

X-in-the-Middle : Attacking Fast Charging Piles and Electric Vehicles

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Tencent Blade Team

About US

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About Tencent Blade Team

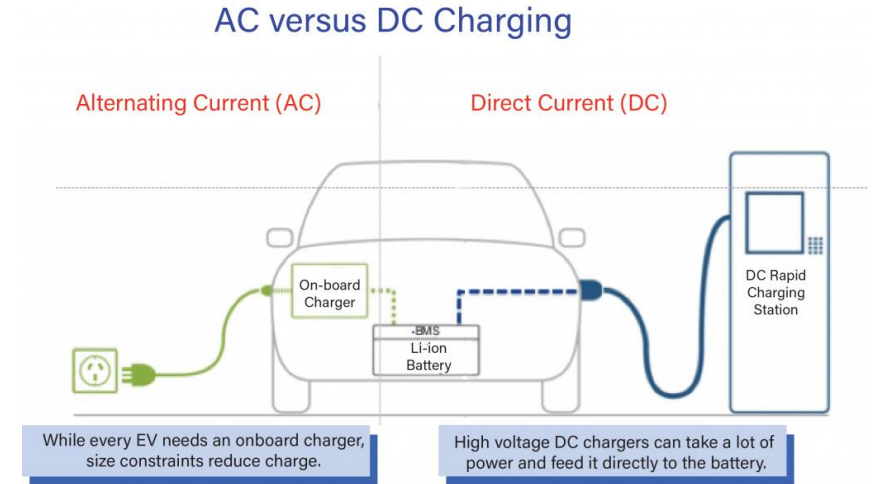
- Founded by Tencent Security Platform Department in 2017
- Focusing on security research in the areas of AIoT and Cloud virtualization
- Reported 200+ vulnerabilities to vendors such as Google, Apple, Microsoft, Amazon
- More about us : <https://blade.tencent.com>

Agenda

- Introduction to EV Charging
- Attack Surface Analysis
- What is "X-in-the-Middle" Attack
- How to attack "Plug and Charge"

Introduction to EV Charging

- The rapid expansion of the electric vehicle market has promoted the construction of charging infrastructure.
- DC charging has higher charging power, and in order to confirm the charging voltage and current, the electric vehicle and the charging station will communicate after being connected.



Introduction to EV Charging

| | CHAdeMO | GB/T | US-COMBO CCS1 | EUR-COMBO CCS2 | Tesla  |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Connector |  |  |  |  |  |
| Inlet |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | |
|  |  | |  | | |
|  | ✓ | | | ✓ | |
|  | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | |
|  | | ✓ | | | |
| Protocol | CAN | | PLC | | CAN |
| V2X Function | ✓ | | | | ? |
| Max Power | 400kW 1000x400 | 185kW 750x250 | 200kW 600x400 | 350kW 900x400 | ? |
| Market Power | 150kW | 125kW | 150kW | 350kW | 120kW |
| Start @ | 2009 | 2013 | 2014 | 2013 | 2012 |

Introduction to EV Charging

- Electric vehicles infrastructure is making progress towards a more intelligent, more high-power direction.
- The construction of charging stations is accelerating all over the world, but there is little research on the security of electric vehicle infrastructure.



Attack Surface Analysis

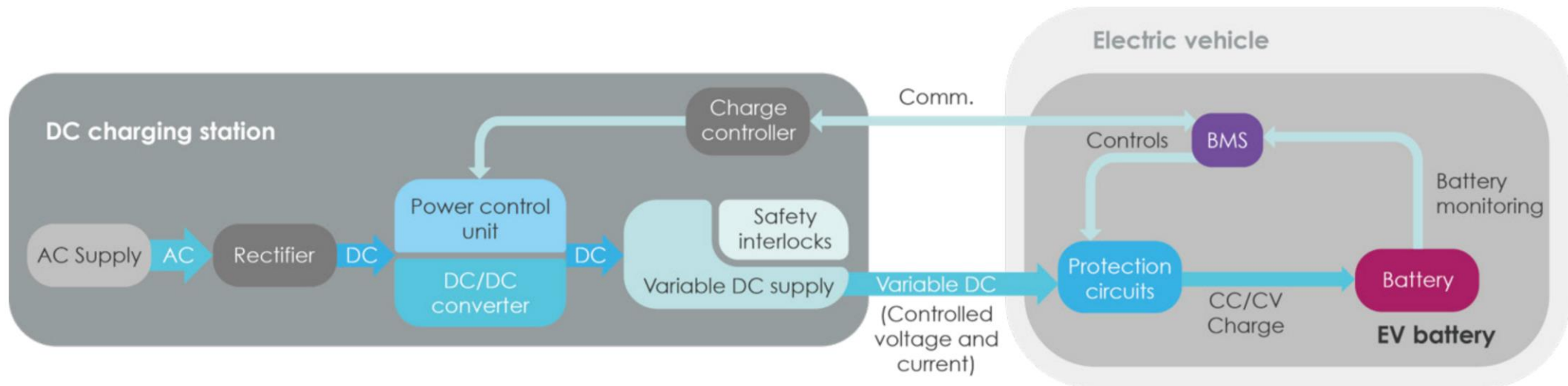
- EV Charging piles are also IoT devices, which usually have built-in systems and operating interfaces, its attack surface involves hardware, systems, cloud services and communications.
- Our focus is on the security of the communication protocol between the electric vehicle and the charging pile.



Attack Surface Analysis

If we can implement a man-in-the-middle attack, we might be able to:

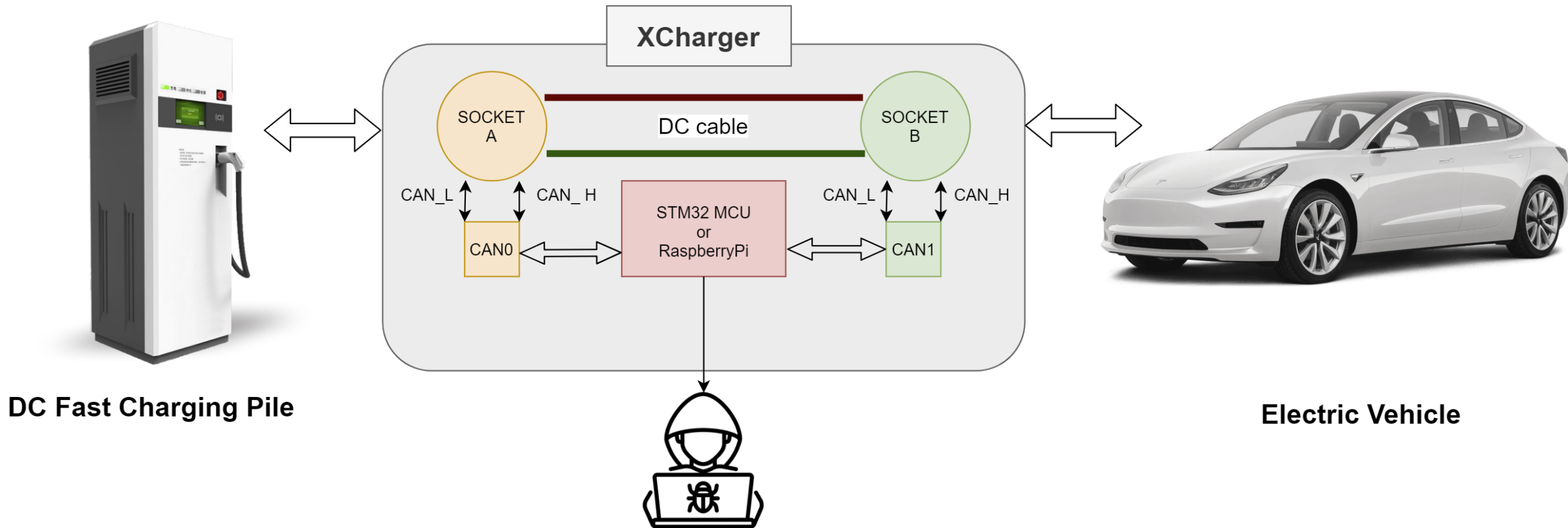
- Find Vulnerabilities in BMS and Charge controller through Fuzzing
- Analyze private protocols and try to bypass identity authentication mechanism
- Damage the EV by tampering with the charging voltage and current



what is "X-in-the-Middle" attack

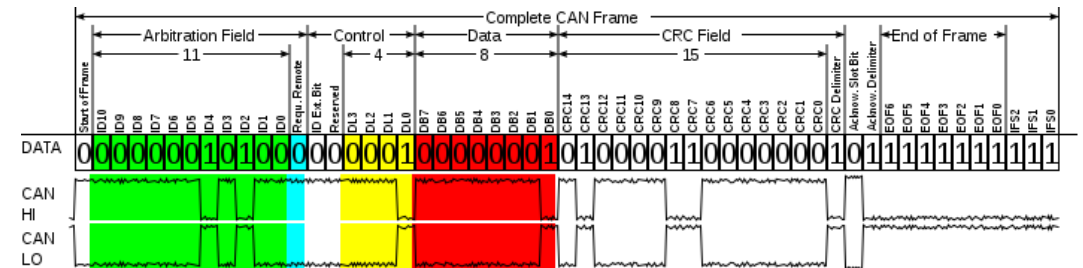
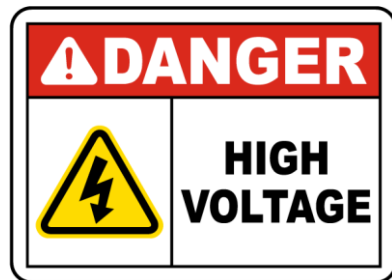
1. Overview
2. Challenge & Solution
3. Quick Test on Tesla SuperCharger

Overview



Challenge

- It should be able to ensure that personal safety and vehicle safety are not threatened in the test.
- High compatibility, suitable for all electric vehicles with Chinese DC charging standard.
- CAN-BUS communication requires low latency, and it is necessary to ensure that no frame is dropped when performing a man-in-the-middle attack.



Challenge



Solution



Solution

- Open source solution for CAN-BUS Monitoring & Fuzzing & Tampering
 1. Raspberry Pi 4B + 2-CH CAN HAT + Ubuntu for ARM
 - <https://github.com/eerimoq/cantools>
 - <https://github.com/collin80/SavvyCAN>
 - <https://github.com/CANToolz/CANToolz>
 2. CANSPY
 - <https://bitbucket.org/jcdemay/canspy>
- More details and code will be released in the future.



CANSPY hardware

- **STM32F4DISCOVERY board**
 - 168 MHz 32bit ARM Cortex M4
 - COTS (\$20)
- **STM32F4DIS-BB extension board**
 - 1 RS232 interface
 - 1 Ethernet port
 - 1 SD card drive
 - COTS (\$40)
- **DUAL-CAN extension board**
 - Configurable resistors, power supplies and circuit grounds
 - 2 CAN interfaces and easy to build
 - Custom-made (\$30 worth of PCB and components)



Quick Test on Tesla SuperCharger



| | A | B | C | D |
|----|-----------|----------|-----|-------------------------|
| 1 | FRAME SEQ | FRAME ID | DLC | DATA |
| 2 | 15526 | 1C5456F4 | 8 | 04 02 00 00 00 00 00 00 |
| 3 | 15527 | 185556F4 | 8 | 00 00 08 00 3F 00 00 00 |
| 4 | 15528 | 185656F4 | 8 | 02 36 30 38 00 00 00 00 |
| 5 | 15529 | 1856F456 | 8 | E1 FC 60 F0 FC FF FF FF |
| 6 | 15530 | 1C5456F4 | 8 | 04 02 00 00 00 00 00 00 |
| 7 | 15531 | 185556F4 | 8 | 00 00 08 00 3F 00 00 00 |
| 8 | 15532 | 185656F4 | 8 | 00 4C 52 57 33 45 37 45 |
| 9 | 15533 | 1856F456 | 8 | C1 F9 60 F0 FC FF FF FF |
| 10 | 15534 | 1826F456 | 3 | 01 01 00 |
| 11 | 15535 | 1807F456 | 7 | BD 12 00 00 00 00 00 |
| 12 | 15536 | 1854F456 | 8 | 00 00 90 80 C0 FF FF FF |
| 13 | 15537 | 80 | 8 | 01 02 03 04 05 06 07 08 |
| 14 | 15538 | 1C5456F4 | 8 | 04 02 00 00 00 00 00 00 |
| 15 | 15539 | 185556F4 | 8 | 00 00 08 00 3F 00 00 00 |
| 16 | 15540 | 185656F4 | 8 | 01 41 34 4C 43 30 37 37 |
| 17 | 15541 | 1857F456 | 8 | 39 8A 00 00 FF FF FF FF |
| 18 | 15542 | 1856F456 | 8 | E1 FC 60 F0 FC FF FF FF |
| 19 | 15543 | 1C5456F4 | 8 | 04 02 00 00 00 00 00 00 |
| 20 | 15544 | 185556F4 | 8 | 00 00 08 00 3F 00 00 00 |
| 21 | 15545 | 185656F4 | 8 | 02 36 30 38 00 00 00 00 |
| 22 | 15546 | 1856F456 | 8 | E1 FC 60 F0 FC FF FF FF |
| 23 | 15547 | 1C5456F4 | 8 | 04 02 00 00 00 00 00 00 |

Quick Test on Tesla SuperCharger

- we found that some of the messages in the CAN-BUS communication between SuperCharger and Tesla Model3 use private protocols, and some messages conform to the GB/T 27930 standard.
- When testing with Model3, there is a high probability that it will not be able to charge successfully. The reason is still being analyzed.
- If you want to reverse the complete protocol, it may be a better choice to analyze the firmware of BMS or SuperCharger.

How to attack "Plug and Charge"

1. what's "Plug and Charge"
2. How to use XCharger attack "Plug and Charge"
3. Future Trends

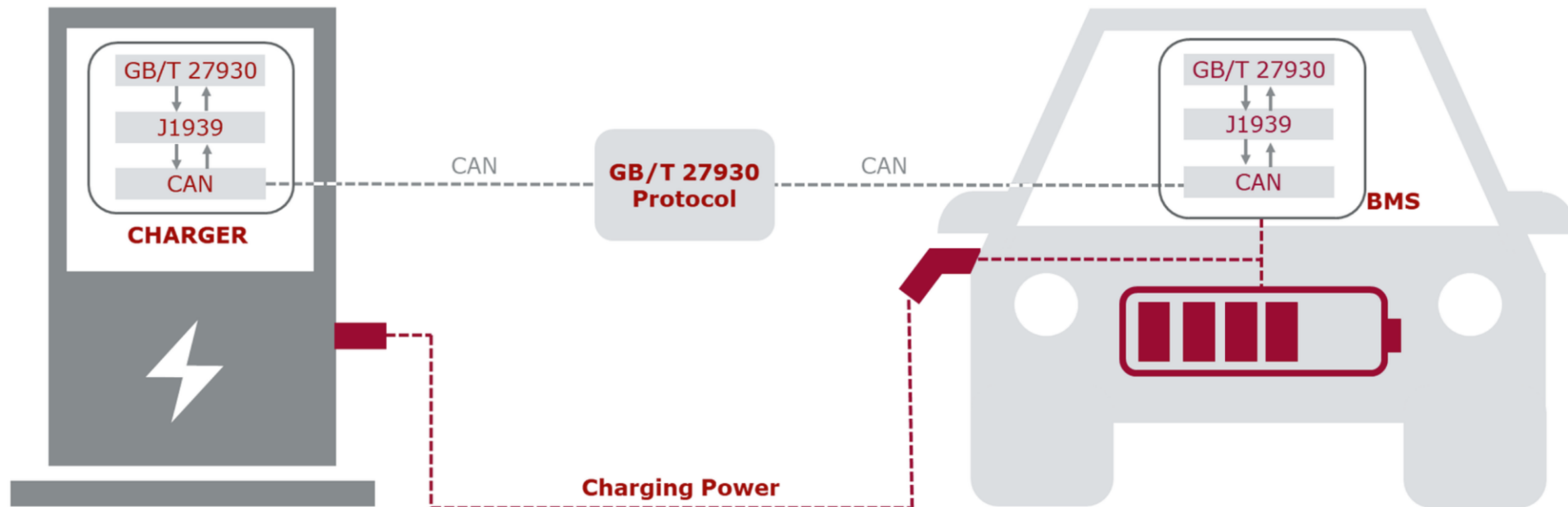
What's "Plug and Charge"

- Plug and Charge is a new way of automating payment for EV charging. Users do not need to swipe their cards or scan codes, just connect the charging pile to the vehicle charging port to automatically complete identity authentication and payment.
- For electric vehicle companies that build their own charging piles, such as Tesla, private communication and authentication protocols can be used to ensure the security of "Plug and Charge".
- Considering compatibility and cost, some public charging station operators have chosen to use VIN to complete vehicle identity authentication on the basis of GB/T 27930 standard. Operators do not realize that VIN is not a security identification in insecure CAN-BUS communication.

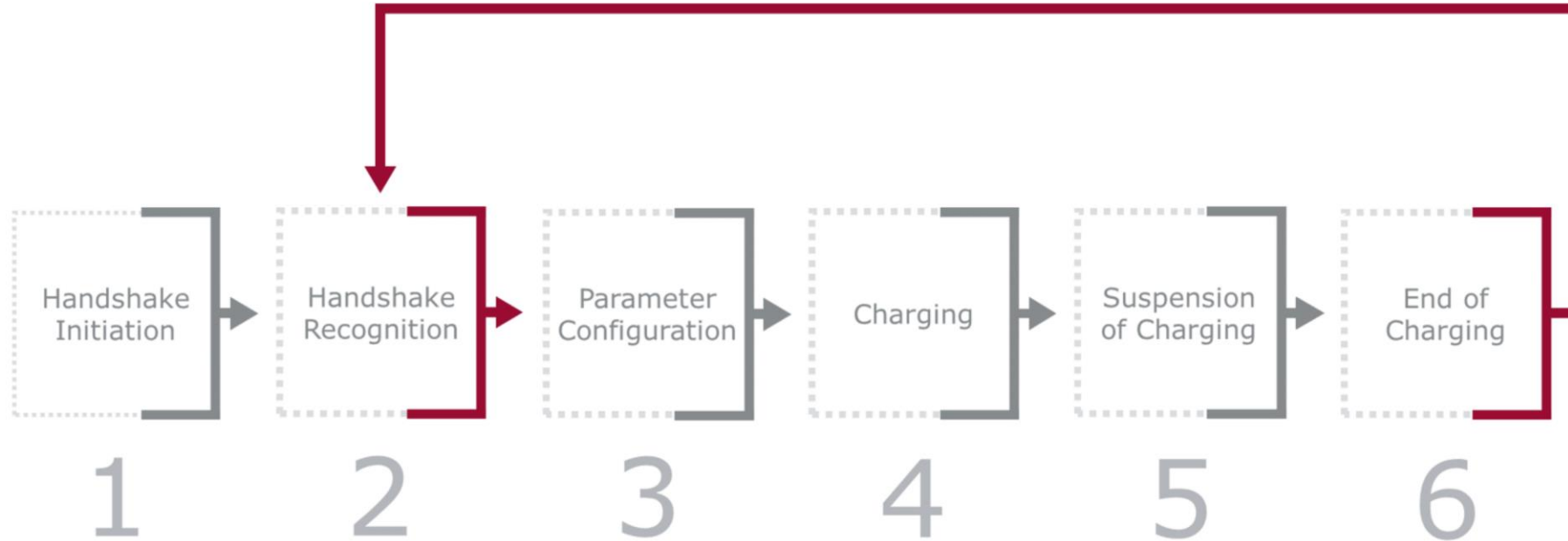
What's "Plug and Charge"

GB/T 27930 Charger

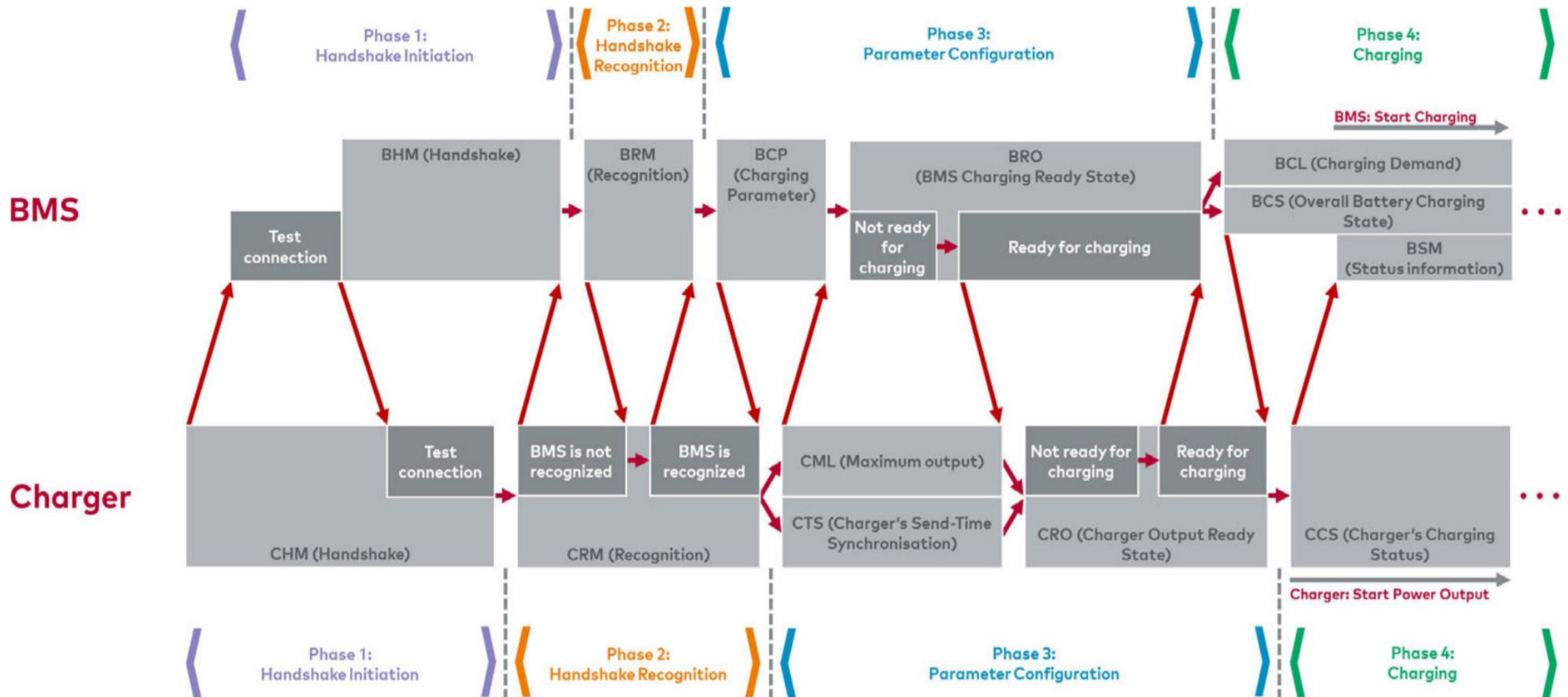
Electric Vehicle



What's "Plug and Charge"



What's "Plug and Charge"

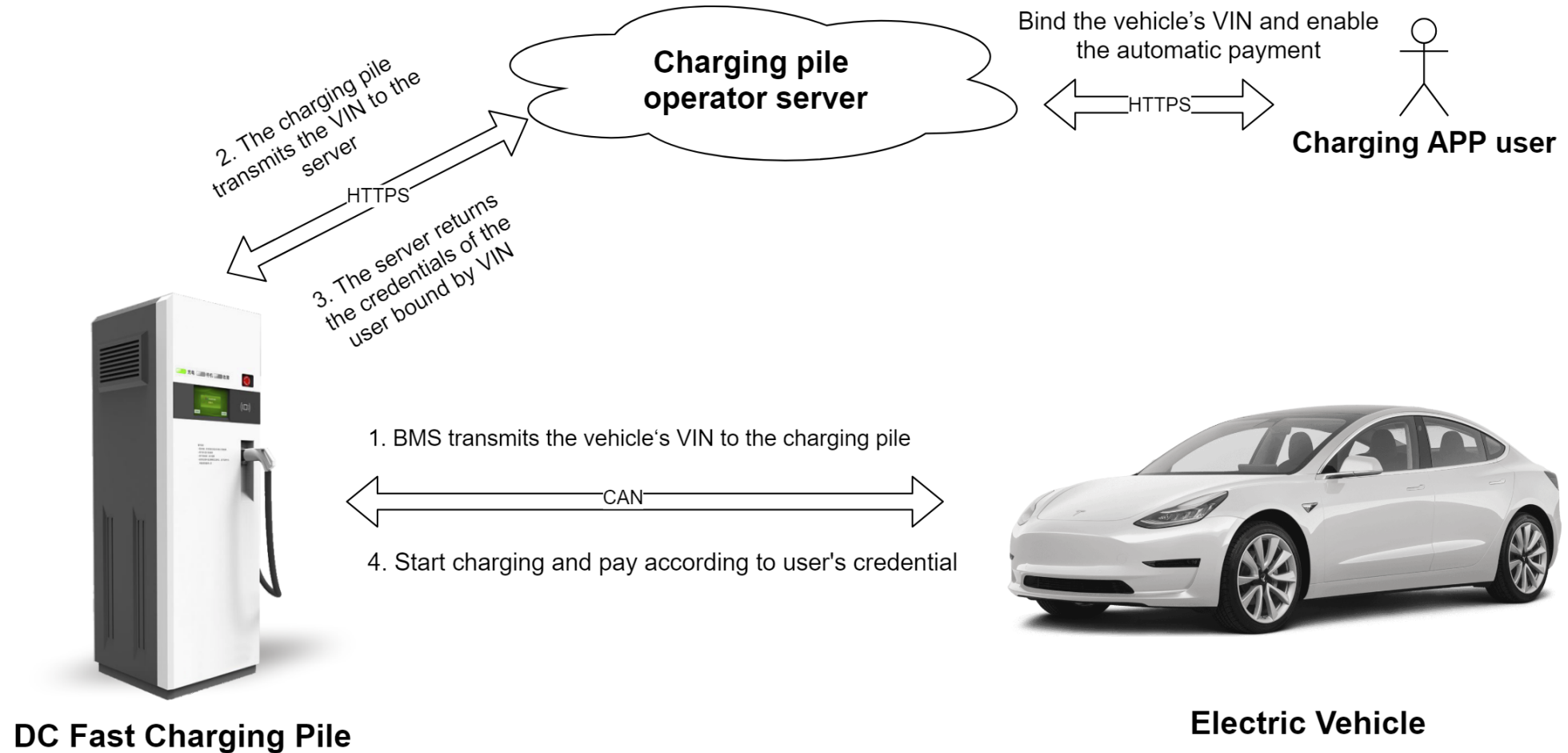


What's "Plug and Charge"

- We use cantools and the corresponding DBC file to successfully translate all messages during the charging process.
- The BMS of the electric vehicle transmits the vehicle's VIN to the charging pile for identity authentication in the BRM message during the handshake recognition.

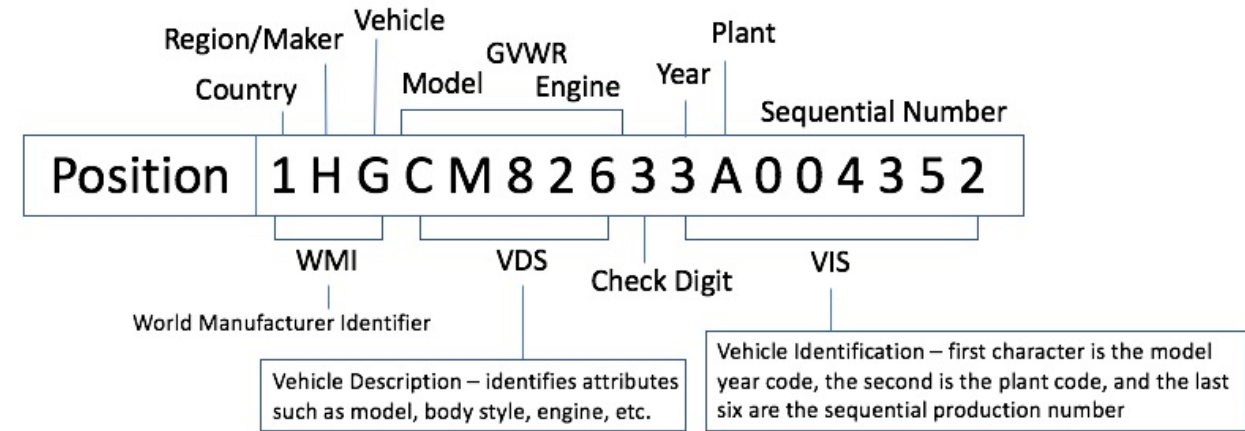
| A | B | C | D | E |
|-----------|----------|-----|-------------------------|---|
| FRAME SEQ | FRAME ID | DLC | DATA | Message translation |
| 0 | 1826F456 | 3 | 01 01 00 | Charger message CHM: Charger handshake Charger Communication Protocol version number: v1.1 |
| 1 | 182756F4 | 2 | 4C 1D | Vehicle message BHM: maximum allowable charging voltage for vehicle handshake: 750.0V |
| 2 | 1826F456 | 3 | 01 01 00 | Charger message CHM: Charger handshake Charger Communication Protocol version number: v1.1 |
| 3 | 182756F4 | 2 | 4C 1D | Vehicle message BHM: maximum allowable charging voltage for vehicle handshake: 750.0V |
| 4 | 1826F456 | 3 | 01 01 00 | Charger message CHM: Charger handshake Charger Communication Protocol version number: v1.1 |
| 5 | 182756F4 | 2 | 4C 1D | Vehicle message BHM: maximum allowable charging voltage for vehicle handshake: 750.0V |
| 6 | 1801F456 | 8 | 00 01 00 00 00 00 00 00 | Charger message CRM: charger identification result: BMS can not identify charger number: 00000001 |
| 7 | 1CEC56F4 | 8 | 10 31 00 07 FF 00 02 00 | Vehicle message BRM:BMS and vehicle identification message multi-packet message: first message |
| 8 | 1CECF456 | 8 | 11 07 01 FF FF 00 02 00 | The charger is ready to receive multi-packet messages: vehicle message BRM: |
| 9 | 1CEB56F4 | 8 | 01 01 01 00 01 90 01 AC | Parse according to the agreement: the message is: vehicle message BRM: package 1 |
| 10 | 1CEB56F4 | 8 | 02 0D XX XX XX XX XX 56 | Parse according to the agreement: the message is: vehicle message BRM: package 2 |
| 11 | 1CEB56F4 | 8 | 03 34 12 1F 08 02 64 00 | Parse according to the agreement: the message is: vehicle message BRM: package 3 |
| 12 | 1CEB56F4 | 8 | 04 00 00 00 74 61 6E 67 | Parse according to the agreement: the message is: vehicle message BRM: package 4 |
| 13 | 1CEB56F4 | 8 | 05 6F 00 00 00 00 00 00 | Parse according to the agreement: the message is: vehicle message BRM: package 5 |
| 14 | 1CEB56F4 | 8 | 06 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 | Parse according to the agreement: the message is: vehicle message BRM: package 6 |
| 15 | 1CEB56F4 | 8 | 07 02 08 E0 07 FF FF FF | The last packet of the vehicle message BRM:BMS and the vehicle identification message. Protocol version: v1.1 lead-acid battery ... |
| 16 | 1CECF456 | 8 | 13 31 00 07 FF 00 02 00 | The charger receives and completes the multi-packet message: the vehicle message BRM: receives a total of 49 bytes of data |

What's "Plug and Charge"



What's "Plug and Charge"

- Vehicle identification number (VIN) is a unique code, including a serial number, used by the automotive industry to identify individual vehicles.
- VIN is public plaintext information, with specific coding rules, and can also be obtained from the front windshield of the car.



How to use XCharger Attack "Plug and Charge"

XCharger

— □ ×

Connect

Stop Charging

Mode Setting

☐ BMS Simulation

☒ Tamper

☐ Monitor

Confirm

Tamper Setting

☒ BRM

Vehicle's VIN: 5YJ3E1EAXHF000000

Confirm

☒ BCP

Maximum allowable charging current of vehicle (A): 120

Maximum allowable charging voltage of vehicle (V): 750

☒ BCL

Vehicle's charging voltage demand (V): 750

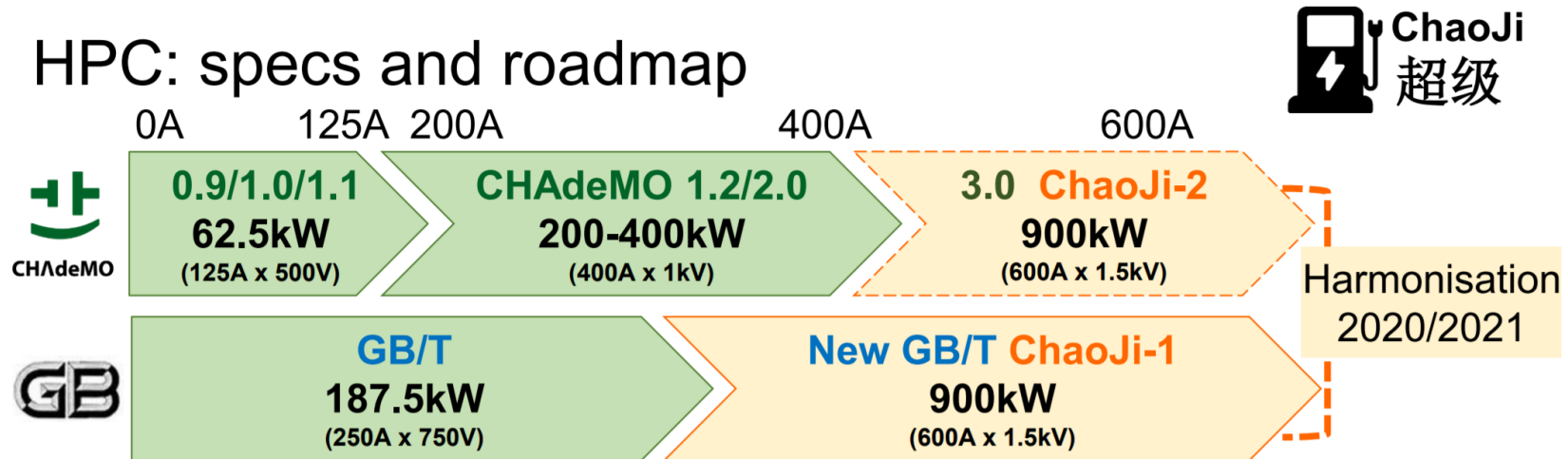
Vehicle's current demand (A): 120

Real World Attack

- We rented 5 electric cars of different models and tested multiple charging stations that support plug-and-charge. We verified that after obtaining the VIN on the windshield of the vehicle, the charging pile can be successfully attacked by XCharger to achieve free charging.
- All the vulnerabilities we found have been notified to the vendor and fixed.



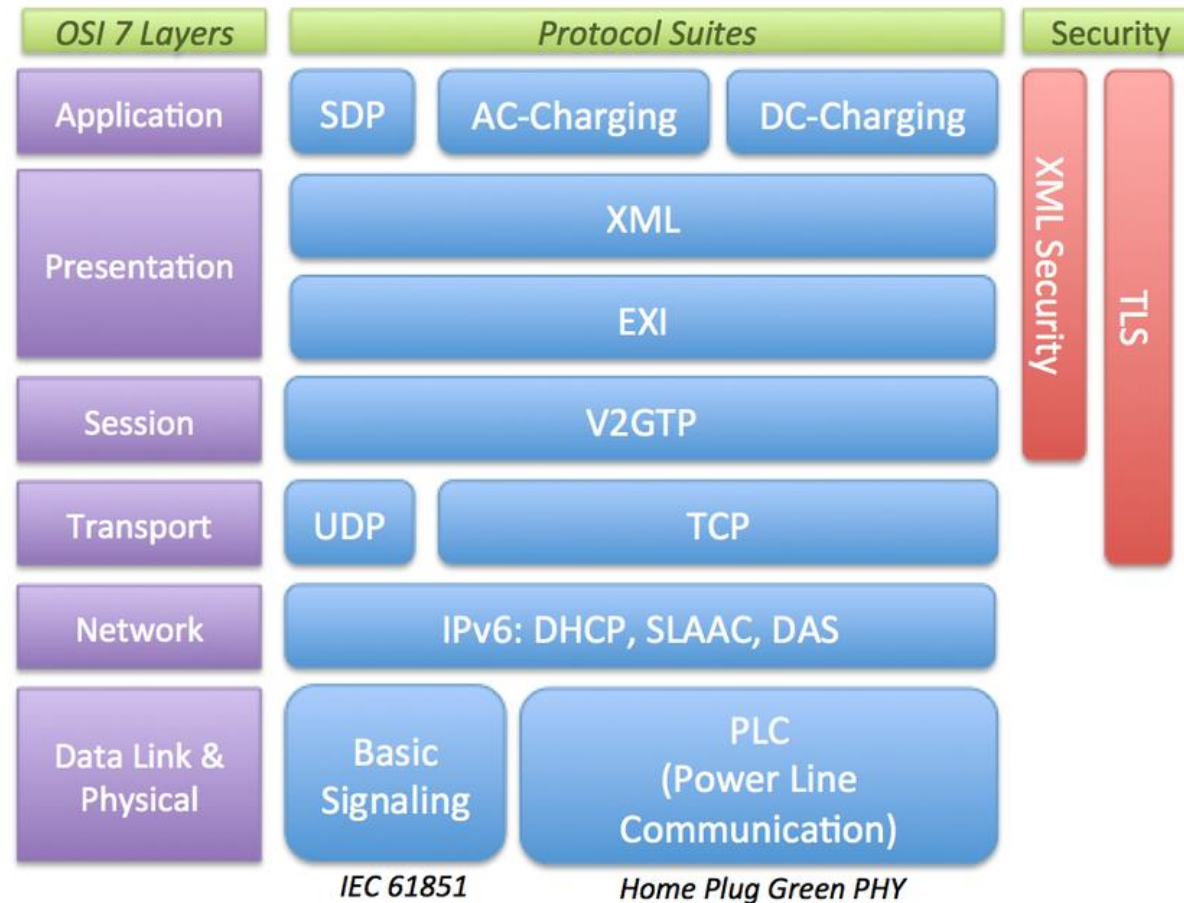
Future Trends



ChaoJi key points:

- ✓ **Control-pilot circuit** harmonised with new GB/T and CCS (and IEC 61851-23-1)
- ✓ **Backward compatibility** with CHAdeMO, GB/T and (potentially) CCS
- ✓ **Simple, light and compact** connector
- ✓ **Future proof** covering currents up to 600A with liquid-cooling
- ✓ **V2G and PnC** ready
- ✓ **Optional combo-style inlet** integrating AC type-1, -2 and GB/T-AC

Future Trends



The background is a dark teal color with a complex, abstract pattern. It features wavy, undulating lines that resemble a digital or liquid surface. Scattered throughout the background are numerous small, bright white and light blue particles, giving it a sense of depth and movement.

Thank You

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