



UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA AT LAFAYETTE SCHOOL OF COMPUTING & INFORMATICS Ray P. Authement College of Sciences

# Investigate and Mitigate the Attacks Caused by Out-of-Band Signals

Dr. Xiali (Sharon) Hei Associate Professor The Center for Advanced Computing Studies (CACS) School of Computing and Informatics University of Louisiana at Lafayette

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- An endowed associate professor at UL Lafayette, since August 2023.
  - Cyber-Physical System (CPS) Security, Side Channel, and Embedded System Security,
  - Privacy, Privacy-Preserving Learning, Al Model Security,
- Funds: <u>Secure more than 24 million funds as PI or a co-PI, more than 3 million</u> personal share
- Publications: 62, including peer-reviewed papers, journals, and book chapters

### Bio (2)

• Dedicated: Once I get the opportunity, I will try my best and succeed.



### Bio (3)

• Goal-getter: intensive efforts behind each achievement. More than 120 hours on each proposal writing



#### Mentor students: results

- Yazhou Tu, TT AP at Auburn University, better than ULL
  - 2 USENIX Security papers, 1 CCS paper, 1 RAID paper, 2 AsiaCCS papers, and several papers under review
  - Quality and Quantity comparable with the students from top universities
- Md Imran Hossen, Research Scientist, ULL
  - 1 USENIX Security paper, 1 Euro S&P paper, 1 RAID paper, 1 AsiaCCS papers, 1 WOOT paper, and several papers in submission, including 1 USENIX Security paper, and others
  - Quality and Quantity comparable with the students from top universities
- Vijay Srinivas Tida, co-advised student, TT AP at The College of Saint Benedict and Saint John's University
  - 1 AsiaCCS paper, 3 HICSS papers, and several papers in submission,
  - Work on optimization of **up-sampling, widely used in GAN, big impact**

# Exploring the Physics of Sensing and Embedded Security in Three Pillars



### Machine Learning for Security & Privacy, AI Model security



XMAM: X-raying models with a matrix to reveal backdoor attacks for federated learning [DCN'23]

FL-PLAS: Backdoor-Resistant Federated Learning based on Partial Layer Aggregation Strategy [AAAI'24, under review]

### SaTC vision

- Motivation:
  - Billions of CPS, IoT systems, and human-computer interfaces rely on sensors



# A World with CPS/IoT Systems: Computations Dealing with the Physical World

- Vision:
  - Decision-making and interaction of CPS/IoT/HCI (Autonomous systems and AI) rely on sensor-enabled environment perception
  - Security and safety of CPSs require threat models and computations resilient to the complex physical world
- Research Questions:
  - How to **anticipate** analog-domain risks in sensing?
  - How to design and conduct computations to analyze and mitigate security, privacy, and safety risks?

# Roadmap

- Research
  - Acoustic attacks on embedded inertial sensor systems
    - Real-time Attacks (Manual Attacks) [USENIX'18]
    - Automatic Attacks (Using Programs) with Data Feedback [USENIX'18]
    - Automatic Attacks (Using Programs) without Data Feedback [CPSIoTSec'23]
  - Mitigating safety risks of acoustic attacks on sensors [SmartSP'23]
  - Mitigating safety risks of EMI attacks on sensors [CCS'19, SecTL'23, ASIACCS'21]



# Security

First Attacks on Gyroscopes to Control Actuation, Navigation, and AR/VR Systems

1. Injected and Delivered: Fabricating Implicit **Control** over **Actuation Systems** by **Spoofing Inertial Sensors**, In USENIX Security Symposium, 2018



**Yazhou Tu**, Zhiqiang Lin, Insup Lee, Xiali Hei. "Injected and Delivered: Fabricating Implicit Control over Actuation Systems by Spoofing Inertial Sensors." *USENIX Security Symposium*. 2018.

**Yazhou Tu**, Sara Rampazzi, and Xiali Hei. "Towards Adversarial Process Control on Inertial Sensor Systems with Physical Feedback Side Channels." **CPSIoTSec** 2023.

Jianyi Zhang, et al, "ADC-Bank: Detecting Acoustic Out-of-Band Signal Injection on Inertial Sensors." SmartSP 2023, Best paper award!



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### MEMS Inertial Sensors

- Provide motion feedback to control systems
  - Gyroscope: Angular velocity
- Miniaturized mechanical sensing structure
  - Micro-electromechanical systems (MEMS)
  - Transduce inertial stimuli to electrical signals
  - Vulnerable to *acoustic resonance* [Dean2007ISIE]





Dean, Robert N., George T. Flowers, A. Scotte Hodel, et al. "On the degradation of MEMS gyroscope performance in the presence of high power acoustic noise." In 2007 IEEE International Symposium on Industrial Electronics. IEEE, 2007.

### Conventional Attacks on MEMS Inertial Sensors

- **DoS** attack on gyroscopes (drones) [Son2015usenix]
- Control the output of exposed accelerometers [Trippel2017EuroS&P]
  - Short control (<2 seconds after hand tuning)
  - Require access to internal victim hardware (Arduino)

#### Conventional White-Box Approach



### Motivation: A Real System is often a Black Box



#### Issues of Acoustic Injection on Inertial Sensors



• Aliasing 
$$F = n \cdot F_S + \epsilon$$
  $\left(-\frac{1}{2}F_S < \epsilon \le \frac{1}{2}F_S, n \in \mathbb{Z}^+\right)$  (1)

• When  $F = n \cdot F_S$  we have  $\varepsilon = 0$  (Direct Current, DC)



• In real-world systems: Fs is drifting. The drift is amplified by *n* times (Eq. 1)

#### Attack Methods: Side-Swing Attack



- Increase A[i] to amplify the induced output in the target direction
- Decrease A[i] to attenuate the output in the opposite direction <sup>21</sup>

### Switching Attacks



#### • Repetitive Phase Pacing

- Switch F between F1 and F2 back and forth
- Basic Idea: Intentionally inducing **positive** and **negative** frequencies in acoustic attacks

### Attacks on Closed-Loop and Open-Loop Control Systems

- Self-balancing Transporter
  - Side-Swing: <u>https://youtu.be/Y1LLiyhCn9I</u>
  - Switching: <a href="https://youtu.be/D-etuH04pms">https://youtu.be/D-etuH04pms</a>
- Robot
  - Side-Swing: <u>https://youtu.be/oy3B1X41u5s</u>
- Camera Stabilization
  - Side-Swing: <u>https://youtu.be/FDxaLUtgaCM</u>
  - Switching: <a href="https://youtu.be/JcA\_WXHrUEs">https://youtu.be/JcA\_WXHrUEs</a>
- Screwdriver, VR headset/controller, 3D mouses, smartphones, etc.

#### Switching attacks on a self-balancing transporter



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### Automatic Switching Attack with Feedback

- Motivation:
  - Hand tuning is slow and relies on human reaction
- Program generates and adjusts acoustic signals
  - More effective
  - Active adaptation
  - Controlled with algorithm



#### **Condition of Phase Pacing**

$$F_{1} = n \cdot F_{S} + \varepsilon_{1} \qquad \left(-\frac{1}{2}F_{S} < \varepsilon_{1} \le \frac{1}{2}F_{S}, n \in \mathbb{Z}^{+}\right)$$
  

$$F_{2} = n \cdot F_{S} + \varepsilon_{2} \qquad \left(-\frac{1}{2}F_{S} < \varepsilon_{2} \le \frac{1}{2}F_{S}, n \in \mathbb{Z}^{+}\right)$$
(8)

Example: *nFs* = 20,000Hz, *F*<sub>1</sub> = 19,999Hz, *F*<sub>2</sub> = 20,001Hz

### Automatic Switching Attacks (with Data Feedback)

 Program generates and adjusts attack signals in real-time



- We apply our automatic attacks on
  - Android (Google Maps)
    - <u>https://youtu.be/dy6gm9ZLKuY</u>
  - IOS (VR game)
    - <u>https://youtu.be/kTQFi9CI8R8</u>
  - Web Scripts
    - <u>https://youtu.be/MkpW\_j6gd8k</u>







Rotating the orientation of Google Maps

Shooting germs in VR games 26

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### Challenges with Automatic Attacks in Black-box Approach

 No digital connections or digital feedback



• Problem: Tuning time selection



### What if There is No Data Feedback?



• How to achieve automatic attacks with physical-domain observations?

### Automatic Attacks with Physical Feedback Side Channel

- Approach: adversarial control loop using the physical feedback side channel
- Non-invasively analyze the target's **response under signal injections**





### Attack Program Design and Implementation

- The general procedure and basic modules automated with **algorithms**
- Multi-threaded program to form continuous real-time control



Automatic Switching Attacks on a Self-Balancing Scooter



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# Demo: Real-Time Automatic Attack with Physical Feedback Side Channel



#### Video Code



### Contributions

#### • Theoretical results:

- Sample rate drifts amplification theorem
- Non-invasive attacks on inertial sensors embedded in real systems
  - Side-Swing and Switching attacks
  - Evaluated on 25 devices
  - Demonstrate implicit control over different kinds of systems
- *Automatic* attacks with/without data feedback
  - The attack system is not connected to any digital interfaces of the system

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# ADC-Bank: Detecting Acoustic Out-of-Band Signal Injection on Inertial Sensors

Jianyi Zhang, Yuchen Wang, Yazhou Tu, Sara Rampazzi, Zhiqiang Lin, Insup Lee, Xiali Hei











#### **Motivation**

- Inertial sensors with **low-pass filters** are still vulnerable to acoustic attacks <sup>[1].</sup>
- **Shielding** can cause heat dissipation, cost, size, and usability issues.
- **Sampling-based methods like random sampling** or canceling a frequency component by adding two samples based on a delay calculated from a known frequency <sup>[2]</sup>.
- However, it is difficult to cancel injected signals because the sensors are usually vulnerable in one or more frequency ranges instead of a single, previously determined frequency <sup>[3; 2; 1]</sup>.
- The above methods can not correct the attack effects.

[1] Tu, Yazhou, et al. "Injected and delivered: Fabricating implicit control over actuation systems by spoofing inertial sensors." USENIX Security 2018.

[2] Trippel, Timothy, et al. "WALNUT: Waging doubt on the integrity of MEMS accelerometers with acoustic injection attacks." IEEE European symposium on security and privacy (EuroS&P 2017).

[3] Son, Yunmok, et al. "Rocking drones with intentional sound noise on gyroscopic sensors." USENIX Security 2015.

### **Defense Approach**

- High-level Idea
  - Component redundancy in 1 sensor, not sensor fusion
  - ADC's Fs are pairwise relative prime
  - Simultaneously measure the physical stimulus
  - Some ADCs have multi-paths, and the sampling rate could be set, easy to integrate, less errors than filters : 1 ADC's multi-paths also work

### System Model



 $F = n \cdot F_S + \epsilon \quad \left(-\frac{1}{2}F_S < \epsilon \le \frac{1}{2}F_S, n \in \mathbb{Z}^+\right)$ 

#### **Attack Frequency Analysis**

According to the **peak frequency** obtained from ADC of a certain sampling rate, we can calculate the possible attack frequency ranges of several segments by the following equation.



#### Discussion

- Adaptive Attacks and Frequency Drift
  - Acoustic-based Spoofing Attacks cannot work
    - Slight frequency drift or sample rate jitter in acoustic-based spoofing attacks can significantly affect sensor output.
  - Effect of Increasing ADCs
  - Limiting of Frequency Sweeping and Hopping

#### Conclusion

- Proposed a component redundancy scheme to detect acoustic out-of-band signal injection by elaborating and comparing the physical stimulus in different settings.
- Investigated how to **mine the real physical stimulus** from different results of the redundant components.
- Deployed our defense method on off-the-shelf inertial sensors with commercial ADCs to evaluate our method.
- Discussed how our strategy can **be used** in future sensors' design and manufacturing.

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# Mitigating Safety Risks of EMI Attacks on Sensors

Investigating security and Safety Risks of EMI Attacks on Temperature Sensors

- 1. Trick or heat? Manipulating critical temperature-based control systems using rectification attacks, In ACM CCS, 2019
- 2. A First Look at the Security of EEG-based Systems and Intelligent Algorithms under Physical Signal Injections". In ACM SecTL, 2023

**Defending** against EMI Signal Injections on Sensors

3. Transduction shield: A low-complexity method to detect and correct the effects of EMI injection attacks on sensors, In ACM AsiaCCS, 2021





Yazhou Tu, Sara Rampazzi, Bin Hao, Angel Rodriguez, Kevin Fu, and Xiali Hei. "Trick or heat? Manipulating critical temperature-based control systems using rectification attacks." In *Proceedings of the ACM CCS*. 2019.

Md Imran Hossen, Yazhou Tu, and Xiali Hei. "A First Look at the Security of EEG-based Systems and Intelligent Algorithms under Physical Signal Injections". SecTL 2023.

Yazhou Tu, Vijay Srinivas Tida, Zhongqi Pan, and Xiali Hei. "Transduction shield: A low-complexity method to detect and correct the effects of EMI injection attacks on sensors." In *Proceedings of the ACM AsiaCCS*. 2021.

#### Trick or Heat? Manipulating Critical Temperature-Based Control Systems Using Rectification Attacks

Session 10A: Cyberphysical Security

CCS '19, November 11-15, 2019, London, United Kingdom

- A joint work with
- Published at ACN

#### Trick or Heat? Manipulating Critical Temperature-Based Control Systems Using Rectification Attacks

Yazhou Tu\* University of Louisiana at Lafayette yazhou.tu1@louisiana.edu

> Angel Rodriguez University of Michigan angelrod@umich.edu

#### ABSTRACT

Temperature sensing and control systems are widely used in the closed-loop control of critical processes such as maintaining the thermal stability of patients, or in alarm systems for detecting temperature-related hazards. However, the security of these systems has yet to be completely explored, leaving potential attack surfaces that can be exploited to take control over critical systems.

In this paper we investigate the reliability of temperature-based control systems from a security and safety perspective. We show how unexpected consequences and safety risks can be induced by

Sara Rampazzi\* University of Michigan srampazz@umich.edu

Kevin Fu University of Michigan kevinfu@umich.edu Bin Hao University of Louisiana at Lafayette bin.hao@louisiana.edu

Xiali Hei University of Louisiana at Lafayette xiali.hei@louisiana.edu

#### KEYWORDS

Hardware Security; Safety-Critical Systems; Sensor Signal Injections; Temperature Sensors

#### **ACM Reference Format:**

Yazhou Tu, Sara Rampazzi, Bin Hao, Angel Rodriguez, Kevin Fu, and Xiali Hei. 2019. Trick or Heat? Manipulating Critical Temperature-Based Control Systems Using Rectification Attacks. In 2019 ACM SIGSAC Conference on Computer and Communications Security (CCS '19), November 11–15, 2019, London, United Kingdom. ACM, New York, NY, USA, 15 pages. https://doi. org/10.1145/3319535.3354195

# Can temperature be easily manipulated?



# Can temperature be easily manipulated?



#### Controlling the Temperature Sensor Output



### Real-World Implications

• Medical Devices, Cold Chain of Vaccine [1] and Blood, and Biomedical Applications





Attack can be launched from adjacent room (15 cm wall)

EMI Injections on Temperature Sensor of Infant Incubator

1. Long et al. "Protecting COVID-19 Vaccine Transportation and Storage from Analog Cybersecurity Threats." Biomedical Instrumentation & Technology 55.3 (2021): 112-117.

### **Real-World Implications**

• EMI-Based Adversarial Temperature Control in Additive Manufacturing



EMI: 400 MHz

EXTRUDER		Frequency: 1 GHz
Extruder Temp Extruder Version	33° C	Power: 3.08 W
Material Print Time Filament Extruded Mass Extruded Extruder Serial #	PLA 430.63 Hours 2556.7m 7.9kg 0000-0035-45	The actual temperature: 23°C
EMI: 1	GHz	



# Mitigating Safety Risks of EMI Attacks on Sensors

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Secure and Trustworthy Deep Learning Systems (SecTL) 2023

A First Look at the Security of EEG-based Systems and Intelligent Algorithms under Physical Signal Injections

> Md Imran Hossen, Yazhou Tu and Xiali Hei The Center for Advanced Computer Studies University of Louisiana at Lafayette July 10, 2023





UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA AT LAFAYETTE SCHOOL OF COMPUTING & INFORMATICS Ray P. Authement College of Sciences EEG Data in Everyday Life

#### Healthcare



#### Research



#### Entertainment



Diagnosing and monitoring **neurological disorders**, such as epilepsy and sleep disorders Cognitive neuroscience research to study **brain functions** and **mental states** 

Brain-computer interfaces (BCIs) for **gaming** and **virtual reality** applications

### EEG-based Intelligent Systems



#### Robustness of EEG-based Systems under Analog-Domain Threats



EMI → Electromagnetic Interference ML → Machine Learning DL → Deep Learning

#### → Consequences of the attacks can be severe:

- Attacks can lead to misclassification of EEG signals, resulting in incorrect diagnoses or interpretations
- Manipulating the models can cause the system to provide incorrect recommendations or actions based on compromised EEG data

# Physical Signal Injection Attacks

- → Novelty: First demonstration of physical signal injection attacks on ML and DL models utilizing EEG data
- → Attack Methodology: Non-invasively injecting signals into EEG recordings



# Threat Model

#### • Adversary Capabilities:

- Can non-invasively inject signals using antennas within a range of one to several meters
- Can amplify the transmitting power and employ directional antennas for signal injection from longer distances
- Could also use **portable** EMI-emitting devices (e.g., off-the-shelf software-defined radio (SDR))

#### Black-Box Attack Setting:

- The adversary does not have the knowledge of the internal structure or parameters of the target models
- The adversary **does not directly modify** the data to launch the attacks



# **Experimental Setting**

- ML Task:
  - Seizure detection (classifying EEG recordings into seizure or non-seizure)
- Dataset:
  - The **Bonn** University EEG dataset
- Models:
  - Logistic Regression (LR)
  - Support Vector Machine (SVM)
  - Decision Trees (DT)
  - Random Forest (RF)
  - K-nearest Neighbours (KNN)
  - CNN-based DL model (ConvNet1D)

# Performance of Models Without Attack

Model	Accuracy	Precision	Recall	<b>F1</b>
LR	0.9920	0.9923	0.9920	0.9921
SVM	0.9920	0.9923	0.9920	0.9921
DT	0.9760	0.9765	0.9760	0.9762
RF	0.9920	0.9923	0.9920	0.9921
KNN	0.9680	0.9678	0.9680	0.9675
ConvNet1D	0.9920	0.9923	0.9920	0.9921

All models achieve an F1-score over 96% on the test dataset for the seizure detection

# EEG Signal Characteristics Under Attack



# Performance of Models **Under Attack**

Injection	Model	Accuracy	Precision	Recall	<b>F1</b>
	LR	0.4720	0.8549	0.4720	0.4922
	SVM	0.2880	0.8439	0.2880	0.2305
Sine wave	DT	0.8800	0.9030	0.8800	0.8863
(10 Hz)	RF	0.8320	0.9087	0.8320	0.8470
	KNN	0.7920	0.8874	0.7920	0.8115
	ConvNet1D	0.3680	0.8481	0.3680	0.3552
	LR	0.5040	0.8575	0.5040	0.5299
	SVM	0.2400	0.8417	0.2400	0.1452
Square wave	DT	0.8160	0.8758	0.8160	0.8308
(10 Hz)	RF	0.7600	0.8909	0.7600	0.7838
	KNN	0.6800	0.8769	0.6800	0.7111
	ConvNet1D	0.2560	0.8424	0.2560	0.1746
	LR	0.6720	0.8758	0.6720	0.7036
Brain-wave-	SVM	0.2720	0.8431	0.2720	0.2030
band noise	DT	0.6160	0.8685	0.6160	0.6494
(Theta wave	RF	0.2000	0.0400	0.2000	0.0667
band 4-7 Hz)	KNN	0.2720	0.8431	0.2720	0.2030
	ConvNet1D	0.2000	0.0400	0.2000	0.0667

Significant degradation

# Performance of Models Under Attack (Cont'd)



Figure: Confusion matrices for different models with EEG data corrupted using EMIinjected brain-wave-band noise (Theta-wave band 4-7 Hz)

# Performance of Models Under Attack (Cont'd)

# A significant number of non-seizure samples are misclassified as seizures

# Contributions

- Conducted the first study on non-invasive physical injection
   attacks on EEG-based systems
- Showed how attackers can degrade the performance of ML and DL models by injecting external signals into EEG recordings without requiring access to the original data, compromising the reliability of EEG-based systems
- Highlighted the need for trustworthy bioelectric-signal-based measuring, processing, and decision-making to enhance safety and reliability

# Transduction shield: A low-complexity method to detect and correct the effects of EMI injection attacks on sensors

Yazhou Tu, Vijay Srinivas Tida, Zhongqi Pan, Xiali Hei

A small change in the sensor circuit can successfully mitigate the EMI injection attack effects.



#### Transduction Shield: A Low-Complexity Method to Detect and Correct the Effects of EMI Injection Attacks on Sensors

Yazhou Tu University of Louisiana at Lafayette Lafayette, Louisiana, USA yazhou.tu1@louisiana.edu

Zhongqi Pan University of Louisiana at Lafayette Lafayette, Louisiana, USA zhongqi.pan@louisiana.edu

#### ABSTRACT

The reliability of control systems often relies on the trustworthiness of sensors. As process automation and robotics keep evolving, sensing methods such as pressure sensing are extensively used in both conventional systems and rapidly emerging applications. The goal of this paper is to investigate the threats and design a low-complexity defense method against EMI injection attacks on sensors.

To ensure the security and usability of sensors and automated processes, we propose to leverage a matched dummy sensor circuit that shares the sensor's vulnerabilities to EMI but is insensitive to legitimate signals that the sensor is intended to measure. Our method can detect and correct corrupted sensor measurements without introducing components or modules that are highly complex compared to an original low-end sensor circuit. We analyze and evaluate our method on sensors with EMI injection experiments using different attack parameters. We investigate several attack scenarios, including manipulating the DC voltage of the sensor Vijay Srinivas Tida University of Louisiana at Lafayette Lafayette, Louisiana, USA vijay-srinivas.tida1@louisiana.edu

Xiali Hei University of Louisiana at Lafayette Lafayette, Louisiana, USA xiali.hei@louisiana.edu

#### **ACM Reference Format:**

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#### **1 INTRODUCTION**

Sensors measure physical properties in the real world and provide feedback to guide automated processes in industrial and robotic applications. For instance, pressure sensors are widely utilized in monitoring and control processes in industrial applications, aircraft systems, critical facilities such as the nuclear power plant, and emerging applications such as the sensorization of humanoids to measure physical properties, including strain, weight, flow rate, air and fluid pressure [12, 15, 21, 43, 47, 49].

Ideally, sensors should only be sensitive to specific physical stim-

# Transduction Shield: Detect and Correct the Effects of EMI Attacks on Sensors

- Leverage a matched dummy sensor circuit
  - shares the sensor's vulnerabilities to EMI
  - insensitive to legitimate signals
  - low-cost



• Detect/correct corrupted sensor measurements in real-time



### **Results**



#### Sine wave and white noise injection

#### Recognition Result: "Hey "Hey "Hey "Alch-Google, "Hey Google "Hey Google Google what time: Turn on" Turn down" Turn Google Timer" emy Bar" "Hey Google " what time is it" down" Output $^{-1}$ 1520 2530 0 5 10Time (s) Recognition "Hey Google, what time is it" "Hey Google, "OK Google, Result: what time is it" what time is it" "Hey Google, what time is it" "Hey Google, "Hey Google, what time is it" what time is it" Output 0 110.1.1 $^{-1}$ 15 10 20 25 5 30 0 Time (s)

Legitimate signal: Hey Google, what time is it?

#### Malicious voice injection

Sensor

Corrected

### Acknowledgment

- Collaborators:
  - Zhiqiang Lin (Ohio State University)
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  - Kevin Fu (Northeastern University)



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- Students and visiting scholars:
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### Summary

- Threat models and computations of CPS/IoT should NOT assume an ideal, imaginary physical world (Illusion)
  - Side channels and out-of-band signal injections (EMI, Acoustic, Light)
  - Unexpected security, privacy, and safety risks (Assumptions broken)
- Identifying, detecting and **correcting** the attacks
  - Considering the underlying physics
- Validating security and reliability
  - Testbeds, prototype CPS systems, education

Demos: https://youtu.be/Y1LLiyhCn9I https://youtu.be/8Bjvlbu4aJM

Email: xiali.hei@louisiana.edu













Testbeds for CPS security research and education