

Research Presentation Exam:

***“Ghostbuster: Detecting the Presence of
Hidden Eavesdroppers”***

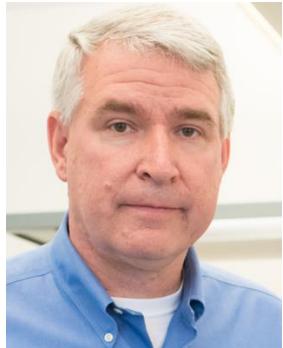
Cesar Arguello

Nov 5th, 2024



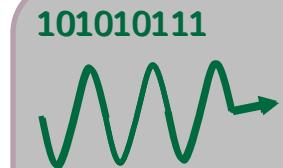
DARTMOUTH

Motivation

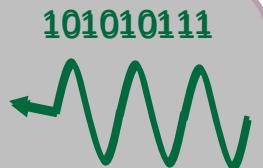


Tim

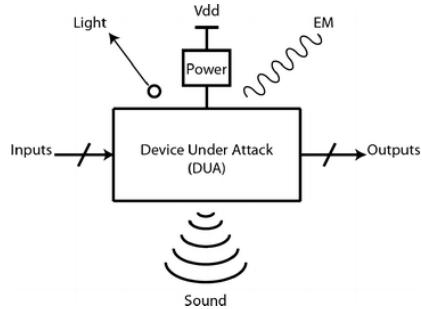
802.11n
(Wi-Fi 4)



WPA2



Dave



Cesar



What *exactly* is Ghostbuster?

System based on radio receivers (one or more) that **detects** other passive receivers (**eavesdroppers**) in a physical area.



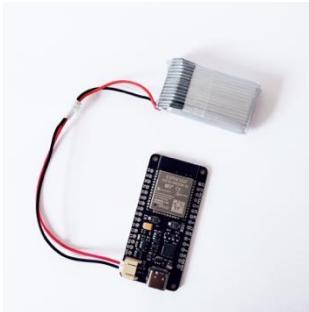
2.4GHz

5GHz



Detecting Eavesdroppers is **HARD!** Why?

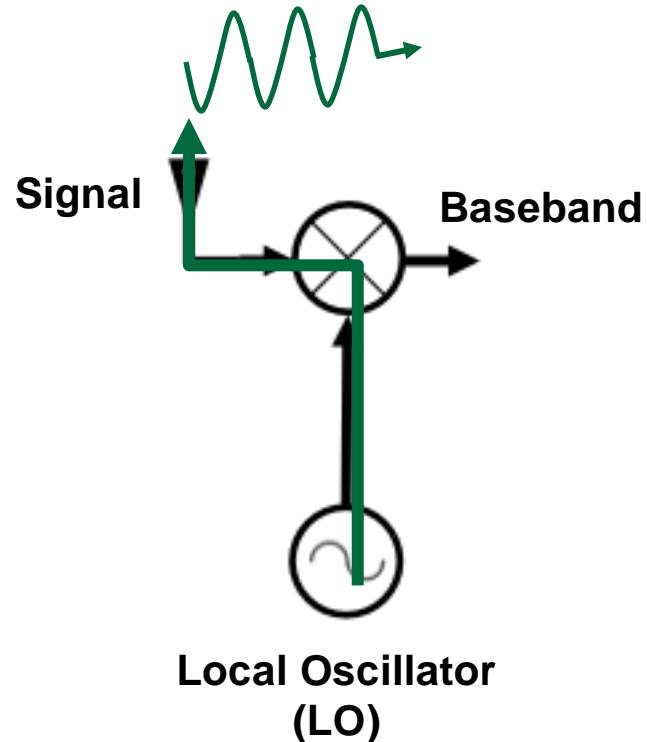
- **No detectable footprint** in the wireless medium (e.g., no active transmissions).
- **Can be physically concealed**, making visual detection difficult.



Ghostbuster Detection: Listening to the Ghosts

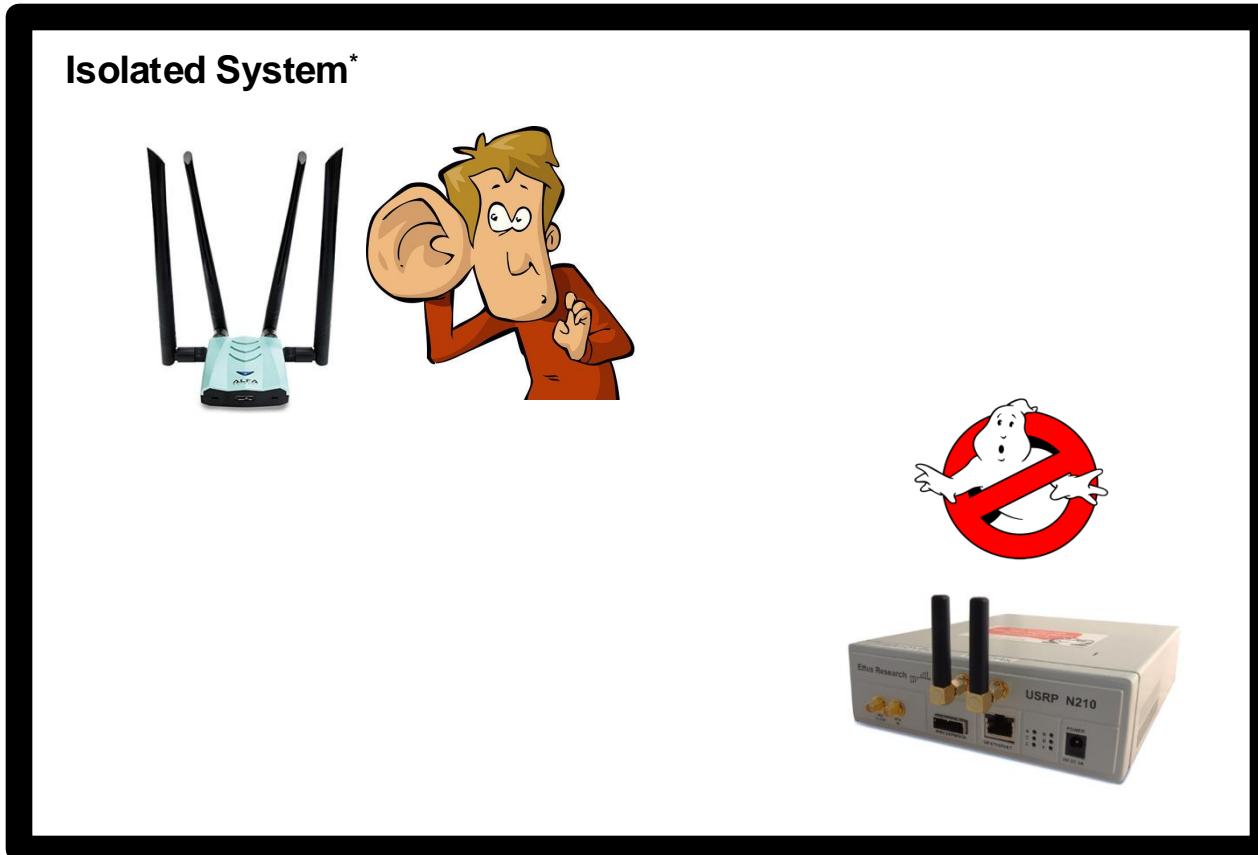
- **No detection print in the wireless medium**, e.g., no active traces.

LO's signal **leaks** through the antenna



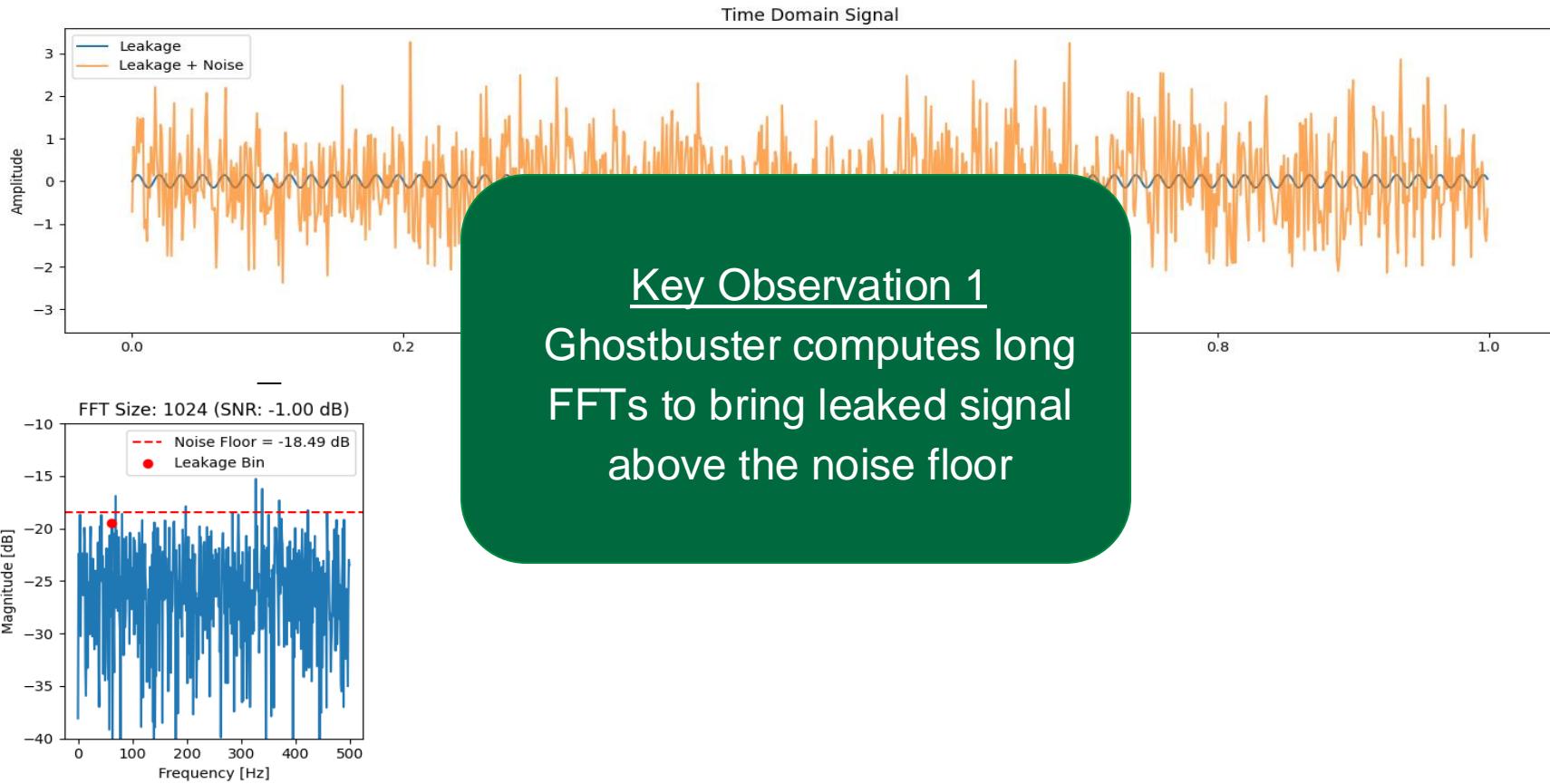
**Local Oscillator
(LO)**

Ghostbuster Detection: Simplified Scenario I



*system does not exchange matter or energy with surroundings

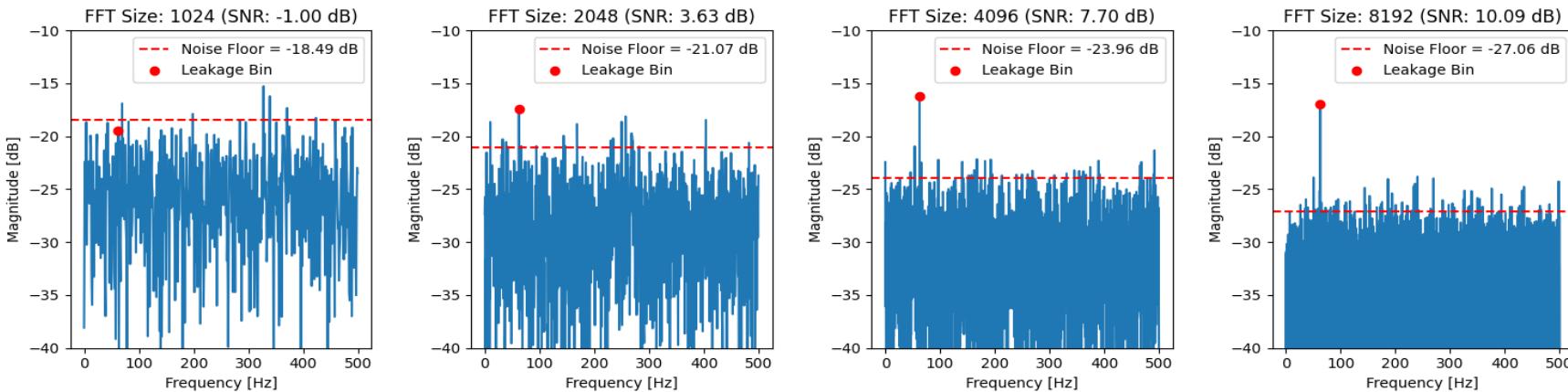
Ghostbuster Detection: Simplified Scenario I



Ghostbuster Detection: Long DFTS

- Power remains **constant** for **noise** (and signal*).
- Same noise power is distributed over more bins = **SNR per bin increases.**

$$\frac{1}{N} \sum_{n=0}^{N-1} |x[n]|^2$$



*signal must be a sinusoid

Ghostbuster Detection: Long DFTS

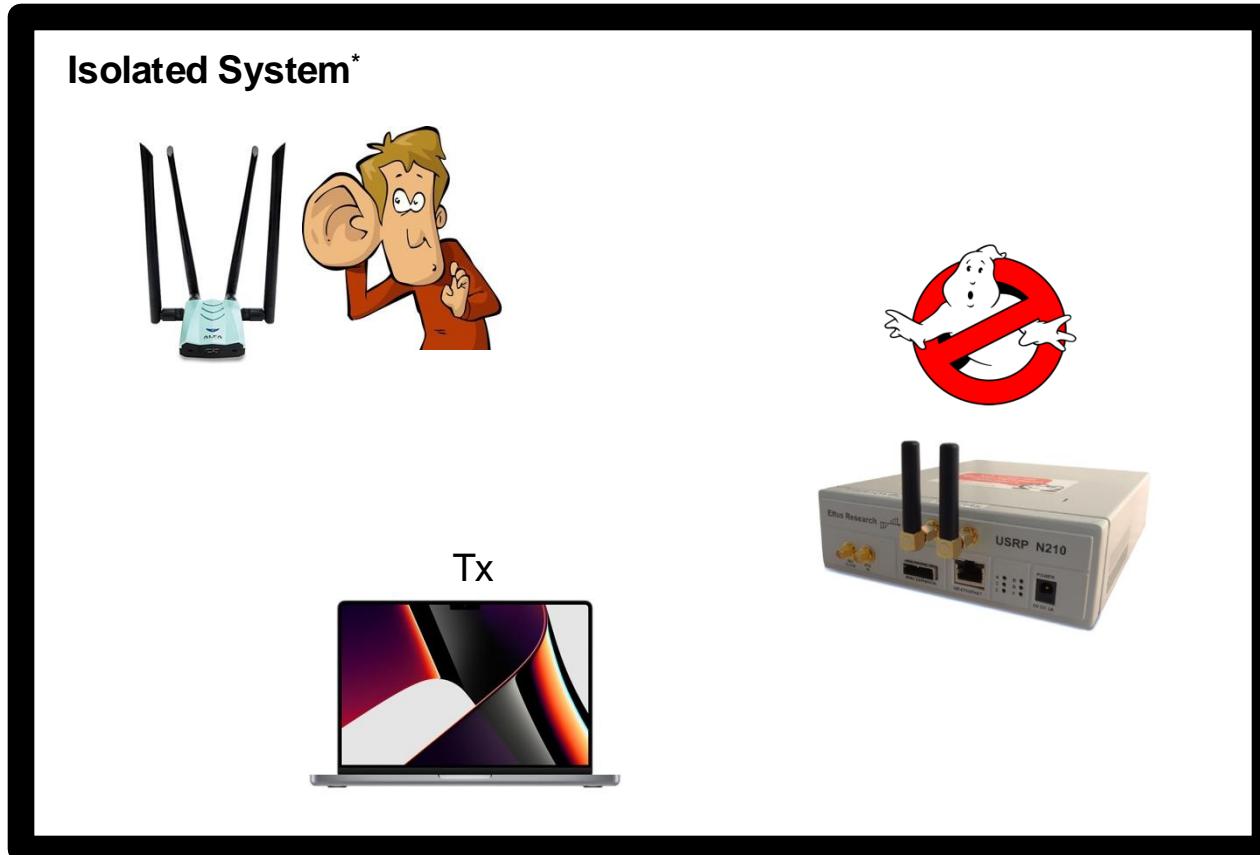
WiFi Chipset/ USRP Daughterboard	Frequency Band @ $f_c = 2.437$ GHz			Frequency Band @ $f_c = 5.745$ GHz		
	Design	Leakage freq. in GHz	Leakage SNR @ 1m in dB	Design	Leakage freq. in GHz	Leakage SNR @ 1m in (dB)
Broadcom: BCM43xx, BCM4329, BCM4360, BCM4352, BCM43526	a	2.437	12.8–23.0	a	5.745	10.7–25.01
Intel: 4965	c	3.514	19.8	a	5.745	10.7
Intel: 3165, 5100, 5300	b	4.874	12.6–19.7	d	3.65	20.4–22.2
Intel: 7260, 7265, 8260	b	4.874	10.1–13.1	a	5.745	12.6–16.0
Qualcomm: AR93XX	b	4.874	11.3	d	3.65	21.1
Qualcomm: AR9271, AR9485, AR9170	b	4.874	7.2–14.3	N/A	N/A	N/A
USRP N210: SBX board	a	2.437	50.8	N/A	N/A	N/A
USRP N210: CBX board	a	2.437	50.2	a	5.745	56.7
USRP N210: UBX board	a	2.437	53.4	a	5.745	57.5

Table 1: Leakage measured 1 meter away for different WiFi eavesdroppers.

Signal length = 1 sec

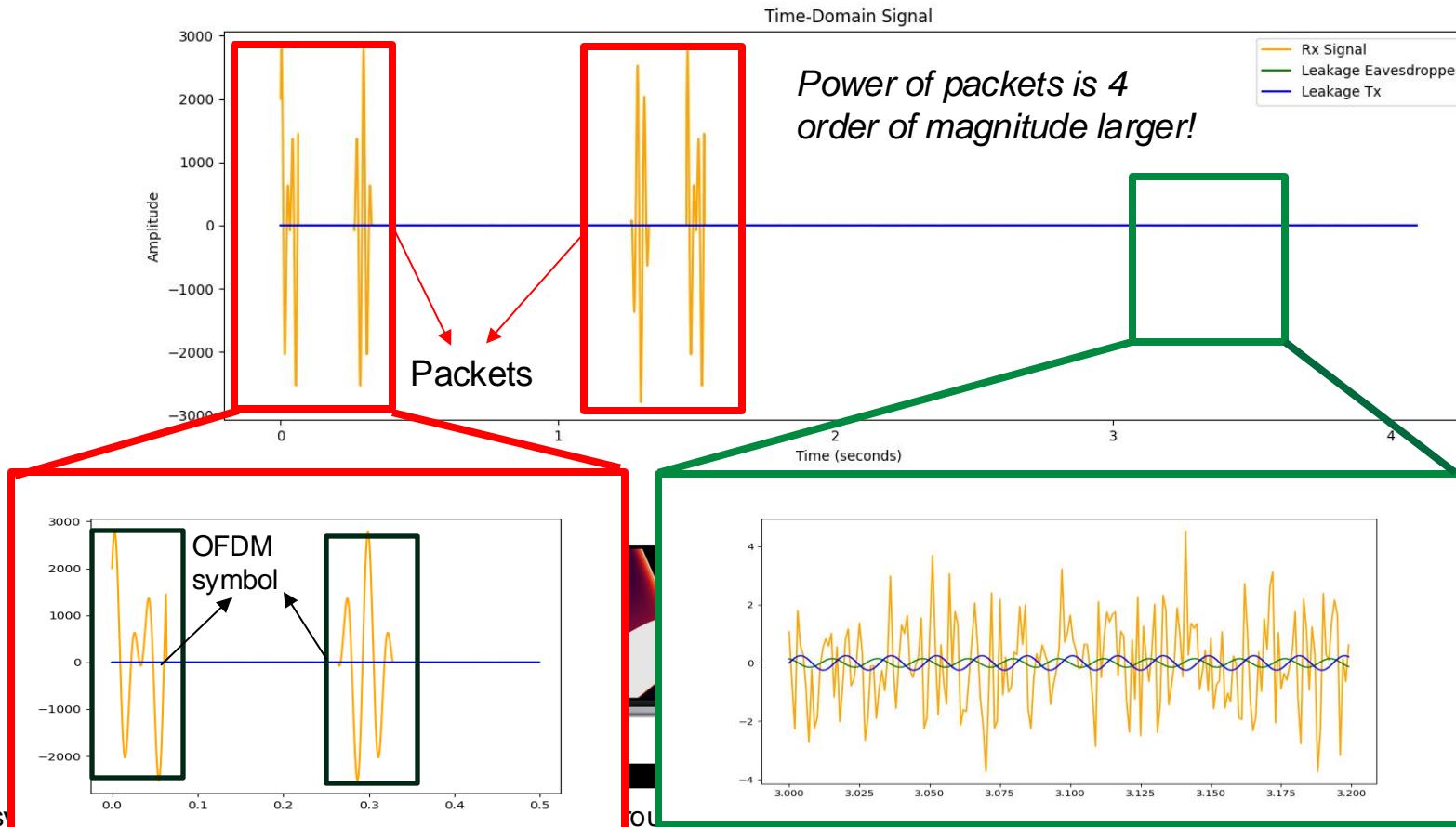
FFT Size = 20×10^6 (assuming
802.11 OFDM sampling rate)

Ghostbuster Detection: Simplified Scenario II

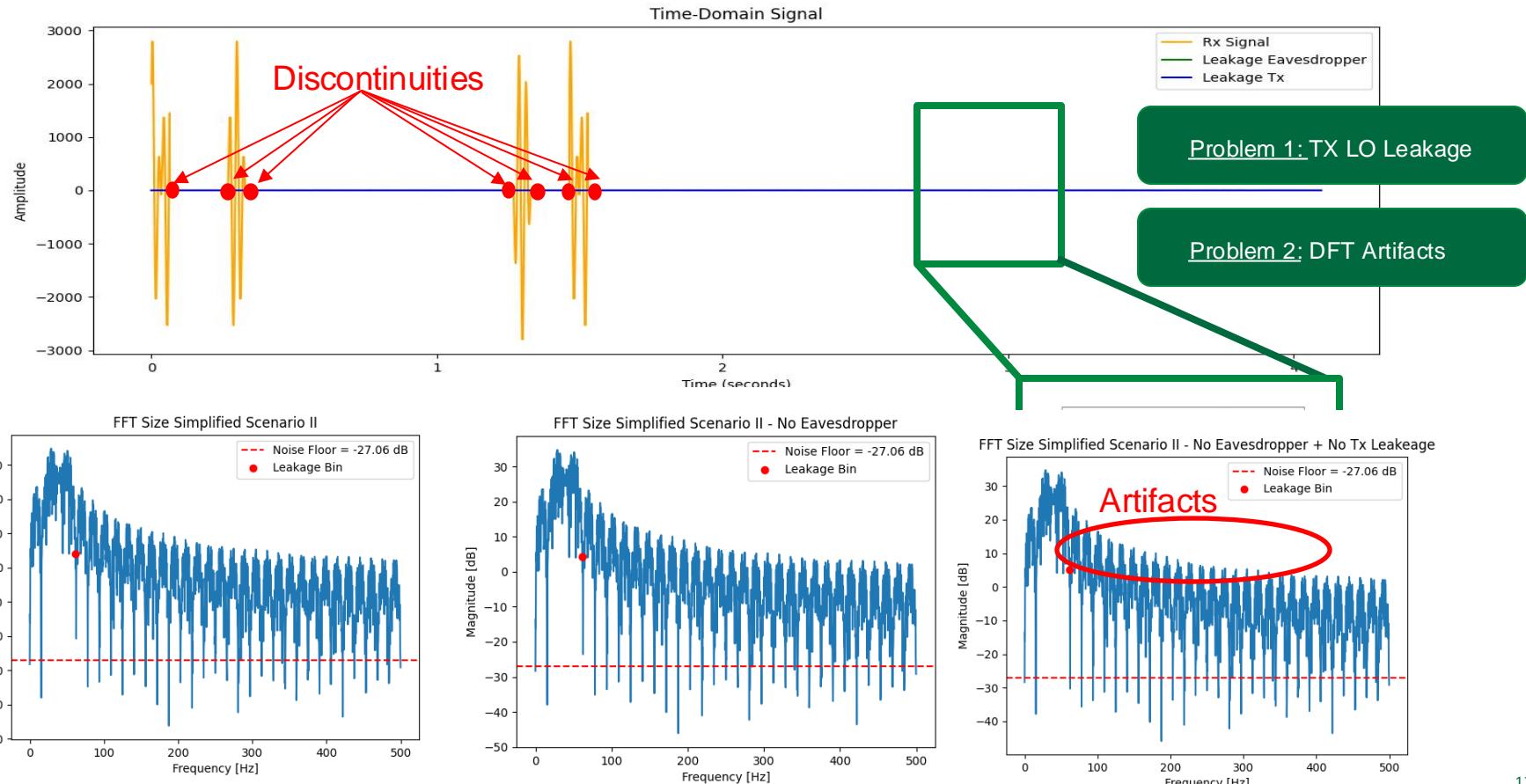


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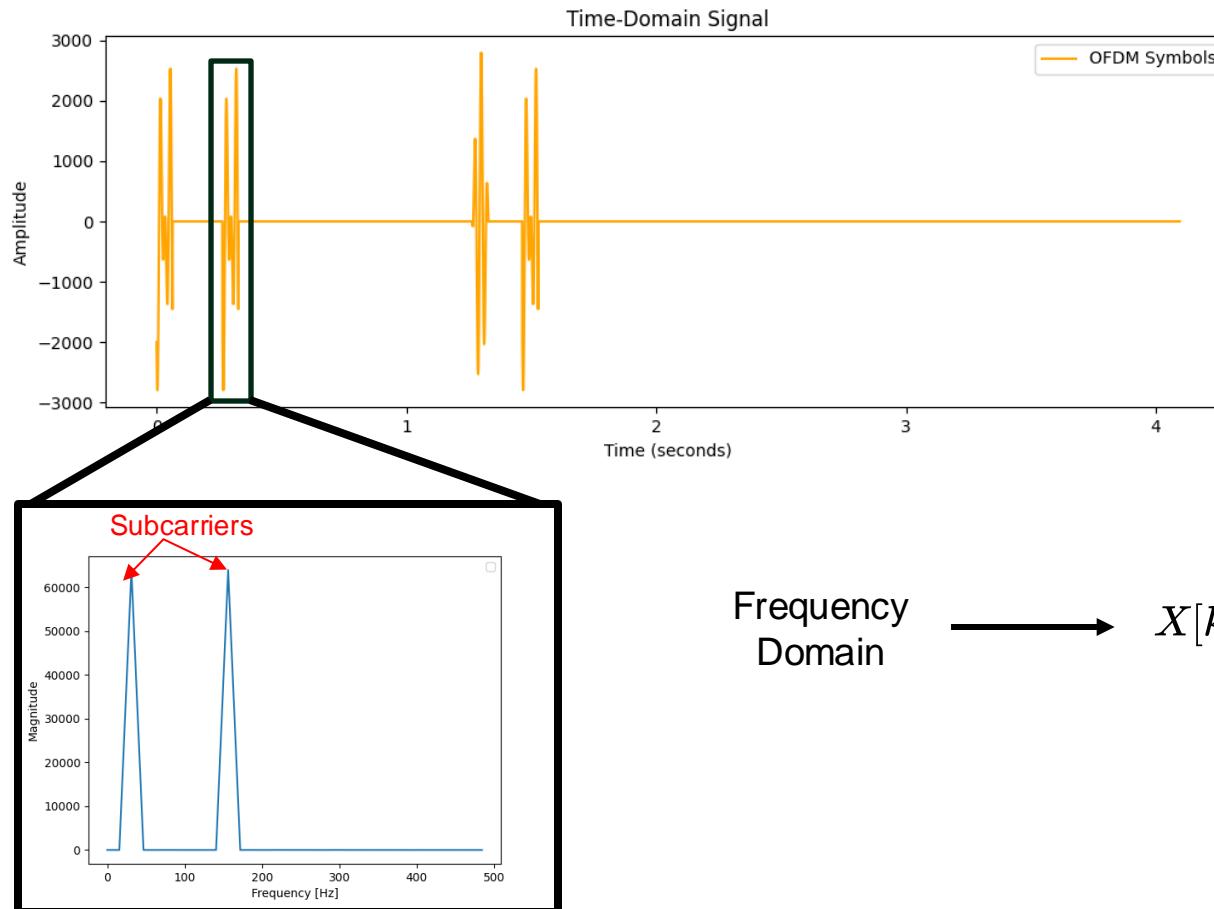
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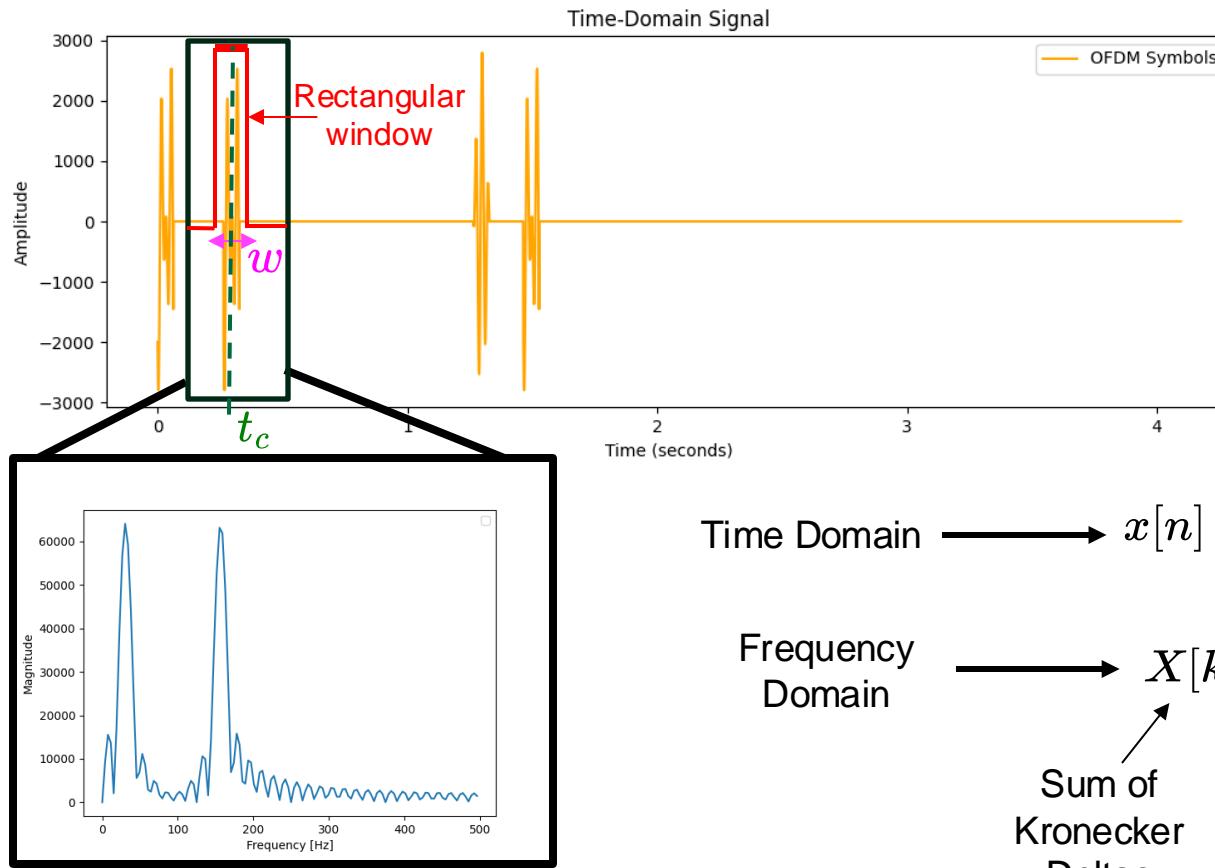
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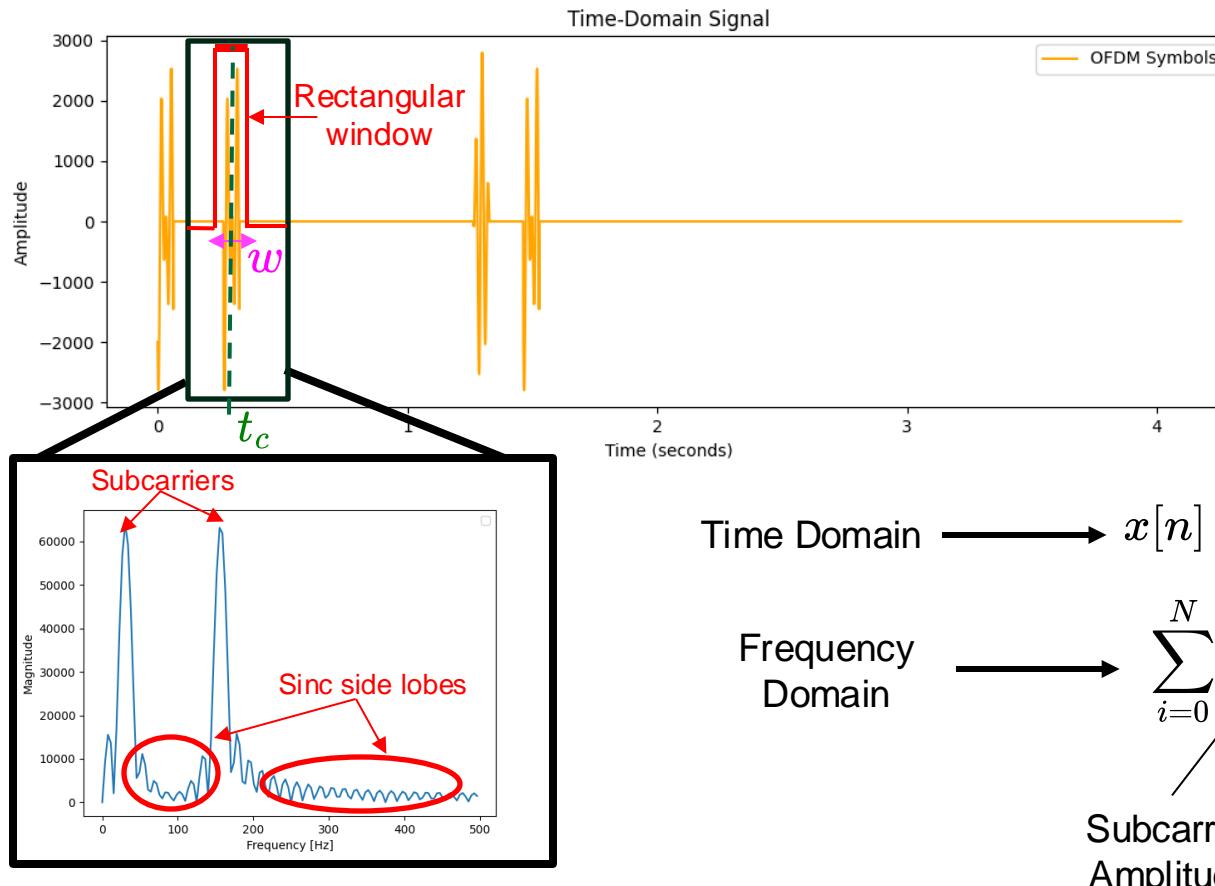
Ghostbuster Detection: Artifacts and Discontinuities



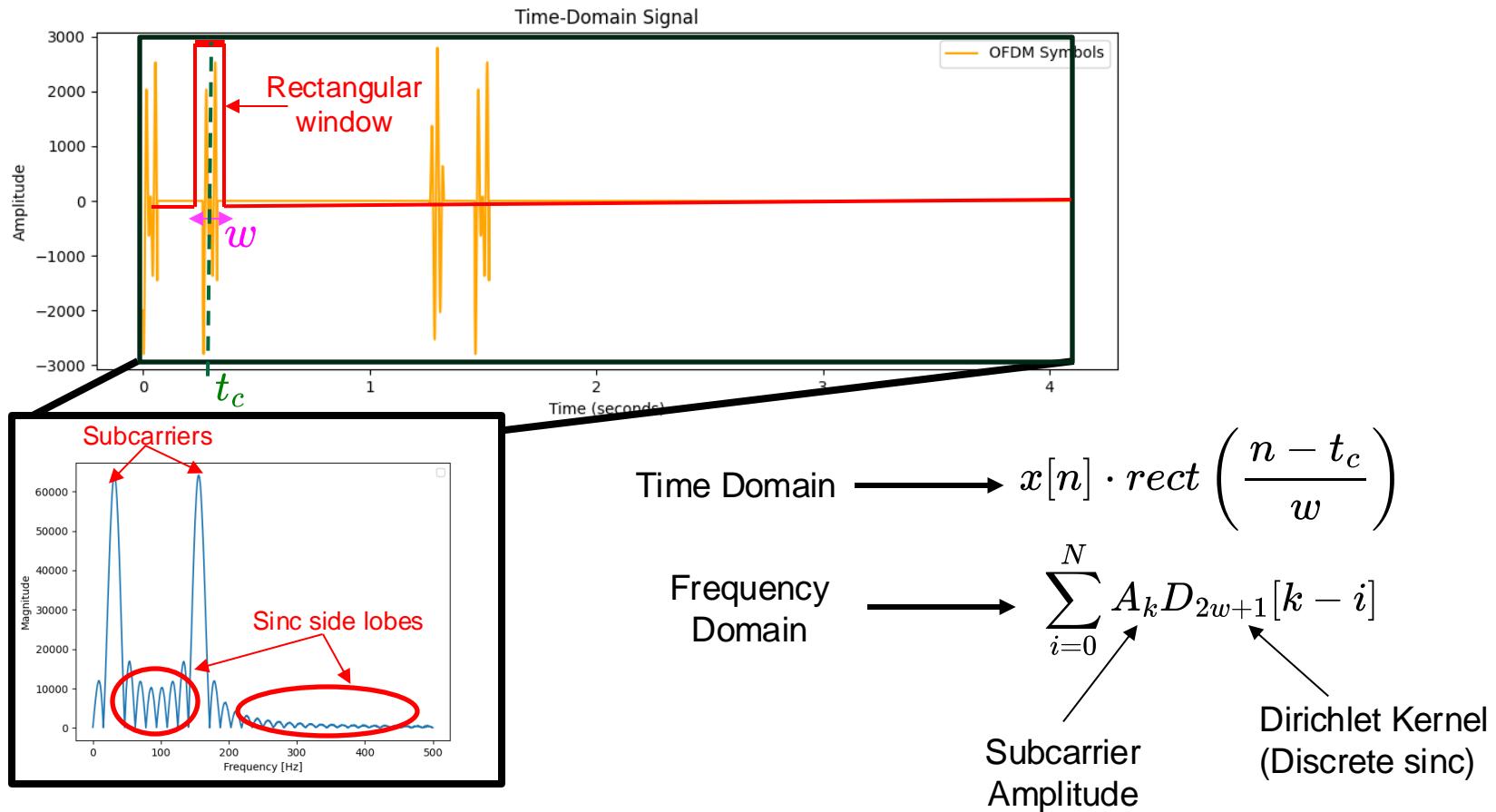
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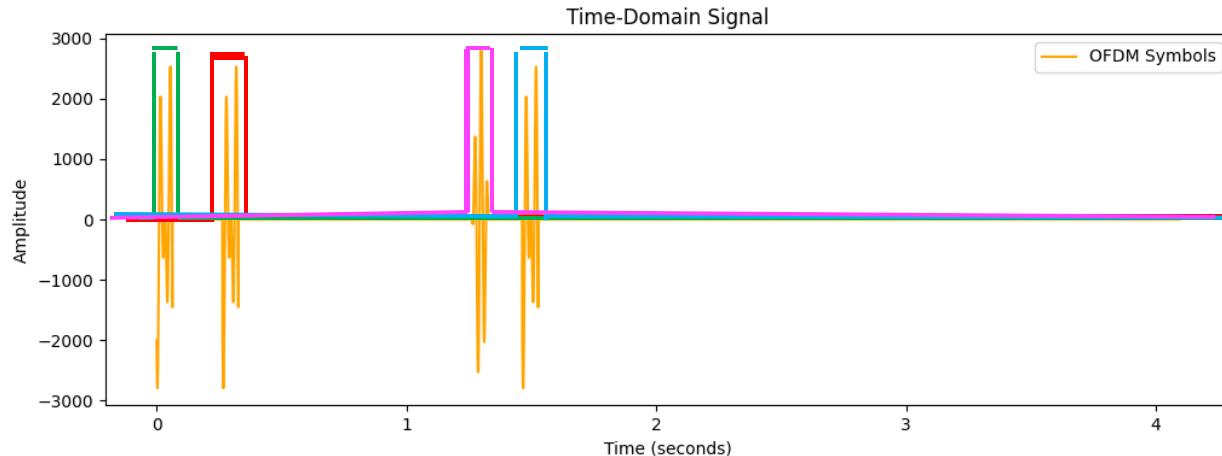
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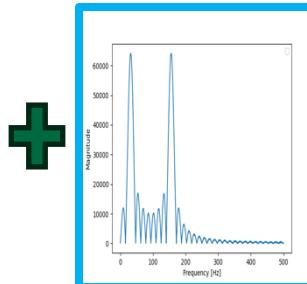
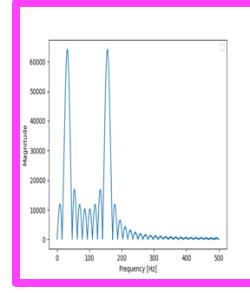
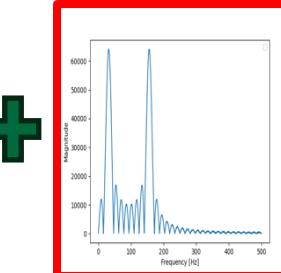
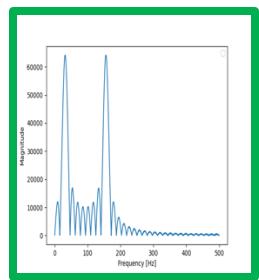
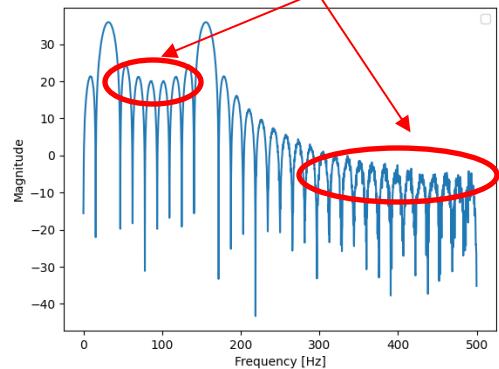
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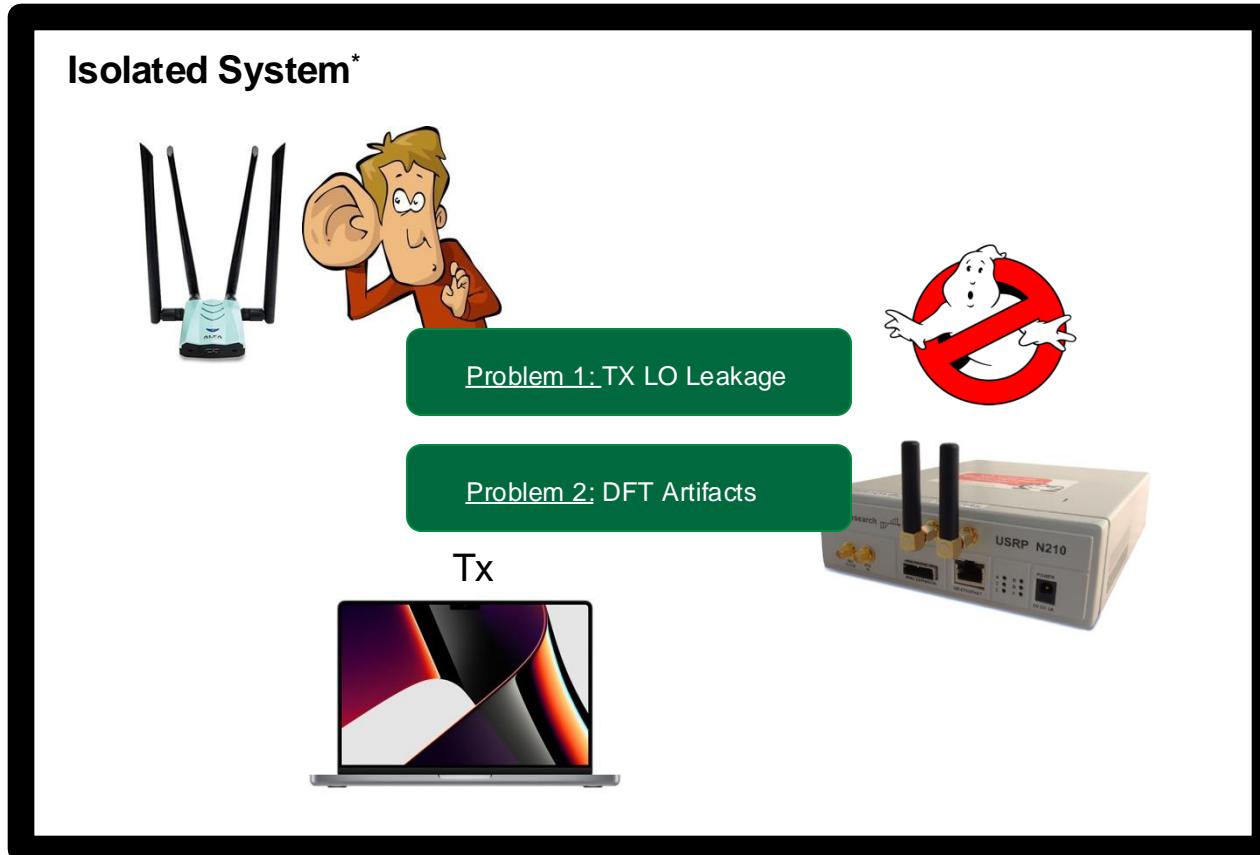
Ghostbuster Detection: Artifacts and Discontinuities



Sinc side lobes / Artifacts



Ghostbuster Detection: Simplified Scenario II



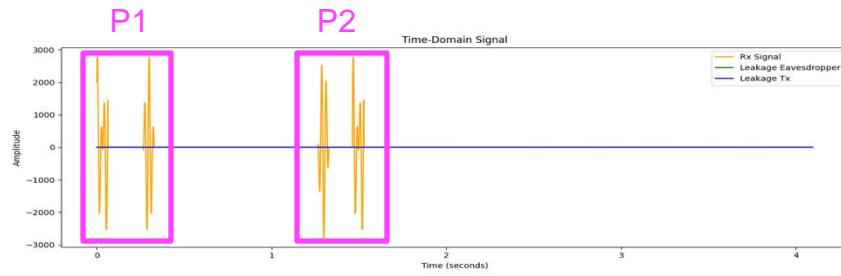
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Ghostbuster Detection: The Algorithm

Algorithm 1 Ghostbuster's Cancellation Algorithm

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23: Find spike of eavesdropper's RF leakage.
  
```



Easy! ————— **Ethernet Preamble**

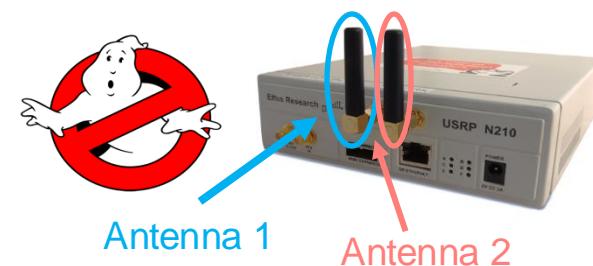
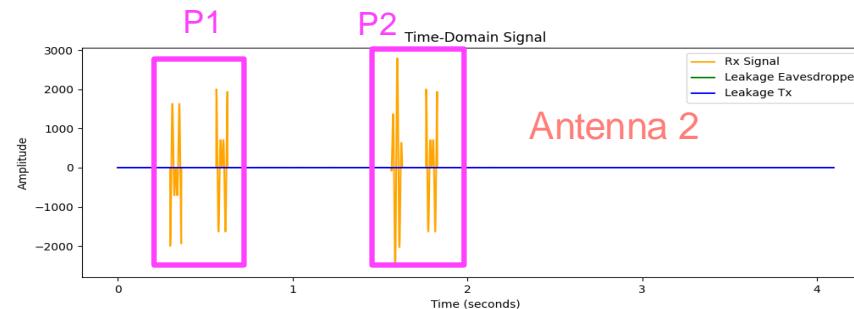
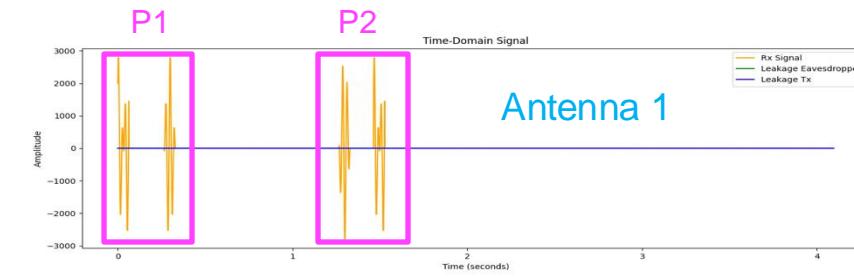
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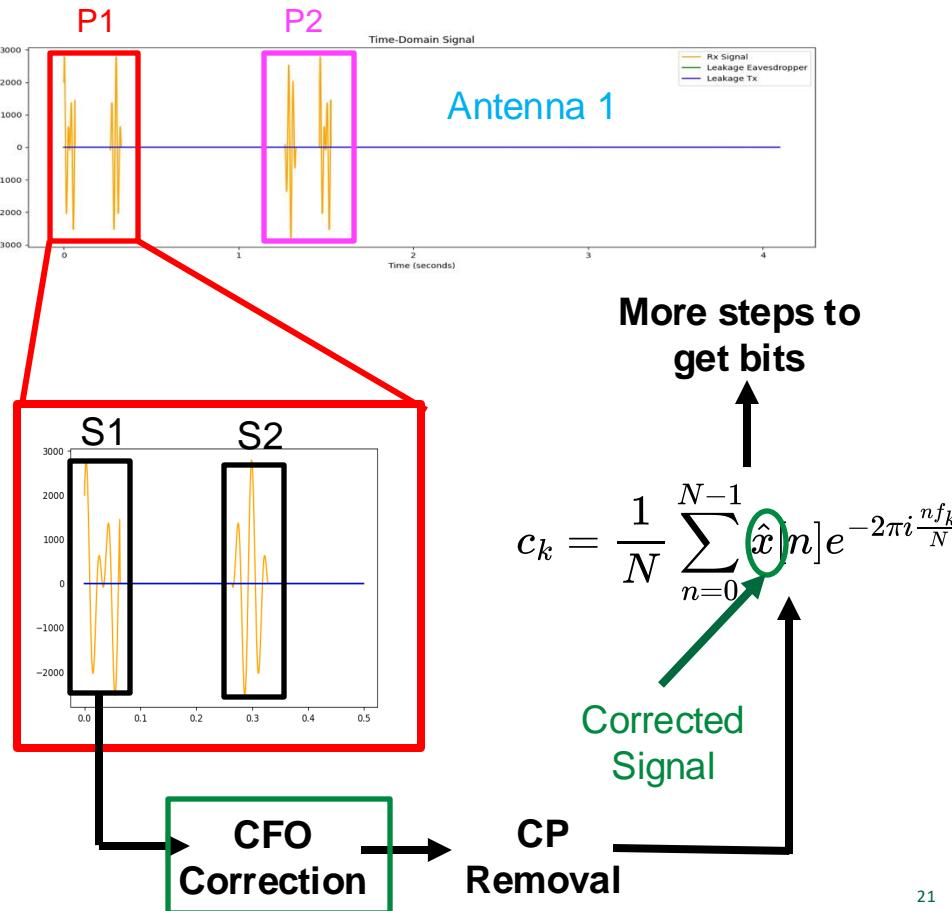
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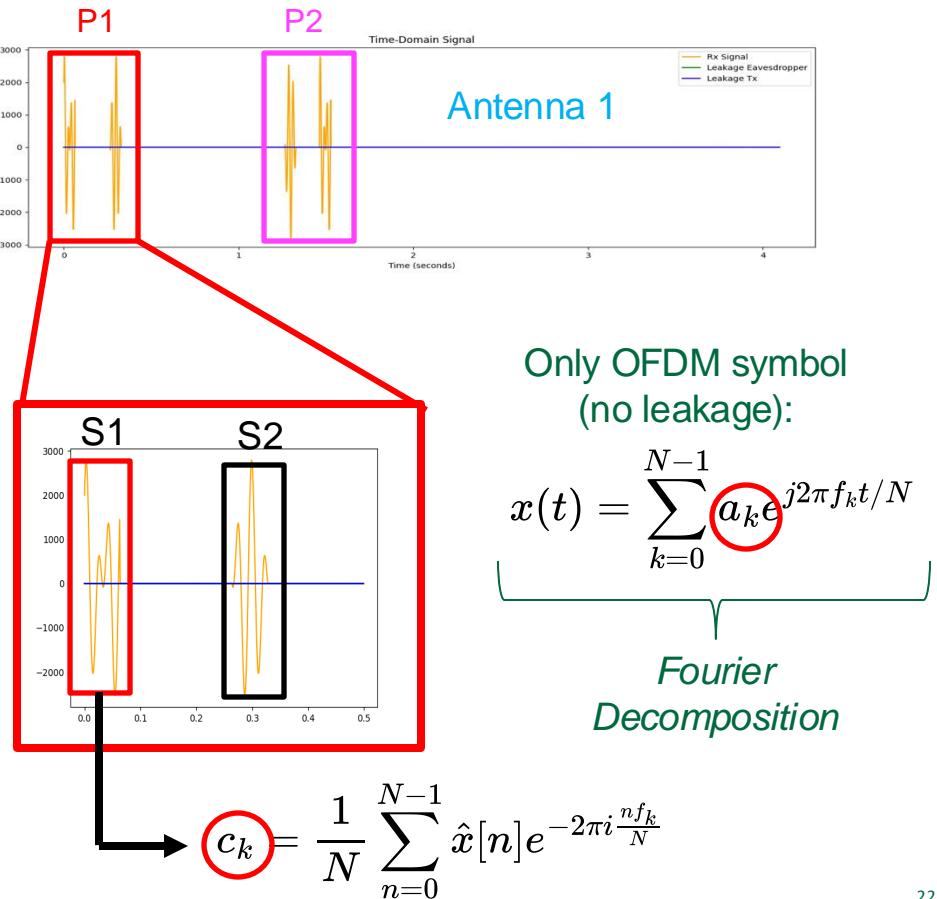
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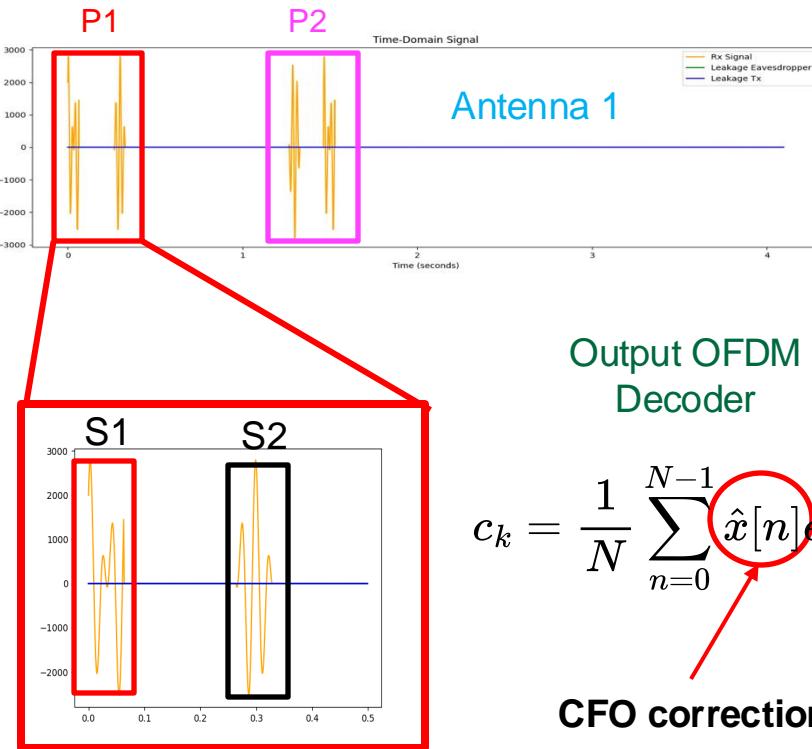
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$$c_k = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{n=0}^{N-1} \hat{x}[n] e^{-2\pi i \frac{n f_k}{N}}$$

CFO correction

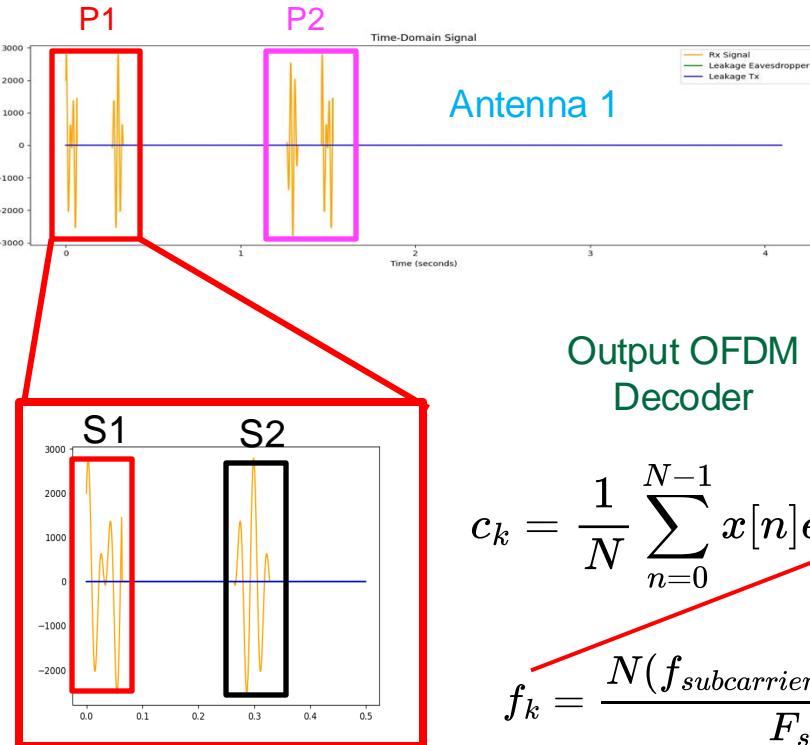
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Good enough for data recovery!

Not good for Accurate Fourier Reconstruction!

$$c_k = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{n=0}^{N-1} x[n] e^{-2\pi i \frac{n f_k}{F_s}}$$

$$f_k = \frac{N(f_{subcarrier} + f_{CFO})}{F_s}$$

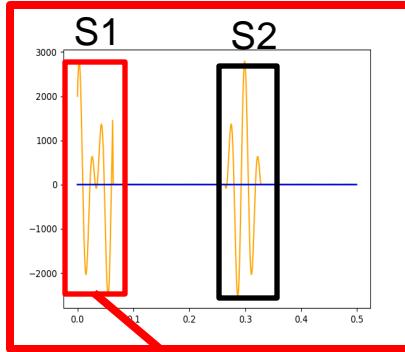
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```



Only OFDM symbol
(no leakage):

$$\tilde{x}(t) = \sum_{k=0}^{N-1} \tilde{a}_k e^{2\pi i f_k t / N}$$

Best
Estimates

Error function (SSE):

$$E(\tilde{\mathbf{a}}, \tilde{\mathbf{f}}) = \sum_{t=0}^{N-1} |x(t) - \tilde{x}(t)|^2$$

Minimize

$$\nabla E = 0$$

$$\nabla^2 E > 0$$

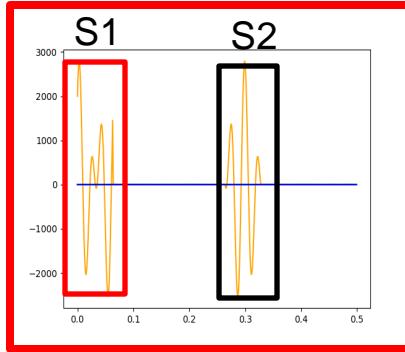
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19:   $s_k(t) \leftarrow$  spatial cancellation using each  $H_m(f_{DC})$ 
20: end for
21:  $s(t) \leftarrow$  combination of  $s_k(t)$  from all packets
22:  $S(f) \leftarrow FFT(s(t))$ 
23: Find spike of eavesdropper's RF leakage.

```



Only OFDM symbol
(no leakage):

$$\tilde{x}(t) = \sum_{k=0}^{N-1} \tilde{a}_k e^{2\pi i \tilde{f}_k t / N}$$

↑
Best Estimates

Error function (SSE):

$$E(\tilde{\mathbf{a}}, \tilde{\mathbf{f}}) = \sum_{t=0}^{N-1} |x(t) - \tilde{x}(t)|^2$$

Initialize $\tilde{\mathbf{f}}$ ————— $\tilde{f}_k = \frac{N(f_{subcarrier} + f_{CFO})}{F_s}$

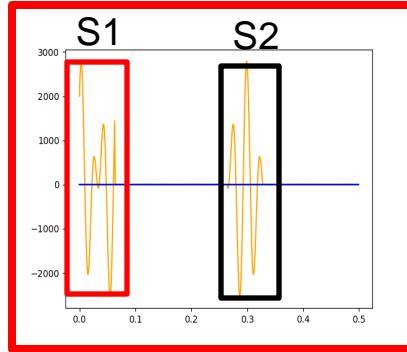
Ghostbuster Detection: The Algorithm

Algorithm 1 Ghostbuster's Cancellation Algorithm

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4:     for Each OFDM Symbol do
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7:       while  $E(\tilde{\mathbf{f}}^{(i-1)}, \tilde{\mathbf{a}}^{(i-1)}) >$  Threshold do
8:          $\tilde{\mathbf{a}}^{(i)} \leftarrow$  WEIGHTEDI.EASTSQ( $\tilde{\mathbf{f}}^{(i-1)}$ ,  $x_m(t)$ )
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Initialize $\tilde{\mathbf{f}}$ $\longrightarrow \tilde{f}_k = \frac{N(f_{subcarrier} + f_{CFO})}{F_s}$

Solve for $\tilde{\mathbf{a}}$
(fixed $\tilde{\mathbf{f}}$) $\longrightarrow \frac{1}{N} \sum_{t=0}^{N-1} x(t) e^{-2\pi i \tilde{f}_k t / N}$

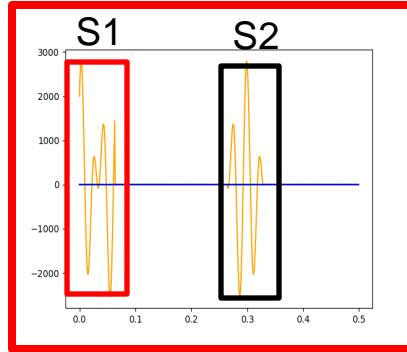
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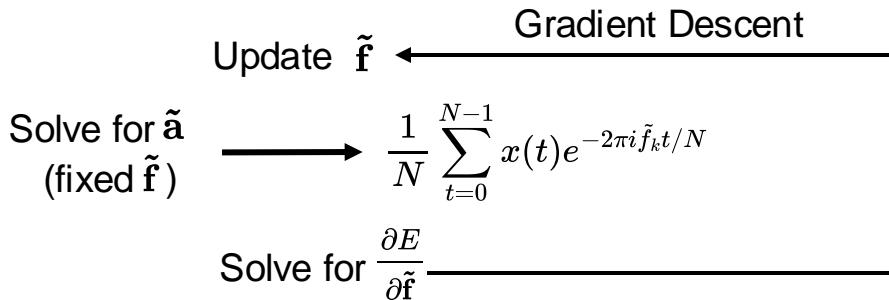
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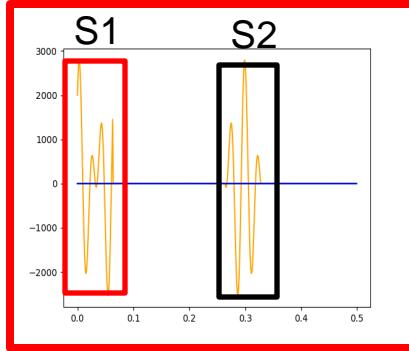
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Best Estimates

Error function (SSE):

$$E(\tilde{\mathbf{a}}, \tilde{\mathbf{f}}) = \sum_{t=0}^{N-1} |x(t) - \tilde{x}(t)|^2$$

Solve for $\tilde{\mathbf{a}}$
(fixed $\tilde{\mathbf{f}}$) → $\frac{1}{N} \sum_{t=0}^{N-1} x(t) e^{-2\pi i f_k t / N}$

Update $\tilde{\mathbf{f}}$

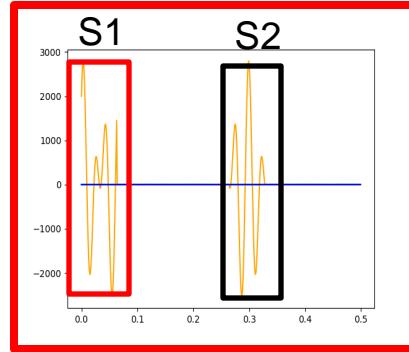
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```



Only OFDM symbol
(no leakage):

$$\tilde{x}(t) = \sum_{k=0}^{N-1} \tilde{a}_k e^{2\pi i \tilde{f}_k t / N}$$

↑
Best Estimates

Remove DC bin from $\tilde{x}(t)$ (i.e., \tilde{a}_0):

- Represents NULL subcarrier (i.e., has no data)
- Contains Tx and Eavesdropper Leakage

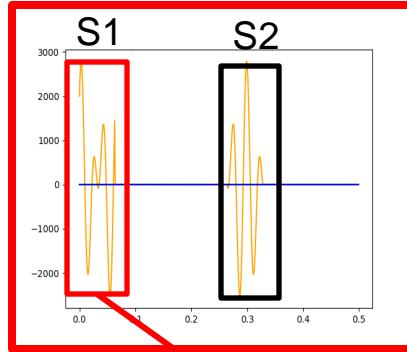
Ghostbuster Detection: The Algorithm

Algorithm 1 Ghostbuster's Cancellation Algorithm

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10:         $i \leftarrow i + 1$ 
11:      end while
12:       $\tilde{x}_m(t) \leftarrow \tilde{\mathbf{a}}^*, \tilde{\mathbf{f}}^*$  (other than the DC bin)
13:       $r_m(t) \leftarrow x_m(t) - \tilde{x}_m(t)$  (highlighted)
14:    end for
15:     $p_m(t) \leftarrow$  combination of  $r_m(t)$  from all symbols
16:     $P_m(f) \leftarrow FFT(p_m(t))$ 
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23: Find spike of eavesdropper's RF leakage.

```



$$r(t) = x_i(t) - \tilde{x}_i(t)$$

Only LO
leakages in
S1

Only OFDM symbol
(no leakage):

$$\tilde{x}(t) = \sum_{k=0}^{N-1} \tilde{a}_k e^{2\pi i \tilde{f}_k t / N}$$

↑
Best Estimates

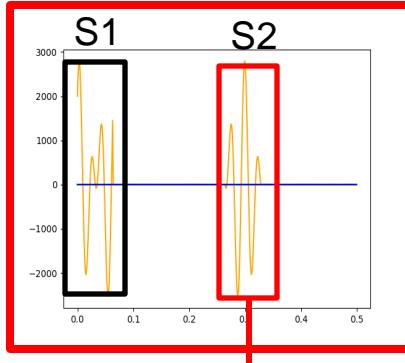
Ghostbuster Detection: The Algorithm

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21:  $s(t) \leftarrow$  combination of  $s_k(t)$  from all packets
22:  $S(f) \leftarrow FFT(s(t))$ 
23: Find spike of eavesdropper's RF leakage.

```



$$r(t) = x_i(t) - \tilde{x}_i(t)$$

Only LO
leakages in
S2

Only OFDM symbol
(no leakage):

$$\tilde{x}(t) = \sum_{k=0}^{N-1} \tilde{a}_k e^{2\pi i \tilde{f}_k t / N}$$

↑
Best Estimates

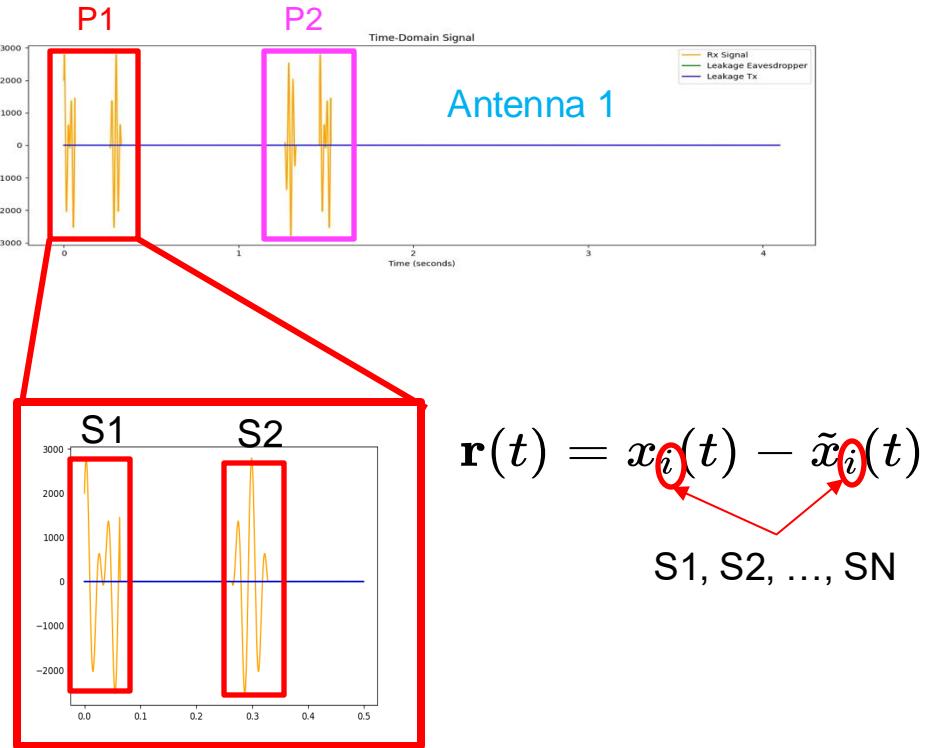
Ghostbuster Detection: The Algorithm

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23: Find spike of eavesdropper's RF leakage.

```



$$p(t) = [r_{S1}(t), r_{S2}(t), \dots, r_{SN}(t)]$$

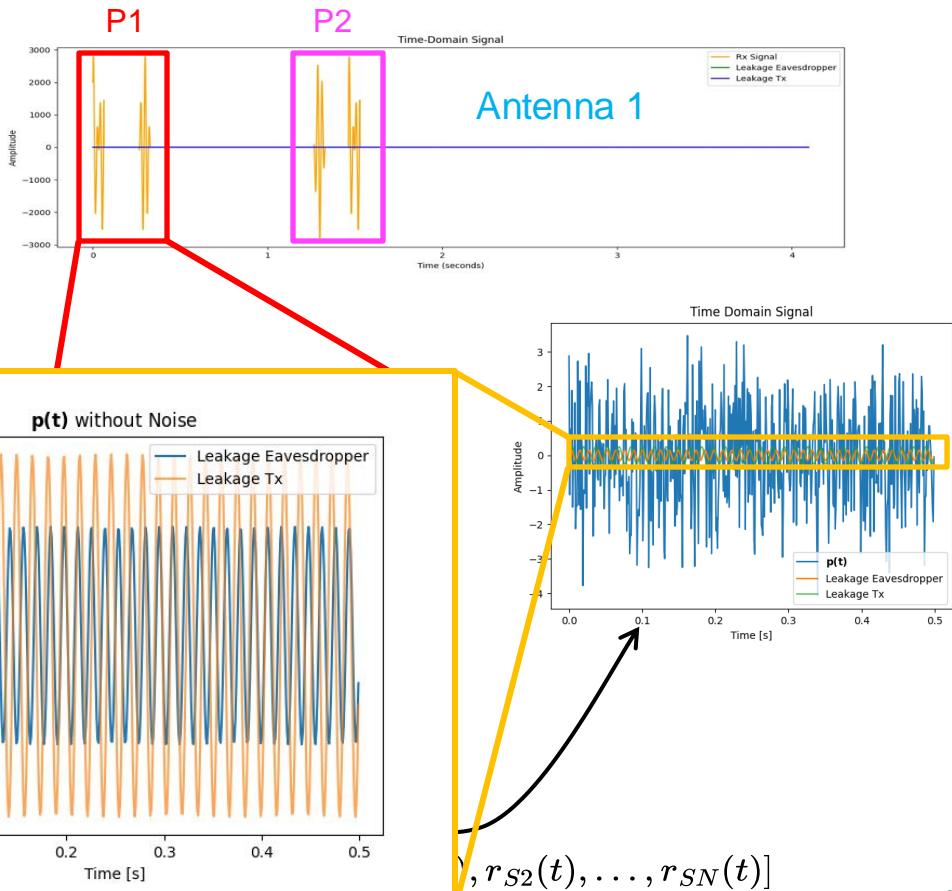
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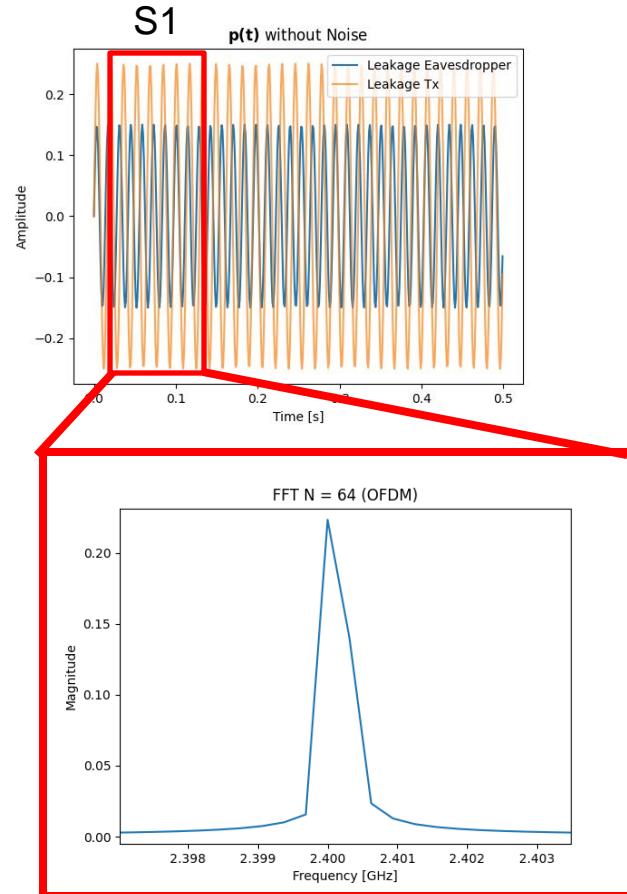
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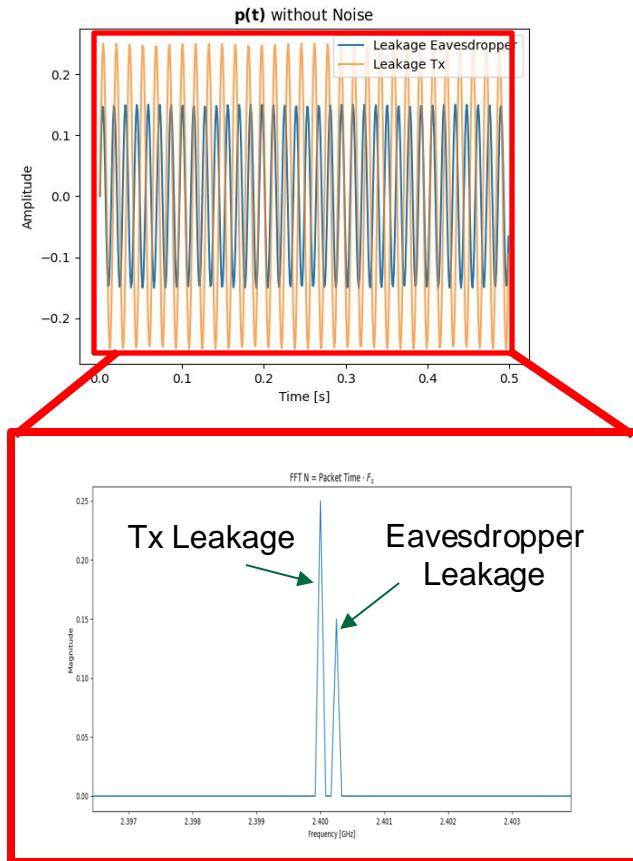
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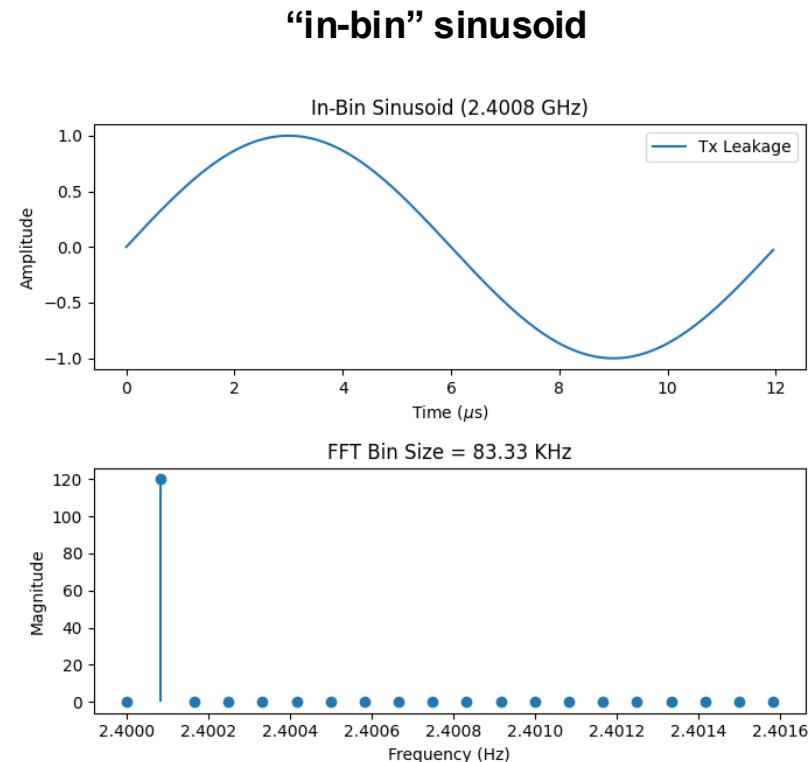


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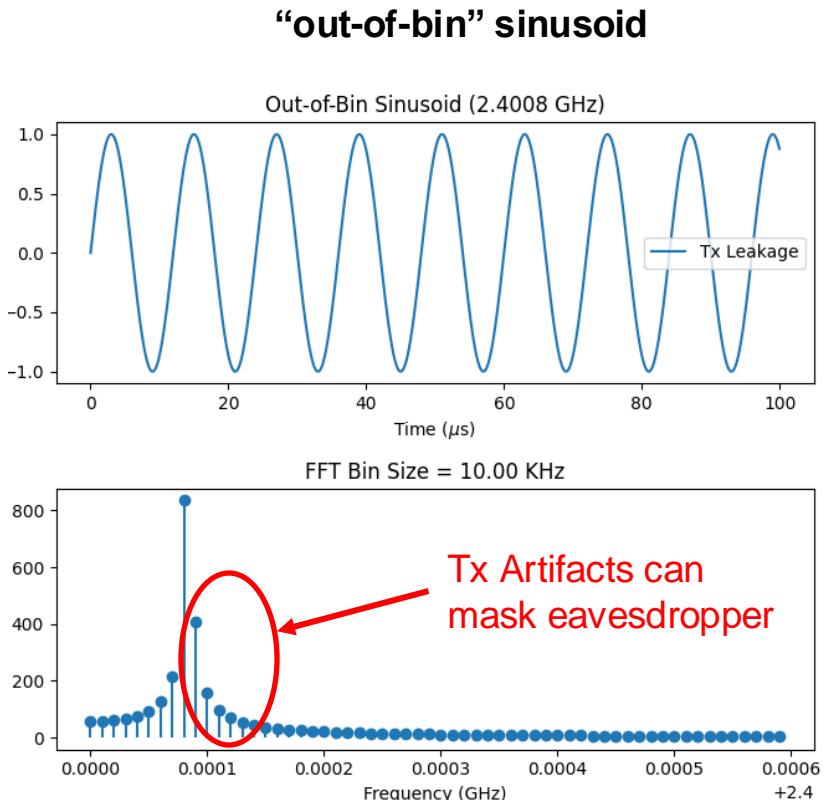
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23: Find spike of eavesdropper's RF leakage.

```



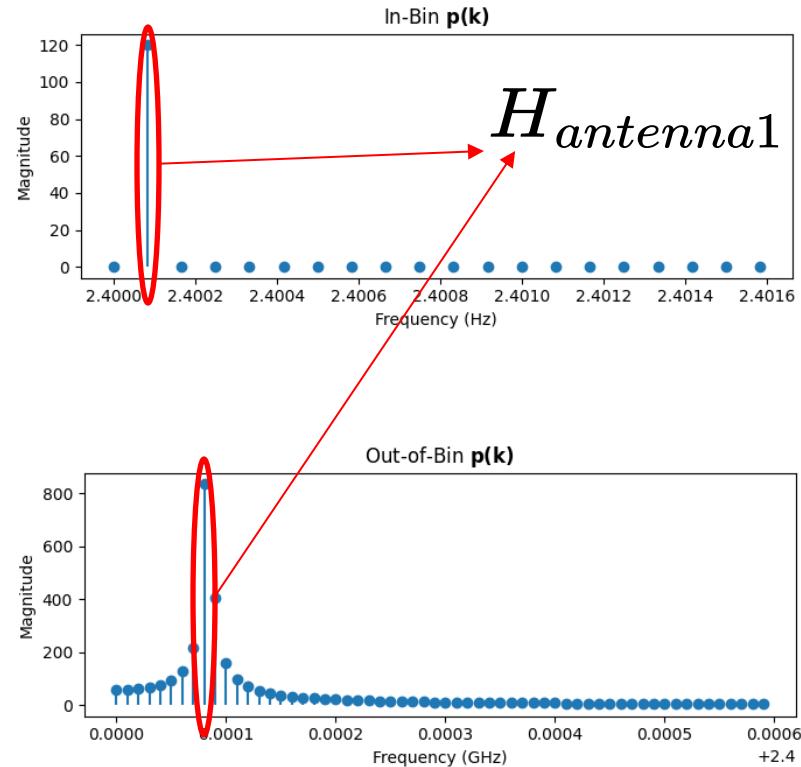
Ghostbuster Detection: The Algorithm

Algorithm 1 Ghostbuster's Cancellation Algorithm

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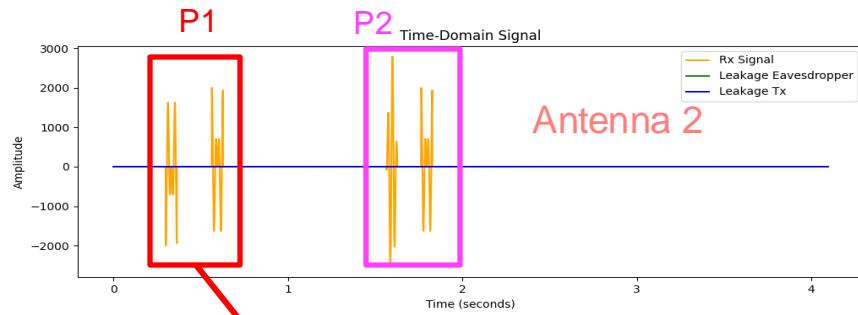
Ghostbuster Detection: The Algorithm

Algorithm 1 Ghostbuster's Cancellation Algorithm

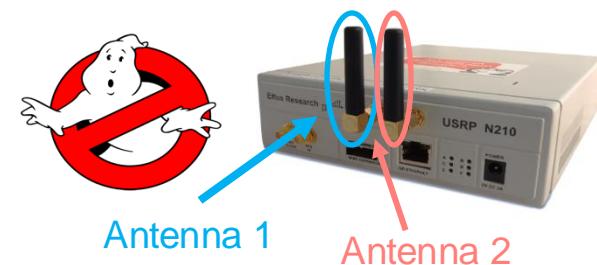
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23: Find spike of eavesdropper's RF leakage.

```



$$H_{\text{antenna}2}$$



Ghostbuster Detection: The Algorithm

Algorithm 1 Ghostbuster's Cancellation Algorithm

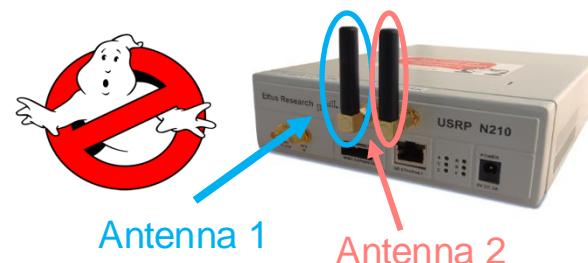
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```

$$Y_1(f) - \frac{H_{antenna1}}{H_{antenna2}} Y_2(f) = CE(f)$$

The diagram illustrates the signal flow from the antennas to the channel estimation. Two red arrows labeled "FFT" point upwards from the bottom, representing the Fast Fourier Transform operations on the received signals. The outputs of these FFT blocks are then combined to calculate the channel estimation error $CE(f)$.



Ghostbuster Detection: The Algorithm

Algorithm 1 Ghostbuster's Cancellation Algorithm

```

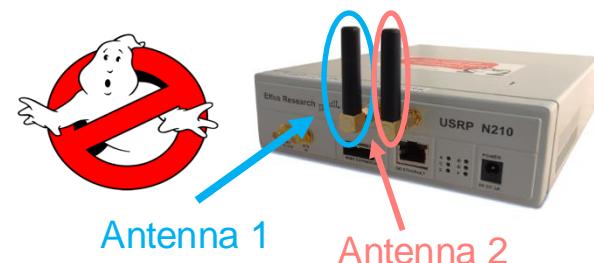
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23: Find spike of eavesdropper's RF leakage.

```

$$Y_1(f) - \frac{H_{\text{antenna}1}}{H_{\text{antenna}2}} Y_2(f) = CE(f)$$

Only Eavesdropper signal!

$S_1 \xleftarrow{\text{IFFT}}$



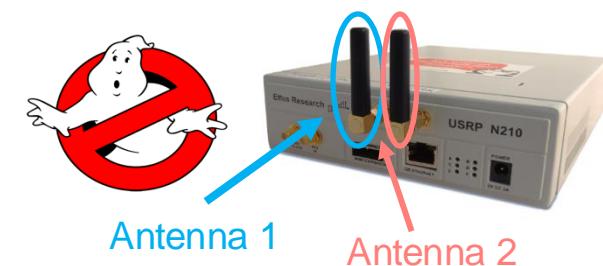
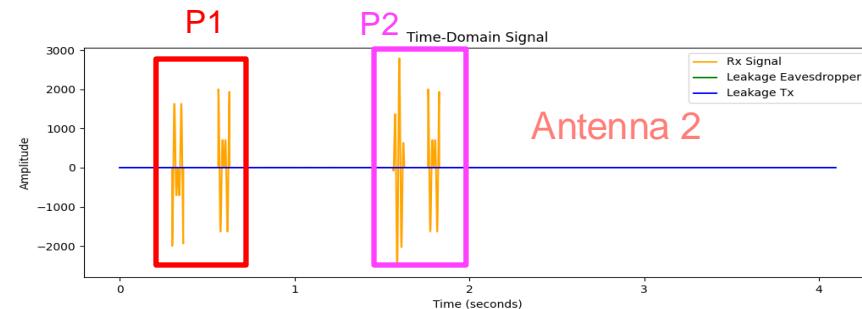
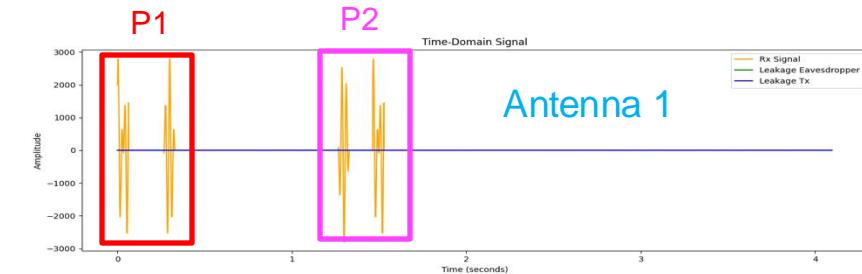
Ghostbuster Detection: The Algorithm

Algorithm 1 Ghostbuster's Cancellation Algorithm

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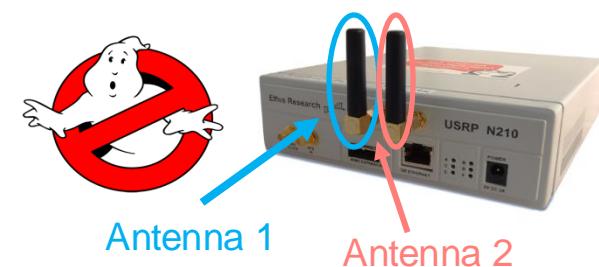
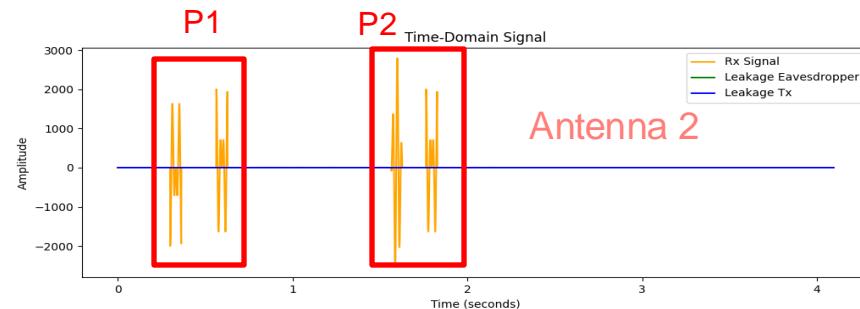
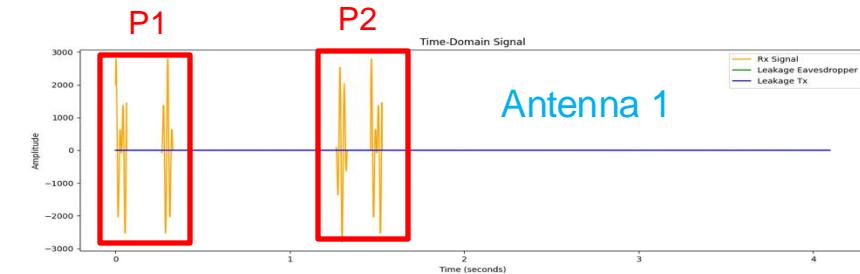
Ghostbuster Detection: The Algorithm

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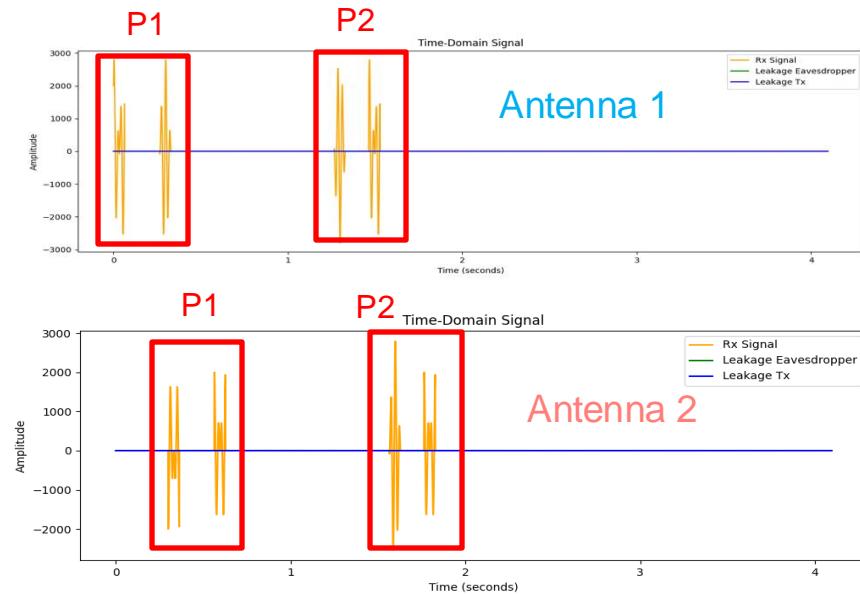
Ghostbuster Detection: The Algorithm

Algorithm 1 Ghostbuster's Cancellation Algorithm

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23: Find spike of eavesdropper's RF leakage.

```



$$\mathbf{s} = [s_1, s_2, \dots, s_i]$$

Only Eavesdropper
Leakage!

Ghostbuster Detection: The Algorithm

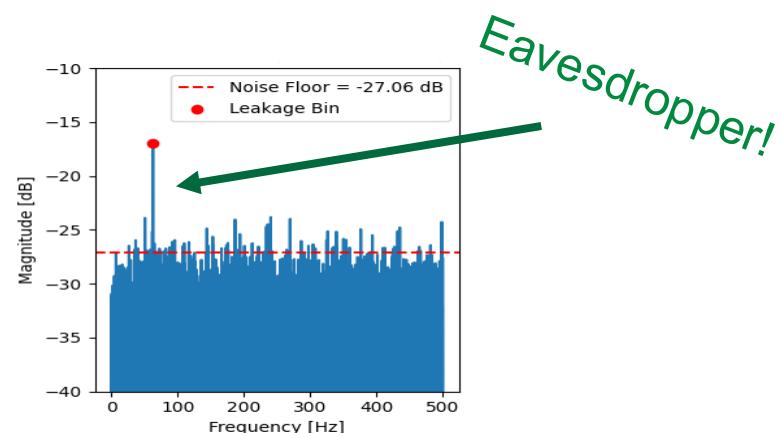
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23: Find spike of eavesdropper's RF leakage.
  
```

$$\mathbf{s} = [s_1, s_2, \dots, s_i]$$

FFT



Ghostbuster Detection: Simplified Scenario II

Isolated System*



Key Observation 1

Ghostbuster computes long
FFTs to bring leaked signal
above the noise floor

Key Observation 2

DFT artifacts (found in long DFTs)
can be eliminated through
Spatial & Frequency Cancellation



Ghostbuster Detection: Realistic Scenario

Isolated Sy




Algorithm 1 Ghostbuster's Cancellation Algorithm

```

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23: Find spike of eavesdropper's RF leakage.

```

Rx



Ghostbuster Detection: Realistic Scenario

Algorithm 1 Ghostbuster's Cancellation Algorithm

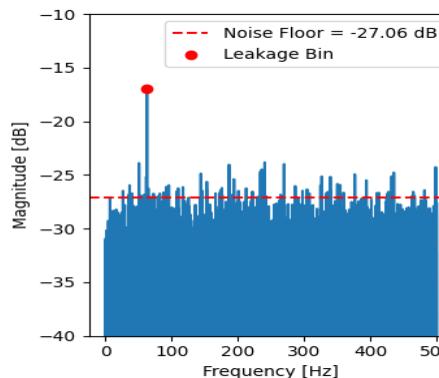
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```

$$\mathbf{s} = [s_1, s_2, \dots, s_i]$$

FFT



Count Num
Peaks:

$$N_{\text{legitimate_recv}} = N_{\text{peaks}}$$

NO Eavesdropper!

$$N_{\text{legitimate_recv}} \neq N_{\text{peaks}}$$

Eavesdropper!

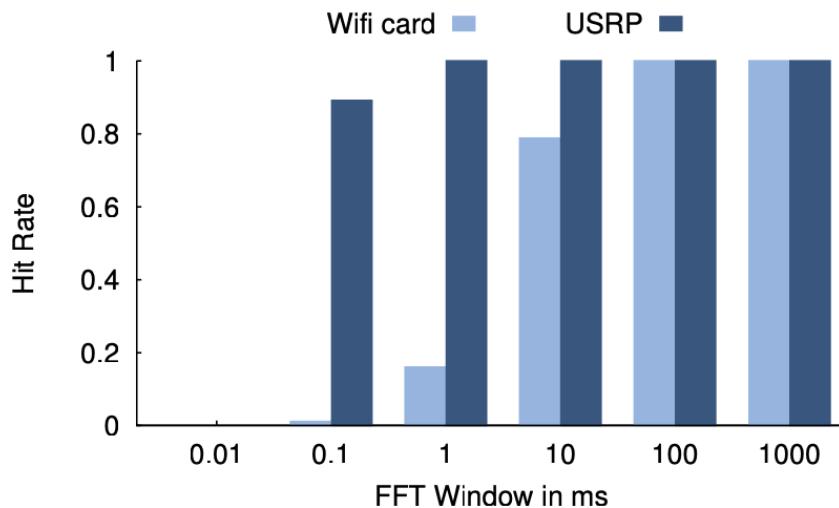
Ghostbuster Implementation

- USRP N210 SDR
- NO-MIMO, 2-MIMO, 3-MIMO, 4-MIMO
- Detection if SNR per bin > 6 dB



Ghostbuster Evaluation: Only Eavesdropper

- ❖ **Eavesdropper:** MacBook Pro in monitor mode and USRP N210.
- ❖ **Frequency Carrier:** 5.745 GHz (Channel 149).
- ❖ Eavesdroppers placed **1 m** from Ghostbuster.

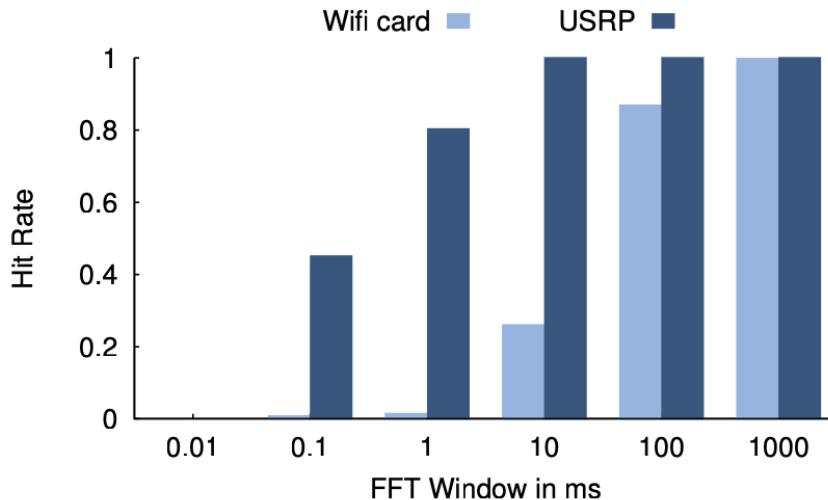


SNR > 6dB

Hit Rate = $\frac{\text{\# runs with } \text{correct} \text{ detection}}{\text{total \# runs eavesdropper present}}$

Ghostbuster Evaluation: Only Eavesdropper

- ❖ **Eavesdropper:** MacBook Pro in monitor mode and USRP N210.
- ❖ **Frequency Carrier:** 5.745 GHz (Channel 149).
- ❖ Eavesdroppers placed **5 m** from Ghostbuster.



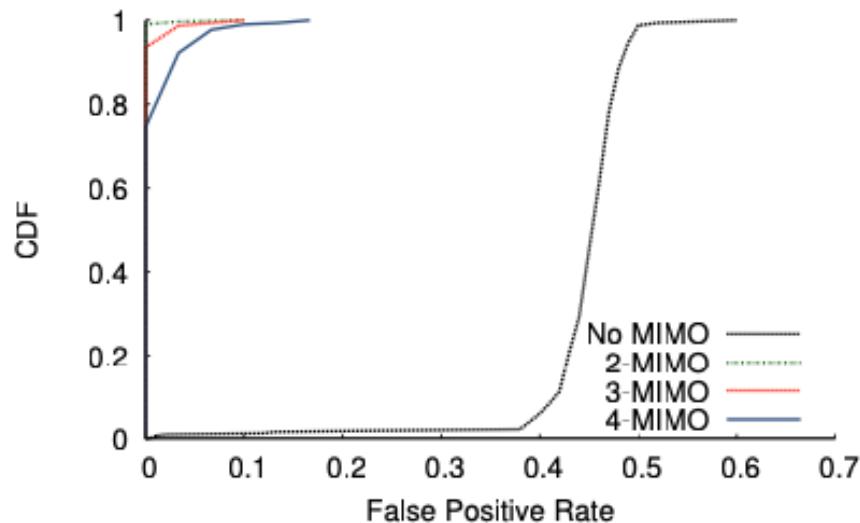
SNR > 6dB

Hit Rate =
$$\frac{\text{\# runs with } \text{correct} \text{ detection}}{\text{total \# runs eavesdropper present}}$$

A red double-headed arrow points upwards from the bottom of the equation to the text "SNR > 6dB".

Ghostbuster Evaluation: Eavesdropper and Tx

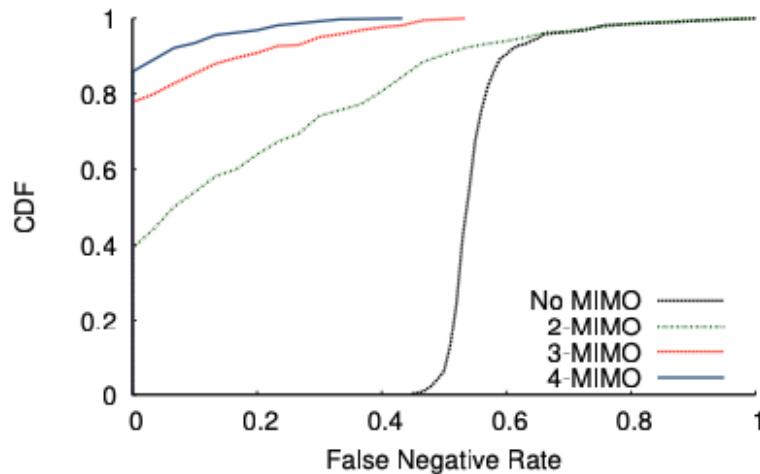
- ❖ **Tx:** USRP N210 transmitting ODFM Wi-Fi packets
- ❖ **Eavesdropper:** USRP N210 and MacBook Pro in monitor mode?
- ❖ **FFT Length:** 5 ms
- ❖ Eavesdropper placed at 350 different location between 1m - 5m from GB.



$$FPR = \frac{\text{\# runs eavesdropper } \textcolor{red}{falsely} \text{ detected}}{\text{total \# runs eavesdropper } \textcolor{red}{NOT} \text{ present}}$$

Ghostbuster Evaluation: Eavesdropper and Tx

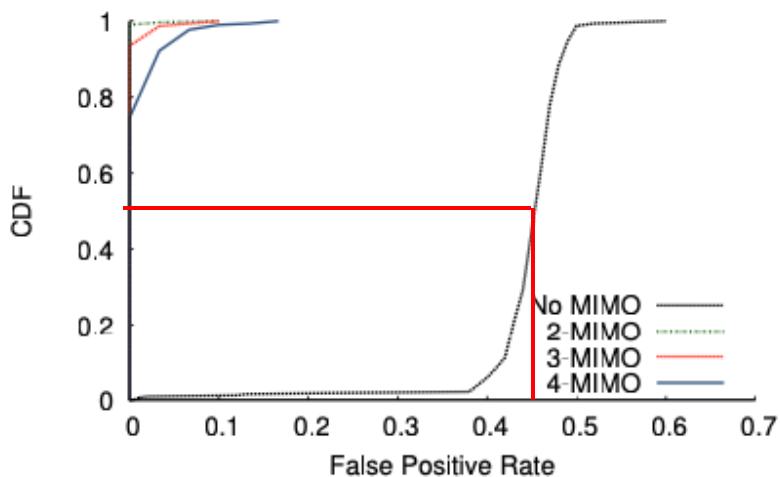
- ❖ **Tx:** USRP N210 transmitting ODFM Wi-Fi packets
- ❖ **Eavesdropper:** USRP N210 and MacBook Pro in monitor mode?
- ❖ **FFT Length:** 5 ms
- ❖ Eavesdropper placed at 350 different location between 1m - 5m from GB.



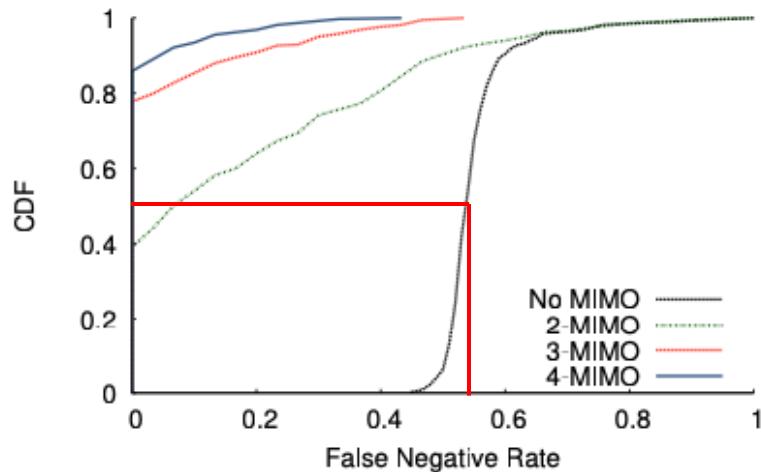
$$FNR = \frac{\# \text{ runs } \textcolor{red}{\text{failed}} \text{ to detect eavesdropper}}{\text{total } \# \text{ runs eavesdropper } \textcolor{red}{\text{present}}}$$

Ghostbuster Evaluation: Eavesdropper and Tx

$$FPR = \frac{\# \text{ runs eavesdropper } \textcolor{red}{falsy} \text{ detected}}{\text{total } \# \text{ runs eavesdropper } \textcolor{red}{NOT} \text{ present}}$$



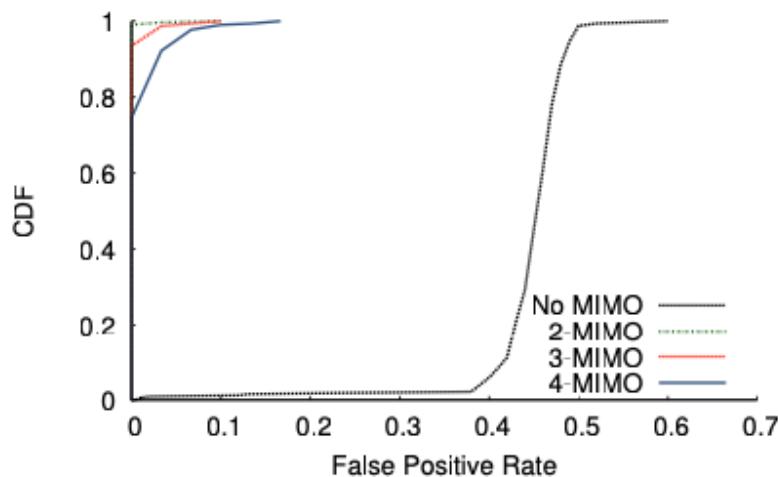
$$FNR = \frac{\# \text{ runs } \textcolor{red}{failed} \text{ to detect eavesdropper}}{\text{total } \# \text{ runs eavesdropper } \textcolor{red}{present}}$$



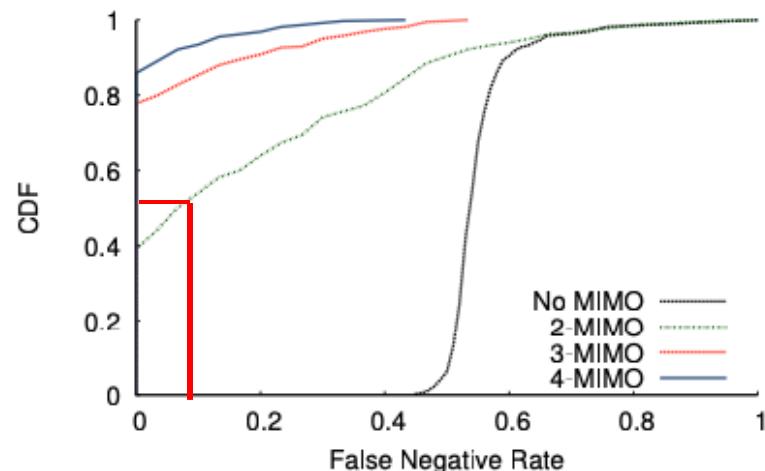
NO MIMO = Random Guess

Ghostbuster Evaluation: Eavesdropper and Tx

$$FPR = \frac{\# \text{ runs eavesdropper } \textcolor{red}{falsy} \text{ detected}}{\text{total } \# \text{ runs eavesdropper } \textcolor{red}{NOT} \text{ present}}$$



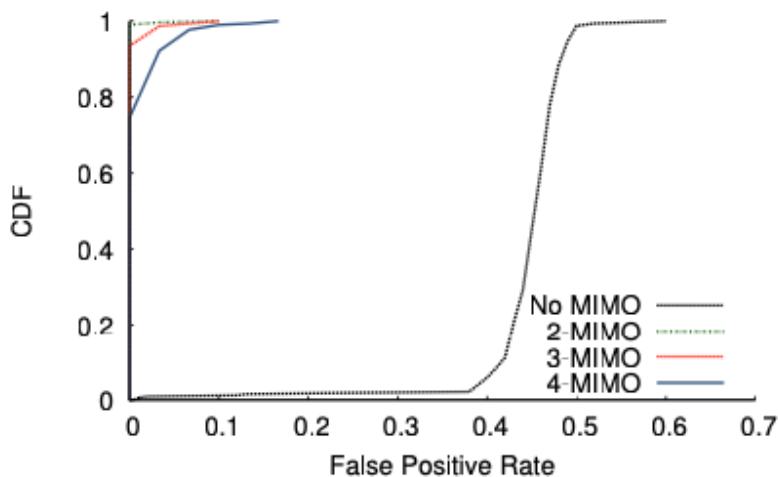
$$FNR = \frac{\# \text{ runs } \textcolor{red}{failed} \text{ to detect eavesdropper}}{\text{total } \# \text{ runs eavesdropper } \textcolor{red}{present}}$$



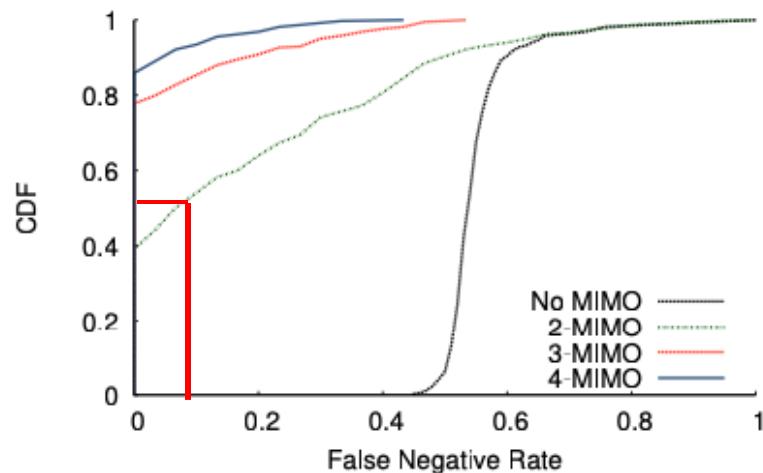
2-MIMO = 0 FPR (Median) & 0.10 FNR (Median)

Ghostbuster Evaluation: Eavesdropper and Tx

$$FPR = \frac{\# \text{ runs eavesdropper } \textcolor{red}{falsy} \text{ detected}}{\text{total } \# \text{ runs eavesdropper } \textcolor{red}{NOT} \text{ present}}$$



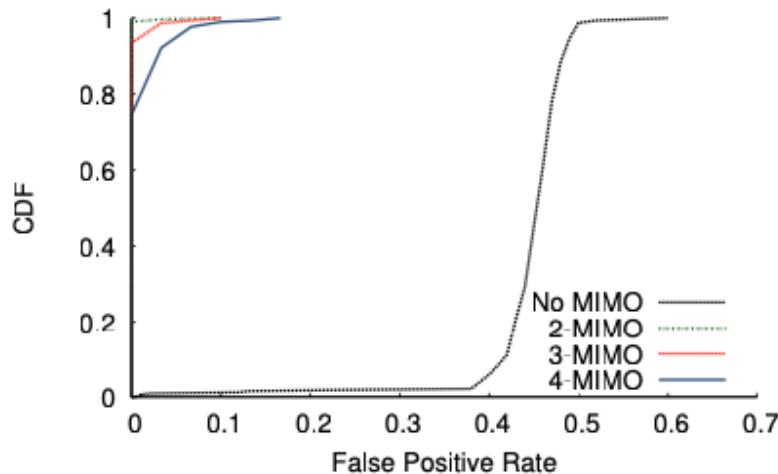
$$FNR = \frac{\# \text{ runs } \textcolor{red}{failed} \text{ to detect eavesdropper}}{\text{total } \# \text{ runs eavesdropper } \textcolor{red}{present}}$$



2-MIMO = 0 FPR (Median) & 0.10 FNR (Median)

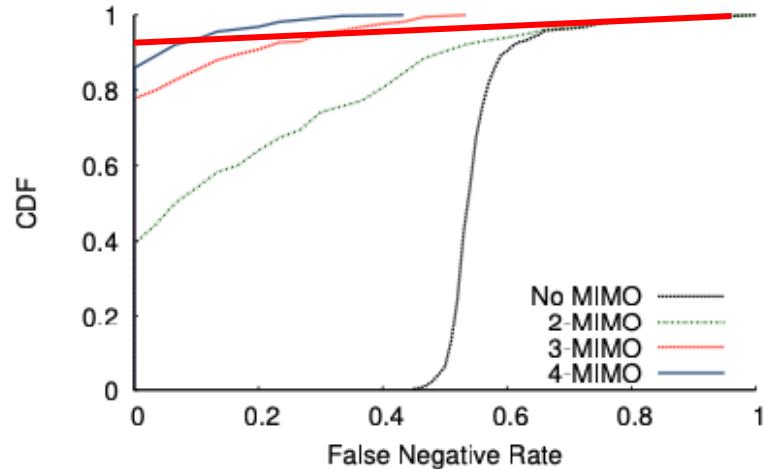
Ghostbuster Evaluation: Eavesdropper and Tx

$$FPR = \frac{\# \text{ runs eavesdropper } \textcolor{red}{falsy} \text{ detected}}{\text{total } \# \text{ runs eavesdropper } \textcolor{red}{NOT} \text{ present}}$$



95th Percentile FPR **increases** with more MIMO

$$FNR = \frac{\# \text{ runs } \textcolor{red}{failed} \text{ to detect eavesdropper}}{\text{total } \# \text{ runs eavesdropper } \textcolor{red}{present}}$$



95th Percentile FNR **decreases** with more MIMO

Ghostbuster Evaluation: Eavesdropper and Tx

$$FPR = \frac{\# \text{ runs eavesdropper } \textcolor{red}{falsy} \text{ detected}}{\text{total } \# \text{ runs eavesdropper } \textcolor{red}{NOT} \text{ present}}$$

95th Percentile FPR **increases** with more MIMO

$$FNR = \frac{\# \text{ runs } \textcolor{red}{failed} \text{ to detect eavesdropper}}{\text{total } \# \text{ runs eavesdropper } \textcolor{red}{present}}$$

95th Percentile FNR **decreases** with more MIMO

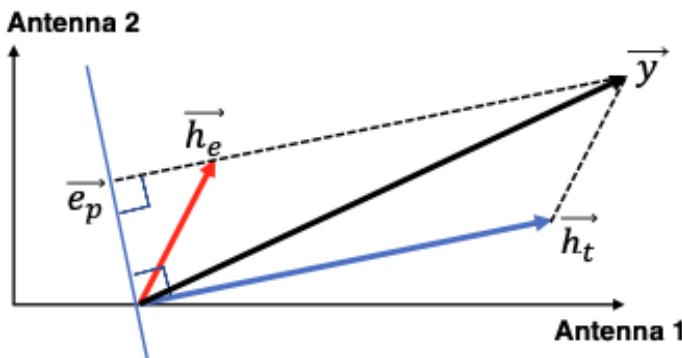
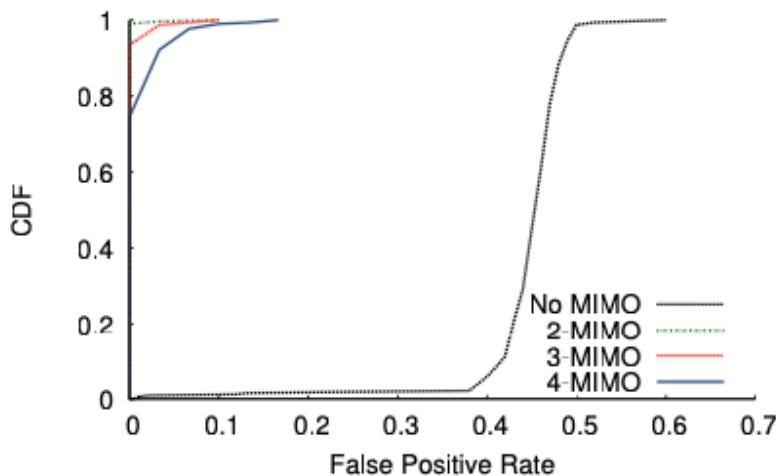


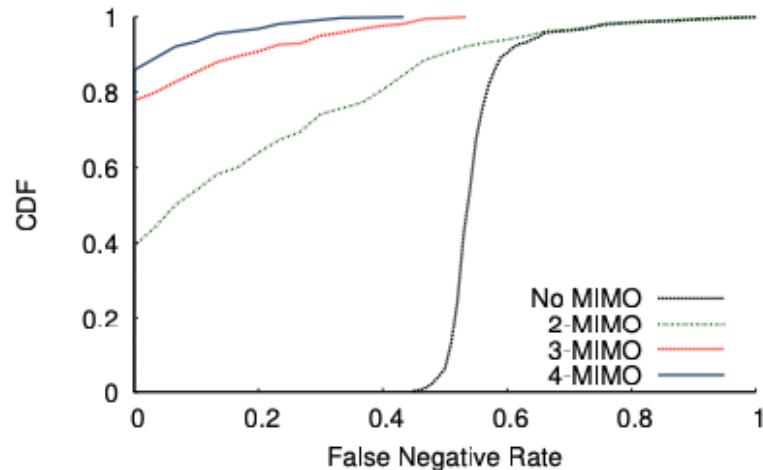
Figure 3: Ghostbuster leverages MIMO to cancel the signal from the transmitter in the Antenna Space.

Ghostbuster Evaluation: Eavesdropper and Tx

$$FPR = \frac{\# \text{ runs eavesdropper } \textcolor{red}{falsy} \text{ detected}}{\text{total } \# \text{ runs eavesdropper } \textcolor{red}{NOT} \text{ present}}$$

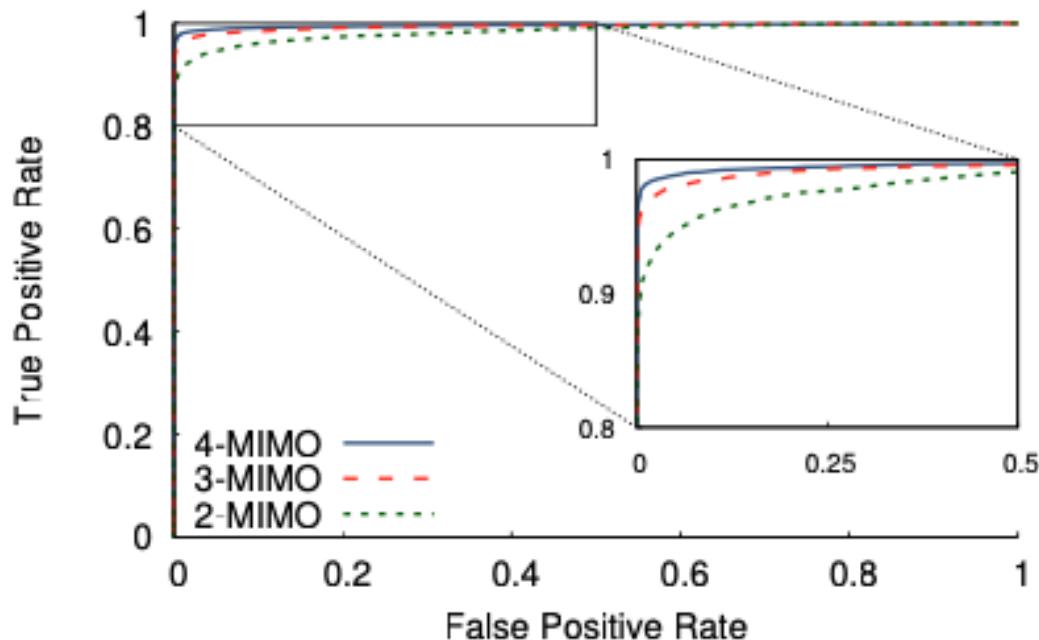


$$FNR = \frac{\# \text{ runs } \textcolor{red}{failed} \text{ to detect eavesdropper}}{\text{total } \# \text{ runs eavesdropper } \textcolor{red}{present}}$$



FNR decrease > FPR increase

Ghostbuster Evaluation: Eavesdropper and Tx



**More MIMO is
better!**

Figure 12: ROC curves for varying MIMO chain length.

Ghostbuster Evaluation: Eavesdropper, Tx, and Rx

- ❖ **Tx:** USRP N210 transmitting ODFM Wi-Fi packets
- ❖ **Rx:** 4 USRP (max) N210 placed 1 – 5 m from GB
- ❖ **FFT Length:** 750 ms
- ❖ 2-MIMO Ghostbuster

		Estimated Number of Receivers					
		0	1	2	3	4	≥ 5
Actual Number of Receivers	0	97.97%	0.68%	0.68%	0%	0.68%	0
	1	2.16%	96.55%	1.01%	0.29%	0	0
	2	0	2.8%	95.43%	1.47%	0.15%	0.15%
	3	0	0.29%	3.74%	91.81%	3.16%	1.01%
	4	0	0	0.29%	7.61%	89.94%	2.16%

Figure 13: Confusion matrix of classification probabilities obtained on experiments on USRP receivers in the range 1 m to 5 m.

Ghostbuster Evaluation: Eavesdropper, Tx, and Rx

- ❖ **Tx:** USRP N210 transmitting ODFM Wi-Fi packets
- ❖ **Rx:** 2 MacBook Pro (monitor mode)
- ❖ **FFT Length:** 1.25 s
- ❖ **2-MIMO Ghostbuster**

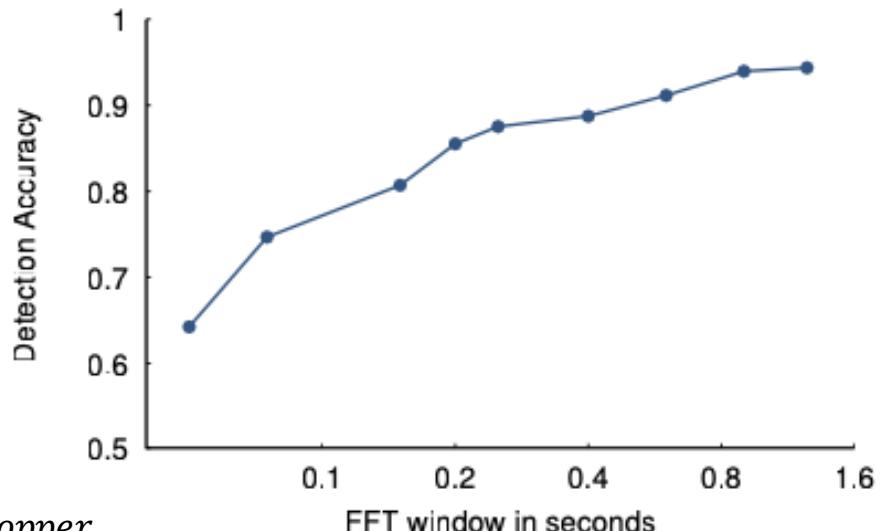
		Estimated Number of Receivers			
		0	1	2	≥ 3
Actual Number of Receivers	0	95.05%	3.96%	0.99%	0%
	1	7.07%	91.92%	1.01%	0%
	2	3.36	5.37%	89.26%	2.01%

Figure 14: Confusion matrix of classification probabilities obtained on experiments on WiFi cards.

Ghostbuster Evaluation: Eavesdropper, Tx, and Rx

- ❖ **Tx:** USRP N210 transmitting ODFM Wi-Fi packets
- ❖ **Rx:** 1 MacBook Pro (monitor mode)
- ❖ **Eavesdropper:** 1 MacBook Pro (monitor mode)

$$\text{Accuracy} = \frac{\# \text{ runs } GB \text{ correctly detected eavesdropper}}{\text{total } \# \text{ runs}}$$



94 % accuracy with 1.25 s FFT window!

Ghostbuster Limitations

- ❖ Ghostbuster requires knowing the number of legitimate receivers a priori

Possible Solution: *Exploit duality of device as Tx/Rx (Correlate leakages)*

- ❖ Ghostbuster detection range is 5 m for USRP and 1 m for Wi-Fi cards

Possible Solution: *Deploy multiple GB, decrease Tx power, or use larger FFT windows*

- ❖ Ghostbuster assumes **no** packet collision and **no** MIMO Tx

Possible Solution: *Use MIMO to separate packets ($k+1$ antennas needed for k collision or k MIMO Tx)*

Thank You!

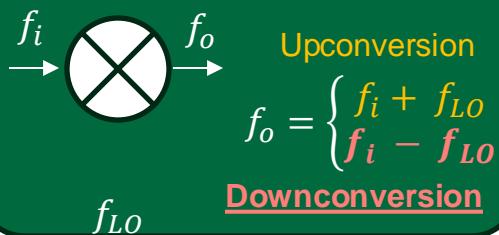
Q&A





Supplemental Material

RX Architecture -- Off-the-shelf Wi-Fi Cards



f_b : Baseband Frequency. Zero Hz/DC.

f_c : Carrier Frequency. Wi-Fi Channel frequency.

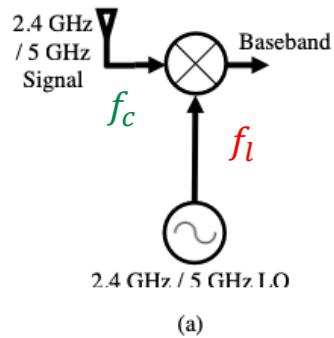
f_l : Leakage Frequency. A function of the LO frequency.

20 Wi-Fi cards were examined:

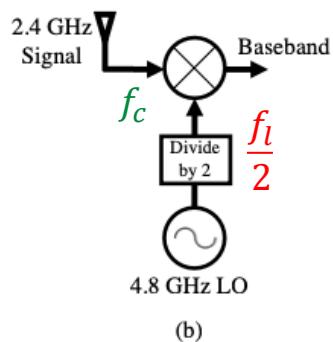
- Device Types: Desktops, laptops, cellphones, and access points.
- Supported Protocols:
802.11a,b,g,n,ac
- Manufacturers: Intel, Qualcomm, and Broadcom

Only 4 RX architectures found!

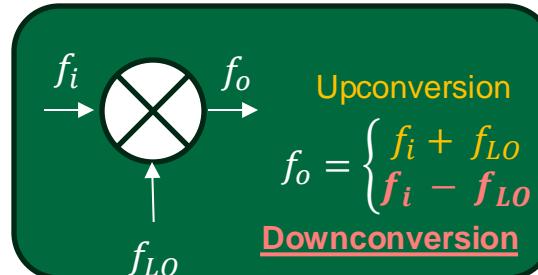
RX Architecture -- Off-the-shelf Wi-Fi Cards



$$\begin{aligned}f_b &= f_c - f_l \\0 &= f_c - f_l \\f_c &= f_l\end{aligned}$$



$$\begin{aligned}f_b &= f_c - \frac{f_l}{2} \\0 &= f_c - \frac{f_l}{2} \\2 f_c &= f_l\end{aligned}$$

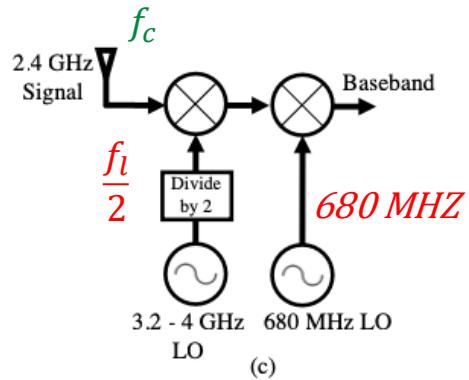


f_b : Baseband Frequency. Zero Hz/DC.

f_c : Carrier Frequency. Wi-Fi Channel frequency.

f_l : Leakage Frequency. A function of the LO frequency.

RX Architecture -- Off-the-shelf Wi-Fi Cards

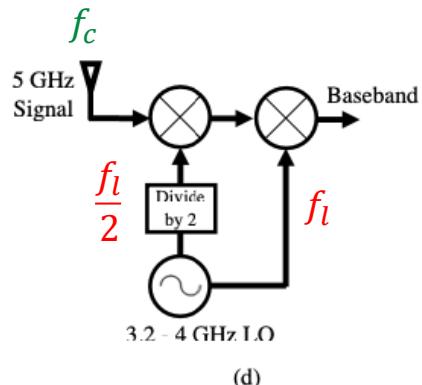


$$f_b = f_c - \frac{f_l}{2} - 680 \text{ MHz}$$

$$0 = f_c - \frac{f_l}{2} - 680 \text{ MHz}$$

$$f_c + 680 \text{ MHz} = \frac{f_l}{2}$$

$$2(f_c + 680 \text{ MHz}) = f_l$$

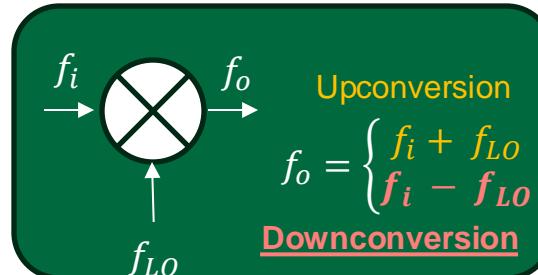


$$f_b = f_c - \frac{f_l}{2} - f_l$$

$$0 = f_c - \frac{3f_l}{2}$$

$$f_c = \frac{3f_l}{2}$$

$$\frac{2}{3}f_c = f_l$$



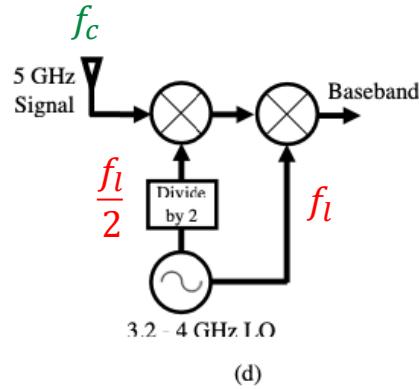
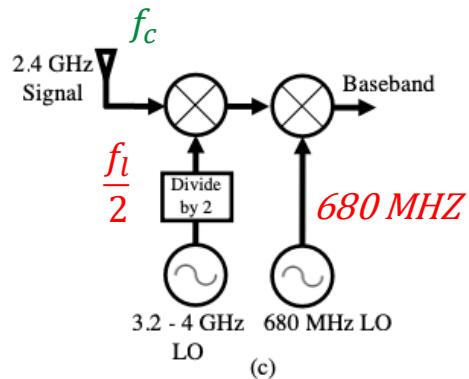
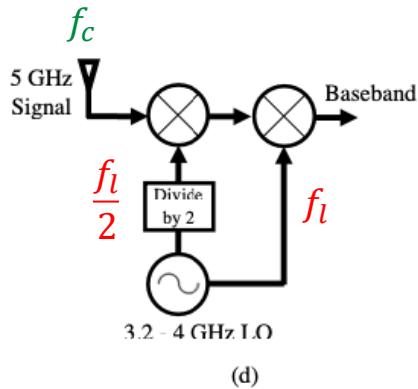
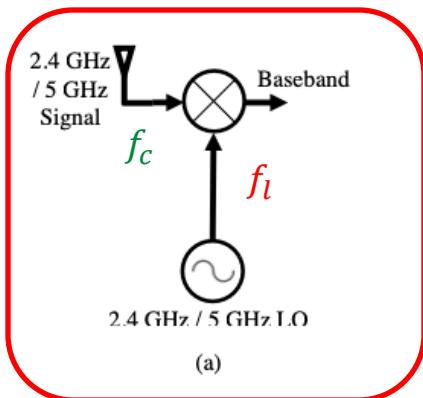
f_b : Baseband Frequency. Zero Hz/DC.

f_c : Carrier Frequency. Wi-Fi Channel frequency.

f_l : Leakage Frequency. A function of the LO frequency.

RX Architecture -- Implications

TX & Eavesdropper



Full Ghostbuster Needed

Algorithm 1 Ghostbuster's Cancellation Algorithm

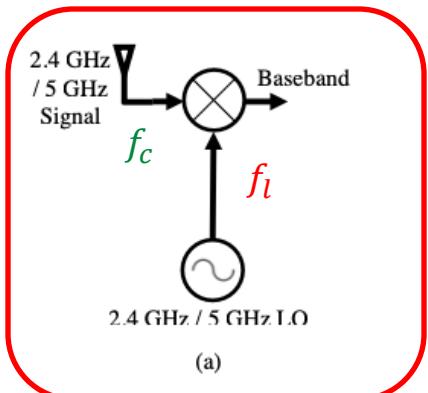
```

1: for  $k^{th}$  packet do
2:   for  $m^{th}$  MIMO Receiver do
3:     Decode packet using standard OFDM decoder.
4:     for Each OFDM Symbol do
5:        $\tilde{f}^{(0)} \leftarrow$  CFO coarse & fine estimates
6:        $i \leftarrow 1$ 
7:       while  $E(\tilde{f}^{(i-1)}, \tilde{a}^{(i-1)}) \geq$  Threshold do
8:          $\tilde{a}^{(i)} \leftarrow$  WEIGHTEDLEASTSQ( $\tilde{f}^{(i-1)}$ ,  $x_m(t)$ )
9:          $\tilde{f}^{(i)} \leftarrow$  GRADIENTDESCENT( $\tilde{a}^{(i)}$ ,  $x_m(t)$ )
10:         $i \leftarrow i + 1$ 
11:      end while
12:       $\tilde{x}_m(t) \leftarrow \tilde{a}^*, \tilde{f}^*$  (other than the DC bin)
13:       $r_m(t) \leftarrow x_m(t) - \tilde{x}_m(t)$ 
14:    end for
15:     $p_m(t) \leftarrow$  combination of  $r_m(t)$  from all symbols
16:     $P_m(f) \leftarrow FFT(p_m(t))$ 
17:     $H_m(f_{DC}) \leftarrow P_m(f_{DC})$ 
18:  end for
19:   $s_k(t) \leftarrow$  spatial cancellation using each  $H_m(f_{DC})$ 
20: end for
21:  $s(t) \leftarrow$  combination of  $s_k(t)$  from all packets
22:  $S(f) \leftarrow FFT(s(t))$ 
23: Find spike or eavesdropper's RF leakage.

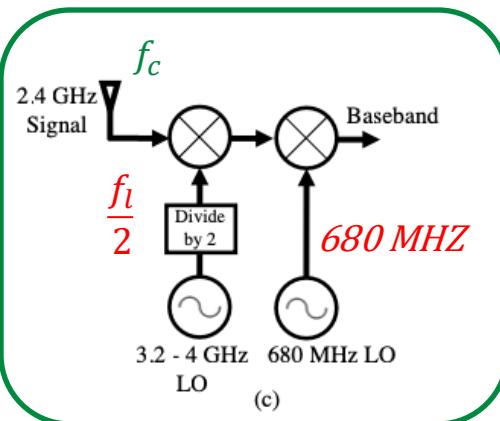
```

RX Architecture -- Implications

Eavesdropper



Tx



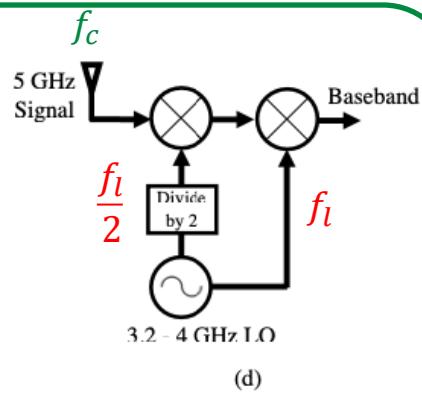
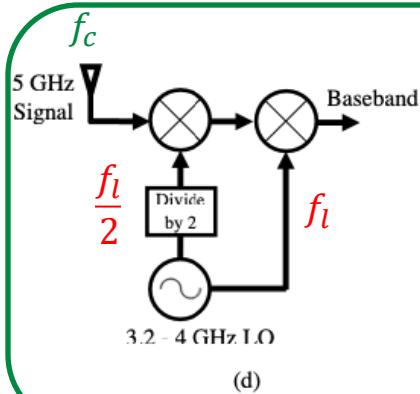
No spatial cancellation needed

Algorithm 1 Ghostbuster's Cancellation Algorithm

```

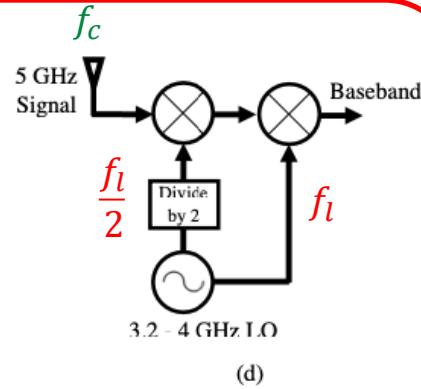
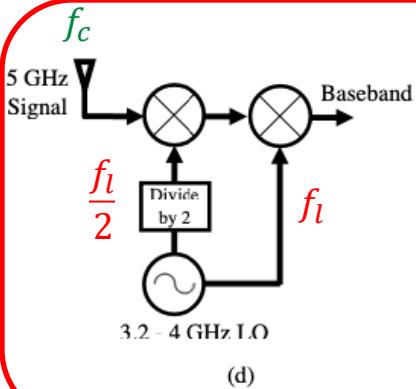
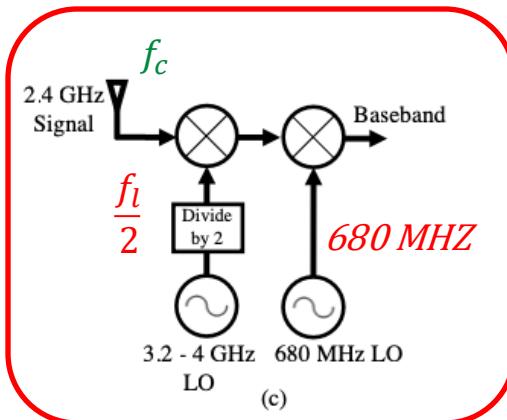
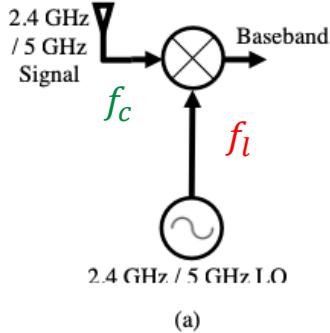
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13:       $r_m(t) \leftarrow x_m(t) - \tilde{x}_m(t)$ 
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15:     $p_m(t) \leftarrow$  combination of  $r_m(t)$  from all symbols
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21:  $s(t) \leftarrow$  combination of  $s_k(t)$  from all packets
22:  $S(f) \leftarrow FFT(s(t))$ 
23: Find spike of eavesdropper's RF leakage.

```



RX Architecture -- Implications

Eavesdropper



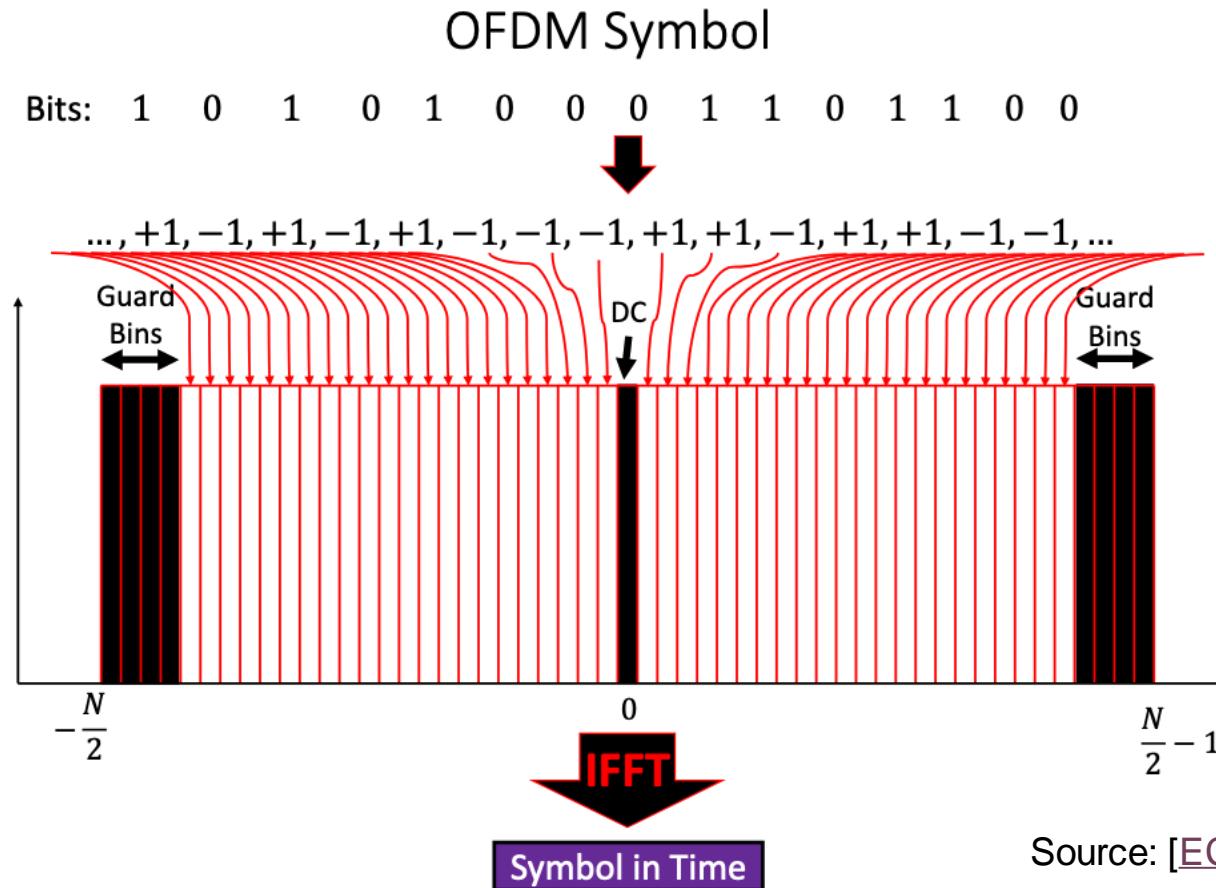
Algorithm 1 Ghostbuster's Cancellation Algorithm

```

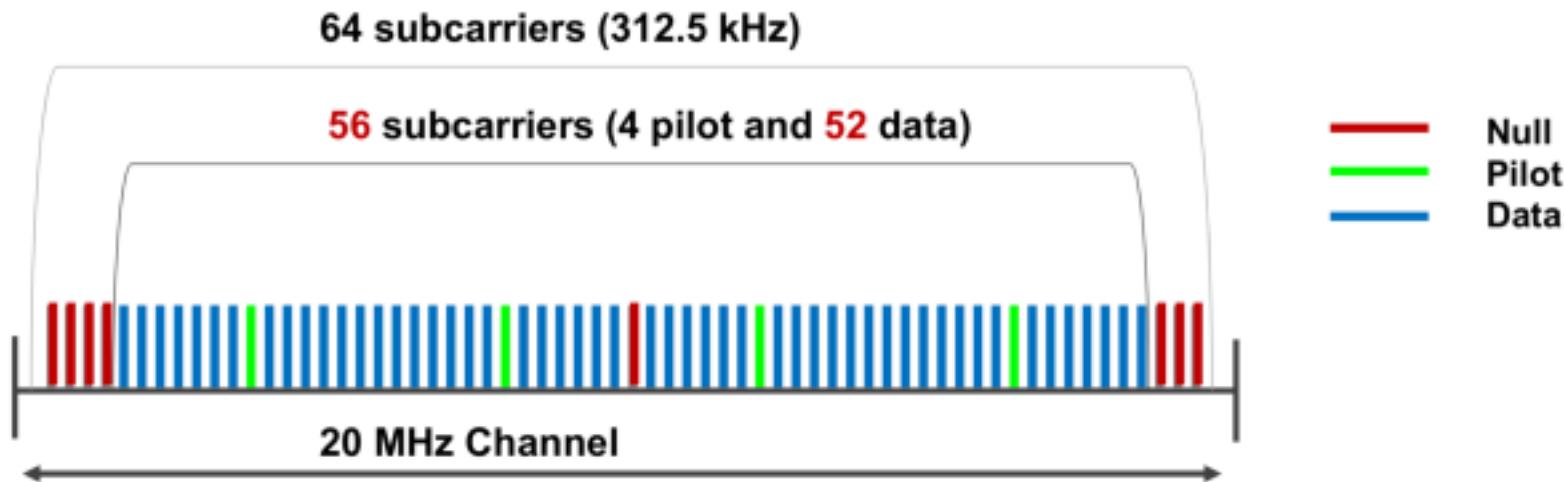
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16:     $P_m(f) \leftarrow FFT(p_m(t))$ 
17:     $H_m(f_{DC}) \leftarrow P_m(f_{DC})$ 
18:  end for
19:   $s_k(t) \leftarrow$  spatial cancellation using each  $H_m(f_{DC})$ 
20: end for
21:  $s(t) \leftarrow$  combination of  $s_k(t)$  from all packets
22:  $S(f) \leftarrow FFT(s(t))$ 
23: Find spike of eavesdropper's RF leakage.

```

Orthogonal Frequency Division Multiplexing (OFDM)

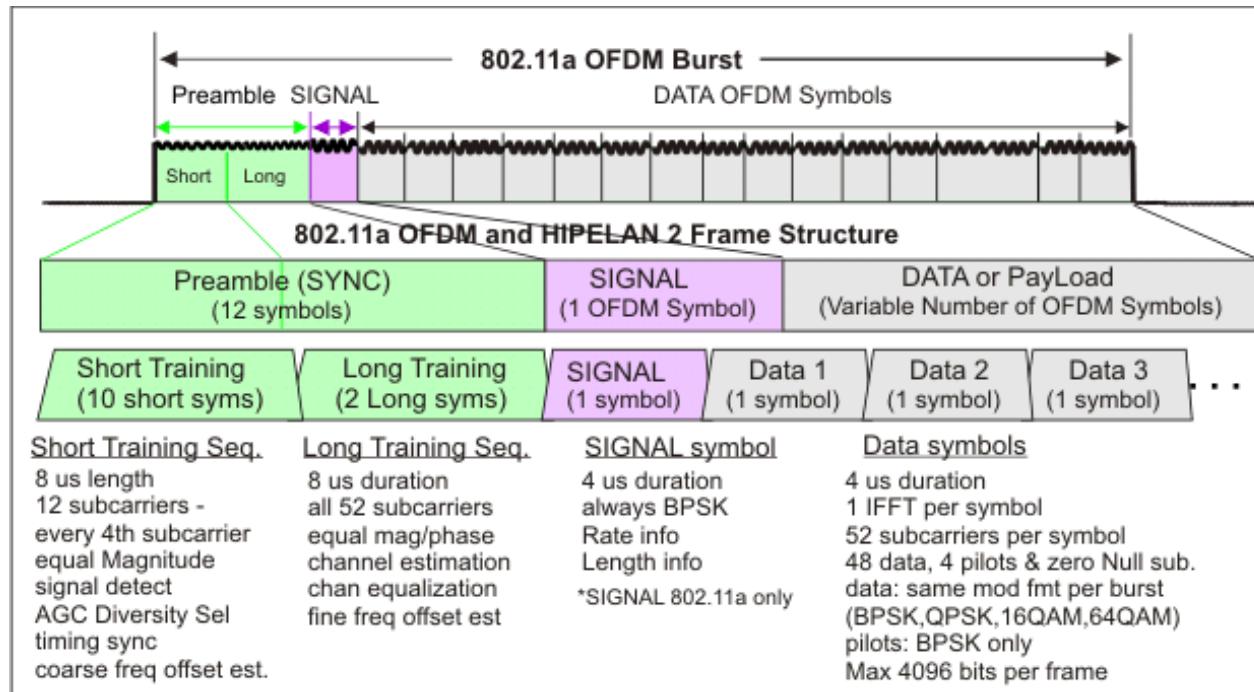


Wi-Fi OFDM



Source: [[cradtech](#)]

Wi-Fi OFDM



Source: [\[Tektronix\]](#)

Wi-Fi OFDM

- IEEE 802.11a (Wi-Fi 2)
- IEEE 802.11g (Wi-Fi 3)
- IEEE 802.11n (Wi-Fi 4)
- IEEE 802.11ac (Wi-Fi 5)

Source: [[Tektronix](#)]

OFDM: CFO Estimation

$$z_1(t) = x(t)e^{-2\pi i f_{CFO}t} \quad \text{First Preamble Symbol}$$

$$z_2(t) = x(t)e^{-2\pi i f_{CFO}(t+NT_s)} \quad \text{Second Preamble Symbol}$$

$$A = \sum_{t=1}^N z_1 z_2^* \quad \text{Cross-correlation of adjacent symbols}$$

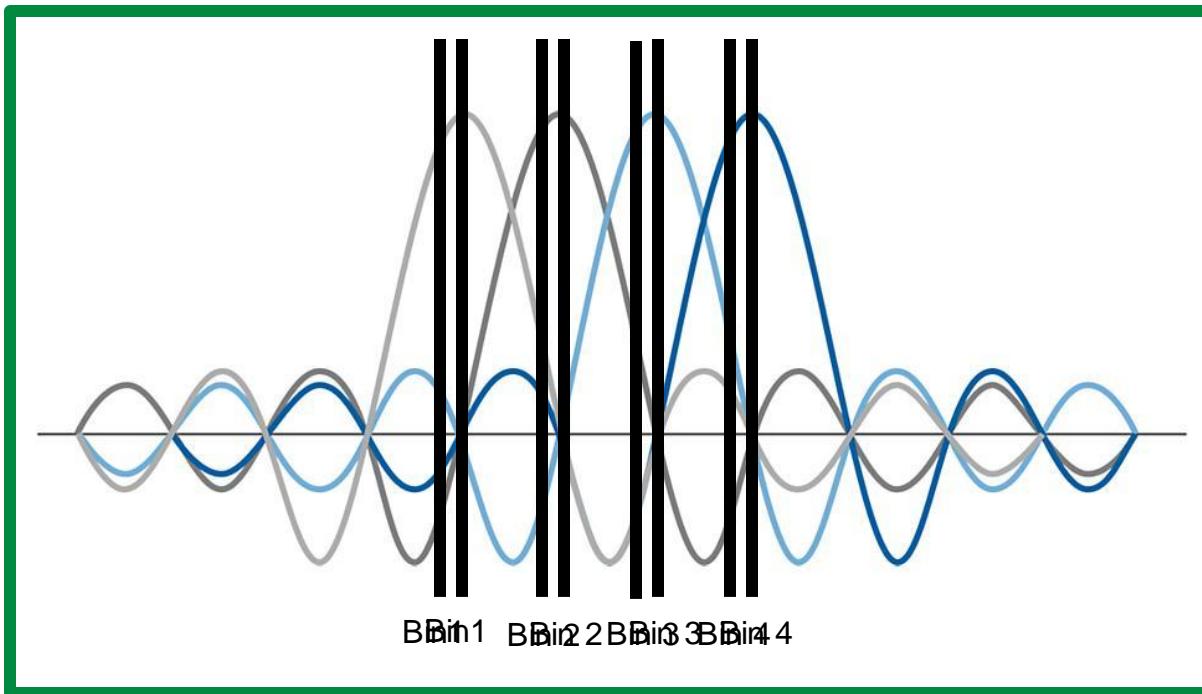
$$A = \sum_{t=1}^N x(t)x^*(t)e^{2\pi i f_{CFO}NT_s}$$

$$A = e^{2\pi i f_{CFO}NT_s} \sum_{t=1}^N |x(t)|^2$$

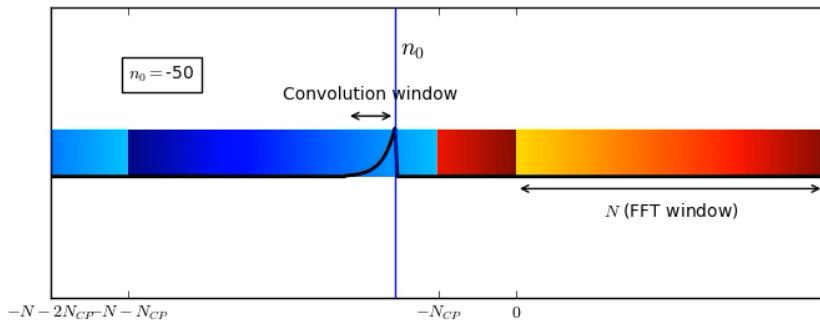
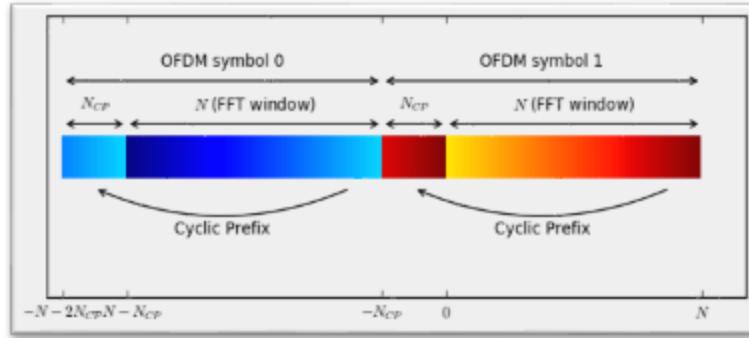
$$f_{CFO} = \frac{\arg(A)}{2\pi NT_s}$$

Source: [\[ECE 463 @ UIUC\]](#)

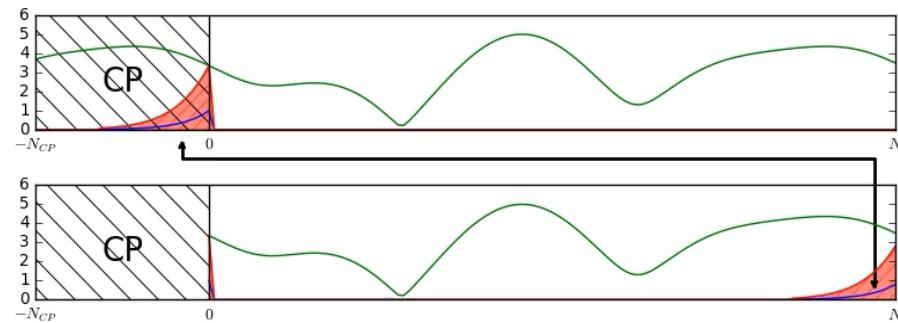
OFDM: CFO Correction



OFDM: Cyclic Prefix



Convolution with Channel's Impulse Response

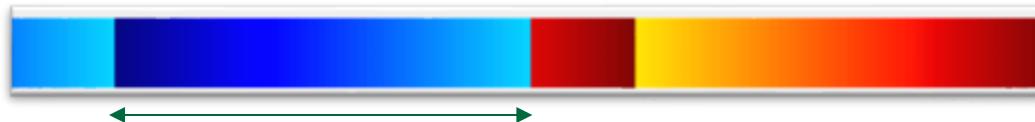


Source: [Tektronix & DSP Illustrations]

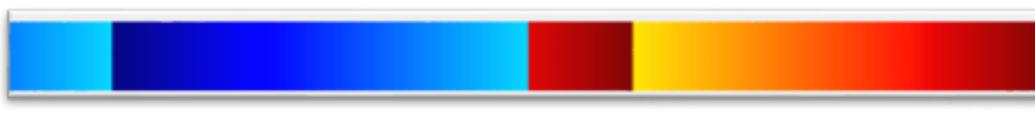
Dealing with Cyclic Prefix

- ❖ CP needs to be eliminated too.
- ❖ Running algorithm on $N+N_{CP}$ symbols breaks orthogonality (i.e., initial estimates of f_k are outside convex region).
- ❖ Reconstruct from algorithm on N samples yields poor result.

Solution:



Run algorithm over this N samples



Run algorithm over this N samples

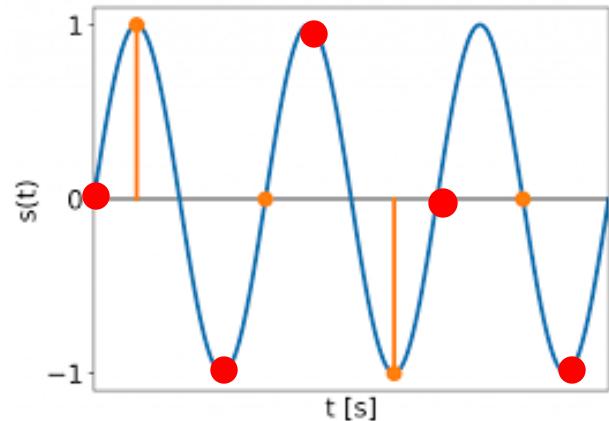
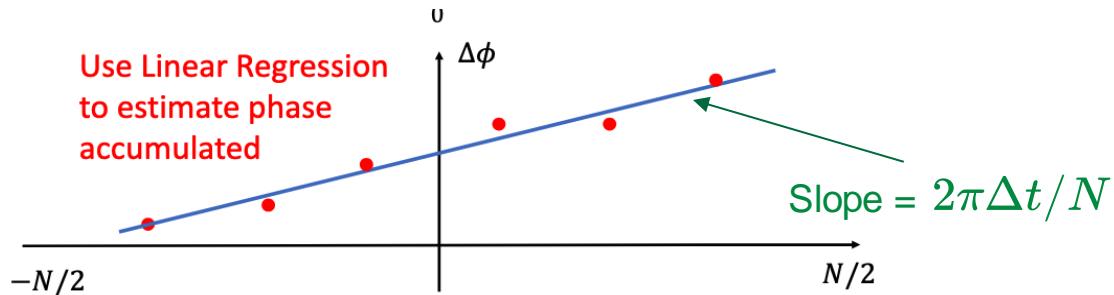
Use this result to estimate CP

OFDM: Sampling Offset

$$x(t - \Delta t) = \sum_{k=0}^{N-1} a_k e^{2\pi i f_k (t - \Delta t)/N}$$

$$x(t - \Delta t) = \sum_{k=0}^{N-1} a_k e^{2\pi i f_k t/N - 2\pi i f_k \Delta t/N}$$

$$\phi = 2\pi f_k \Delta t / N$$



- Tx Digital Signal
- Rx Digital Signal
- Continuous Time Signal

Antenna/Spatial Cancellation

$$y_1(t) = h_{e1} * e(t) + h_{t1} * x(t) \quad \text{Rx signal @ antenna 1}$$

$$y_2(t) = h_{e2} * e(t) + h_{t2} * x(t) \quad \text{Rx signal @ antenna 2}$$

Fourier Transform:

$$Y_1(f) = H_{e1}E(f) + H_{t1}X(f)$$

$$Y_2(f) = H_{e2}E(f) + H_{t2}X(f)$$

In Vector Form:

$$\mathbf{Y} = \mathbf{H}_e E(f) + \mathbf{H}_t X(f)$$

Dot product with vector orthogonal to \mathbf{H}_t :

$$\mathbf{Y} \cdot \mathbf{H}^\perp = \mathbf{H}_e \cdot \mathbf{H}^\perp E(f)$$

Antenna/Spatial Cancellation

$$\mathbf{Y} \cdot \mathbf{H}^\perp = \mathbf{H}_e \cdot \mathbf{H}^\perp E(f)$$

$$\mathbf{H}^\perp = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ \frac{-Ht_1}{Ht_2} \end{bmatrix}$$

$$Y_1(f) + Y_2(f) - \frac{H_{t1}}{H_{t2}} = \left[H_{e1} - H_{e2} \frac{H_{t1}}{H_{t2}} \right] E(f)$$

$$Y_1(f) - Y_2(f) \frac{H_{t1}}{H_{t2}} = CE(f)$$

Antenna/Spatial Cancellation

$$\mathbf{Y} \cdot \mathbf{H}^\perp = \mathbf{H}_e \cdot \mathbf{H}^\perp E(f)$$

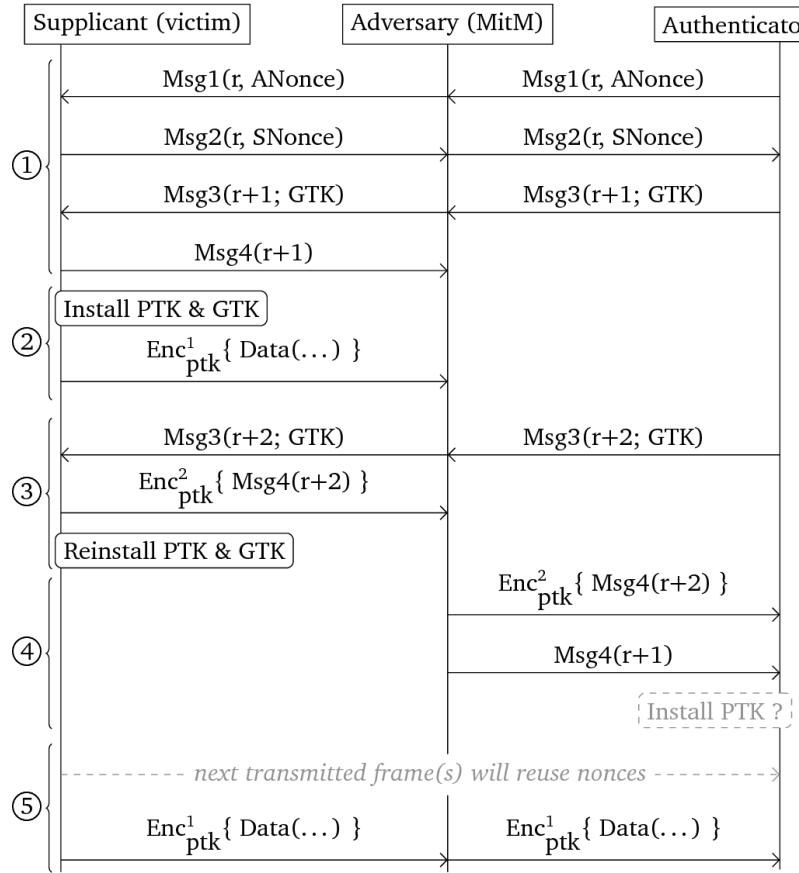
For 3-MIMO:

$$\mathbf{H}^\perp = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ -\frac{H_{t1} + H_{t2}}{H_{t3}} \end{bmatrix}$$

$$Y_1(f) + Y_2(f) - Y_3(f) \left(\frac{H_{t1}}{H_{t3}} + \frac{H_{t2}}{H_{t3}} \right) = \left[H_{e1} + H_{e2} - H_{e3} \frac{H_{t1} + H_{t2}}{H_{t3}} \right] E(f)$$

$$Y_1(f) + Y_2(f) - Y_3(f) \left(\frac{H_{t1}}{H_{t3}} + \frac{H_{t2}}{H_{t3}} \right) = CE(f)$$

Key Reinstallation Attack



Side Channel Cryptographic Key Extraction

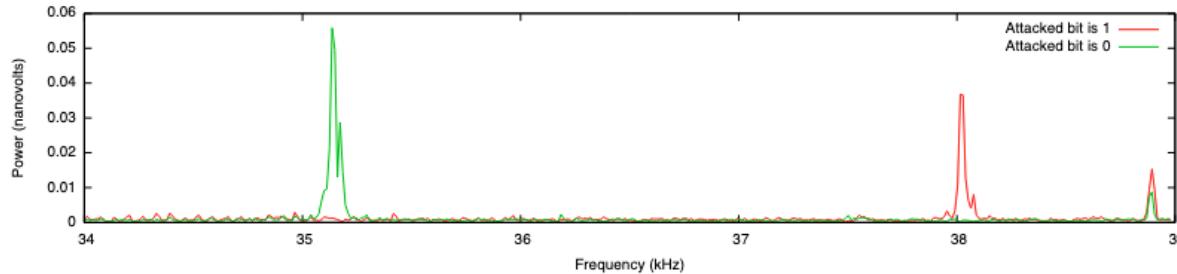
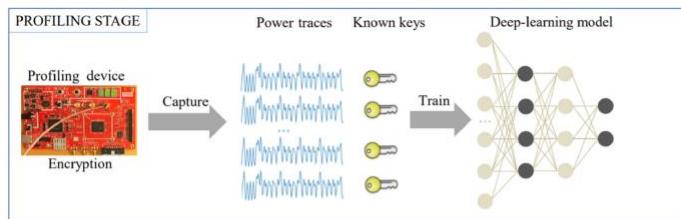
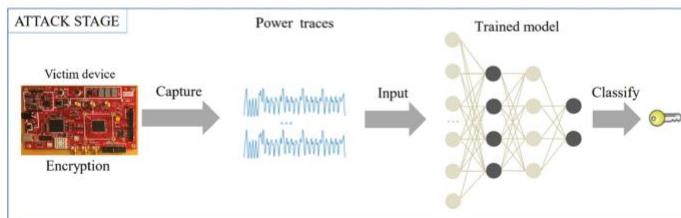


Figure 32: Power measurement frequency spectra of the second modular exponentiation.

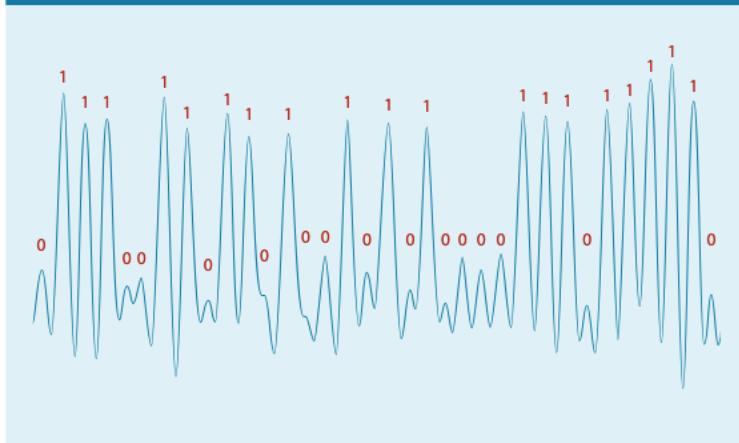


(a) The profiling stage of a deep-learning based side-channel attack.



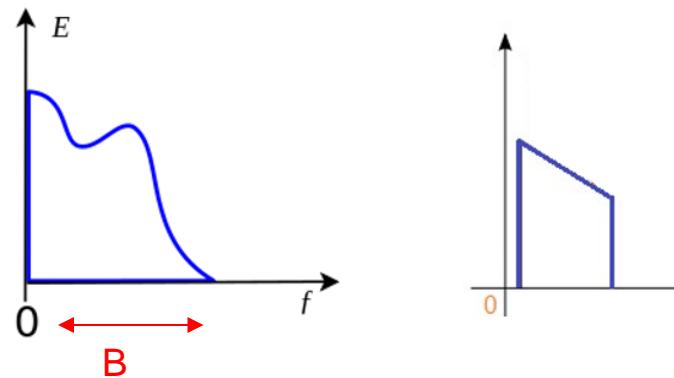
(b) The attack stage of a deep-learning based side-channel attack.

Figure 8. A signal segment from an electric attack, after demodulating and combining measurements of several decryptions. Note the correlation between the signal (blue) and the correct key bits (red).



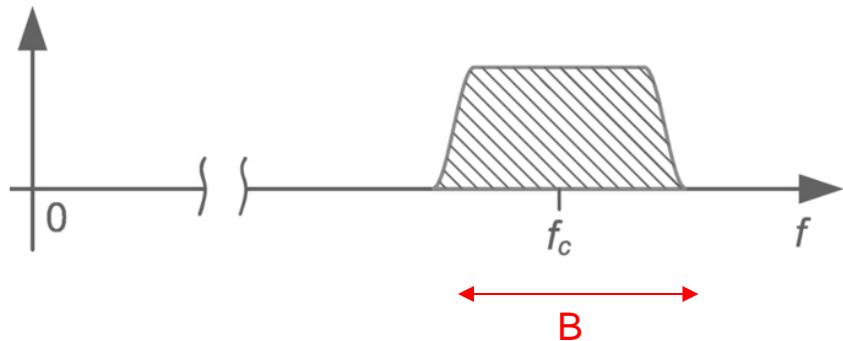
Baseband

Example baseband signals



We want to transmit a
bandlimited signal

Example bandpass (not baseband) signal

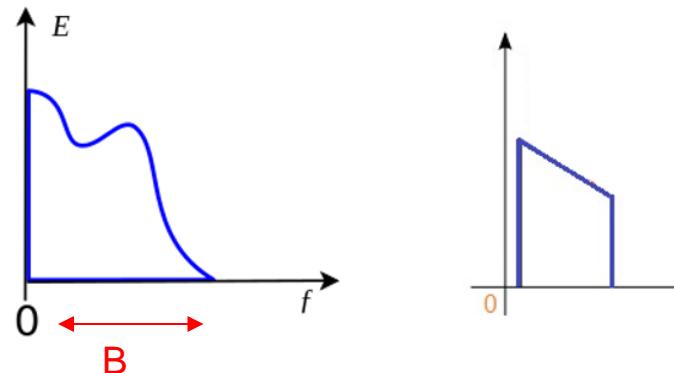


In a more convenient
region of the spectrum

Source: [[PySDR](#)]

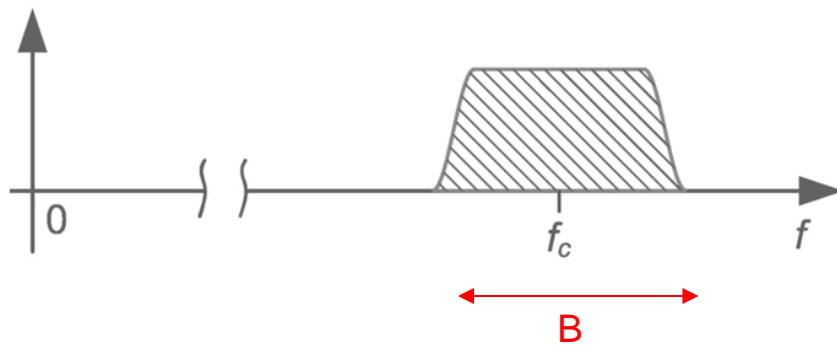
The importance of LO in RX

Example baseband signals



We want to transmit a bandlimited signal

Example bandpass (not baseband) signal



In a more convenient region of the spectrum

WHY do we need to downconverter?

- ❖ We can only capture baseband (i.e., without downconversion).
- ❖ Capturing the full spectrum is too expensive (i.e., how much of the spectrum we capture is given by $1/T_s$).
- ❖ A radio with 160 MHz sample rate is USD\$17,000.

Error Function Convexity

Reminder:

$$E(\tilde{\mathbf{a}}, \tilde{\mathbf{f}}) = \sum_{t=0}^{N-1} |x(t) - \tilde{x}(t)|^2$$

$$\tilde{x}(t) = \sum_{k=0}^{N-1} \tilde{a}_k e^{2\pi i \tilde{f}_k t / N}$$

Assume fixed \mathbf{f} tilde:

$$E = \sum_{t=0}^{N-1} \langle x(t) - \tilde{x}(t) | x(t) - \tilde{x}(t) \rangle$$

$$E = \sum_{t=0}^{N-1} \langle x(t) | x(t) - \tilde{x}(t) \rangle - \langle \tilde{x}(t) | x(t) - \tilde{x}(t) \rangle$$

$$E = \sum_{t=0}^{N-1} \langle x(t) | x(t) \rangle - \langle x(t) | \tilde{x}(t) \rangle - \langle \tilde{x}(t) | x(t) \rangle + \langle \tilde{x}(t) | \tilde{x}(t) \rangle$$

$$E = \sum_{t=0}^{N-1} (|x(t)|^2 - x(t)\tilde{x}(t)^* - \tilde{x}(t)x(t)^* + |\tilde{x}(t)|^2)$$

Error Function Convexity

Reminder:

$$E = \sum_{t=0}^{N-1} (|x(t)|^2 - x(t)\tilde{x}(t)^* - \tilde{x}(t)x(t)^* + |\tilde{x}(t)|^2)$$

$$\tilde{x}(t) = \sum_{k=0}^{N-1} \tilde{a}_k e^{2\pi i \tilde{f}_k t / N}$$

$$\frac{\delta E}{\delta \tilde{a}^*} = - \sum_{t=0}^{N-1} x(t) e^{-2\pi i \tilde{f}_k t / N} + \sum_{t=0}^{N-1} \sum_{m=0}^{N-1} \tilde{a}_m e^{2\pi i \tilde{f}_m t / N} e^{-2\pi i \tilde{f}_k t / N}$$

$$\frac{\delta E}{\delta \tilde{a}^*} = - \sum_{t=0}^{N-1} x(t) e^{-2\pi i \tilde{f}_k t / N} + \sum_{t=0}^{N-1} \tilde{a}_k$$

$$\frac{\delta E}{\delta \tilde{a}^*} = - \sum_{t=0}^{N-1} x(t) e^{-2\pi i \tilde{f}_k t / N} + N \tilde{a}_k$$

$$\sum_{t=0}^{N-1} x(t) e^{-2\pi i \tilde{f}_k t / N} = N \tilde{a}_k$$

(We know this is a min. because, for fixed f tilde we have an ordinary least-squares problem)

$$\tilde{a}_k = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{t=0}^{N-1} x(t) e^{-2\pi i \tilde{f}_k t / N}$$

Error Function Convexity

Reminder:

$$E(\tilde{\mathbf{a}}, \tilde{\mathbf{f}}) = \sum_{t=0}^{N-1} |x(t) - \tilde{x}(t)|^2$$

Assume fixed \mathbf{a} :

$$E = \sum_{t=0}^{N-1} (|x(t)|^2 - x(t)\tilde{x}(t)^* - \tilde{x}(t)x(t)^* + |\tilde{x}(t)|^2)$$

Assuming \mathbf{f} and \mathbf{f} tilde are orthogonal*

$$E = \sum_{t=0}^{N-1} \sum_{k=0}^{N-1} |a_k|^2 - \sum_{t=0}^{N-1} \sum_{k=0}^{N-1} a_k \tilde{a}_k^* e^{2\pi i (f_k - \tilde{f}_k)t/N} - \sum_{t=0}^{N-1} \sum_{k=0}^{N-1} a_k^* \tilde{a}_k e^{-2\pi i (f_k - \tilde{f}_k)t/N} + \sum_{t=0}^{N-1} \sum_{k=0}^{N-1} |\tilde{a}_k|^2$$

Using sum of geometric series

$$E = \sum_{k=0}^{N-1} N|a_k|^2 - \sum_{k=0}^{N-1} \frac{|a_k|^2}{N} \left| \frac{e^{2\pi i (f_k - \tilde{f}_k)} - 1}{e^{2\pi i (f_k - \tilde{f}_k)/N} - 1} \right|^2 - \sum_{k=0}^{N-1} \frac{|a_k|^2}{N} \left| \frac{e^{2\pi i (f_k - \tilde{f}_k)} - 1}{e^{2\pi i (f_k - \tilde{f}_k)/N} - 1} \right|^2 + \sum_{k=0}^{N-1} N|\tilde{a}_k|^2$$

$$\tilde{x}(t) = \sum_{k=0}^{N-1} \tilde{a}_k e^{2\pi i \tilde{f}_k t / N}$$

$$x(t) = \sum_{k=0}^{N-1} a_k e^{2\pi i f_k t / N}$$

$$s_{geo-series} = \frac{a(r^n - 1)}{r - 1}$$

* This is only true if $\mathbf{f} = \mathbf{f}$ tilde. But will be close to orthogonal if values are not too far apart

Error Function Convexity

Reminder:

$$\tilde{x}(t) = \sum_{k=0}^{N-1} \tilde{a}_k e^{2\pi i \tilde{f}_k t / N}$$

$$x(t) = \sum_{k=0}^{N-1} a_k e^{2\pi i f_k t / N}$$

From solution at fixed a we know:

$$\tilde{a}_k = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{t=0}^{N-1} x(t) e^{-2\pi i \tilde{f}_k t / N}$$

$$\tilde{a}_k = \sum_{t=0}^{N-1} a_k e^{2\pi i f_k t / N} e^{-2\pi i \tilde{f}_k t / N} = \frac{a_k}{N} \frac{e^{2\pi i (f_k - \tilde{f}_k)} - 1}{e^{2\pi i (f_k - \tilde{f}_k)/N} - 1}$$

Plug into this expression:

$$E = \sum_{k=0}^{N-1} N|a_k|^2 - \sum_{k=0}^{N-1} \frac{|a_k|^2}{N} \left| \frac{e^{2\pi i (f_k - \tilde{f}_k)} - 1}{e^{2\pi i (f_k - \tilde{f}_k)/N} - 1} \right|^2 - \sum_{k=0}^{N-1} \frac{|a_k|^2}{N} \left| \frac{e^{2\pi i (f_k - \tilde{f}_k)} - 1}{e^{2\pi i (f_k - \tilde{f}_k)/N} - 1} \right|^2 + \sum_{k=0}^{N-1} N|\tilde{a}_k|^2$$

To get:

$$E = \sum_{k=0}^{N-1} N|a_k|^2 - \sum_{k=0}^{N-1} \frac{|a_k|^2}{N} \left| \frac{e^{2\pi i (f_k - \tilde{f}_k)} - 1}{e^{2\pi i (f_k - \tilde{f}_k)/N} - 1} \right|^2 - \sum_{k=0}^{N-1} \frac{|a_k|^2}{N} \left| \frac{e^{2\pi i (f_k - \tilde{f}_k)} - 1}{e^{2\pi i (f_k - \tilde{f}_k)/N} - 1} \right|^2 + \sum_{k=0}^{N-1} N \frac{|a_k|^2}{N^2} \left| \frac{e^{2\pi i (f_k - \tilde{f}_k)} - 1}{e^{2\pi i (f_k - \tilde{f}_k)/N} - 1} \right|^2$$

Error Function Convexity

$$E = \sum_{k=0}^{N-1} N|a_k|^2 - \sum_{k=0}^{N-1} \frac{|a_k|^2}{N} \left| \frac{e^{2\pi i(f_k - \tilde{f}_k)} - 1}{e^{2\pi i(f_k - \tilde{f}_k)/N} - 1} \right|^2 - \sum_{k=0}^{N-1} \frac{|a_k|^2}{N} \left| \frac{e^{2\pi i(f_k - \tilde{f}_k)} - 1}{e^{2\pi i(f_k - \tilde{f}_k)/N} - 1} \right|^2 + \sum_{k=0}^{N-1} N \frac{|a_k|^2}{N^2} \left| \frac{e^{2\pi i(f_k - \tilde{f}_k)} - 1}{e^{2\pi i(f_k - \tilde{f}_k)/N} - 1} \right|^2$$

$$E = \sum_{k=0}^{N-1} N|a_k|^2 - \sum_{k=0}^{N-1} \frac{|a_k|^2}{N} \left| \frac{e^{2\pi i(f_k - \tilde{f}_k)} - 1}{e^{2\pi i(f_k - \tilde{f}_k)/N} - 1} \right|^2$$

$$E = \sum_{k=0}^{N-1} N|a_k|^2 - \sum_{k=0}^{N-1} \left(\frac{\sin(\pi(f_k - \tilde{f}_k))}{\sin(\pi(f_k - \tilde{f}_k)/N)} \right)^2$$

Using symbolic solver:

$$\frac{\delta E}{\delta \tilde{f}_k} = \frac{2\pi \sin(\pi x) \csc^2(\frac{\pi x}{N}) (\sin(\pi x) \cot(\frac{\pi x}{N} - N \cos(\pi x)))}{N}$$

Where:

$$x = f_k - \tilde{f}_k$$

Error Function Convexity

Using symbolic solver:

$$\frac{\delta E}{\delta \tilde{f}_k} = \frac{2\pi \sin(\pi x) \csc^2(\frac{\pi x}{N}) (\sin(\pi x) \cot(\frac{\pi x}{N} - N \cos(\pi x)))}{N}$$

$$\frac{\delta^2 E}{\delta \tilde{f}_k^2} = \frac{1}{N} 2\pi^2 \csc^2(\pi x/N) (N^2 \cos^2(\pi x) + \sin^2(\pi x) (2 \cot^2(\pi x/N) + \csc^2(\pi x/N) - N^2) - 4N \sin(\pi x) \cos(\pi x) \cot(\pi x/N))$$

Where:

$$x = f_k - \tilde{f}_k$$

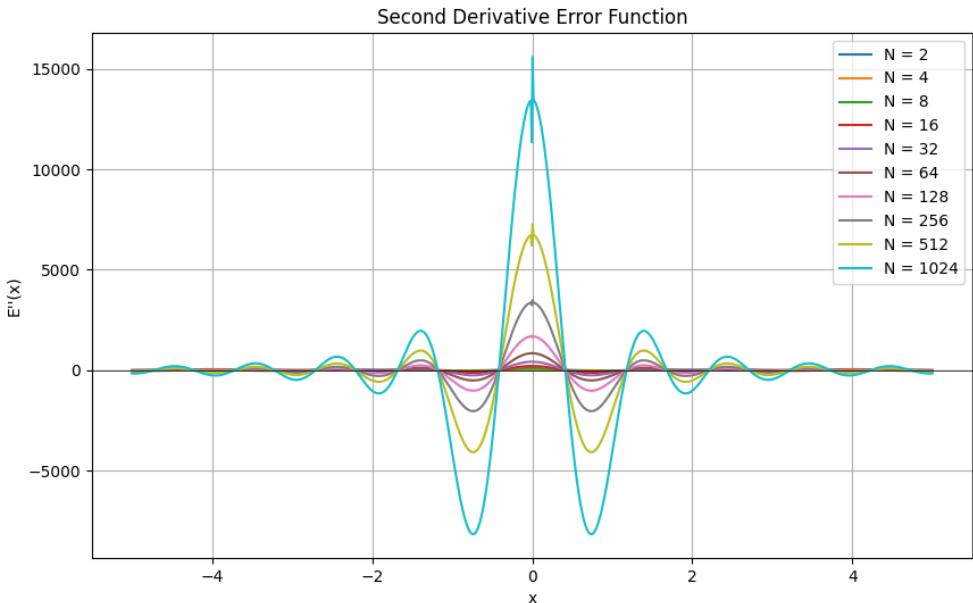
Showing Convexity is HARD:

Manually, I failed

Symbolic Solvers also failed

Error Function Convexity

NUMERICAL SOLUTION



Does the assumption f and \tilde{f} are orthogonal remains on this range? From some rough experiments NO, it seems to be good in the range ± 0.16

$$\frac{\delta^2 E}{\delta \tilde{f}_k^2} > 0 \quad \forall \tilde{f}_k \in [f_k - 0.4, f_k + 0.4]$$

Zeros of Error Function
Second Derivative:

```
Root for N:2 = 0.500000000157555
Root for N:4 = 0.431938788005115
Root for N:8 = 0.418878806105801
Root for N:16 = 0.415796186508688
Root for N:32 = 0.415036193725720
Root for N:64 = 0.414846853932895
Root for N:128 = 0.414799565498124
Root for N:256 = 0.414787757349532
Root for N:512 = 0.414784828295256
Root for N:1024 = 0.414784141685676
```

Where:

$$x = f_k - \tilde{f}_k$$

Discrete Fourier Transform (DFT)

Forward Transform (Fourier Decomposition):

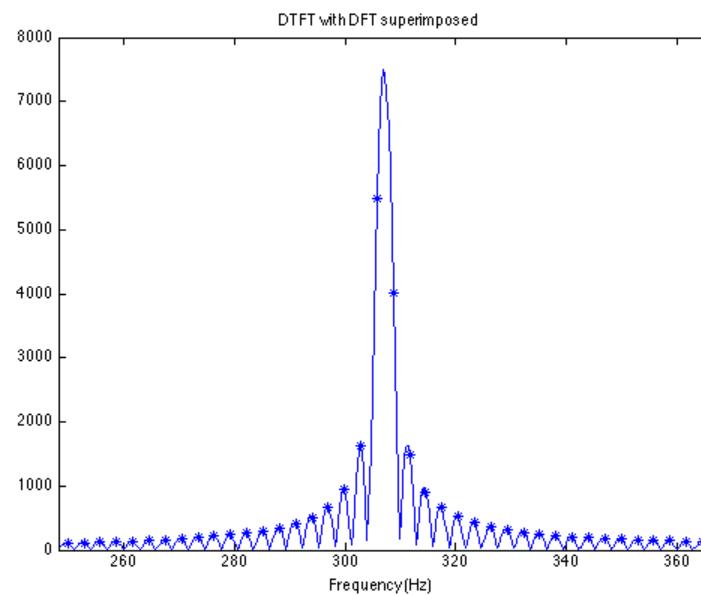
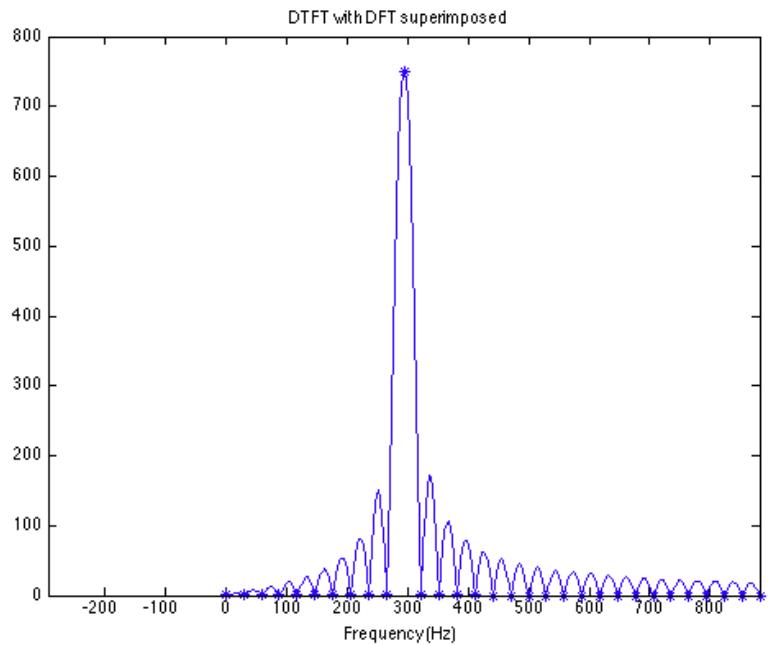
$$F[m] = \langle f[n], \phi_m[n] \rangle = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{n=0}^{N-1} f[n] e^{-2i\pi f_k n / N}$$

**Linear Orthogonal Decomposition with
Sinusoidal Basis**

Inverse Transform (Fourier Reconstruction):

$$f[n] = \sum_{m=0}^{N-1} F[m] e^{2\pi f_k n / N}$$

DFT Interpretation



Related Work

Detecting passive eavesdroppers in the MIMO wiretap channel

Receiver LO leakage detection when there is a clear channel (i.e., other RX/Tx pause operations).

Securing Inductively-Coupled Communication

Detection of near-field communication eavesdropper such as in RFID systems. Near-Filed channel is greatly affected by eavesdropper presence.

Multiple studies regarding detection of radios through LO leakage

This body of work focus on the detection of receivers' leakage when there are no transmissions.