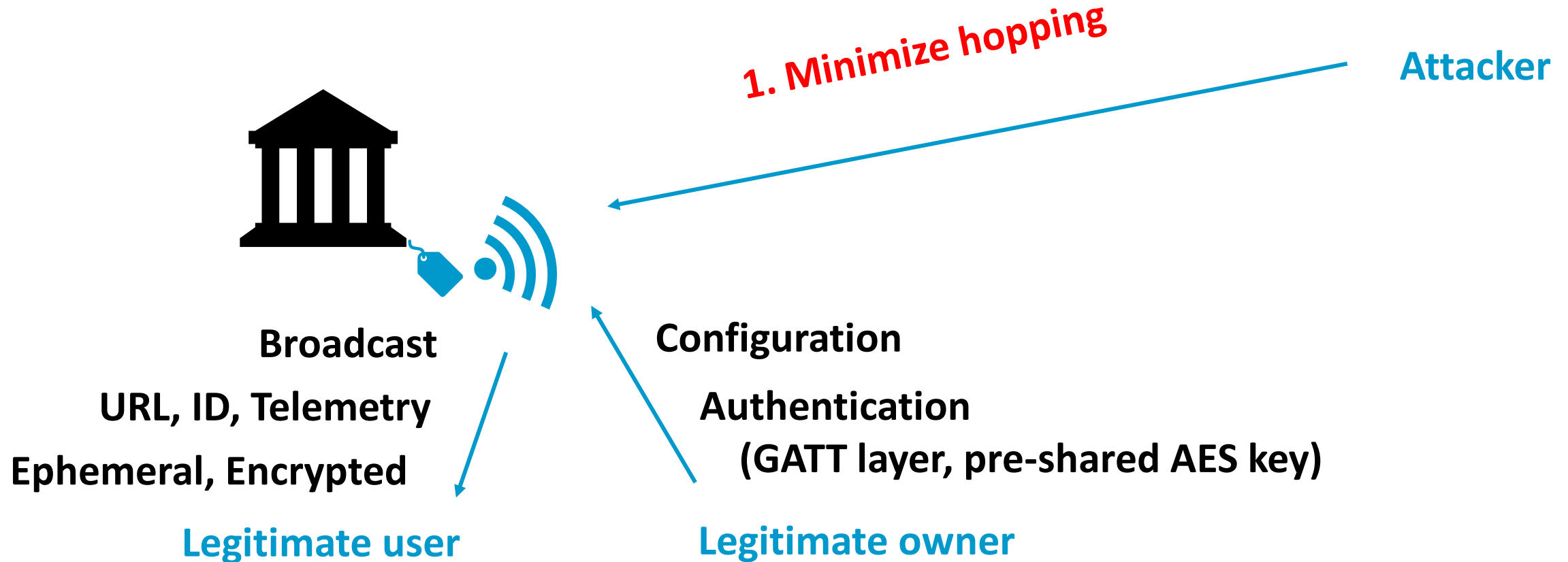
# Attacking Google Eddystone Beacons authentication



**Security & privacy in mind during design**

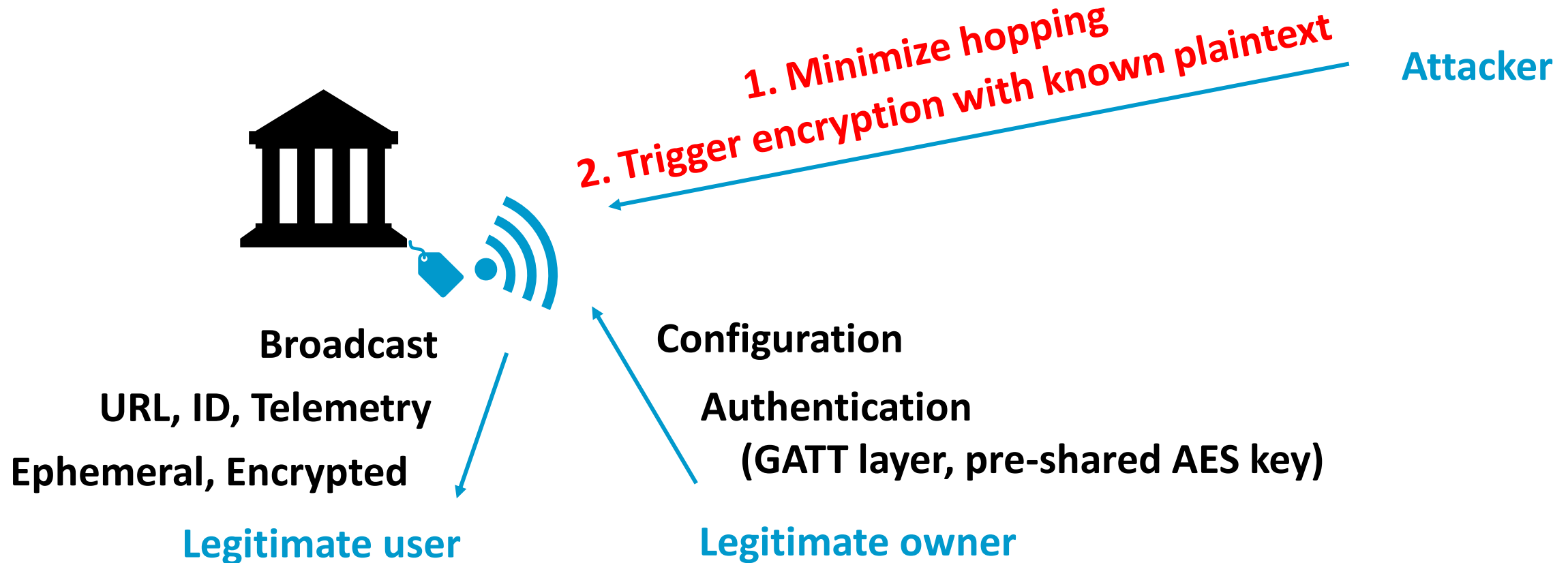


# Attacking Google Eddystone Beacons authentication



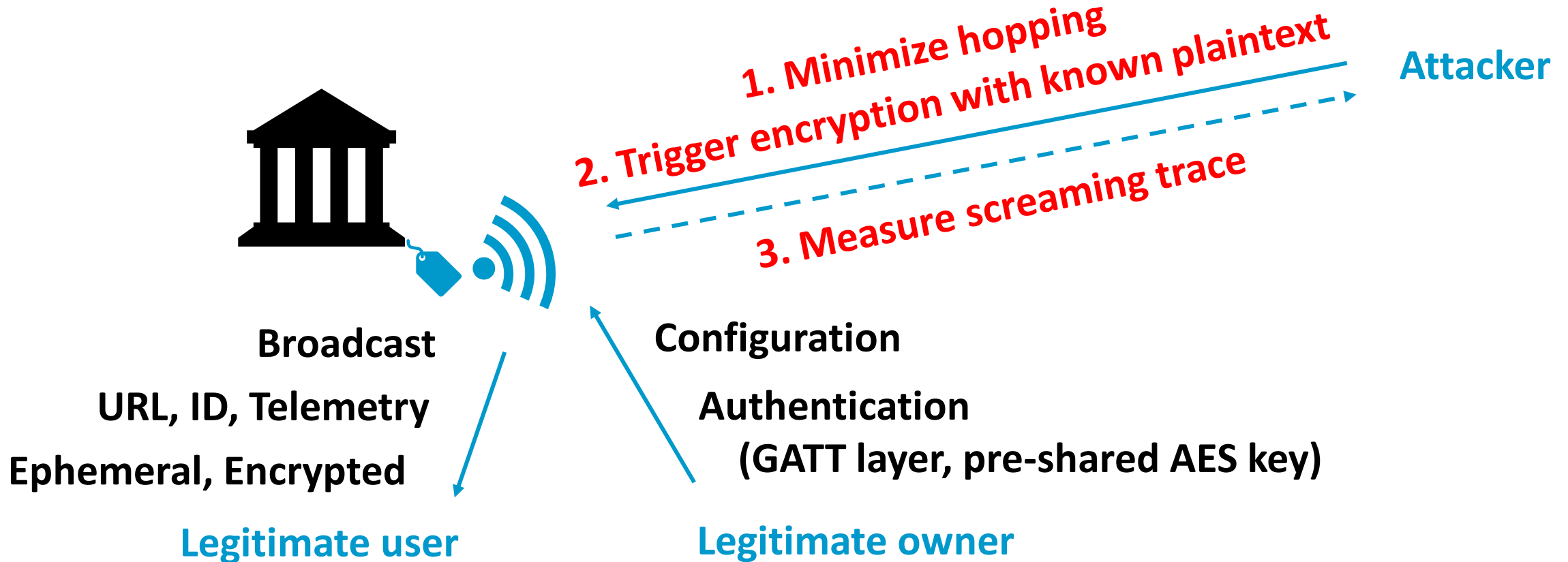
**Security & privacy in mind during design**

# Attacking Google Eddystone Beacons authentication



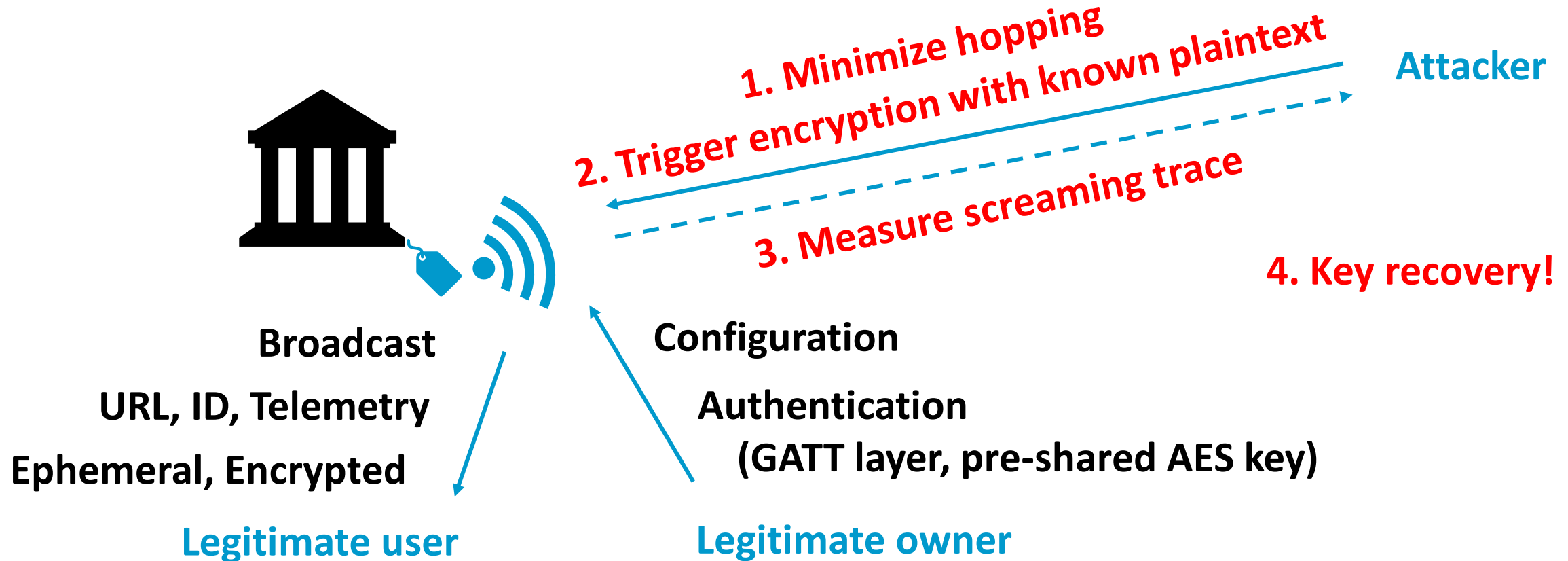
**Security & privacy in mind during design**

# Attacking Google Eddystone Beacons authentication



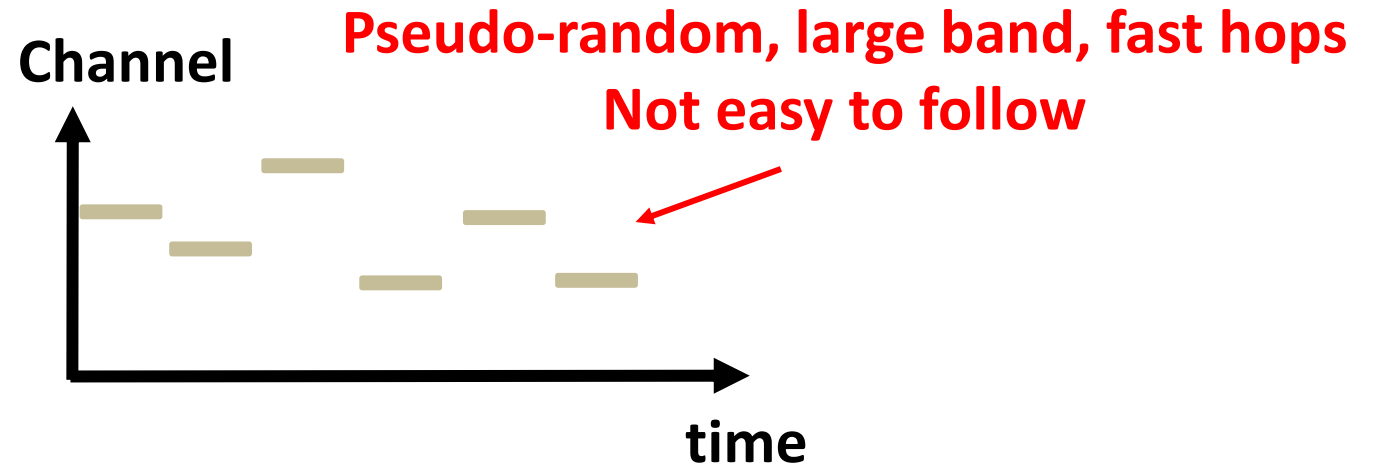
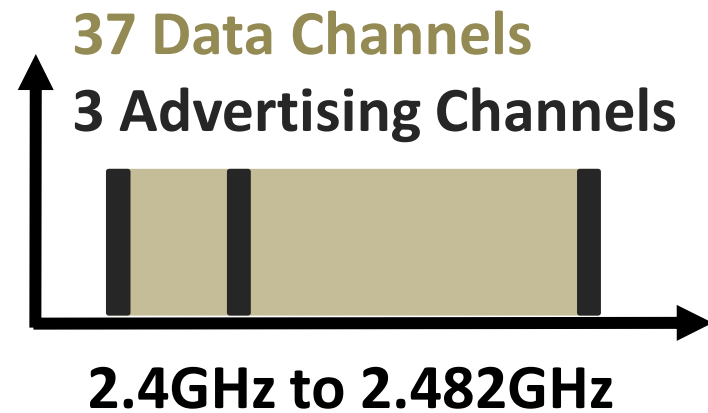
**Security & privacy in mind during design**

# Attacking Google Eddystone Beacons authentication

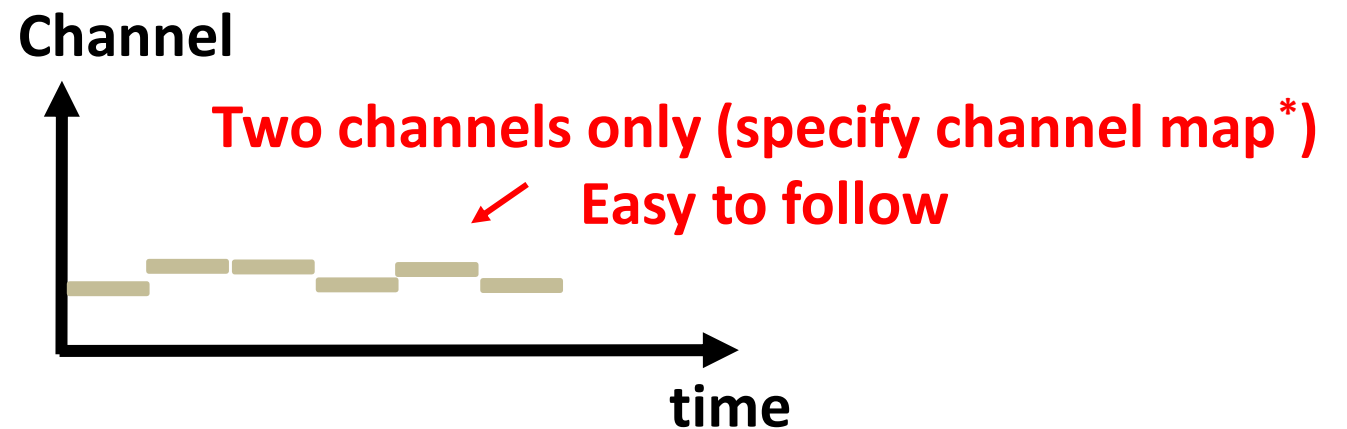
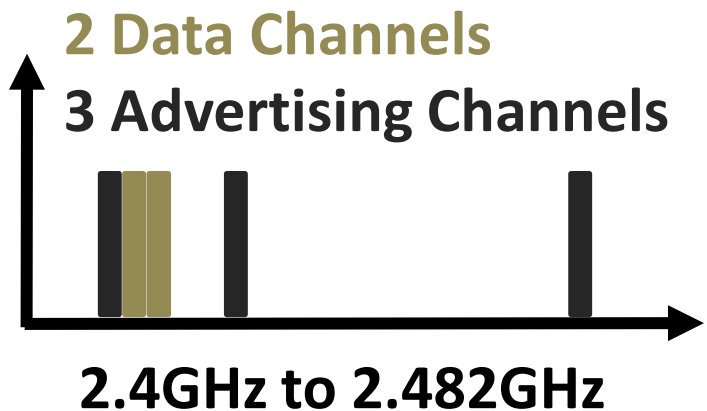
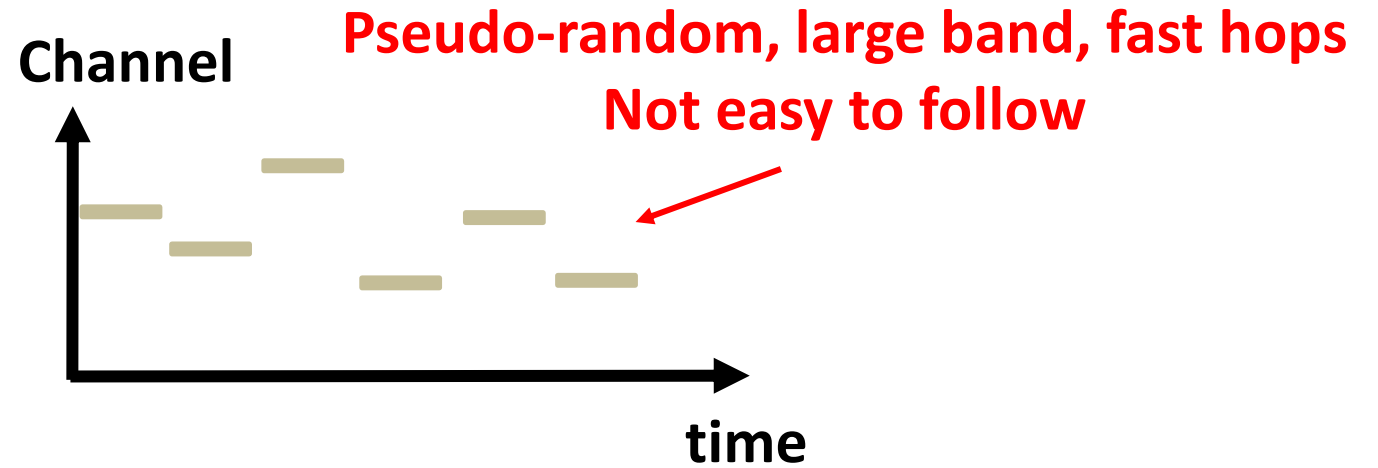
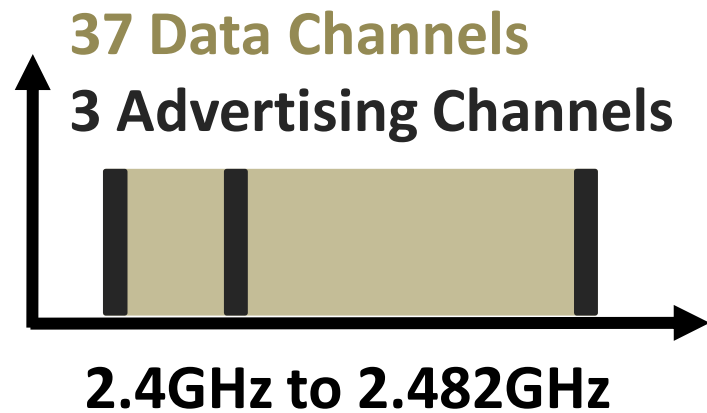


**Security & privacy in mind during design**

# Minimizing the problem of frequency hopping

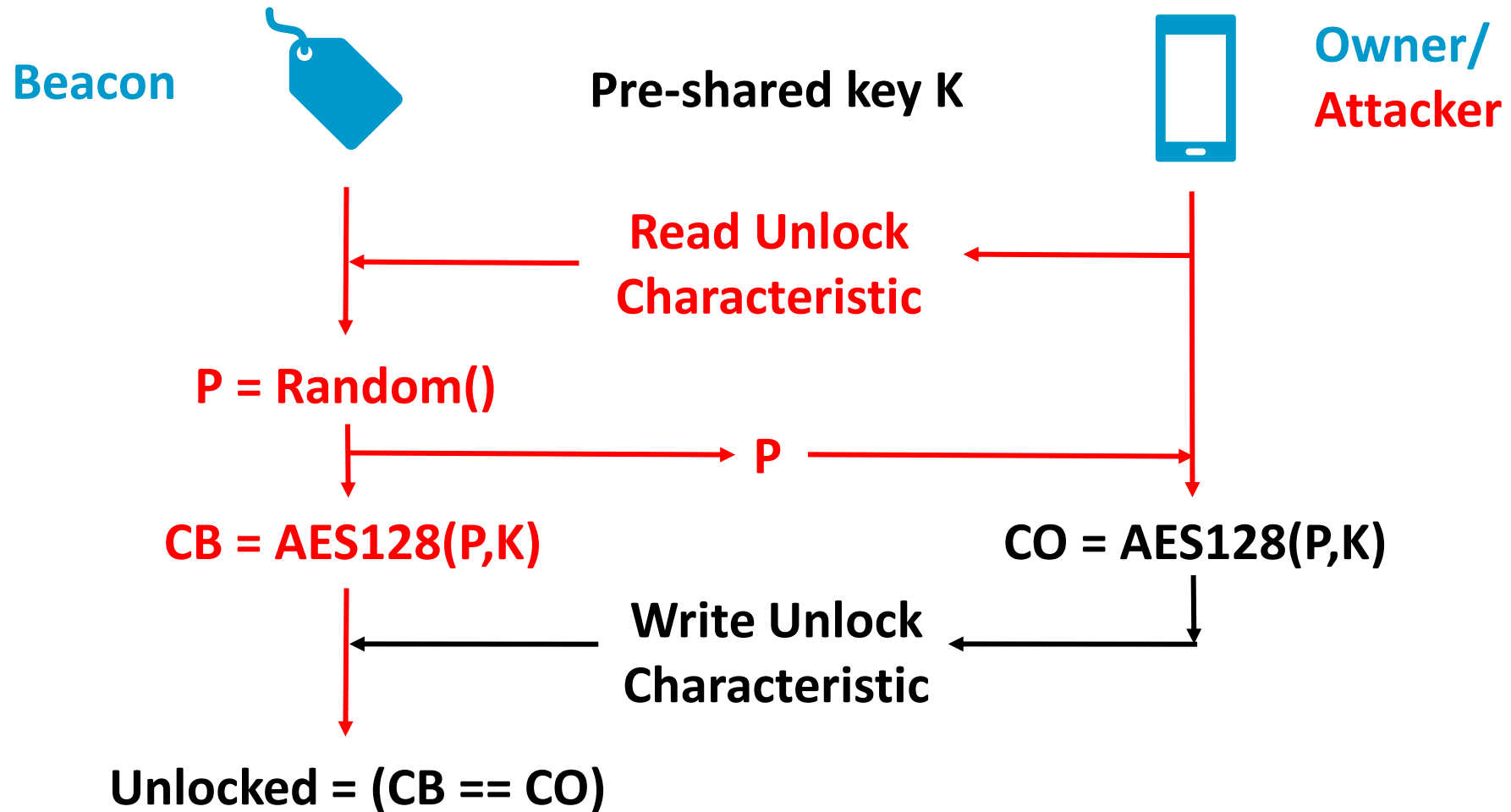


# Minimizing the problem of frequency hopping



\*Bluetooth SIG, Bluetooth 5.0 Core Specification, 2016.

# Triggering AES encryptions with known plaintext





# Proof-of-concept attack

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## Realistic Demo

### Unmodified Nordic SDK demo\*

- Optimized code (O3)
- Hopping Enabled (reduced with channel map)
- TinyAES software (hardware in later versions)

## Proof-of-Concept Attack (connection via cable on PCA10040)

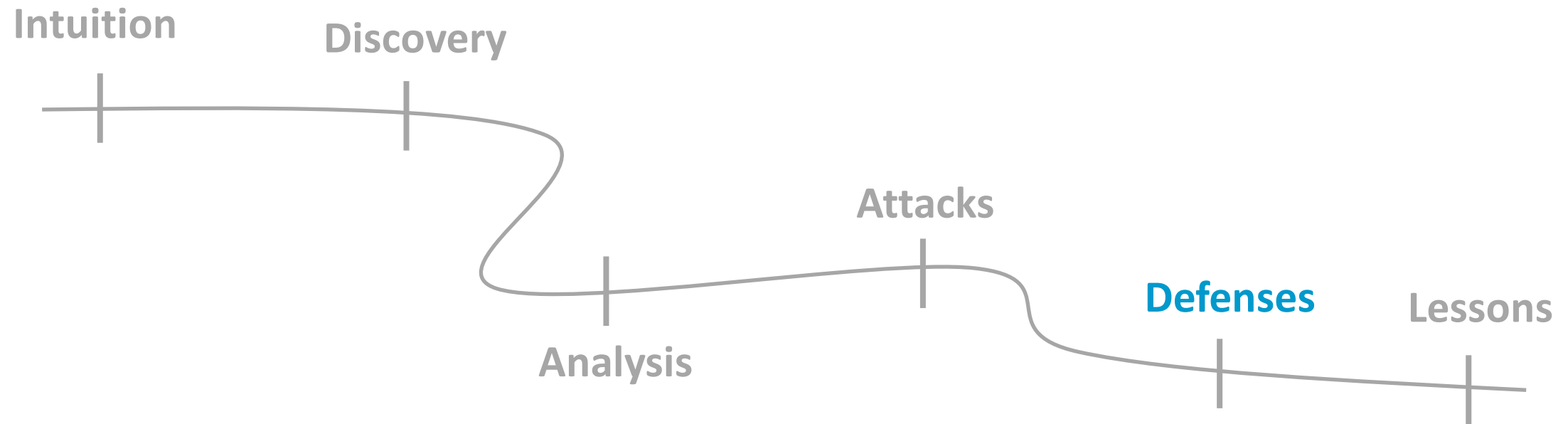
70k x 1 profiling traces, 33k x 1 attack traces, rank  $2^{30}$

\*[https://developer.nordicsemi.com/nRF5\\_SDK/nRF5\\_SDK\\_v14.x.x/nRF5\\_SDK\\_14.2.0\\_17b948a.zip](https://developer.nordicsemi.com/nRF5_SDK/nRF5_SDK_v14.x.x/nRF5_SDK_14.2.0_17b948a.zip)



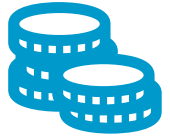
# Studying a novel side channel

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# Countermeasures

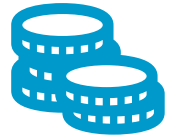
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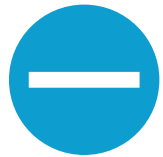
**Resource constraint devices:  
Cost, power, time to market, etc.**

# Countermeasures

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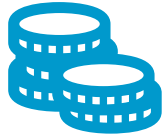
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**Classic HW/SW:  
Masking, noise, key refresh, limit attempts, ...**

# Countermeasures

---



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**Cost, power, time to market, etc.**



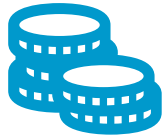
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**Specific (SW):**  
**Radio off during sensitive computations**  
**Force use of HW encryption (for now)**

# Countermeasures

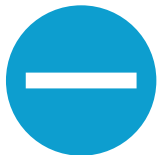
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**Resource constraint devices:**  
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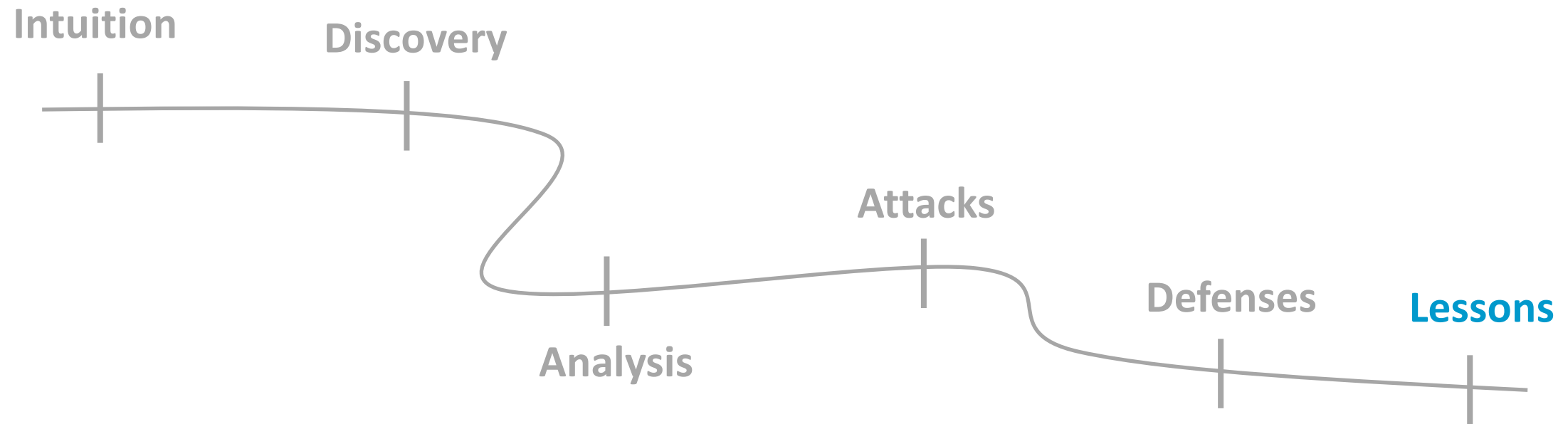
**Specific (SW):**  
**Radio off during sensitive computations**  
**Force use of HW encryption (for now)**



**Specific (HW):**  
**Consider impact of coupling on**  
**security during design and test**

# Studying a novel side channel

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# Lessons learned

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**General Problem: Radios and Side Channels**

**New threat point: Digital activity visible from a large distance**

# Lessons learned

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**General Problem:** Radios and Side Channels

**New threat point:** Digital activity visible from a large distance



**Distinctive:** Not a conventional side channel vector

**Easier:** Amplified leak, large distance, simple and cheap setup

**Harder:** Distortion, channel noise, data/leak coexistence



# Lessons learned

---



**General Problem:** Radios and Side Channels

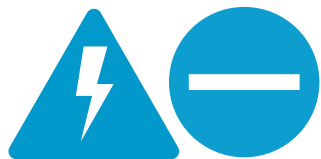
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**Threat:** More and more realistic attacks

**Potential threat:** More devices or new devices are vulnerable

**Countermeasures:** Clever, specific countermeasures

# Lessons learned

---



**General Problem:** Radios and Side Channels

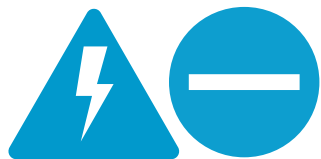
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**Countermeasures:** Clever, specific countermeasures



**WiFi?** Preliminary results

**Hardware AES?** Preliminary results

# Side note: modulation of an intended signal

1-5. (C) **Propagation of TEMPEST Signals (U).** - There are four basic means by which compromising emanations may be propagated. They are: electromagnetic radiation; conduction; **modulation of an intended signal**; and acoustics. A brief explanation of each follows.

a. (C) **Electromagnetic Radiation (U).** - Whenever a RED signal is generated or processed in an equipment, an electric, magnetic or electromagnetic field is generated. If this electromagnetic field is permitted to exist outside of an equipment, a twofold problem is created; first the electromagnetic field may be detected outside the Controlled Space (CS); second the electromagnetic field may couple onto BLACK lines connected to or located near the equipments, which exit the CS of the installation.

b. (C) **Line Conduction.** - Line Conduction is defined as the emanations produced on any external or interface line of an equipment, which, in any way, alters the signal on the external or interface lines. The external lines include signal lines, control and indicator lines, and a.c. and d.c. powerlines.

c. (C) **Fortuitous Conduction.** - Emanations in the form of signals propagated along any unintended conductor such as pipes, beams, wires, cables, conduits, ducts, etc.

d. (C) [Six lines redacted.]

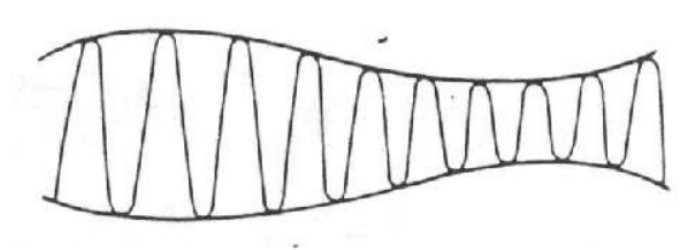


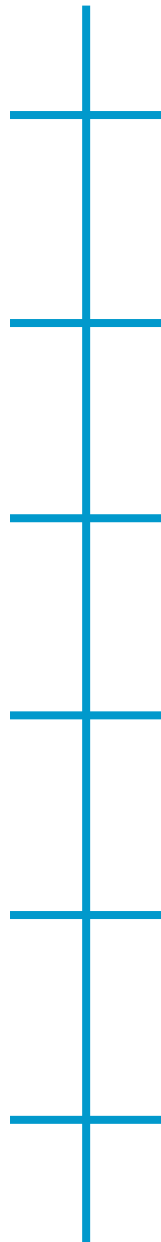
Figure 1-5. - **Amplitude-Modulated Carrier (U) (U)**

e. (C) **Acoustics (U)** - Characteristically plaintext processing systems are primarily electrical in function. However, other sources of CE exist where mechanical operations occur and sound is produced. Keyboards, printers, relays -- these produce sound. and consequently can be sources of compromise.

## Propagation of leaks:

1. Radiation
2. Conduction
3. **Modulation of an intended signal (redacted)**
4. Acoustic

**NSA, "NACSIM 5000, Tempest Fundamentals," 1982.  
Declassified in 2000**



+	Context
+	Challenges & Contributions
+	Screaming Channels
+	<b>Noise-SDR</b>
+	Future Work
+	Conclusion

# Achieving arbitrary noise modulation

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Background and  
related work

Intuition

Evaluation/Attacks

Implementation

Defenses

Lessons

# Background and related work



## The idea

1998, Kuhn et. al  
Soft-TEMPEST

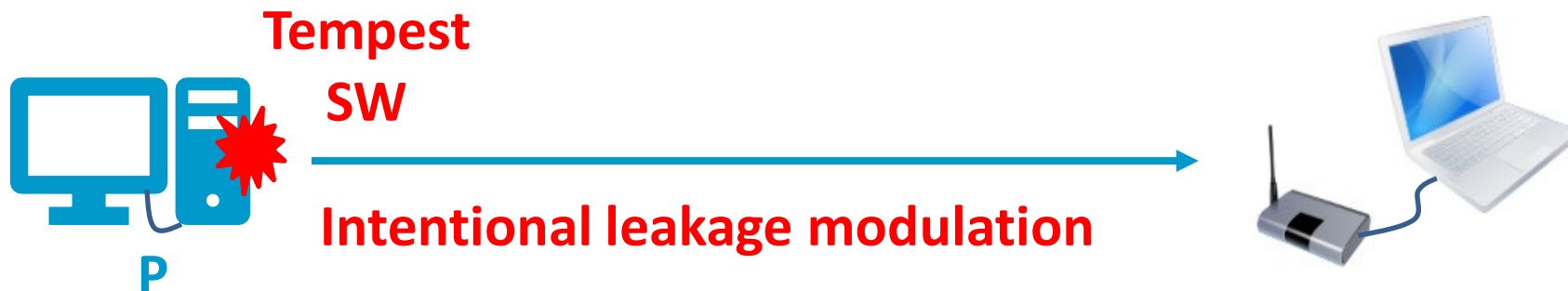


## Vast literature on air-gap exfiltration

Many physical methods

Generally simple modulation

Generally for air-gap exfiltration



M. G. Kuhn and R. J. Anderson, "Soft Tempest: Hidden Data Transmission Using Electromagnetic Emanations," in Information Hiding (1998).

B. Carrara and C. Adams, "Out-of-Band Covert Channels—A Survey," ACM Comput. Surv. 49, no. 2 (2016).

# The primitive (generalized, simplified)

---

```
start = now()  
while( now() – start < T/2 )  
    doSomething()  
while( now() – start < T )  
    doNothing()
```

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Trigger leakage @ $F_{leakage}$  from SW  
E.g., with memory accesses\*

\*M. Guri et al., “GSMem: Data Exfiltration from Air-Gapped Computers over GSM Frequencies,” in USENIX Security 2015.

\*Z. Zhan, Z. Zhang, and X. Koutsoukos, “BitJabber: The World’s Fastest Electromagnetic Covert Channel,” in IEEE ITC 2010



# The primitive (generalized, simplified)

“Square wave” @ $f=1/T$   
E.g., sys-bus-radio\*\*

```
start = now()
while( now() - start < T/2 )
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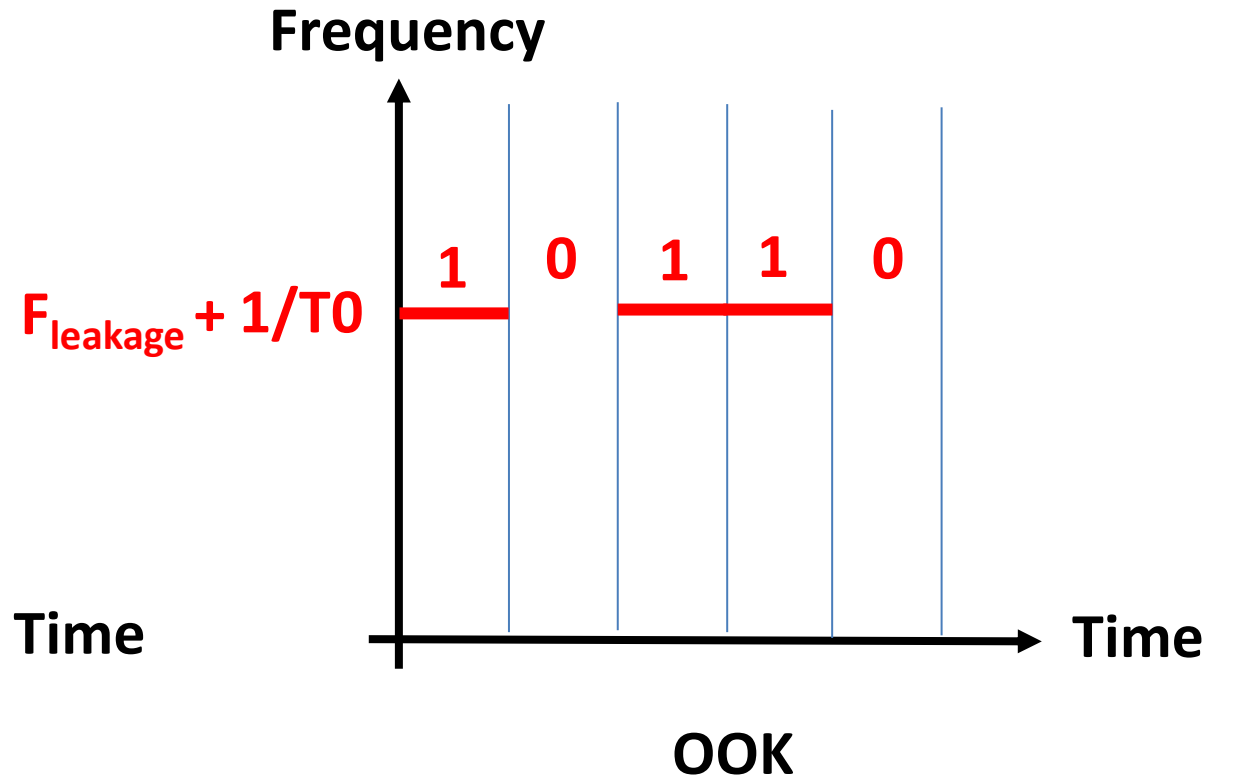
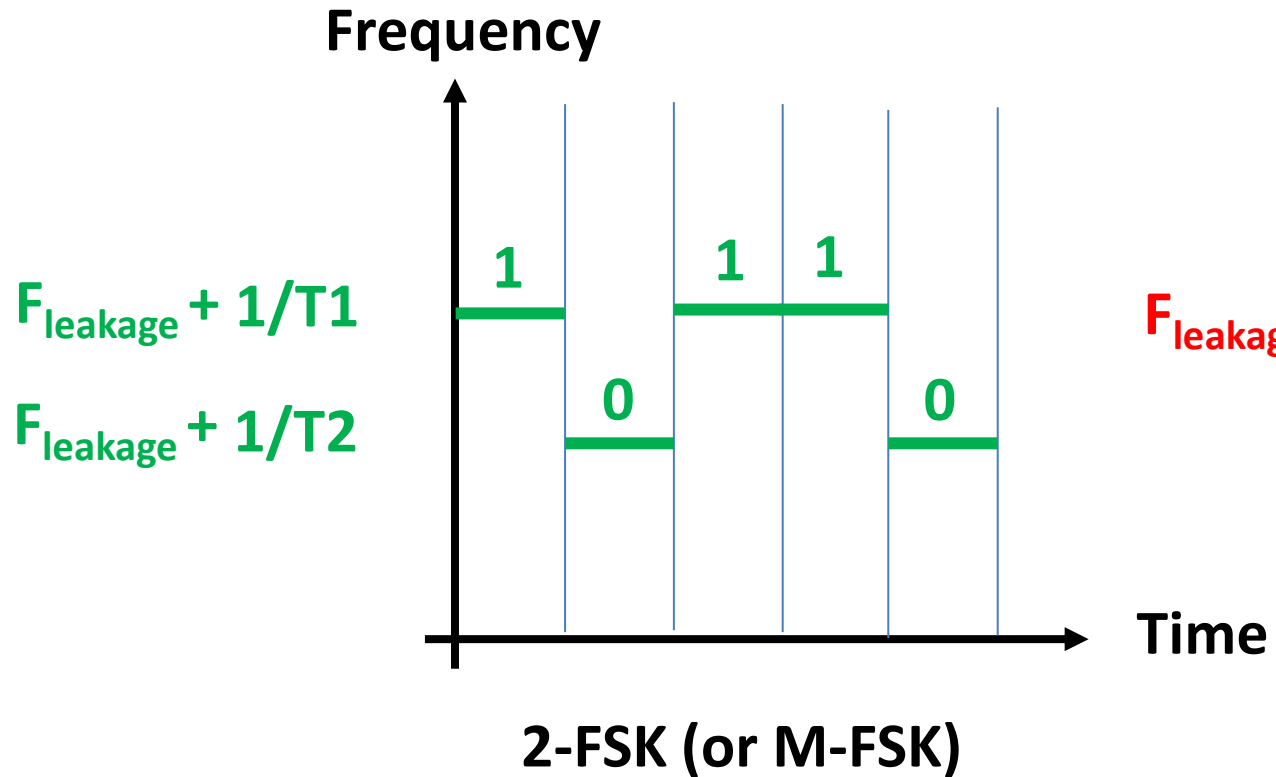
\*M. Guri et al., “GSMem: Data Exfiltration from Air-Gapped Computers over GSM Frequencies,” in USENIX Security 2015.

\*Z. Zhan, Z. Zhang, and X. Koutsoukos, “BitJabber: The World’s Fastest Electromagnetic Covert Channel,” in IEEE ITC 2010

\*\*C. Shen et al., “When LoRa Meets EMR: Electromagnetic Covert Channels Can Be Super Resilient”, IEEE S&P 2021

\*\*W. Entriken, System Bus Radio, 2013, <https://github.com/fulldecent/system-bus-radio>.

# In general, **simple** **custom** modulation and protocol



# Related work (EM)

Simple custom modulation/protocol

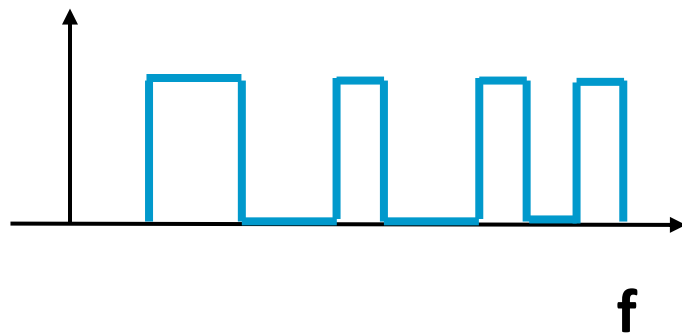
Name	Leakage Type	Modulation Type	Publication Venue
Soft-TEMPEST	Electromagnetic	AM, FSK	Information Hiding 1998
AirHopper	Electromagnetic	FSK	MALWARE 2014
USBee	Electromagnetic	FSK	PST 2016
GSMem	Electromagnetic	OOK	USENIX Security 2015
BitJabber	Electromagnetic	OOK, FSK	IEEE ITC 2020
MAGNETO	Magnetic	OOK, FSK	ArXiv 2018
ODINI	Magnetic	OOK-(many cores), FSK	IEEE Trans. Inf. Forensics Secur. 2020
Matyunin et. al	Magnetic	OOK, FSK	ASP-DAC 2016

# Background: 1-bit coding (e.g., PWM)

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Fundamental frequency  $f_0$   
Generic pulse width and phase

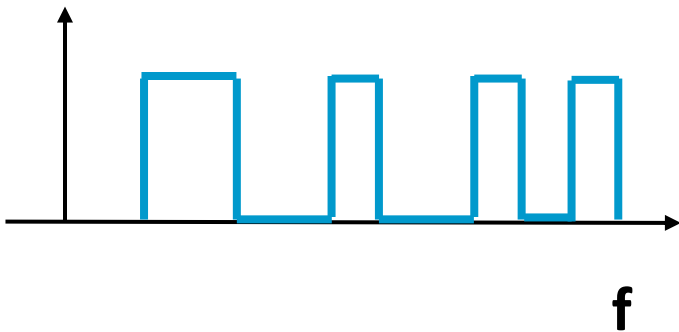
$squarewave(t) =$



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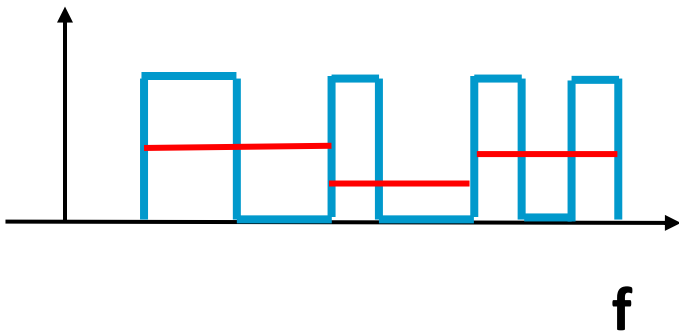
$squarewave(t) =$


$$\delta(t) = \frac{T_{\text{high}}}{T_0}$$
$$\frac{2}{\pi} \sin(\pi\delta(t)) \cos(2\pi f_0 t + \theta(t))$$
$$\sum_{k=1}^{k=+\infty} \frac{2}{k\pi} \sin(k\pi\delta(t)) \cos(2k\pi f_0 t + k\theta(t))$$

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**Baseband  
PWM**

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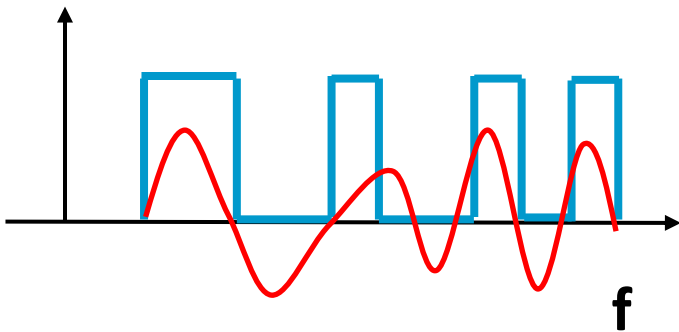
$squarewave(t) =$

$$\frac{2}{\pi} \sin(\pi\delta(t)) \cos(2\pi f_0 t + \theta(t))$$

Passband  
PWM

~~$\delta(t) = \frac{T_{high}}{T_0}$~~

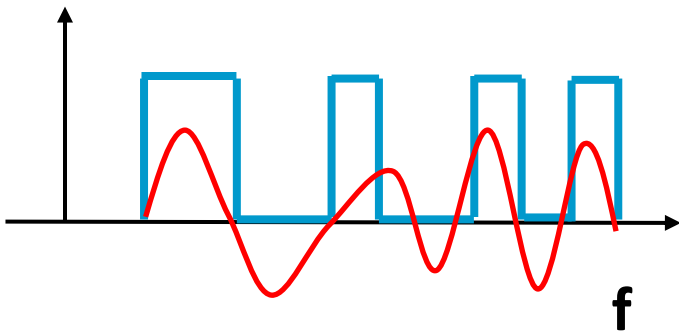
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Passband PWM

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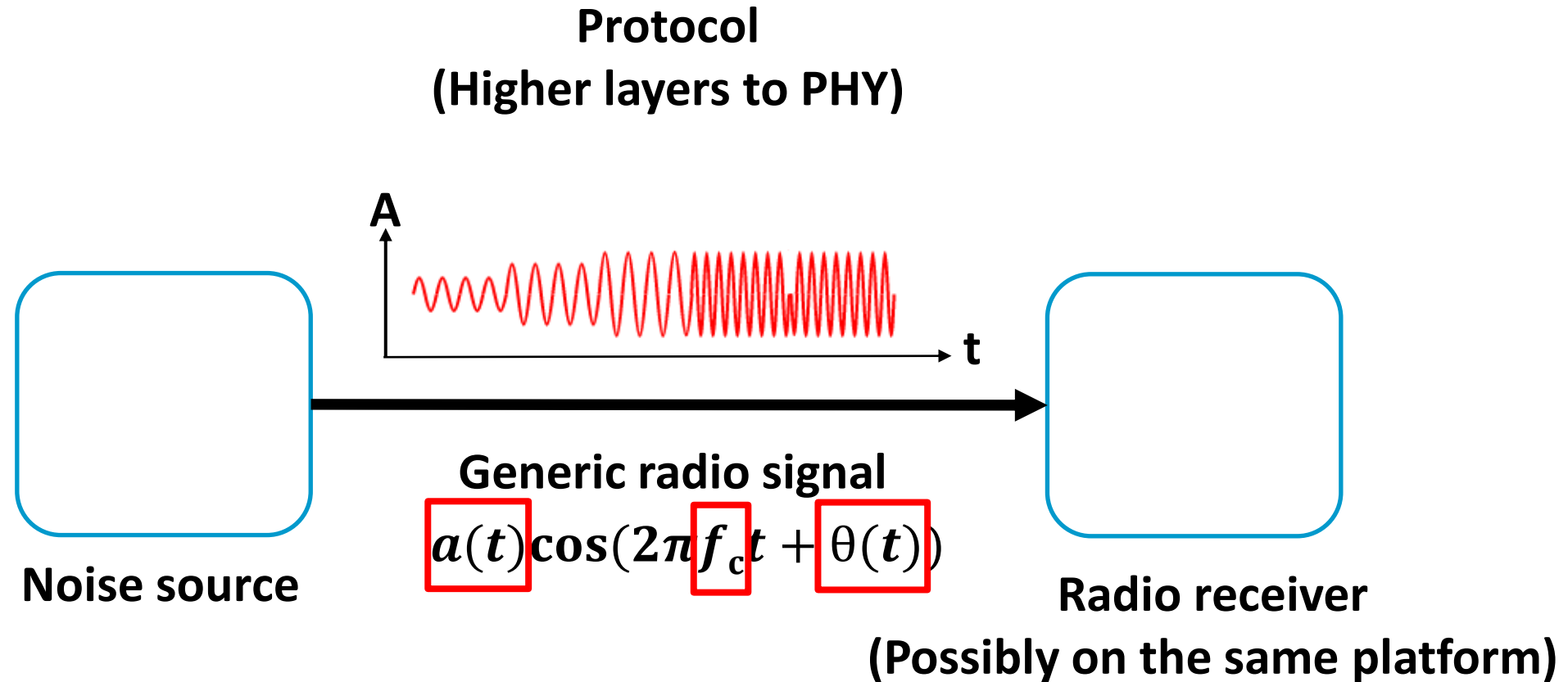
# Achieving arbitrary noise modulation

Background and  
related work

**Intuition**

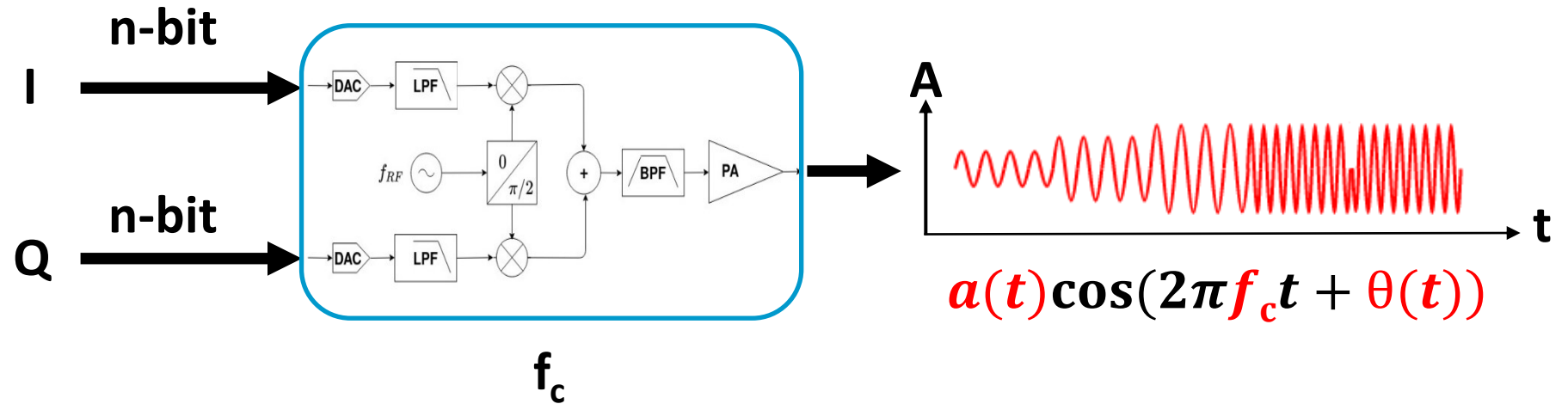


# The goal: injecting arbitrary packets



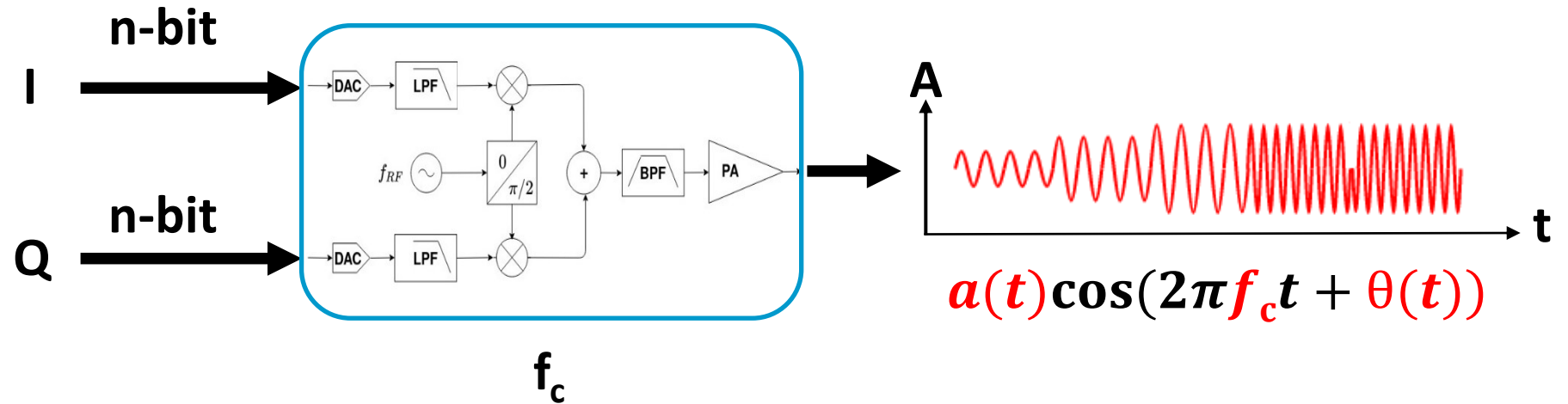
# The problem: dream vs. reality

What we want  
Generic SDR

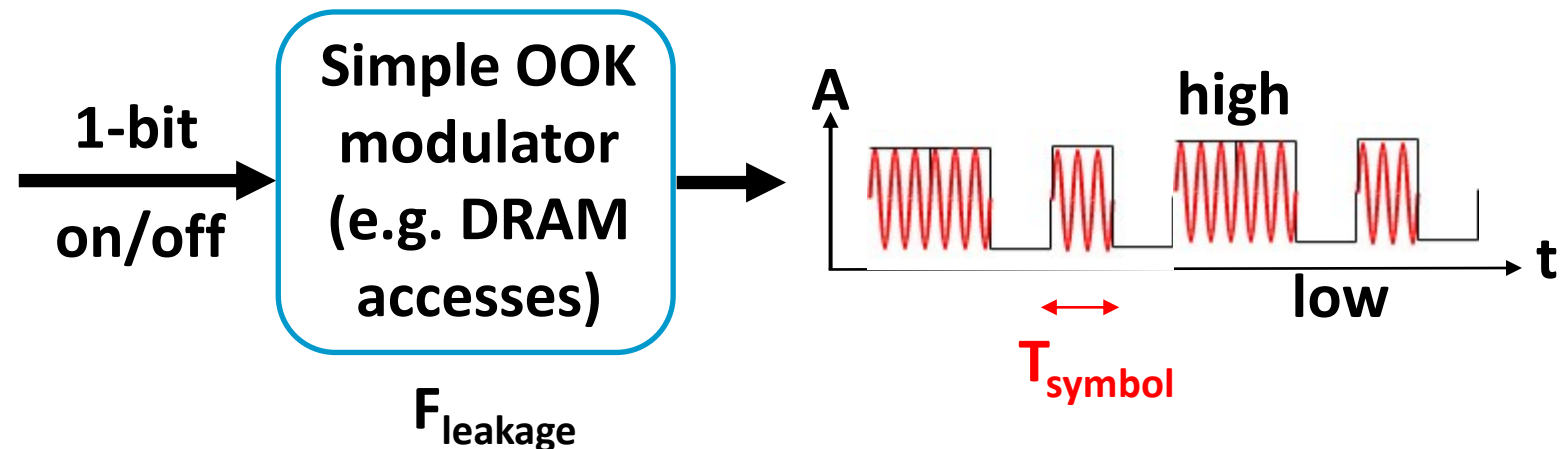


# The problem: dream vs. reality

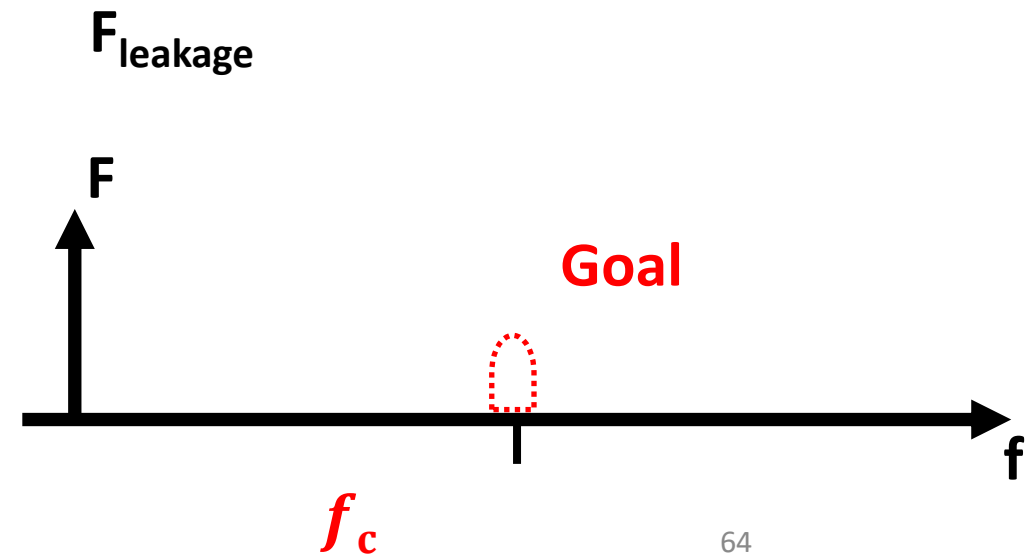
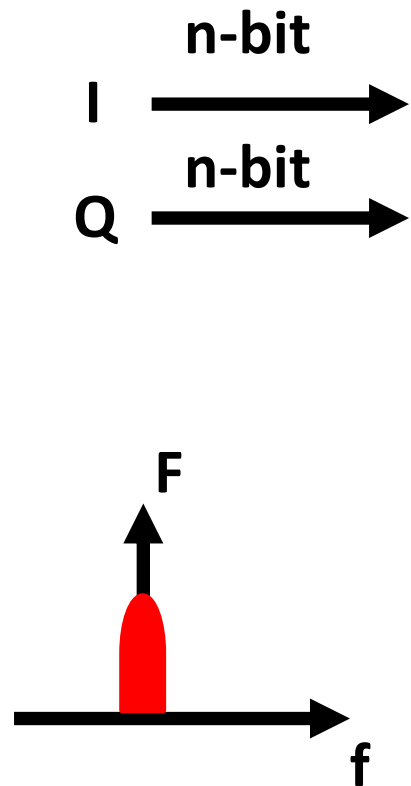
What we want  
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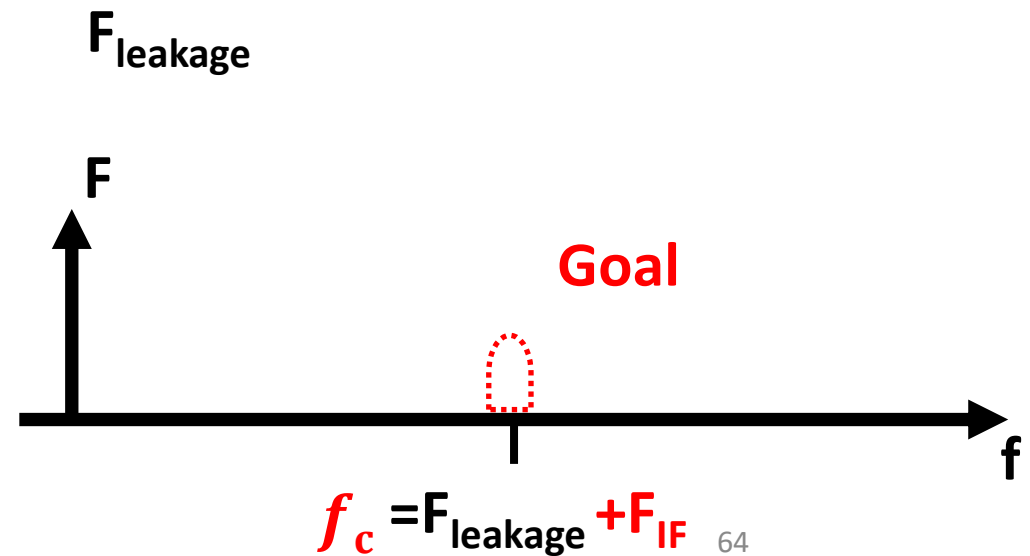
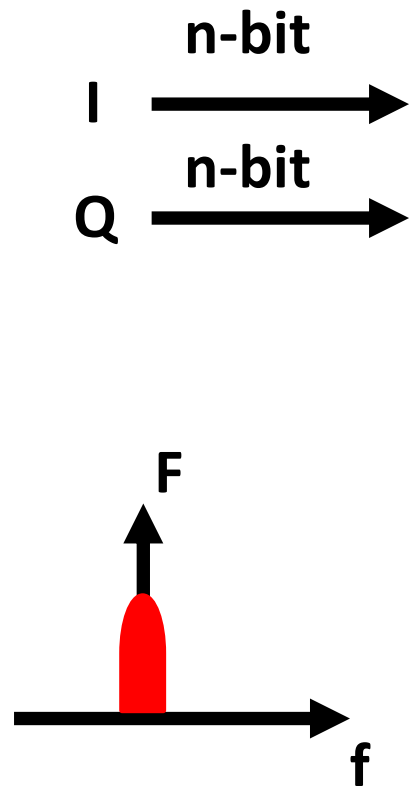
What we have  
OOK @  $F_{leakage}$



# The solution: fully digital radio with 1-bit coding

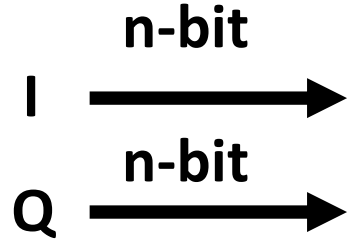


# The solution: fully digital radio with 1-bit coding



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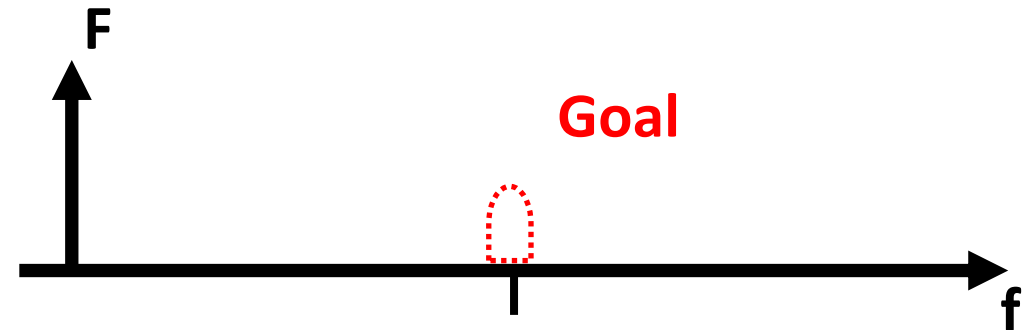
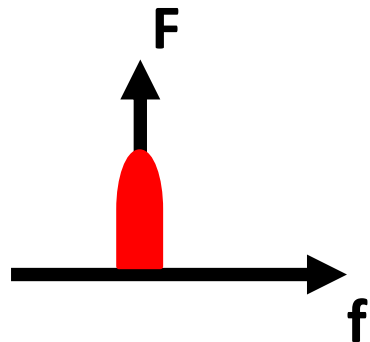
complex n-bit -> real 1-bit  
Baseband -> IF



??

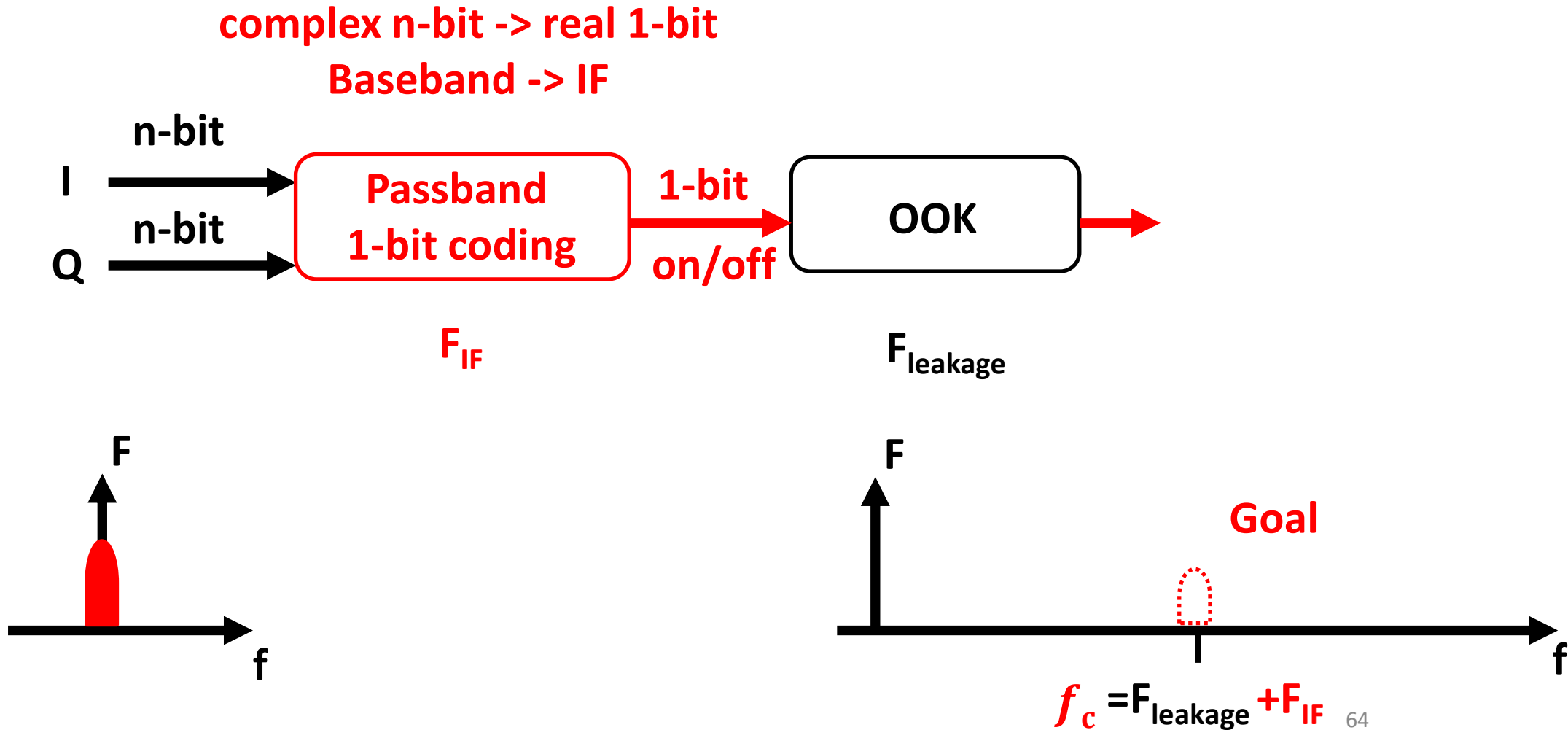


$F_{\text{leakage}}$



$$f_c = F_{\text{leakage}} + F_{\text{IF}}$$

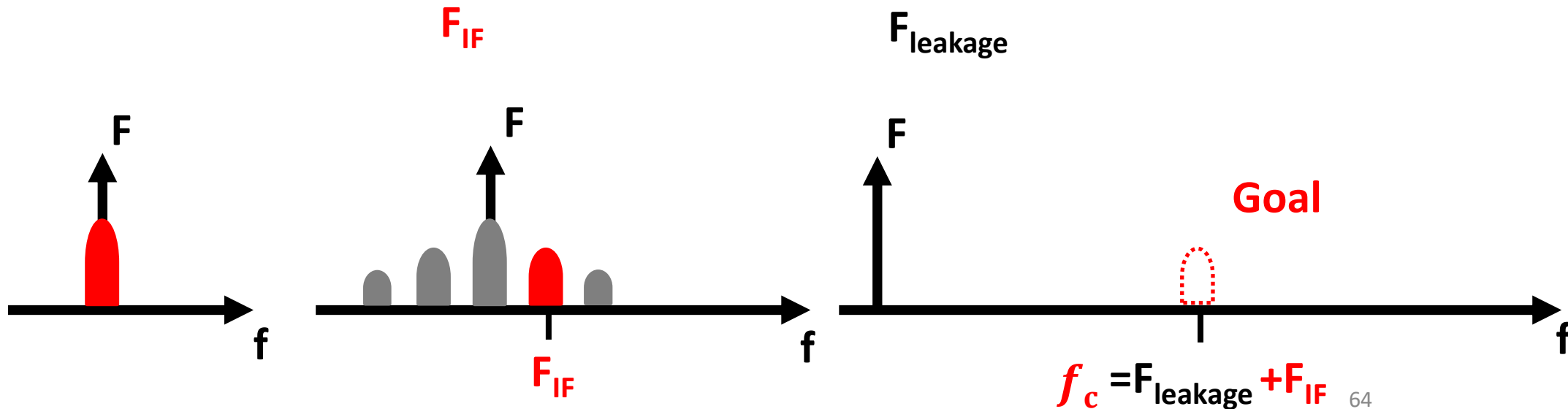
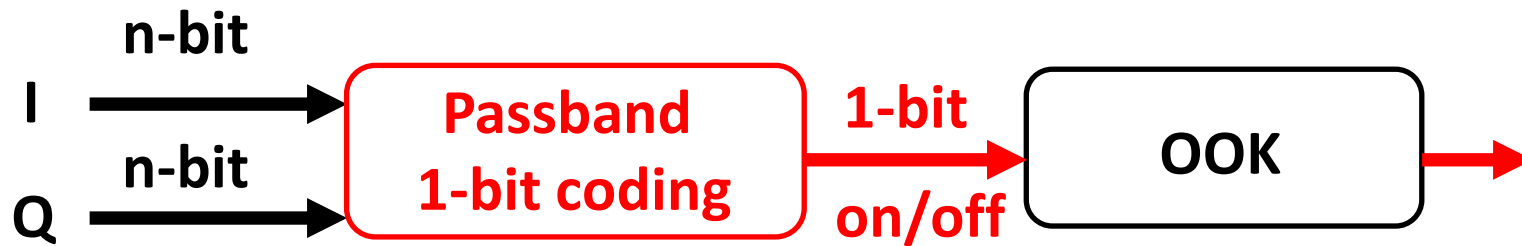
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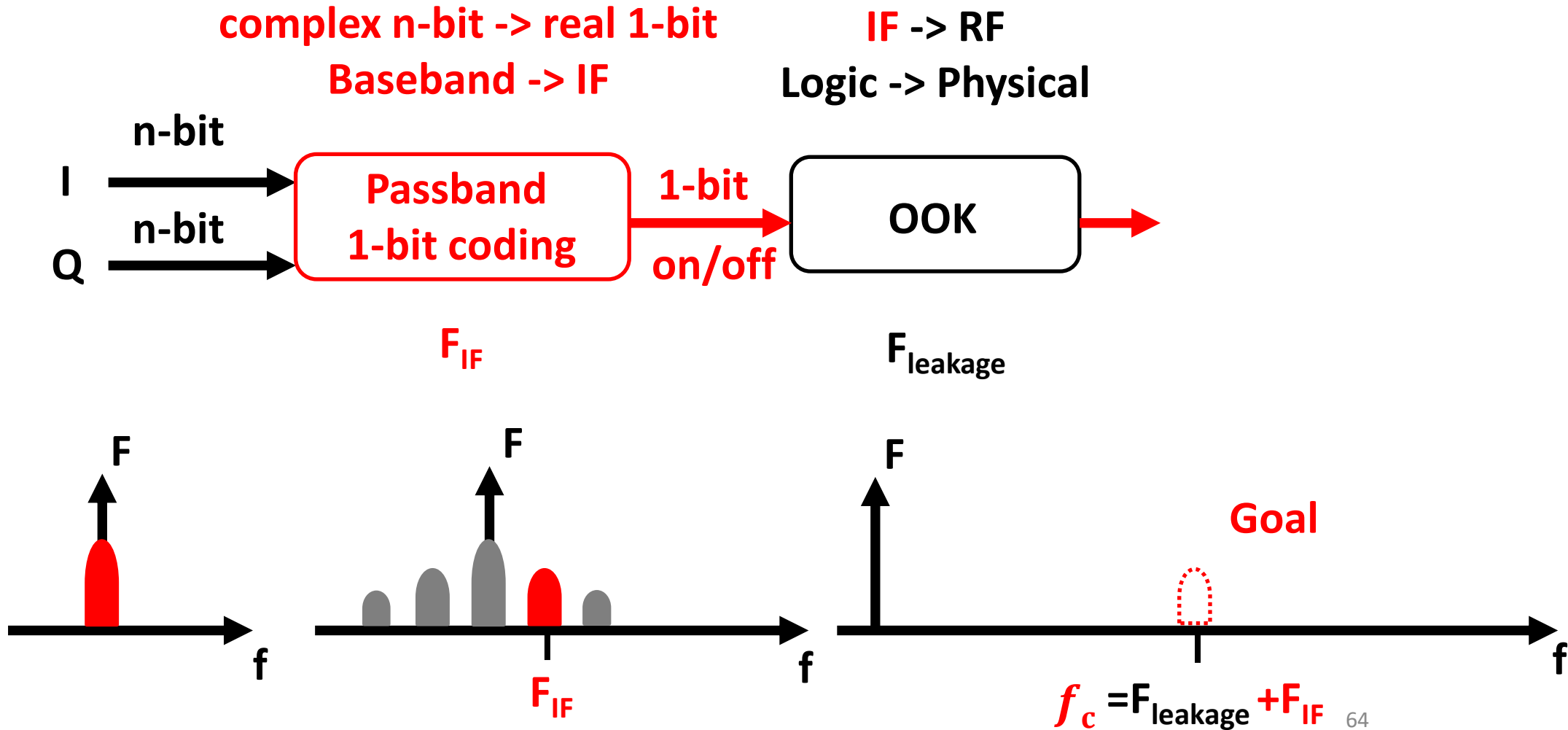


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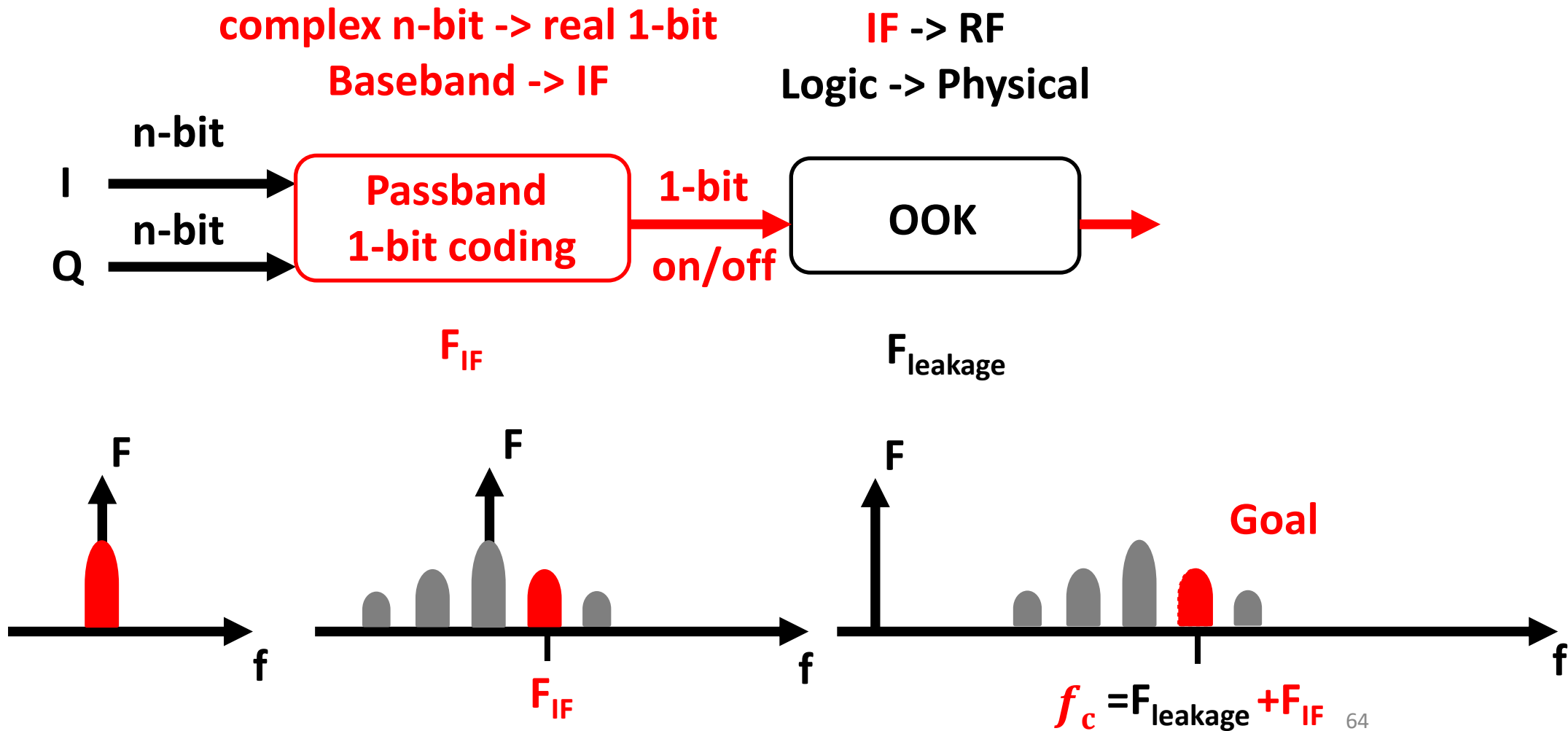
complex n-bit  $\rightarrow$  real 1-bit  
Baseband  $\rightarrow$  IF



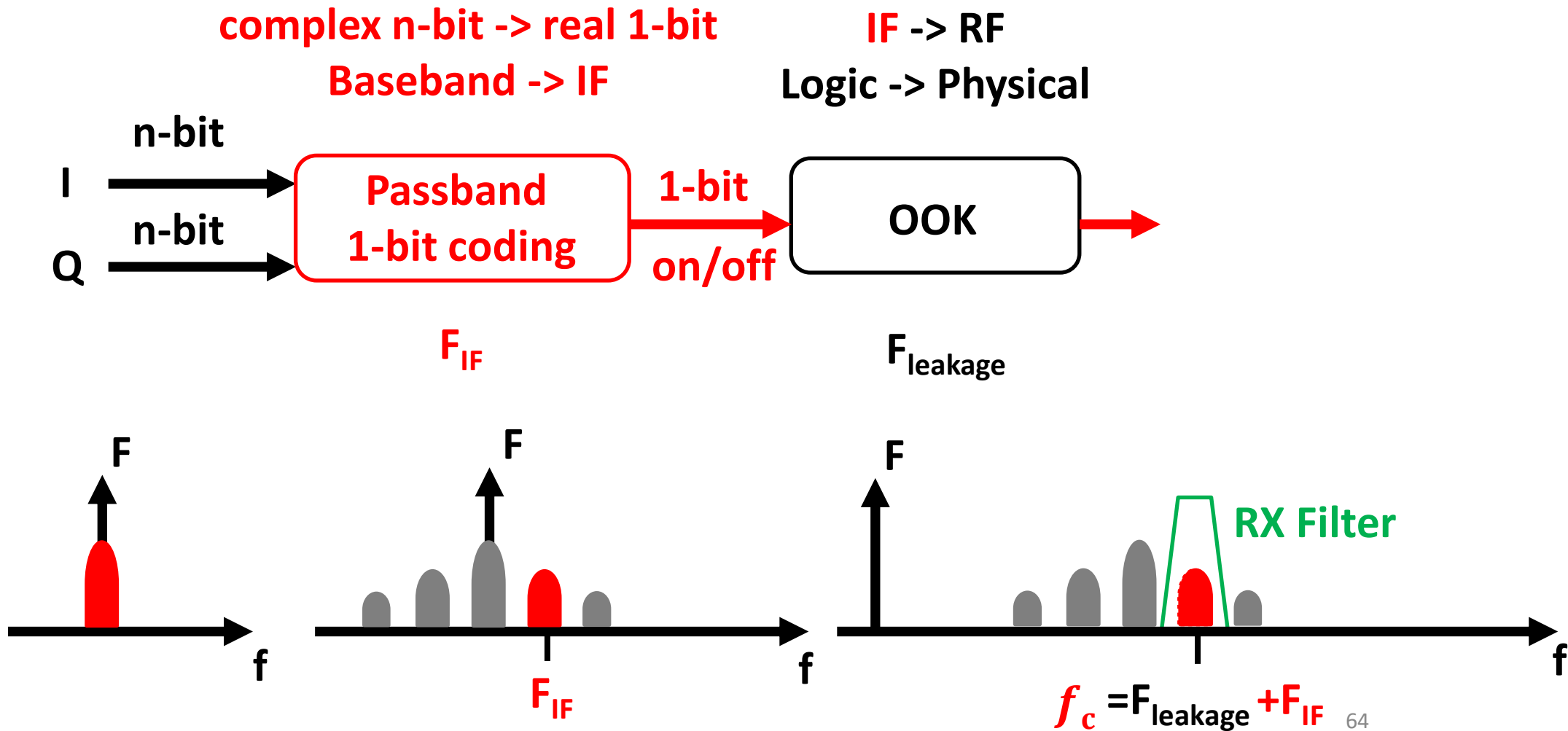
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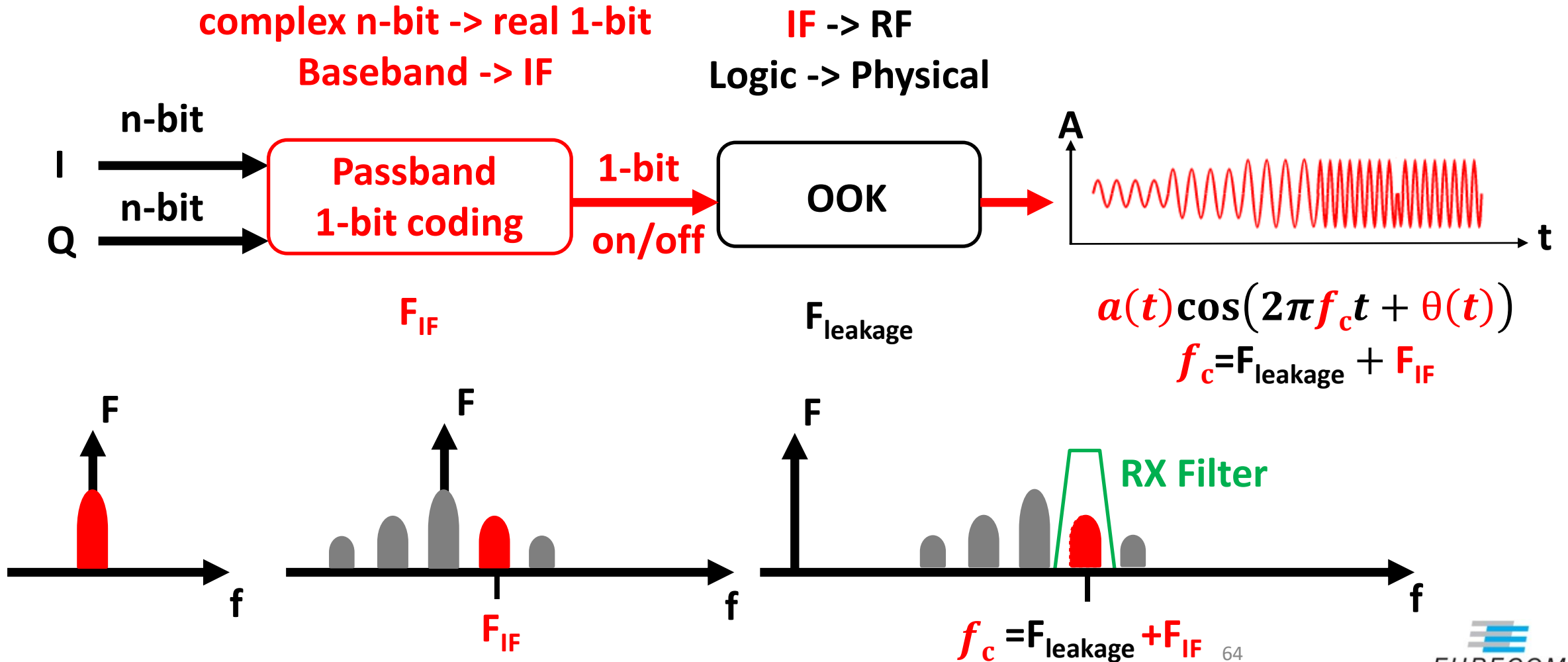
# The solution: fully digital radio with 1-bit coding



# The solution: fully digital radio with 1-bit coding



# The solution: fully digital radio with 1-bit coding



# Achieving arbitrary noise modulation

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Background and  
related work

Intuition

Evaluation/Attacks

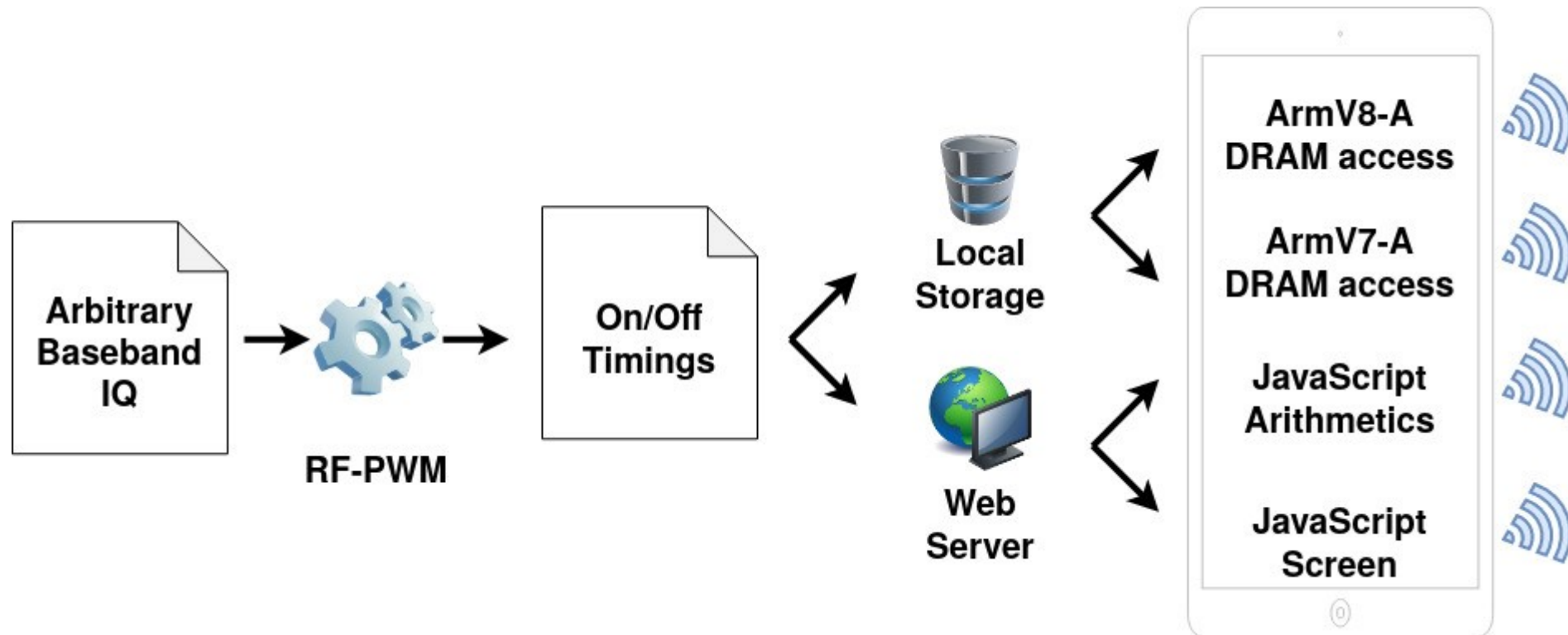
Defenses

Lessons

**Implementation**

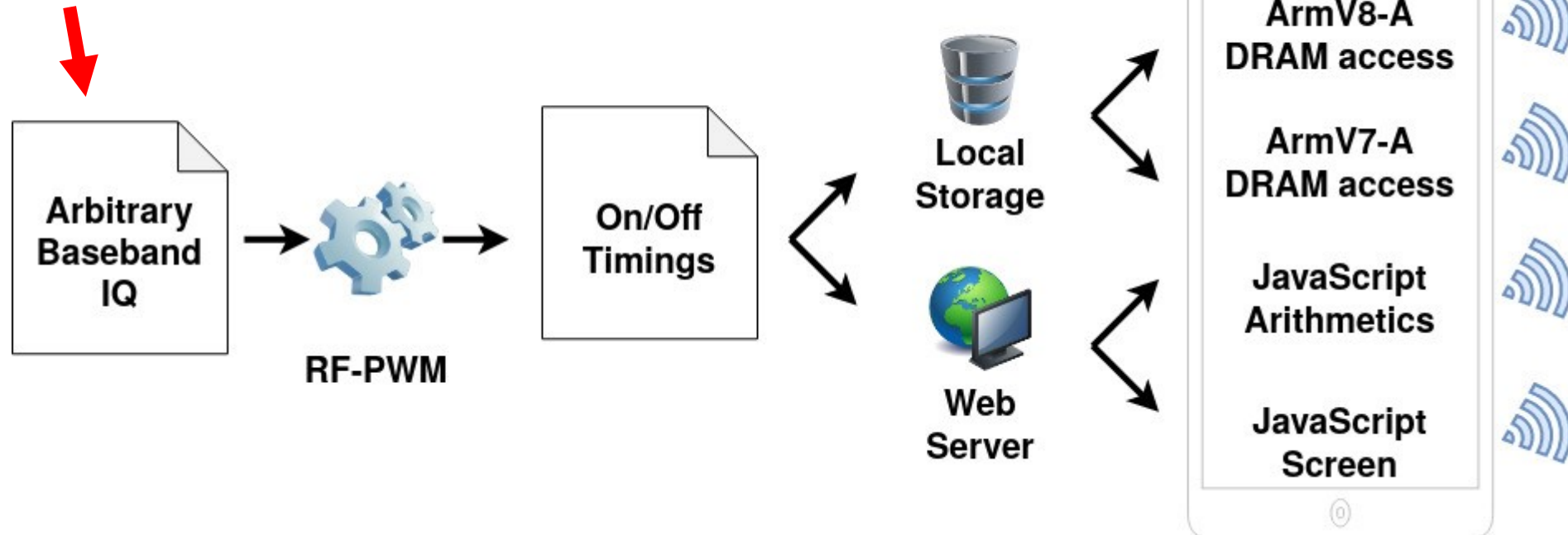
A winding path diagram representing a research process. It starts with a horizontal line on the left, marked with two vertical tick marks labeled 'Background and related work' and 'Intuition'. The line then curves downwards and to the right, forming a loop. A vertical tick mark labeled 'Implementation' is located at the bottom of this loop. The line continues to rise and then curves downwards again, marked with a vertical tick mark labeled 'Evaluation/Attacks'. Finally, the line continues to curve downwards and to the right, marked with two vertical tick marks labeled 'Defenses' and 'Lessons'.

# Example of implementation



# Example of implementation

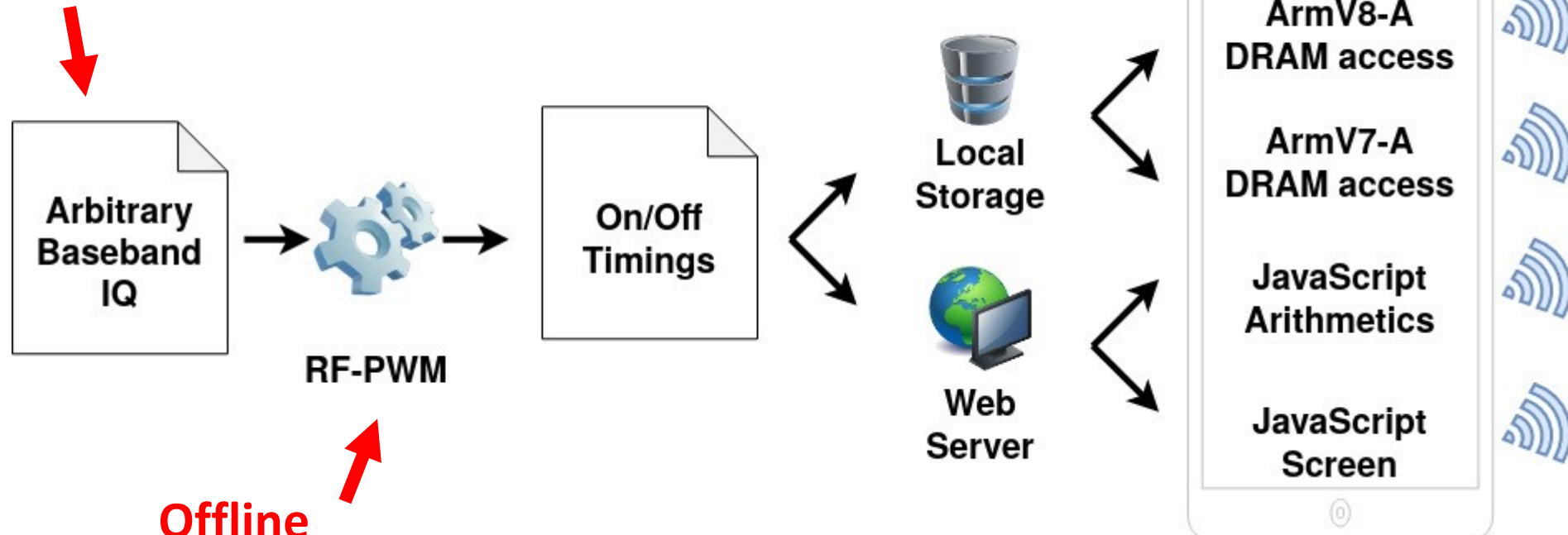
**Generated  
with SDR tools**





# Example of implementation

**Generated  
with SDR tools**

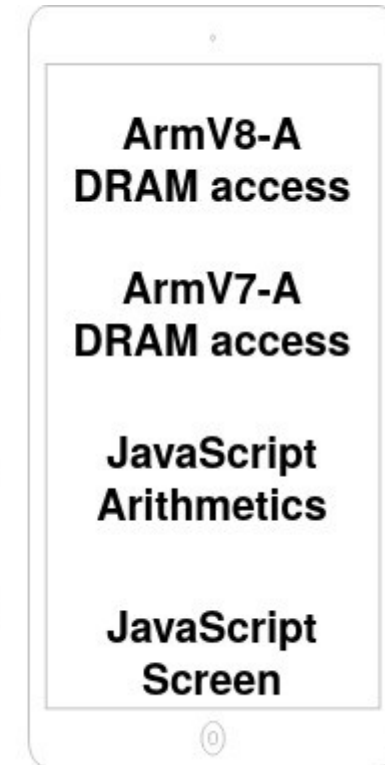


**Offline  
discrete-time  
RF-PWM**

# Example of implementation

Several leakage types of Arm smartphones

Generated with SDR tools

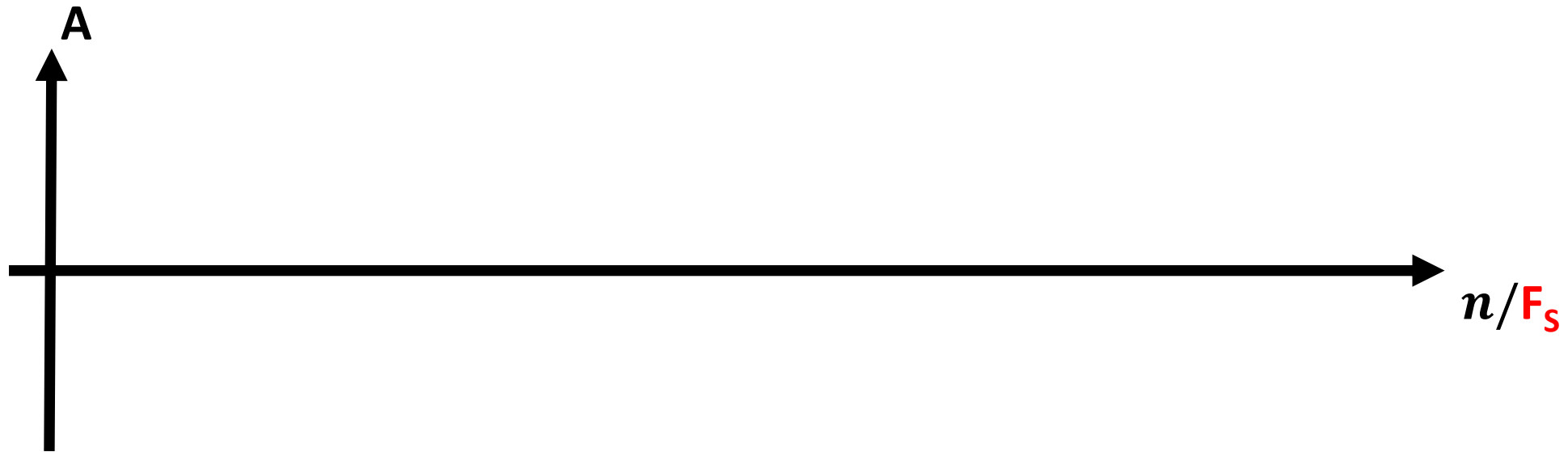


Offline discrete-time RF-PWM

# Implementation: discrete-time RF-PWM

Input:  $F_s$ ,  $a(n/F_s)$ ,  $\theta(n/F_s)$ ,  $F_{IF}$

Simplified explanation

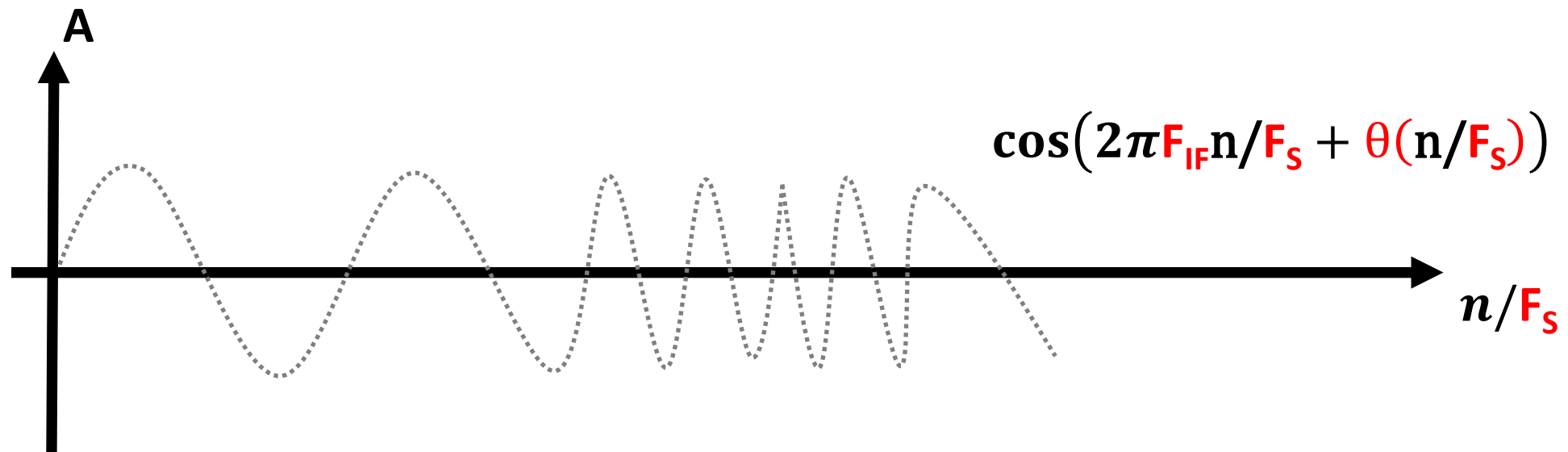


Output:

# Implementation: discrete-time RF-PWM

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Simplified explanation

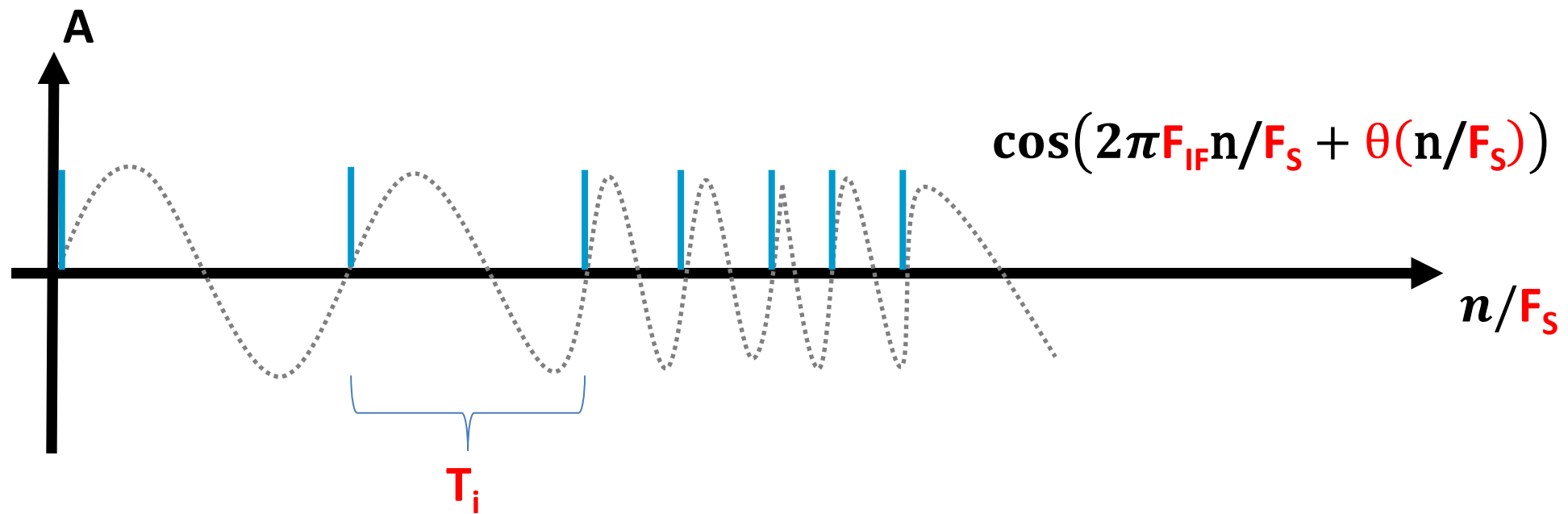


Output:

# Implementation: discrete-time RF-PWM

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Simplified explanation

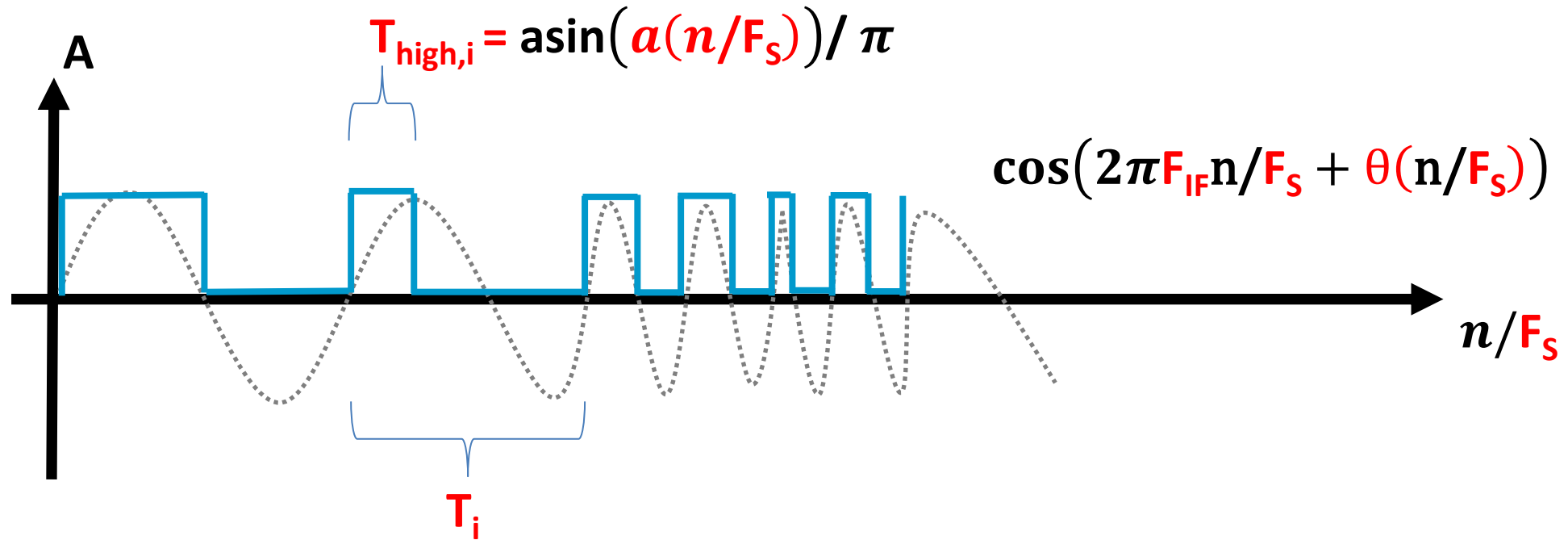


Output:  $T_1$ ,  $T_2$ ,  $T_3$ , ...

# Implementation: discrete-time RF-PWM

Input:  $F_S$ ,  $a(n/F_S)$ ,  $\theta(n/F_S)$ ,  $F_{IF}$

Simplified explanation



Output:  $T_{high,1}$   $T_1$ ,  $T_{high,2}$   $T_2$ ,  $T_{high,3}$   $T_3$ , ...

# Implementation: software control

```
start = now()  
while( now() – start <  $T_{high,i}$  )  
    leakyOperation()  
while( now() – start <  $T_i$  )  
    doNothing()
```

**\* \*\*\*: Time accuracy is fundamental!  
(Bandwidth, am/fm/pm quantization)**

\*M. Schwarz et al., “Fantastic Timers and Where to Find Them: High-Resolution Microarchitectural Attacks in JavaScript,” in FC 2017.

\*\*Z. Zhang et al., “Leveraging EM Side-Channel Information to Detect Rowhammer Attacks,” in IEEE S&P 2020

\*\*\*Z. Zhang et al., “Triggering Rowhammer Hardware Faults on ARM: A Revisit,” ASHES@CCS 2018.

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start = now()
while( now() - start <  $T_{high,i}$  )
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    doNothing()
```

Accurate\*, stable

\*-\*\*\*: Time accuracy is fundamental!  
(Bandwidth, am/fm/pm quantization)

Leaky\*\*, fast\*\*\*

\*M. Schwarz et al., "Fantastic Timers and Where to Find Them: High-Resolution Microarchitectural Attacks in JavaScript," in FC 2017.

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# Implementation: software control

```
start = now()
while( now() - start <  $T_{high,i}$  )
    leakyOperation()
while( now() - start <  $T_i$  )
    doNothing()
```

Accurate\*, stable

clock\_gettime()

(or  $\mu$ -arch attacks literature)

**\*-\*\*\*: Time accuracy is fundamental!**  
**(Bandwidth, am/fm/pm quantization)**

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Many in the paper and in general  
E.g., on Arm-v8 (re)use DRAMMER

```
__attribute__((naked)) \
void hammer_civac(uint64_t *addr) {
    __asm volatile("LDR X9, [X0]");
    __asm volatile("DC CIVAC, X0");
    __asm volatile("DSB 0xB");
    __asm volatile("RET");
}
```

\*M. Schwarz et al., "Fantastic Timers and Where to Find Them: High-Resolution Microarchitectural Attacks in JavaScript," in FC 2017.

\*\*Z. Zhang et al., "Leveraging EM Side-Channel Information to Detect Rowhammer Attacks," in IEEE S&P 2020

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# Achieving arbitrary noise modulation

Background and  
related work

Intuition

Evaluation/Attacks

Implementation

Defenses

Lessons

# Evaluation: Protocols

---

## Variety

Voice AM, NBFM, PSK31, 2x 2PSK, RTTY45.45, MFSK128, Olivia 64/2000, SSTV, HamDRM, FT4, LoRa, GLONASS C/A Code

## Modulation

Analog and digital

AM, FM, OOK, FSK, M-FSK, **GFSK**, **PSK**, **OFDM**, **CSS**, **DSSS**

## Bandwidth

**31 Hz** (PSK31) to **0.511MHz** (GLONASS)

## Extra

Forward Error Correction, addressing, upper layers in general

## Tradeoffs

Speed (2x 2PSK at **1000bps**), SNR (FT4 at **SNR < -10dB**), etc.

# Evaluation: Arm-based smartphones

---

## Variety

19 Arm-based phones

Major vendors

## Limitations on leakage

9 phones have a leakage visible outside

Not always strong

## Limitations on bandwidth and stability

**Tens of kHz** on **ArmV7-A**, **few MHz** on **ArmV8-A**

But still enough for many useful protocols

## Limitations on leakage frequency

DRAM (e.g., 400MHz, 800MHz, 1600MHz, 1794MHz) and harmonics (up to GHz)

But still **overlap** with other radios + **F<sub>IF</sub>** offers some freedom

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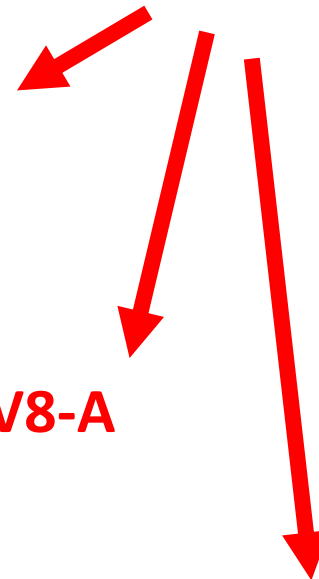
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This is just one possible implementation  
Might be better/worse on other platforms



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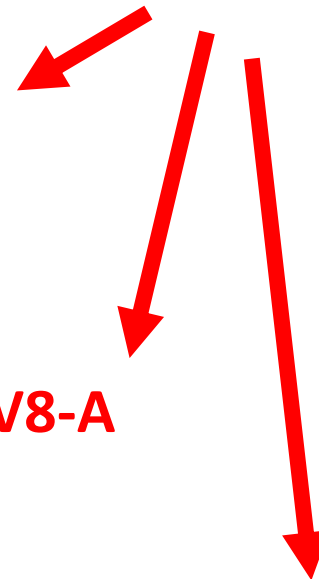
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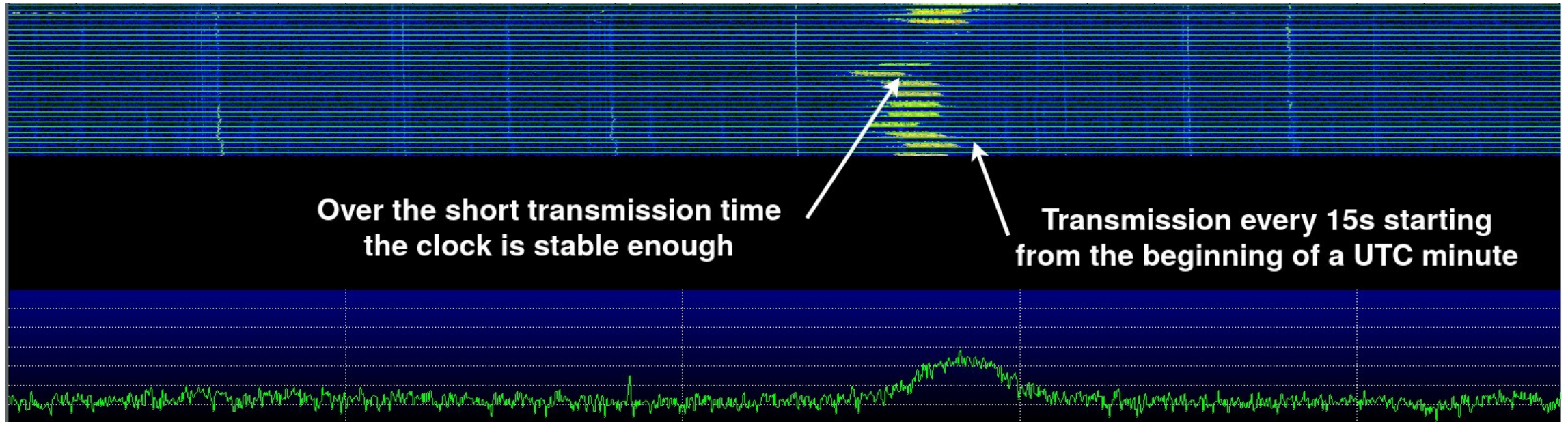
This is just one possible implementation  
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Time resolution and  
stability is critical for the  
Noise-SDR idea





# Applications: tracking, detection, injection, tx, ...



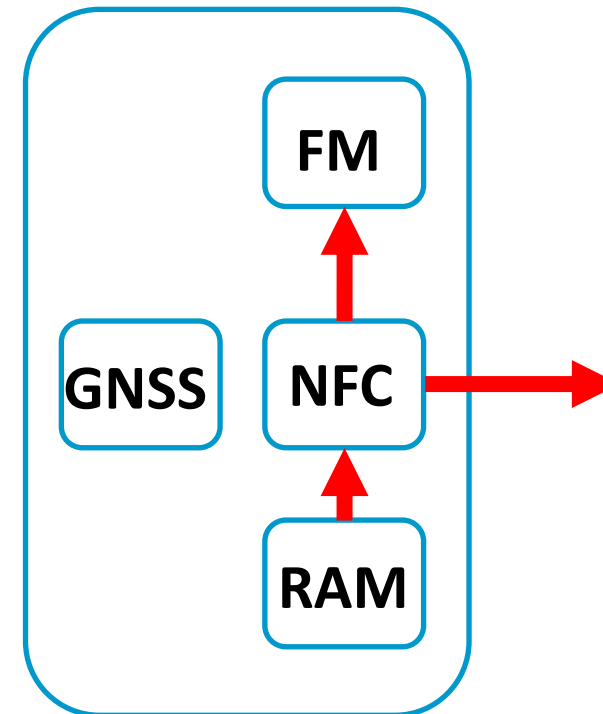
**Tracking using FT4 beacons, up to 5m on Galaxy S5 Mini  
Using existing reception tools**

J. Taylor, FT4, [https://physics.princeton.edu/pulsar/k1jt/FT4\\_Protocol.pdf](https://physics.princeton.edu/pulsar/k1jt/FT4_Protocol.pdf).

J. Taylor, WSJT, <https://physics.princeton.edu/pulsar/K1JT/>.

# Applications: tracking, detection, injection, tx, ...

Noise injection  
FM injection  
NFC modulation  
GPS jamming



Example

# Applications: tracking, detection, injection, tx, ...

**Noise injection**

**FM injection**

**NFC modulation**

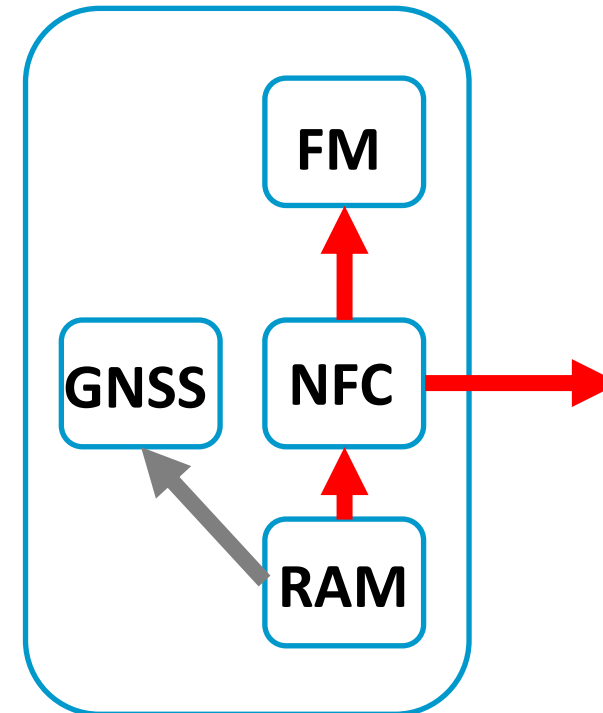
**GPS jamming**

Future work

DRAM @1.6GHz

GLONASS @1.6GHz

Can we spoof the position?



**Example**

# Achieving arbitrary noise modulation

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# Defenses

---



**Soft-TEMPEST-specific (HW)**  
**Reduce leakages and coupling**

# Defenses

---



**Soft-TEMPEST-specific (HW)**  
**Reduce leakages and coupling**



**Soft-TEMPEST-specific (SW)**  
**Reduce timing resolution and software control on hardware**

# Defenses

---



## **Soft-TEMPEST-specific (HW)**

**Reduce leakages and coupling**



## **Soft-TEMPEST-specific (SW)**

**Reduce timing resolution and software control on hardware**



## **Applications specific (SW/HW):**

**Shield smartphone, spoofing detection, ...**

# Achieving arbitrary noise modulation

---

Background and  
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**Lessons**



# Lessons learned

---



## The idea

**Arbitrary modulation of noise**

**Leveraging fully-digital radios ideas**

# Lessons learned

---



## The idea

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**Leveraging fully-digital radios ideas**



## A vision for applications and attacks

**Signal injection (preliminary results)**

**Signal transmission with all advantages of SDRs**

# Lessons learned

---



## The idea

**Arbitrary modulation of noise**

**Leveraging fully-digital radios ideas**



## A vision for applications and attacks

**Signal injection (preliminary results)**

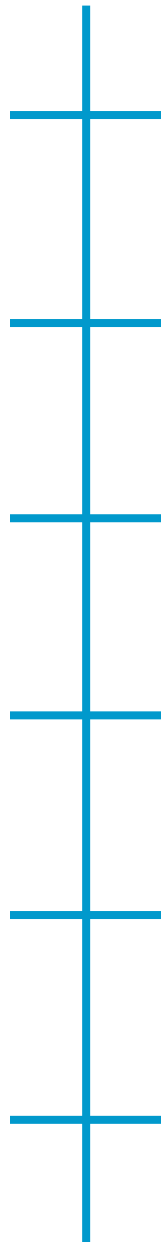
**Signal transmission with all advantages of SDRs**



## Implementation

**If there is a good leakage, then it works well**

**Time resolution is probably the biggest challenge**



+	Context
+	Challenges & Contributions
+	Screaming Channels
+	Noise-SDR
+	<b>Future Work</b>
+	Conclusion

# Future work (Screaming Channels)

Preliminary results

Techniques { **Reception:** radio techniques (e.g., CSI, errors)  
**Attack:** low-freq/multivariate, deep learning<sup>3</sup>, more applications

<sup>1</sup>D. R. E. Gnad, J. Krautter, and M. Baradaran Tahoori, "Leaky Noise: New Side-Channel Attack Vectors in Mixed-Signal IoT Devices," IACR TCHES 2019.

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  - Modulation:** other blocks, FM/PM, LO reradiation, WiFi and others
  - Targets and threat model:** link-layer, PKC, hardware block, peripherals, ...
  - Beyond mixed-signal:** smartphone NFC, platforms, planes, ...
  - Beyond radios:** CPU->ADC side channel<sup>1</sup>, Audio IN -> SWREG noise TEMPEST<sup>2</sup>

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  - Beyond radios:** CPU->ADC side channel<sup>1</sup>, Audio IN -> SWREG noise TEMPEST<sup>2</sup>
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  - Countermeasures:** specific, lightweight, cheap
  - Simulation/Testing:** automated analysis, functional+EM simulation

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# Future work (Noise-SDR)

Preliminary results

Techniques { **Time resolution: better timing sources, calibration, compensation, ...**  
**1-bit coding: passband sigma-delta, mathematical modeling**

# Future work (Noise-SDR)

Preliminary results

- Techniques** {
- Time resolution:** better timing sources, calibration, compensation, ...
  - 1-bit coding:** passband sigma-delta, mathematical modeling
- Implementation** {
- Leakage sources:** screen, camera, GPU, ...
  - Software control:** JavaScript, WebAssembly, ...
  - Platform:** x86, laptops, smartwatches, IoT, ...
  - SSC:** dealing\* with spread spectrum clocking

\*C. Shen et al., "When LoRa Meets EMR: Electromagnetic Covert Channels Can Be Super Resilient", IEEE S&P 2021.

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Preliminary results

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  - SSC: dealing\* with spread spectrum clocking
- Applications
  - GNSS spoofing: GLONASS, ...
  - Beyond radios: injecting signals in sensors
  - Soft-RFI: finding software-controlled RFI effects

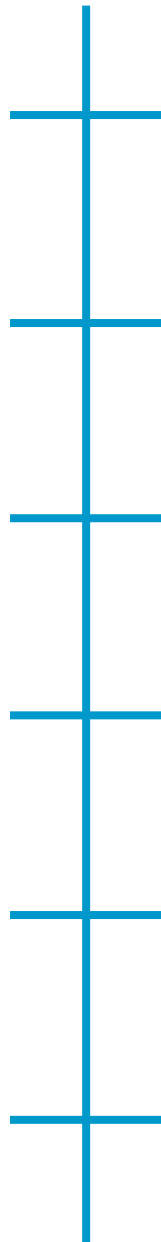
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# Future work (Other dangerous interactions)

---

Other interactions  
with radios

**“NONSTOP”**: unintentional backscattering of ambient signals  
**Analog/RF to Digital**: are there problems in the other direction?  
**Analog/RF to Analog/RF**: from radio to radio  
...



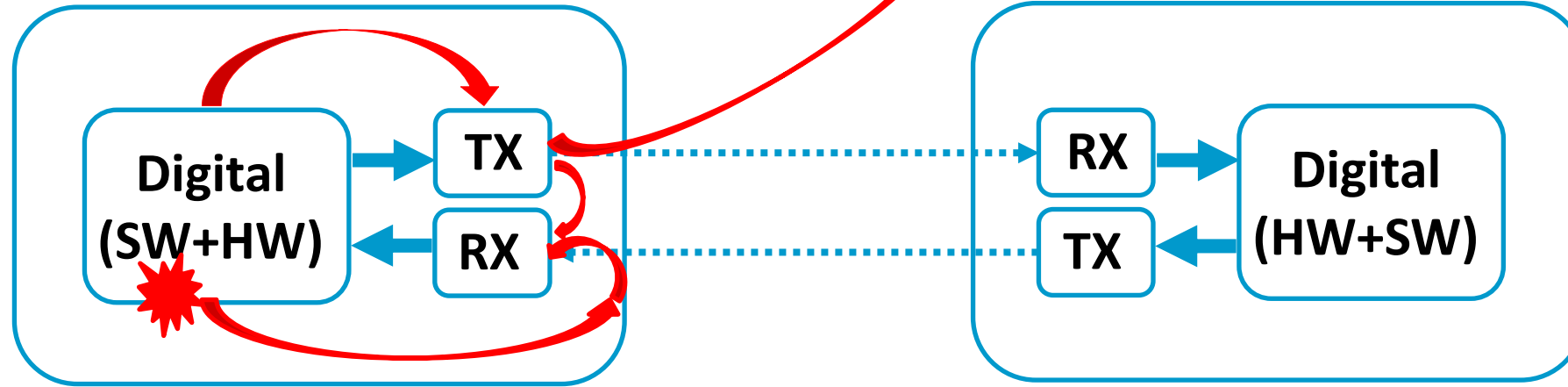
+	Context
+	Challenges & Contributions
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+	Future Work
+	<b>Conclusion</b>

# Answer to the question

Digital activity is broadcast

**Screaming Channels**

E.g., side channel



**Noise-SDR**

**Victim A**

**B**

Arbitrary modulation  
of digital noise

E.g., injection

**Security research question**

~~Does~~ logic activity produce physical leakages  
that **flow from digital components to radio blocks**  
**breaking the security of the wireless links?**

**Yes!**

# Conclusion

---

**CONTEXT:** Modern connected systems (computation close to communication)

**PROBLEM:** Do unexpected interactions between high-speed digital logic and radio transceivers threaten the security of the data processed and communicated by these devices?

**FINDINGS:** Digital activity leaks over the radio channel (e.g., side channels over the air)  
Digital noise shaped into arbitrary RF signals (e.g., injection)

**DISCUSSION:** Many open research directions for consolidation or related effects

**CONCLUSION:** Wireless security should consider the threats brought by EMI/RFI during design, simulation, test, and security analysis

# Open Source!

[https://eurecom-s3.github.io/screaming\\_channels/](https://eurecom-s3.github.io/screaming_channels/)

Code + Data + Instructions

**Already replicated by many in industry and academia**



# Thank You!

@GioCamurati

<https://giocamurati.github.io>

[camurati@eurecom.fr](mailto:camurati@eurecom.fr)

# Backup Slides

# “Hubris”

"Nature does not support straight lines [...]"

8.2.3.3. **However**, humans, in their infinite wisdom, **attempt to defy nature and make computers that use square waves [...]**

That **extra energy [...]** has to go **somewhere.**"

**AIR FORCE SYSTEMS SECURITY MEMORANDUM 7011**

**<https://cryptome.org/afssm-7011.htm>**

**1 MAY 1998**



"IMG\_7006A Martin Ryckaert. 1587-1633. Anvers. Paysage avec la chute d'Icare. Landscape with the Fall of Icarus. Vers 1625. Cologne Wallraf Richartz Museum" by jean louis mazieres is licensed with CC BY-NC-SA 2.0.

# Some informal terminology

---

**Signal:** useful intended signal carrying some information

**Noise:** other spurious signals (in EMSec they are useful signals, with other noise, e.g., thermal, on top)

**Compromising emanation:** noise signal unexpectedly carrying information

**Application:** TEMPEST (recover P), Soft-TEMPEST/covert ch. (send data), side channel (recover k)

**Trace:** Portion of a compromising emanation corresponding to a sensitive operation (e.g., AES encryption)

**Signal-to-Noise Ratio:** don't confuse SNR of a trace with the SNR of the data dependency with p or k

**Leakage variable  $y$ :** intermediate value processed in the algorithm, e.g.,  $y = \text{Sbox}(p \text{ xor } k)$

**Leakage  $I(y)$ :** the actual leakage that we measure

**Leakage model  $m(y)$ :** a model of the leakage, e.g.,  $\text{HW}[y]$ , or estimated with profiling set

**Order:** m can be linear or nonlinear, the relation between m and I can be first order, second order, ...

# Backup (Screaming Channels)

# Screaming Channels, a general problem?

## Our targets

Nordic Semiconductor **nRF52832** (BLE Nano v2, PCA10040, Rigado BDM301)

Nordic Semiconductor **nRF52840** (PCA10056)

Qualcom Atheros **AR9271** (PENGUIN WiFi adapter, Alfa Network WiFi adapter)

ExpressIF **ESP32** WiFi/BLE

**Nokia 3.1** NFC modulation

Used in many real-world products (e.g., Eddystone)

Leakages in test mode + LO modulation

Leakages in test mode (regulator to radio)

Platform level coupling, active modulation

## Disclosure

General problem acknowledged by the manufacturer(s)

## General challenges

We presented general challenges (e.g., orthogonality, many other GFSK protocols)

## Future work

Automating analysis to reach larger scale, with/without access to the physical design and test mode firmware

# Screaming Channels and WiFi (1/3)

---

## Challenges

**Non-orthogonal modulation (we must demodulate and compute packet errors)**

**Higher signal/hardware quality (e.g., PA linearity\*)**

**ADC resolution when extracting the error from packets**

## Preliminary results

**Leakages detected in test mode on some cards (AR9271, ESP32)**

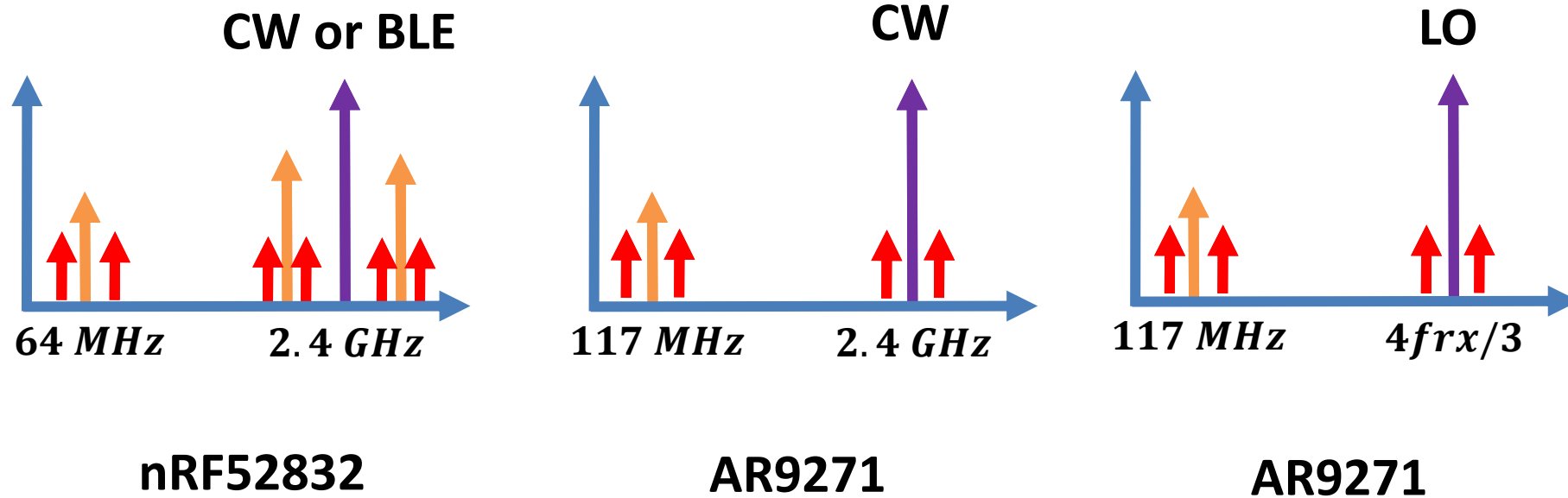
**(Programming + having test mode is not always straightforward)**

## Ideas

**Low-frequency non-uniform sampling of many packet errors and parameters**

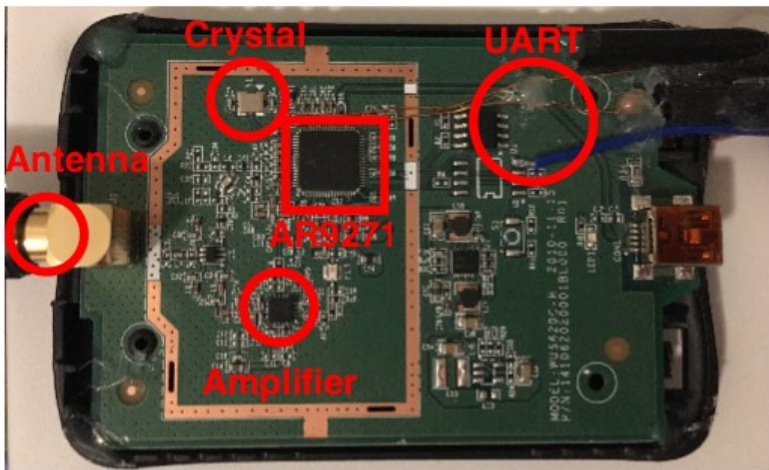
\*A. Behzad, "Wireless LAN Radios: System Definition to Transistor Design" (IEEE Press Series on Microelectronic Systems) (Hoboken, NJ, USA: John Wiley & Sons, Inc., 2008).

# Screaming Channels and WiFi (2/3)

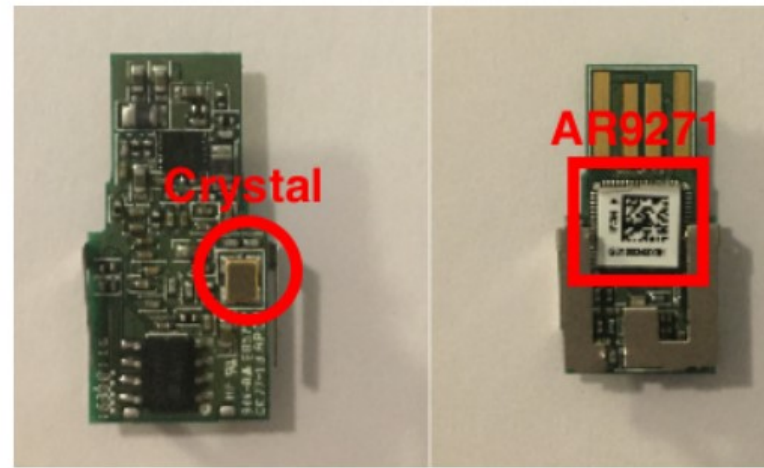




# Screaming Channels and WiFi (3/3)

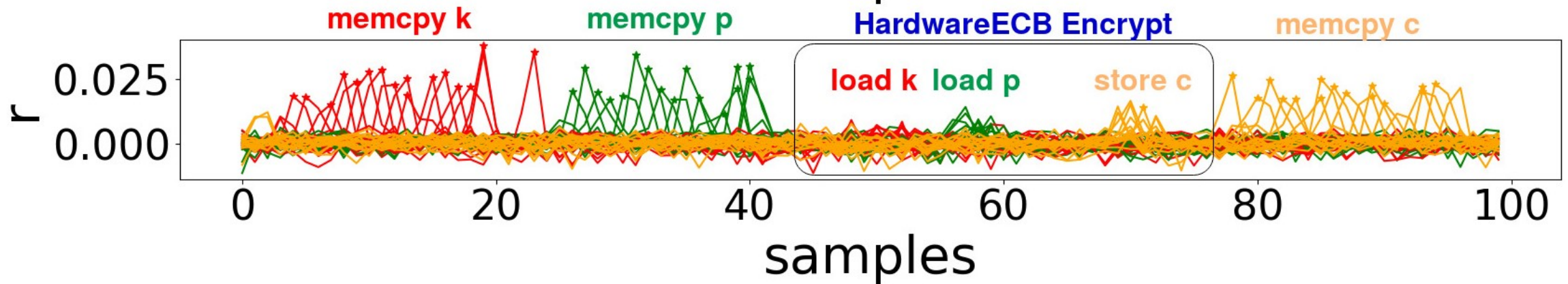


(a) Alfa Network Long-Range USB Adapter AWUS036NHA



(b) Penguin Wireless N USB Adapter (TPE-N150USB)

# Security of the hardware AES block



## Simple Setup

10cm in office

USRP N210

350k x 100 traces

## Leaks from Memory Transfers

Firmware *memcpy* of p,c,k

Hardware DMA of p,c,k

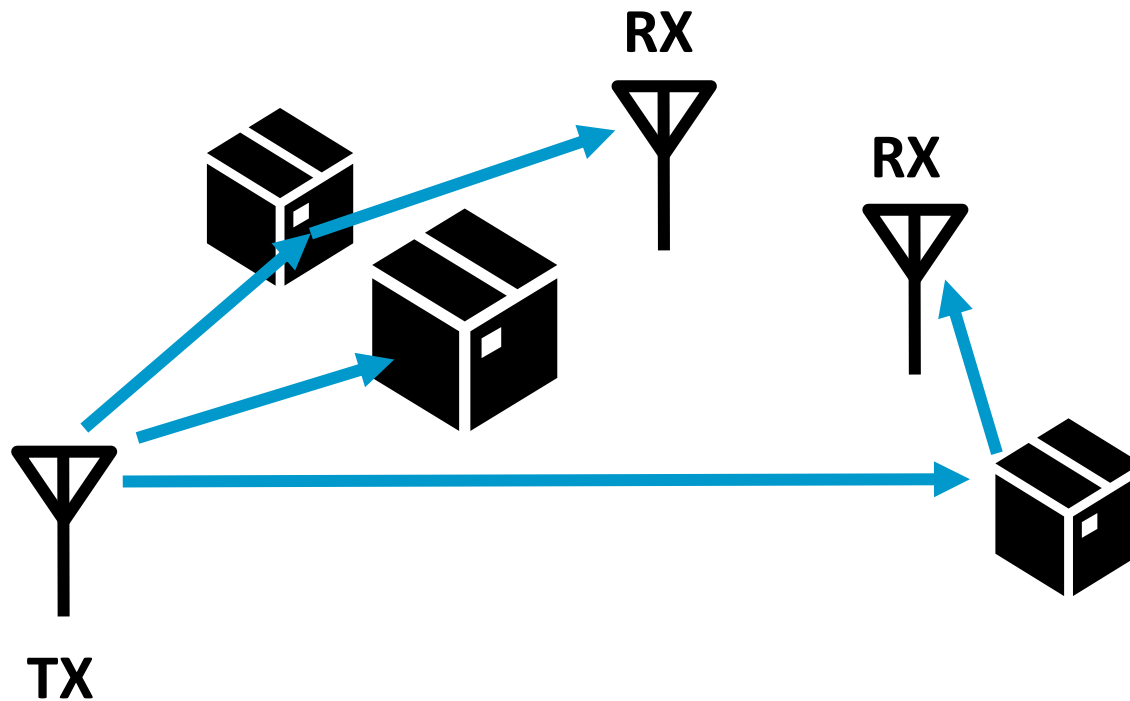
No leak detected inside the AES

## Attacks

Only SPA attack are possible

As of now we have not succeeded

# Obstacles and spatial diversity



## Spatial Diversity

Different paths

Uncorrelated noise

Combine with Maximal Ratio

## Attack

55cm in home environment

37k x 500 profiling traces

1990 x 500 attack traces

Rank  $2^{26}$

# Trace Extraction: Quadrature Amplitude Demodulation

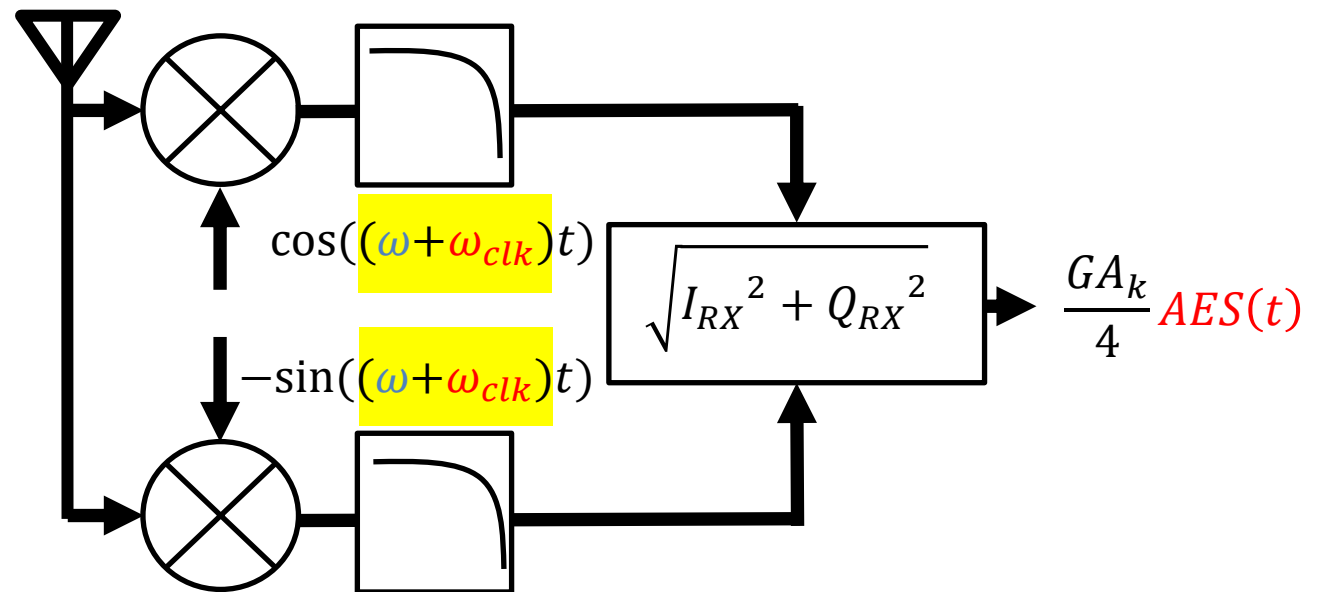


$$GA_k \cos(\omega t + \varphi_k) + \frac{GA_k}{2} \boxed{AES(t)} \cos((\omega + \omega_{clk})t + \varphi_k) + \dots$$

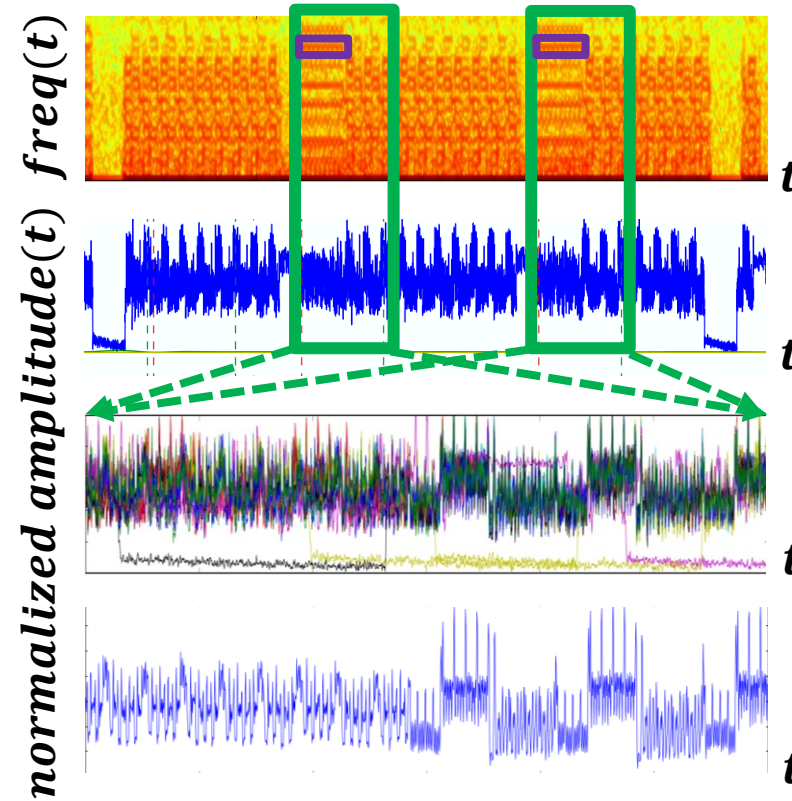
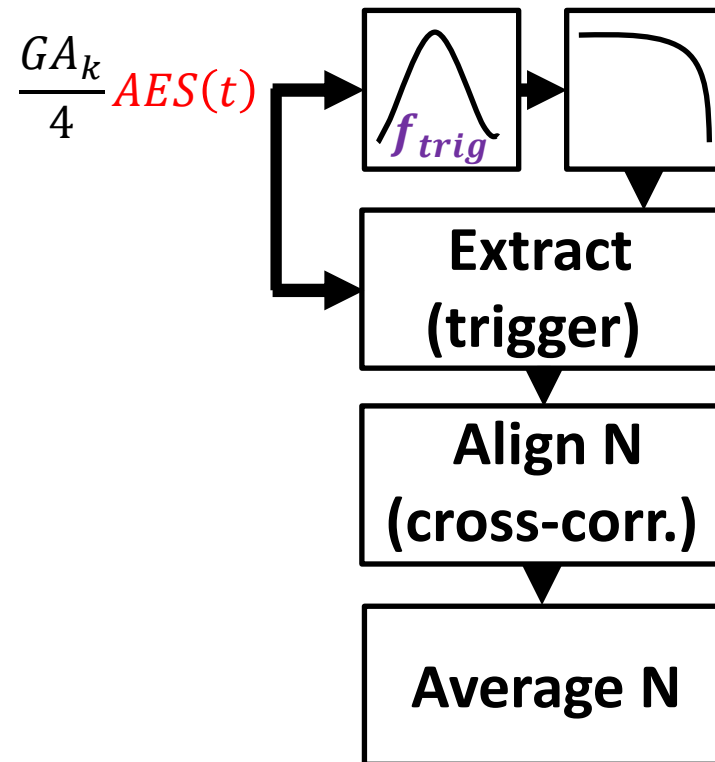
**Main Data**
**Leak + Data**

**Separated by  $n \cdot f_{clk}$**   
**Outside the ISM band**  
**Assume fixed channel**  
**More on hopping later**

**Orthogonal Modulation**



# Extraction



# Normalization + Channel Estimation

---

1. Z-score normalization inspired by previous work
2. Per-trace normalization removes the effect of the channel!

$$y(t) = Gx(t)$$
$$y' = \frac{y - \text{avg}(y)}{\text{std}(y)} = \frac{Gx - G\text{avg}(x)}{G\text{std}(x)} = x'$$

D. P. Montminy et al., "Improving Cross-Device Attacks Using Zero-Mean Unit-Variance Normalization," J. Cryptographic Engineering 3, no. 2 (2013).

N. Hanley et al., "Empirical Evaluation of Multi-Device Profiling Side-Channel Attacks," in IEEE SIPS 2014.

O. Choudary and M. G. Kuhn, "Template Attacks on Different Devices," in COSADE 2014.

M. Abdelaziz Elaabid and S. Guilley, "Portability of Templates," J. Cryptographic Engineering 2, no. 1 (2012).

# Understanding the Leakage

**Leakage variable**  $y = \text{SBox}(p \text{ xor } k)$

**Leakage model**  $m(y) = \text{HW}[y]$   ~~$m(y)$~~  **model(y)** Estimate (nonlinear) leakage model for each  $y$ , using the profiling set

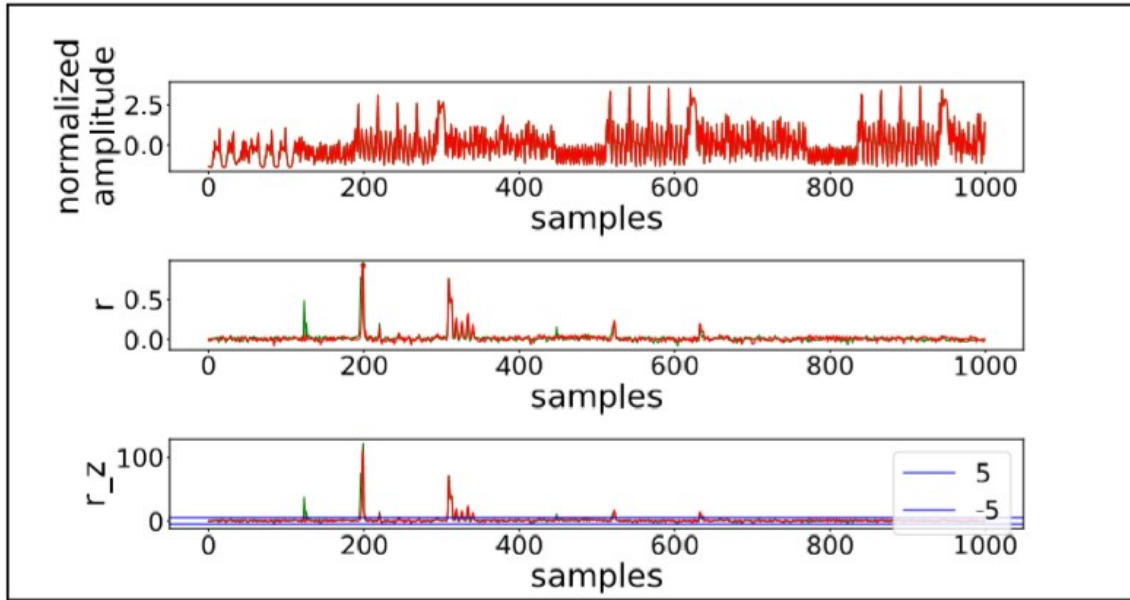
**Leakage**  $l(y)$

Estimate the linear correlation between  $m(y)$  and  $l(y)$  on test set

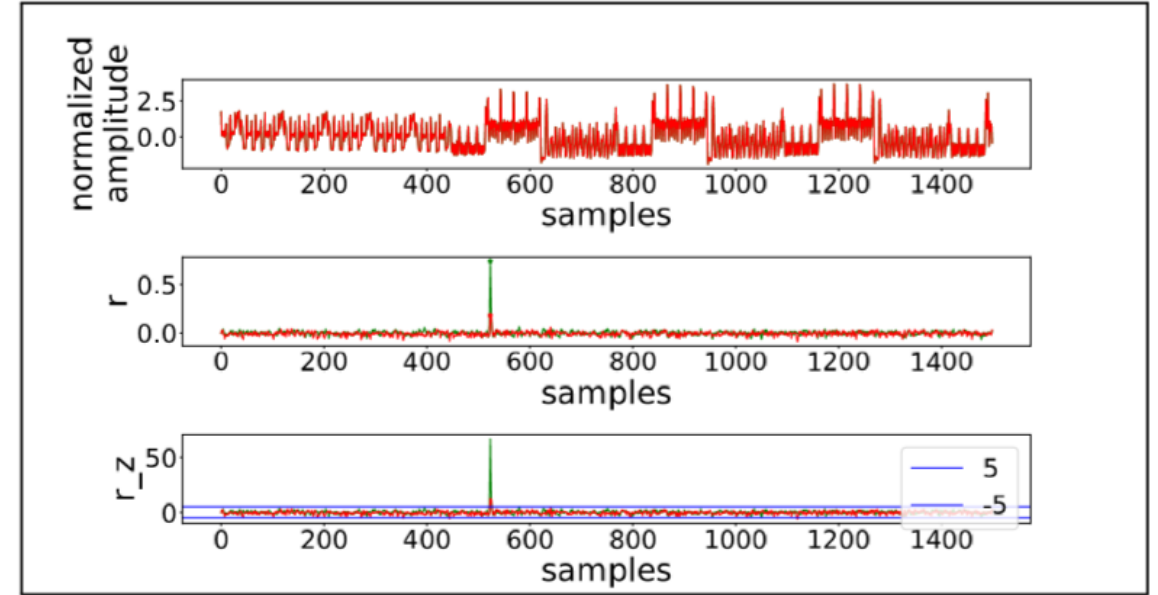
This is the r-test\*

\*F. Durvaux and F.-X. Standaert, "From Improved Leakage Detection to the Detection of Points of Interests in Leakage Traces," in EUROCRYPT 2016.





(a)  $\rho$ -test with  $p \oplus k$  (green) and  $HW(Sbox(p \oplus k))$



(b) Screaming 10 cm:  $\rho$ -test with  $p \oplus k$  (green) and  $HW(Sbox(p \oplus k))$  (red)

## Results for Screaming vs. Conventional

- Less POIs
- Slightly lower but still high correlation
- HW is not a good model

**SNR is comparable**  
**But the leakage is distorted**



# Understanding the Leakage

---

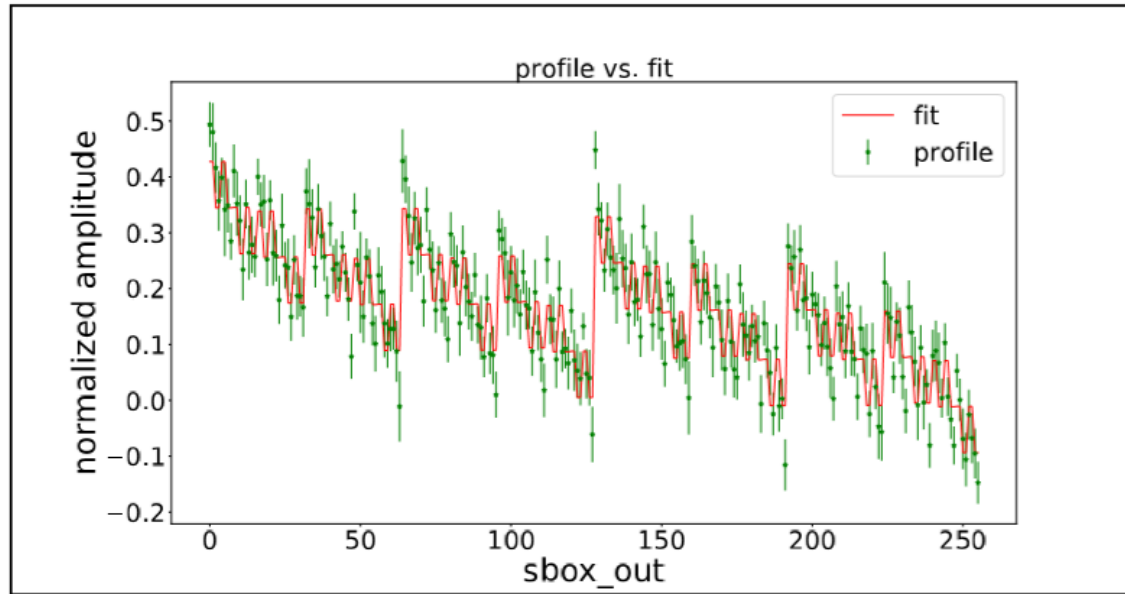
**Leakage variable**  $y = \text{SBox}(p \text{ xor } k)$

**Leakage model**  $m(y) = \text{HW}[y]$  **Linear combination of the bits of  $y$**

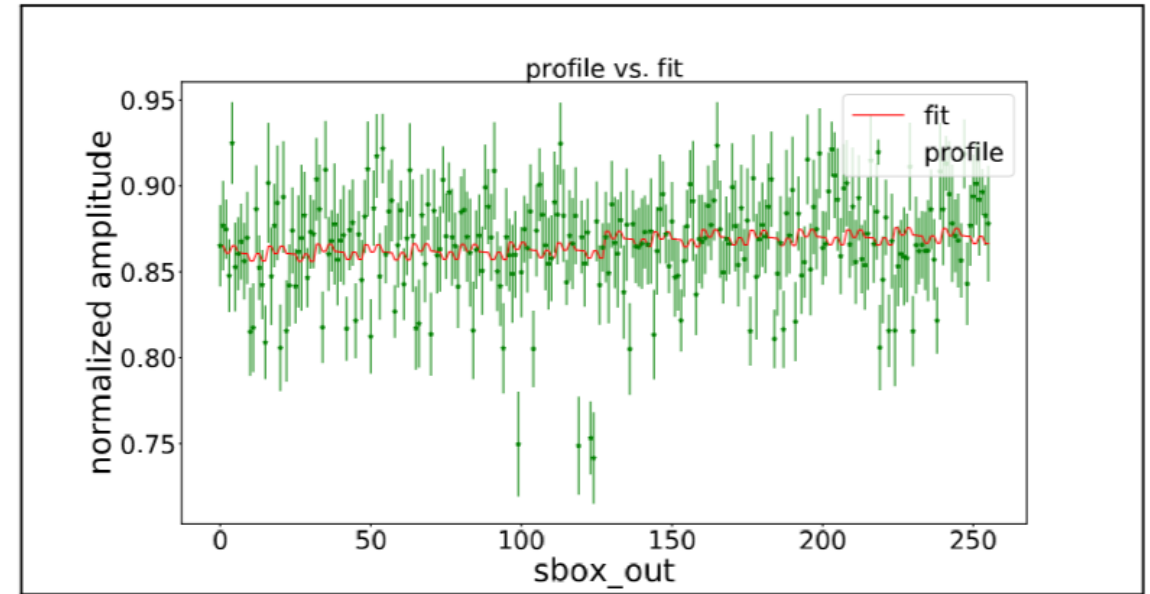
**Leakage**  $I(y)$

**Estimate a linear model of the bits of  $y$  using linear regression\***

\*W. Schindler, K. Lemke, and C. Paar, "A Stochastic Model for Differential Side Channel Cryptanalysis," in CHES 2005.



(a) Conventional



(b) Screaming at 10 cm

## Results for Screaming vs. Conventional

- Confirm leakage from Sbox output
- Linear model is good for conventional traces
- Bad for screaming traces **The leakage model is nonlinear**

# Understanding the Leakage

---

Leakage variable  $y$

Leakage model  $m(y)$

Leakage  $l(y)$

Templates\* can capture a second order relation between  $m(y)$  and  $l(y)$

## Results for Screaming vs. Conventional

- Templates attacks are not considerably better than profiled correlation attacks

**First-order leakage (for our sample size)**

\*S. Chari, J. R. Rao, and P. Rohatgi, "Template Attacks," in CHES 2002.

# Conclusion

---

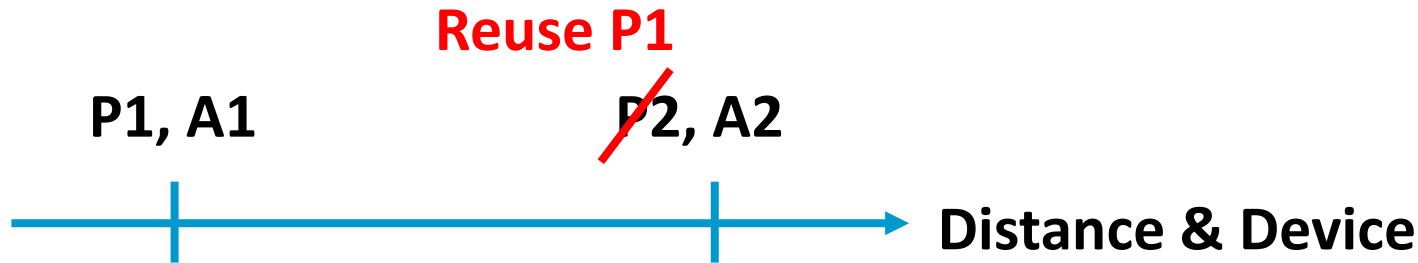
1. **Comparable SNR, distorted leakage model**
2. **Nonlinear leakage model**
3. **First order leakage**



**Profiled Correlation Attacks**

# How To Compare Profiles

#Traces for key recovery given profile P and attack traces A\*



$$N11 \propto r^{-2}(P1, A1)$$

~~$$N22 \propto r^{-2}(P2, A2)$$~~

$$N12 \propto r^{-2}(P1, A2)$$

$$r(P1, A2) = r(P2, A2)r(P1, P2)$$

**The higher the better**

\*F.-X. Standaert et al., "An Overview of Power Analysis Attacks Against Field Programmable Gate Arrays," Proceedings of the IEEE 94, no. 2 (2006).

# Distance, Setup, Channel Frequency, Instance, Time

---

## Distance

- Quadratic power loss, but we can amplify
- Normalization cancels the multiplicative channel gain
- No extra distortion (different from conventional\*)

## Environment (noise) and setup

- Bigger role than distance, but we can improve the setup
- Some connections are better

## Device instance

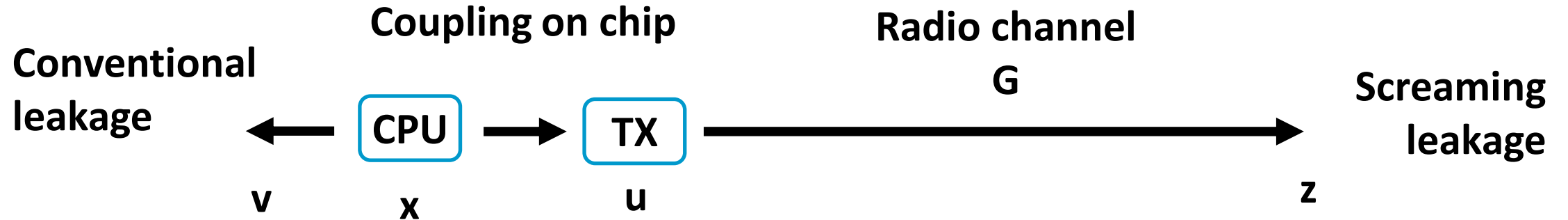
- No significant impact, per-trace normalization helps

## Big Advantage

- Profile in good conditions, attack another instance in harsh conditions

\*O. Meynard et al., "Far Correlation-Based EMA with a Precharacterized Leakage Model," in DATE 2010.

# Understanding the SC distorted leakage model



## Trace vs side channel signal

Do not confuse them

In general, there is not relation between their SNRs, what about distortion?

## Conventional vs. screaming

Can we express a relation between a screaming trace and a conventional trace?

Can we express a relation between the two leakage models? Simple channel estimation

Can we use a fixed portion of a trace to relate the two?

between u and v does not seem to work

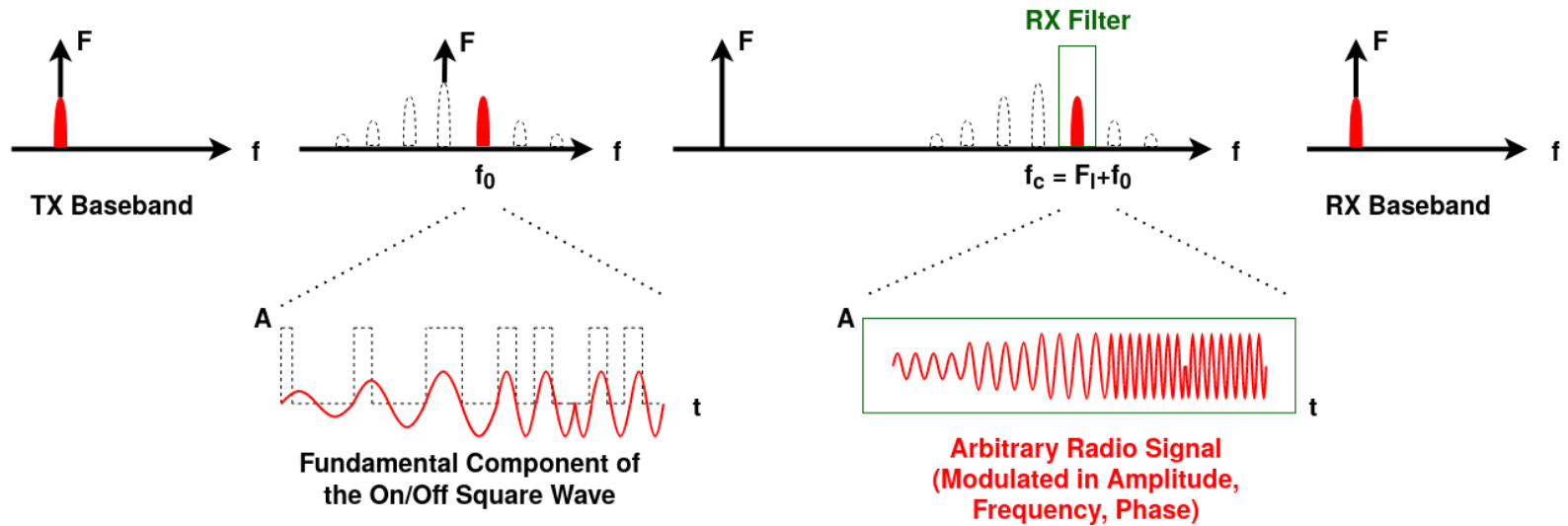
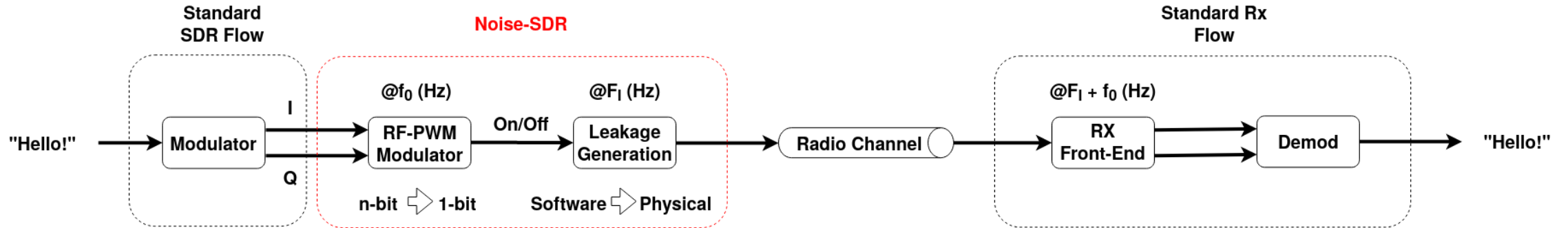
## Potential useful application

Conventional profile, screaming attack?

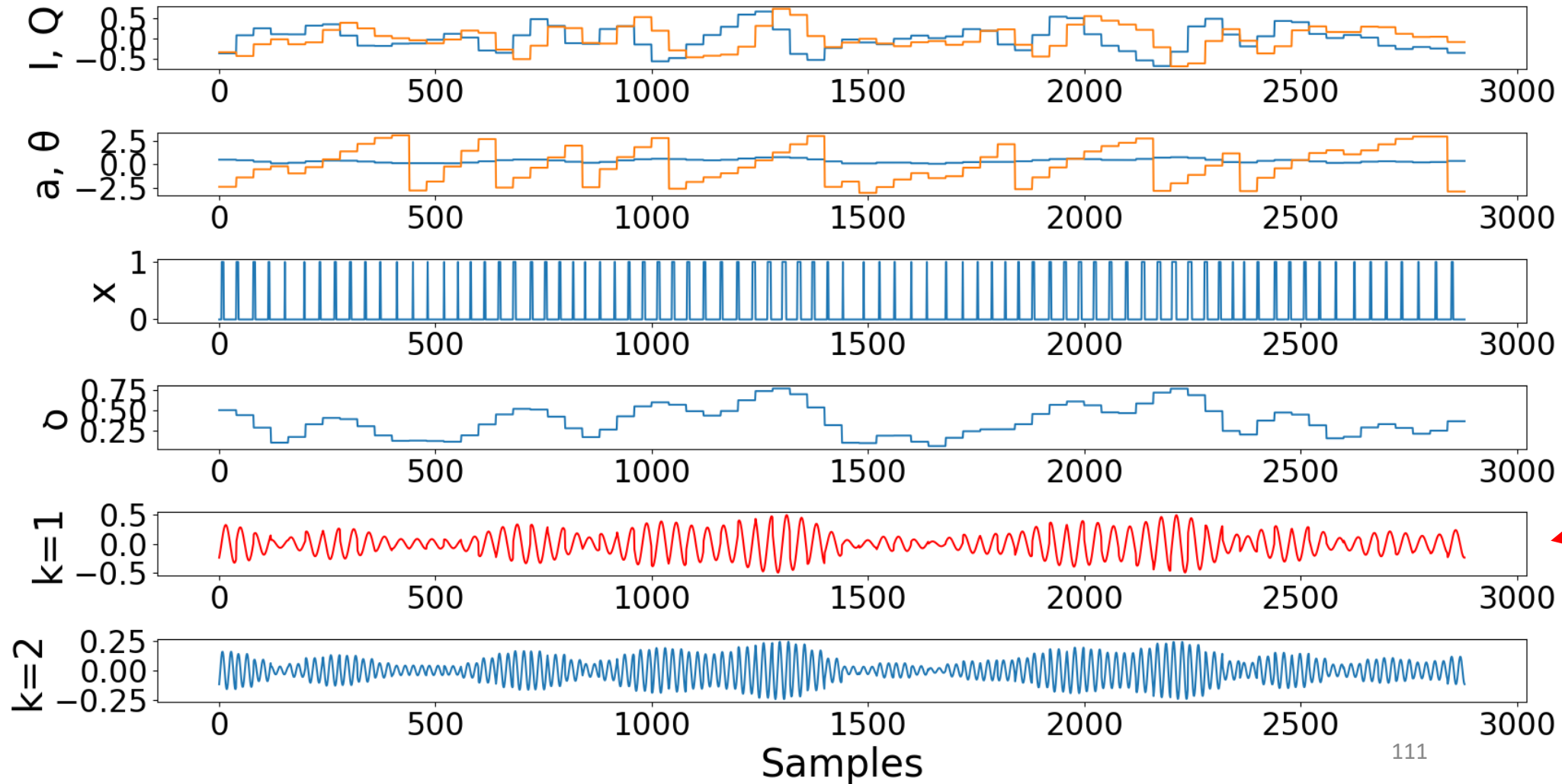
# Backup (Noise-SDR)



# Intuition: the full chain



# Example: HamDRM RF-PWM



# Implementation: discrete-time RF-PWM

**Algorithm 1** Baseband to RF-PWM Modulation.

**Input:** Complex baseband signal  $x_{bb}$  sampled at  $T_{s_{bb}} = 1/F_{s_{bb}}$ , fundamental frequency  $f_0 = 1/T_{s_{bb}}$ , time resolution  $T_{res} = 1/F_{res}$ , assuming  $x_{bb}$  is normalized and  $F_{res}$  is a multiple of  $F_{s_{bb}}$

**Output:** Lists of RF-PWM pulse timings  $T_{high}, T$  at resolution  $T_{res}$

```
1: rep ←  $T_s/T_{res}$ 
2:  $T_{high} \leftarrow []$ 
3:  $T \leftarrow []$ 
4: for  $k = 0$  to  $\text{len}(x_{bb}) - 1$  do
5:    $a_{bb}[k], \theta_{bb}[k] \leftarrow \text{toPolar}(x_{bb}[k])$ 
6:    $a_{bb}[k] \leftarrow \arcsin(a_{bb}[k])/\pi$ 
7: end for
8: for  $i = 0$  to  $\text{len}(x_{bb}) \cdot \text{rep} - 1$  do
9:    $x_{pwm}[i] \leftarrow \cos(2\pi f_0 i/F_{res} + \theta_{bb}[i/\text{rep}])$ 
10: end for
11:  $i \leftarrow 0$ 
12: while  $x_{pwm}(i) < 0$  do
13:    $i \leftarrow i + 1$ 
14: end while
15: while  $i < \text{len}(x_{pwm})$  do
16:    $t \leftarrow 0$ 
17:   while  $i + t < \text{len}(x_{pwm})$  and  $x_{pwm}(i + t) \geq 0$  do
18:      $t \leftarrow t + 1$ 
19:   end while
20:   while  $i + t < \text{len}(x_{pwm})$  and  $x_{pwm}(i + t) < 0$  do
21:      $t \leftarrow t + 1$ 
22:   end while
23:    $T \leftarrow [T, t]$ 
24:    $T_{high} \leftarrow [T_{high}, a_{bb}[i/\text{res}] \cdot t]$ 
25:    $i \leftarrow i + t$ 
26: end while
```

$$f_0 = \frac{F_{res}}{q}, q \geq 2$$

$$\theta_k = 2k\pi f_0 \frac{q}{F_{res}}, q \in \left[ -\left\lfloor \frac{F_{res}}{2kf_0} \right\rfloor, \left\lfloor \frac{F_{res}}{2kf_0} \right\rfloor \right)$$

$$a_k = \sin\left(k\pi q \frac{f_0}{F_{res}}\right), q \in \left[ 0, \frac{1}{2k} \frac{F_{res}}{f_0} \right)$$

## Future Work

Model the spectrum in detail

Effect of the edges

Effect of interpolation

Effect of jitter

Etc.

# Implementation: mathematical modeling

---

## Very large design space

**Many variations of RF-PWM with impact on the spectrum properties\***

**We have chosen those most adapted to our very constrained scenario**

**E.g., no interpolation of the baseband signal, natural sampling of the IF carrier, ...**

## Some specific properties of noise modulation and injection

**Inaccurate time source, with jitter**

**Properties (e.g., frequency and phase) of the underlying leakage**

**To which point we can approximate and simplify the desired signal?**

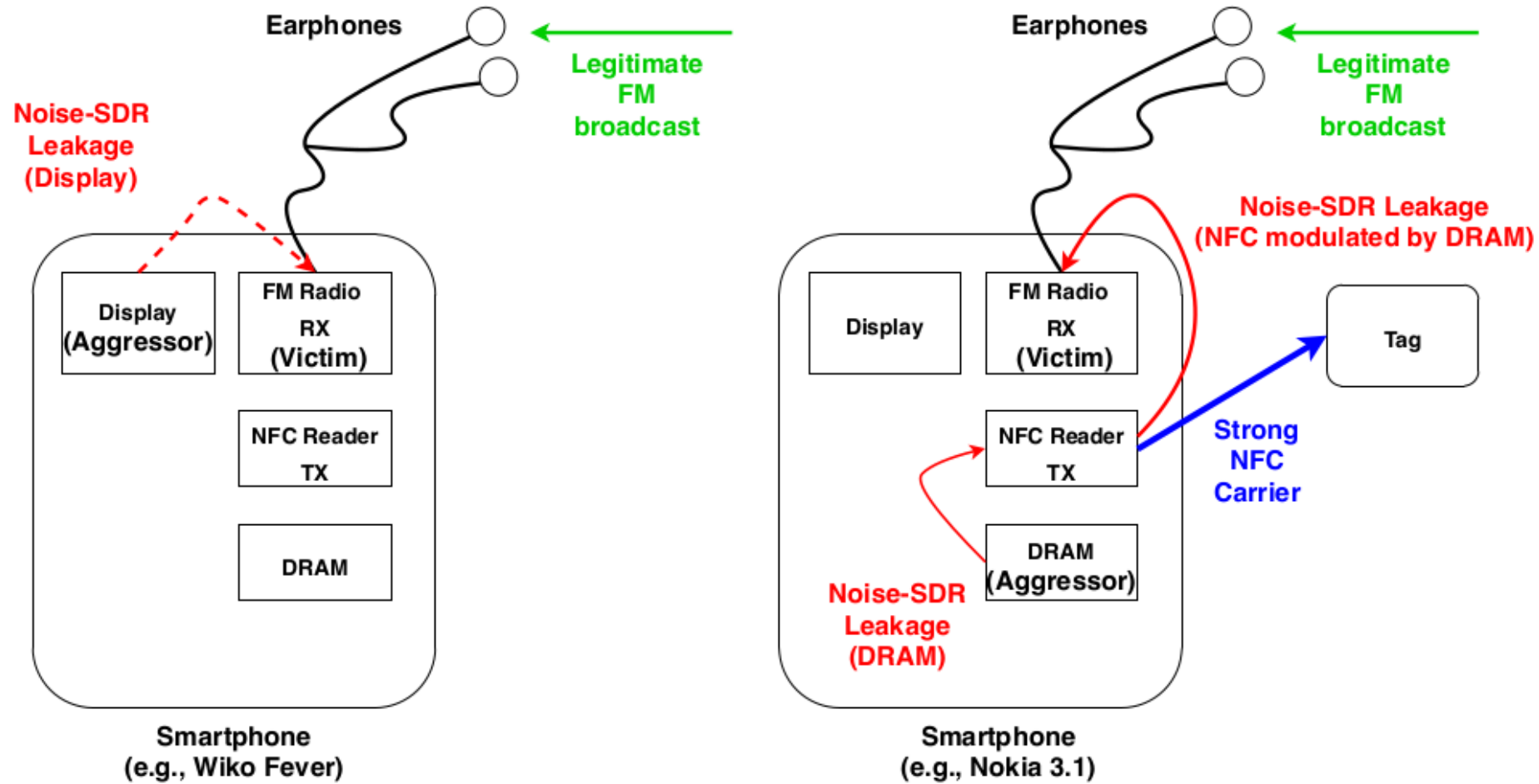
## Future work

**Model the additional features of RF-PWM applied to noise modulation**

**Improve signal quality by optimizing some design choices**

\*P. AJ Nuyts, P. Reynaert, and W. Dehaene, "Continuous-Time Digital Front-Ends for Multistandard Wireless Transmission" (Springer, 2014).

# Injection



# GPS jamming

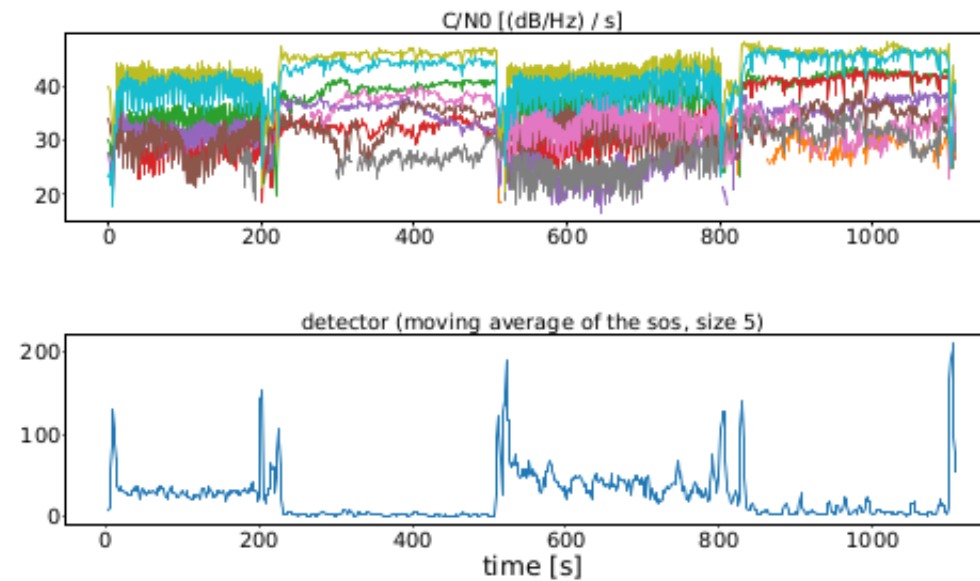


Fig. 11. The sum-of-squares detector catches a degradation of the carrier-to-noise ratio at the *GPS* receiver when the camera is on.

# Evaluation: Ham to GLONASS, choose best tradeoff!

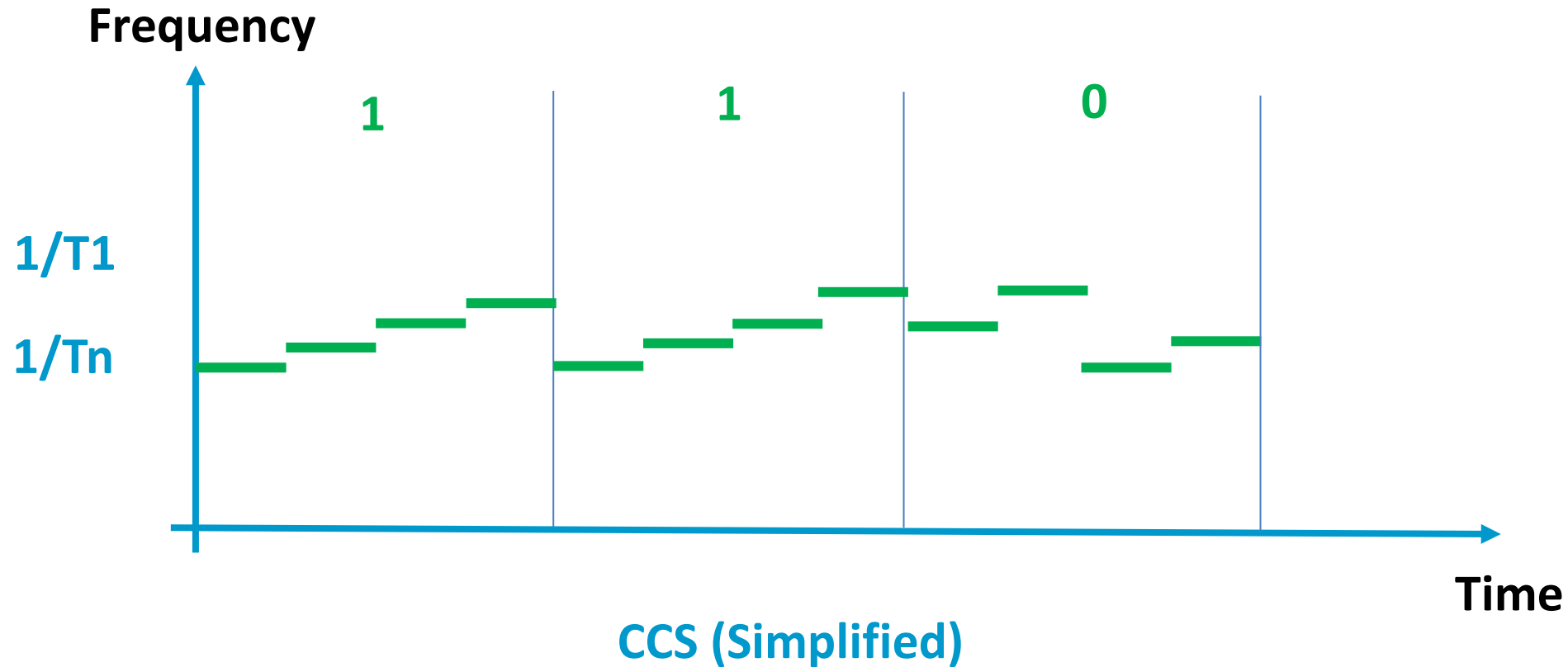
Name	Modulation	Bandwidth
Voice AM	AM	10 kHz
Voice FM	NBFM	12.5 kHz
PSK31	2-PSK, USB	31 Hz
2xPSK500	2 2-PSK subcarriers, USB	1.2 kHz
RTTY45.45	2-FSK, USB	170 Hz
MFSK128	M-FSK, USB	1.928 kHz
Olivia 64/2000	M-FSK USB	2 kHz
SSTV	FM, USB	2.5 kHz
HamDRM	QAM, OFDM, USB	2.4 kHz
FT4	4-GFSK, USB	90 Hz
LoRa	CSS	8 kHz (customizable)
GLONASS C/A	DSSS	0.511 MHz

# Evaluation: Arm-based smartphones

Model	Architecture	LPDDR	Frequency	Harmonics n	Bandwidth	Tested Protocols
Innos D6000	ArmV8-A	3	400 MHz	1 – 4	few MHz	All but <i>HamDRM</i> , n = 2
Nokia 3.1 (TA-1063)	ArmV8-A	3	13.56 MHz (NFC)	7	few kHz	<i>PSK31</i> , n = 7
Samsung Galaxy A30S (SM A397FN)	ArmV8-A	4	1794 MHz	1	few MHz	<i>GLONASS C/A</i> , n = 1
Samsung S7 Exynos (SM-G930F)	ArmV8-A	4	1794 MHz	1	few kHz	Simple tunes and chirps
Samsung Galaxy S5 Mini (SM G800F)	ArmV7-A	n.a.	200 MHz	1-11,13-19,26	tens of kHz	All but <i>GLONASS</i> , n = 1
Samsung M31 (SM-M315F/DSN)	ArmV8-A	4	1794 MHz (rare)	1	few MHz	<i>NBFM</i>
Samsung Galaxy J7 (SM-J730FM)	ArmV8-A	3	None identified	-	-	-
Samsung Galaxy Young (GT-S631ON)	ArmV7-A	n.a.	None identified	-	-	-
Sony Xperia C5 (E5533)	ArmV8-A	4	400 MHz	1-11	few MHz	<i>NBFM</i> , <i>LoRa</i> , n = 6
Sony Xperia X (F5121)	ArmV8-A	3	None identified	-	-	-
Motorola Moto E6S	ArmV7-A	3	400 MHz	1,2	few kHz	Simple tunes and chirps
Google Nexus 5 (D821)	ArmV7-A	2	200 MHz	1 – 5, 8, 12 16, 20, 24	tens of kHz	<i>NBFM</i> , <i>MFSK128</i> , <i>FT4</i> , <i>SSTV</i> , <i>Olivia</i> , <i>LoRa</i> , n = 1
Google Pixel XL	ArmV8-A	4	None identified	-	-	-
Google Pixel 2	ArmV8-A	4	None identified	-	-	-
Wiko Fever	ArmV8-A	3	None identified	-	-	-
Huawei P8 Lite (PRA-LX1)	ArmV8-A	3	None identified	-	-	-
Huawei P10 (VTR-L09)	ArmV8-A	4	None identified	-	-	-
Huawei P8 SE (GRA-L09)	ArmV8-A	3	None identified	-	-	-
OnePlus 7 Pro PE (GM1913)	ArmV8-A	4	None identified	-	-	-



# Concurrent work: LoRa-like Chirp Spread Spectrum



C, Shen et al., "When LoRa Meets EMR: Electromagnetic Covert Channels Can Be Super Resilient", IEEE S&P 2021

# Acknowledgements

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We would like to thank:

- The SeCiF project within the French-German Academy for the Industry of the future, the DAPCODS/IOTics ANR 2016 project (ANR-16-CE25-0015).
- The COST action CRYPTACUS.
- Google for the Faculty Award assigned to Aurélien Francillon.
- The R2Lab at Inria for their support with measurements in their anechoic chamber.



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