

DRONE DETECTION AND INHIBITION

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Abstract

In the recent years, there has been an increase in the demand and use of unmanned aerial vehicles (UAV) known as drones. Even though there are restrictions for its use by licensed drivers and in determined areas, it has been notorious that these devices are used carelessly in open areas putting at risk the integrity of people. In order to tackle this issue, we propose a compound device composed of a Software Defined Radio (SDR) and a processing unit that can help detect drones and interfere with its communications with its controller. We have built a tool that can identify unusual signals that can help an operator to detect the presence of drones. Our results have shown that we can help detect drones in the 80% of the cases.

TODO (continue)

Dedication: **TODO**

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Keywords-Acronyms:

SDR: Software Defined Radio

RF: Radio frequency

FFT: Fast Fourier Transform

OS: Operative System

UAV: Unmanned aerial vehicles

1. Introduction

The proliferation in the demand and use of unmanned aerial vehicles (UAV) otherwise known as drones, due to its affordable cost and its multimedia capabilities have posed a threat to security, since they can be used by unlicensed drivers and in areas that are not authorised for its flight, such as natural protected areas or touristic points of interest.

To tackle this problem, we must follow two lines of work in order to take actions to countermeasure the drone presence. The first one is the drone detection, that can be handled with different alternatives such as sound recognition, image recognition, radar detection and radio detection. The other one is the drone control or takedown which can include radio interference, radio control, laser guns attacks, or physical catch.

In the scope of this project we will be using both radio detection and radio interference as the means to detect and takedown the drone communications.

To accomplish this task we will use a Software Defined Radio (SDR) peripheral called HackRF One, and the GNU Radio software development kit, tools that will be introduced in detail in the following chapters. The programming language Python will be used along with GNU Radio in order to create custom components according to the needs of this project.

Also some models of drones from different manufacturers will be used, for which we will study its communications with the remote controller, capture the signals so we could use them in the identification process, and verify that we can interfere the drone communications.

1.1. Objectives

- Study the properties and functions of the HackRF and identify the characteristics that suite best for our project.
- Setup the GNU Radio development environment in a Linux machine.
- Study the GNU Radio Companion software, its processing blocks and mechanisms to create custom blocks.
- Study drone communications.
- Design a software that can help in the drone detection and it's signal interference.
- Test the implementation of the drone detection and interference mechanisms.

2. State of the art of the technology used or applied in this thesis

A background and a comprehensive review of the literature is required. This is known as the Review of Literature and should include relevant recent research conducted on the subject matter.

2.1. Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAV) or Drones

Unmanned aerial vehicles as it names states are vehicles that can fly without the need of a human pilot on board. Commercially they are also known as drones. They can be used for different purposes going from security and military, up to multimedia acquisition, and their applications keep expanding.

Certainly in the last decade, it has been their capacity to obtain aerial photographies and videos, the main cause of their soaring popularity. And since the materials and electronic components to build commercial drones have plummeted, their acquisition price has made it become an affordable gadget to a broader sector of the population, not only to aeronautics enthusiasts.

Drones can be found freely available to buy on the internet and physically in retailers and toy stores. Even though in some countries like Spain, you need a license to operate drones, it is not a requirement to buy them, making it possible that unqualified people have access to controlling these types of aircraft.

Aeronautical regulations in Spain state the requirement of a license to pilot remotely a drone professionally, they also indicate that in areas with people and buildings it is not allowed to fly a drone unless authorised explicitly.

Even regulation exists, there have been a few security-incidents related to drone activity. The most recent, as of the date of writing of this document, was reported in Madrid in February 2020, with the shutdown of the aerial space surrounding the Barajas airport for more than two hours affecting 26 flights. All of this due to the unauthorised presence of drones near the airport, that were detected visually by pilots.

Another recent case occurred in Barcelona between October and December 2019, with a failed display of banners carried by drones inside the Camp Nou Stadium in a Barcelona-Real Madrid match, and the detection of around 83 unauthorised drones in the streets of Barcelona during independence related protests.

Indeed drones, pose a security threat for people and governments if they are not effectively controlled. It is crucial to understand how drones work in order to choose the right strategies to detect and disable them safely.

2.2. How drones work? An introduction

Drones are composed of both hardware and software parts within its body. The hardware components are in charge of providing the aircraft the ability to takeoff, land, fly, manoeuvre, communicate and sense. Software is in charge of controlling the aircraft.

Propellers are in charge of generating torque and thrust for all movement related actions. Depending on the drone characteristic the manufacturer can choose the quantity, number of blades, length and material of propellers, but one of the most widely known design is the four propeller drone in the form of a quadcopter.

[Quadcopter figure]

Motors are the components in charge of providing the torque and thrust to the propellers. Most common models are the brushless motors, and the most important characteristics should be chosen according to the drone's total weight, and they are efficiency, revolutions per minute, and thrust.

The electronic speed controller (ESC) is in charge of providing the voltage to the motors, and change the drone's speed and direction according to the voltage provided, among other features. This component is fundamental for radio controlled drones.

Battery is in charge of providing the energy to the drone and mainly to the motors. Although its characteristics depend on the drone's features, one of the most commonly used is the Lithium Polymer (LiPo) rechargeable battery.

Sensors included within a drone can vary according to its features, but most frequently we can find distance sensors and orientation sensors. They are in charge of feeding the flight controller with information such as accelerations, movement changes, distance to closest objects. If the drone has radio capabilities, here we will find the radio sensors that allow communication with a remote controller or with other telecommunications providers.

The flight controller is in charge of controlling all the drone's functions. Here all the sensor's information is processed and taken into account to make flight decisions. If the drone is configured to work in standalone mode, all the flight instructions are set here. If it is configured in a remote controlled mode, all the information received from the radio controller is processed and passed into the motors in order to execute the user's manoeuvres.

The software of a drone is embedded in its flight controller. All decisions made by it are programmed in software, and take into account the data from the different sensors. The language used depends on the flight controller, but the most used are Python, C, C++ or C#.

The remote controller is an external component of the drone. It allows to manoeuvre the drone. It provides buttons and rods that change the direction, angle and altitude. It has an antenna that emits the control data to the drone. Depending on the complexity of the drone it can also show telemetry data from the drone and multimedia.

[quote The Basics of Quadcopter Anatomy]

The previously described components are the most common found in commercial drones. But as it has been stated before, depending on the purpose of the drone, more complex components can be found in it.

There are drones equipped with water hoses that can help extinguish fires [quote DJI R&D] and companies such as Aerones and Walkera are working closely with firefighters department to make them a reality.

Farming drones are equipped with heat camera sensor, to control the cattle, but these have been used successfully in rescue scenarios. In October 2019 in Minnesota, United States of America, a farming drone helped find a missing child in a forest with the use of the heat camera.[quote Drone Kid missing]

2.3. Drone footprints and detection

Since the components of drones have been already explained in the previous chapter, we can start discussing about the traces or footprints that they leave while in use. We could classify them in visual, audible, and radio footprints.

Visually a drone can be identified when in the air by its shape, which is in most cases a quadcopter. It can become more complicated if a drone has airplane-like structure or more complex structures as in military uses. With a photo or video camera it is possible to develop drone image recognition algorithms. Also with the use of radars the presence of a drone can be sensed.

When the drone is flying, the motors and propellers moving the air produce a characteristic noise that leaves an audible footprint. The intensity of the noise can vary from model to model. With the use of microphones it can be possible to develop drone recognition algorithms.

If the drone uses radio communications with a remote controller while it is flying, then it leaves a radio-frequency footprint with all the data transmission between them. With the use of radio receivers it is possible to sense the presence of drone communications.

It can be discussed with a broader perspective the pros and cons of each one of the four drone detection possibilities mentioned in the above paragraphs. Nevertheless, we will focus on the radio-frequency detection approach, since for this project, radio receiver equipment has been provided for the task.

2.4. Drone communications

For the scope of this work, we will focus on drones that have the capability to communicate with a remote controller, and will use the radio-frequency footprint detection approach. And for this purpose it is fundamental to understand how communications work in a drone.

TODO

Remote Control for drones

PROTOCOLS

What information is transferred: telemetry, orders,

Differences between manufacturers

GPS autonomous flights

2.5. How to tackle unauthorized drones?

Police drones

Lasers

2.6. SDR and HackRf

Bits per sample

AS source

As Sink

2.7. GNU RADIO

2.8. Data acquisition and interpretation in GNU Radio with HackRf

FFT size

sample rate

2.9. Blocks in GNU Radio

Osmocom block

Custom blocks

3. Methodology / project development

For the development of the project we will use the following components:

HARDWARE

- Laptop Dell Inspiron, Intel Core i3 1.90GHz 64bit quadcore, 8GiB RAM, Linux Ubuntu 18.04.4 LTS.
- Raspberry Pi 3B+, 1.4GHz 64bit quadcore, 1GiB SD RAM, Linux Ubuntu Server for Raspberry 3.
- HackRF One

SOFTWARE

- Python 2.7
- GnuRadio framework and GNURadio Companion
- QT Framework

Even though the GnuRadio framework can be installed in MacOS and Windows, it was chosen to work in a Linux computer, due to an easier installation process and more stability. In a MacOS environment, an update of the OS or a specific program such as XCode can make the framework unusable.

The process consists of making the project in the laptop computer and then port it to the Raspberry Pi, being fundamental that both devices have the same versions of Python and GNURadio installed for a correct compatibility.

For the project we have programmed five executable Python scripts initially created in GNURadio Companion but later modified as wished according to our real needs. Additionally we have created three custom GNURadio components under the *gr-tfm* package which will be in charge of processing data and create a file database.

The main outcome of this project is a computer software that helps in the detection of drone RF activity and the inhibition of its signals. Python is the chosen programming language to develop this task, because of the compatibility with both GNURadio and QT frameworks. In fact, as we have mentioned previously in the introduction, all projects done within GNURadio Companion have an executable Python script as its output. All these scripts when executed produce a new window with graphical interface components, such as buttons, sliders, signals graphics among others, which are represented using the QT framework.

The main program is one script containing four buttons among other options, that open other four scripts. The base script is in charge of obtaining the base values of the spectrum power without drone activity. Spectrum and base scan scripts are in charge of scanning in real time the spectrum power and compare with the base values. And the jamming script is in charge of generating jamming signals.

The scripts use GNURadio blocks and QT user interface components. Among the GNURadio components we have three custom ones. One is in charge of converting the data from the HackRF source into power with a Hamming window. Another is the power analyzer, which is in charge of creating the base powers file database with a specific format. The last one is the power comparator, which is in charge of comparing the real time power values with the base and create another file database with the comparison.

We will analyze in detail all the scripts and custom blocks in the next sections, giving us an insight on how things work behind the user interface.

3.1. Custom Block: logpowerfft hamming

This block is in charge of converting the stream of data coming from the HackRF source into a power vector with a specific length, after applying the FFT with a Hamming window. GNURadio has a default block called Log Power FFT which does the same operations but with a Blackman-Harris window and it can't be changed. We prefer a Hamming window because it reduces the sidelobs compared to the main lobe, making it an ideal option for frequency selective analysis.

Basically we have copied the original block and applied a Hamming window. The input of this block is a stream of complex data and the output is a vector of numeric values which turns to be the power. The significant parameters to be configured are the sample rate, the vector length or fft size and the frame rate.

First it decimates the complex values stream coming at the sample rate parameter, into vectors with a rate specified in the frame rate parameter and a length specified in the vector length parameter. These values are transformed with the FFT and a Hamming window, then we obtain the squared magnitude of these complex values, and its respective logarithmic value with decimal base obtaining the power.

Since we have learnt previously that the sample rate is the bandwidth, what we do here is to transform the complex values stream into a 1024 (vector length/fft size parameter) points vector that occupy 20 MHz (sample rate parameter). So if we get to know which is the center frequency set in the source, we have 1024 power values for frequencies 10 MHz above and below it. That means a power value each 19,531 KHz for this scenario.

That concept is going to drive the logic behind the file database creation of the next two custom blocks.

The file involved in this block is *logpowerfft_win.py*.

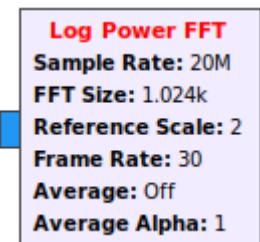


Figure 3.1: Default Log Power FFT block

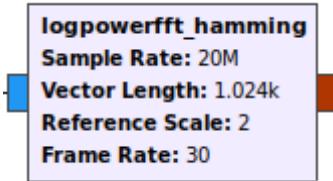


Figure 3.2: Custom Log Power FFT block with Hamming window

```

self._sd = blocks.stream_to_vector_decimator(item_size=gr.sizeof_gr_complex,
                                              sample_rate=sample_rate,
                                              vec_rate=frame_rate,
                                              vec_len=fft_size)

fft_window = fft_lib.window_hamming(fft_size)
fft = fft_lib.fft_vcc(fft_size, True, fft_window, True)
window_power = sum([x*x for x in fft_window])

c2magsq = blocks.complex_to_mag_squared(fft_size)
self._avg = filter.single_pole_iir_filter_ff(1.0, fft_size)
self._log = blocks.nlog10_ff(10, fft_size,
                            -20*math.log10(fft_size)           # Adjust for number of bins
                            -10*math.log10(float(window_power) / fft_size) # Adjust for
windowing loss
                            -20*math.log10(float(ref_scale) / 2))    # Adjust for reference
scale
self.connect(self, self._sd, fft, c2magsq, self._avg, self._log, self)

```

Code 3.1: logpowerfft_hamming operations code

3.2. Custom Block: power analyzer

This is the block that performs the data operations to obtain the base power values and create a file database with them.

The input is a numeric vector of size specified in the vector length parameter and the output is a document created in the specified directory and its name depends on the other parameters: sample rate, center frequency and vector length.

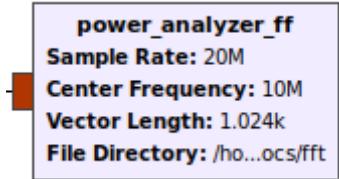


Figure 3.3: Custom power analyzer block

The name format of the output files is the following:

`power_(center_frequency)MHz_(sample_rate)Msps_(vector_length)FFT.txt`

So for the default values in the upper figure we have the creation of a document with the following name:

`power_10MHz_20Msps_1024FFT.txt`

A change in any of the three parameters will incur in the creation of a different file.

The document has a value at the top of it indicating the number input vectors that have been analyzed. This value is known as the file index and is completely important since this document works with averages, as we will see later.

Below this value we will find as many lines as specified in the vector length parameter. Each line will have the following format:

`(power)@(frequency)`

Frequencies will have a six digit decimal precision and power will have two digit decimal precision. The power value is an average of all the powers received at a specific frequency. So a sample value will look like:

`-80.61@2820.039101`

Every time we have a new input vector, we open the current file and create a new one with the same file name format followed by a `_tmp` suffix. This newly created temporary file will have all the new calculated values. Once all calculations are finished, the current file will be deleted, since it will be outdated, and the temporary file will be renamed without the `_tmp` suffix replacing the deleted file. We follow this process to avoid a more difficult process of editing line by line an already created file.

To calculate the new values, we simply multiply the index value per the power, add the new power value and calculate the new average for every frequency.

```
73
-80.01@2820.000000
-80.95@2820.019550
-80.61@2820.039101
-79.81@2820.058651
-79.62@2820.078201
```

Code 3.2: Structure of a power file database

As it was stated before, a change in any of the three parameters generates a completely different document. This can be explained by the fact that we cannot make operations between a file that has 20 MHz distributed in 1024 points, with another one that has the same 20 MHz distributed in 2048 points. Frequencies wouldn't match to calculate the new averages. This principle is exploded in the base scan script since we need to create the power averages for all the spectrum possible, and in that case the varying parameter will be the center frequency.

It is important to make an emphasis on the novel structure of the file database proposed in this project. Normally the output of the sources, when written to a file, reach sizes of the order of the Megabytes in a few seconds, and in the order of Gigabytes for a few minutes, and its data contains complex numbers that are difficult to relate to. To handle files of these sizes in the analysis phase, we would need processing unit with high computation power. Since the objective of this project is to be executed in a Raspberry Pi with limited computation power, we had to create a way to store the data in a format in which the file size doesn't grow indiscriminately, and that at the same time it can be easily readable for a human. Both objectives are accomplished with this format, since the information of the file won't be increased at each iteration, it will only change the average values and the index, and at the same time can be easily interpreted when reading the data. Files for a vector length of 1024 will occupy around 20 Kilobytes, and for a length of 2048 its size will be around 40 Kilobytes, which make a it very efficient information storage method, because the file size will be almost the same for a scan of a few seconds, or scan of minutes or hours.

The file involved in this block is *power_comparator_ff.py*.

```
while not iterator.finished:
    current_freq = (iterator.index * self.freq_delta) + start_freq
    cached_power = 1000
    if file_exists:
        try:
            cached_power = float(file.readline().split("@")[0]) #read power
        except Exception:
            cached_power = 1000
    power = iterator[0]
    if cached_power != 1000:
        power = ((cached_power * file_index) + power) / (file_index+1)
        temp_file.write("%.2f@%.6f" % (power, current_freq/1e6))
    if (iterator.index != self.vlen-1):
        temp_file.write("\n")
        iterator.iternext()
    file.close()
    temp_file.close()
    os.remove(filename)
    os.rename(filename_temp, filename)
```

Code 3.3: Power operations and file replacement in the power_analyzer block

3.3. Custom Block: power_comparator

This block is in charge of receiving the real time data, compare against the base values and create a comparison file database for all frequencies.

The input is a numeric vector of size specified in the vector length parameter and the output is a document created in the specified directory and its name depends on the other parameters: sample rate, center frequency and vector length.

For this block to work, it is mandatory that the base power values file database are created and in the same directory as the specified in the parameters.

This block has two working modes that can be selected in the mode option: Percentage or Fixed Value. Both modes require a numeric value for them to work. We'll explain both modes later in this chapter.

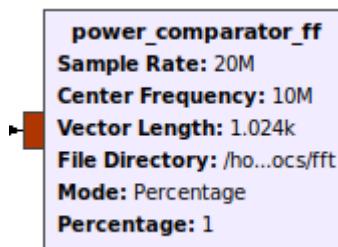


Figure 3.4: Custom power comparator block in mode fixed value

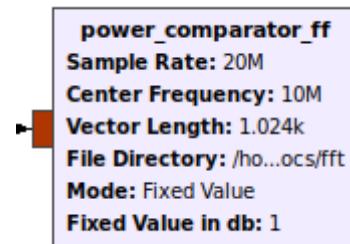


Figure 3.5: Custom power comparator block in mode percentage

The name format of the output file is similar to the one created by the power analyzer and is the following:

compare_(center_frequency)MHz_(sample_rate)Msps_(vector_length)FFT.txt

So for the default values in the upper figure we have the creation of a document with the following name:

compare_10MHz_20Msps_1024FFT.txt

A change in any of the three parameters will incur in the creation of a different file.

Identically like in the power analuzer, the document has a value at the top of it indicating the number input vectors that have been analyzed. This value is know as the file index and is completely important since this document works with averages.

Below this value we will find as many lines as specified in the vector length parameter. Each line will have the following format:

(value1);(value2);(value3);(value4);(value5)@(frequency)

Value 1 correpond to number of values above threshold.

Value 2 correspond to an average of values above threshold with respect to the file index.

Value 3 correspond to the minimum difference between all values and the threshold.

Value 4 correspond to the average difference between all values above threshold.

Value 5 correspond to the maximum difference between all values and the threshold.

The last value indicates the frequency to which at which all the previous values are calculated.

Values 1 to 5 will have a two digit decimal precision and frequencies will have a six digit decimal precision. So a sample value will look like:

21;0.66;0.31;5.16;10.20@60.273705

It means that 21 of all the values have exceeded the threshold, and it accounts for a 66% of all the received values. Of all the values compared, the minimum difference with respect to the threshold was 0.31db and the maximum 10.20db, and the average of all values above the threshold was 5.16db. All of this correspond to frequency 60.273705 MHz.

```
32
19;0.59;0.52;2.33;3.71@60.000000
17;0.53;0.18;2.22;4.36@60.019550
20;0.62;0.23;3.48;8.92@60.039101
22;0.69;0.22;3.17;9.14@60.058651
```

Code 3.4: Structure of a compare file database

When we have a new input vector, we open the base value file, the compare values file if exists, and create a new compare file with the same name format followed by a `_tmp` suffix. This newly created temporary file will have all the new calculated values. Once all calculations are finished, the current file will be deleted, since it will be outdated, and the temporary file will be renamed without the `_tmp` suffix replacing the deleted file. We follow this process just like in the power analyzer.

```

if self.mode == 1: #percentage
    threshold = cached_power*(1+self.diff_percentage/100)
else: #fixed db
    threshold = cached_power+self.diff_db
if power > threshold:
    exceeded_diff = power - cached_power
    exceeded_diff_min = numpy.minimum(exceeded_diff_min,exceeded_diff)
    exceeded_diff_average = ((exceeded_diff_average * exceeded_number) +
        exceeded_diff) / (exceeded_number+1)
    exceeded_number = exceeded_number+1
    exceeded_diff_max = numpy.maximum(exceeded_diff_max,exceeded_diff)
    exceeded_average = exceeded_number/(file_result_index+1)
    temp_file.write("%0.0f;%0.2f;%0.2f;%0.2f;%0.2f@%.6f" % (exceeded_number,
        exceeded_average, exceeded_diff_min,
        exceeded_diff_average, exceeded_diff_max, current_freq/1e6))

```

Code 3.5: Threshold and values calculations in the power_comparator block

To calculate the values we have two different modes as explained earlier. Basically all the process will be similar except for the calculation of the threshold value. We read first the base power value and the previous comparation values if they exist, then obtain the threshold value and compare it to the input value. If the value exceeds the threshold, then we compare the values to the minimum (value 3) and maximum (value 5) and replace if necessary. Likewise, we calculate the average of the exceeded values (value 4) with the help of the file index, and increase the number of values above threshold (value 1) and its average (value 2). All of this is done for all frequency values in the input vector.

To calculate the threshold value in percentage mode, we simply calculate it multiplying the base value per one plus the percentage value specified in parameters. So if the base value is 50 db and the percentage value is 10, we multiply $50 * (1 + 0.10)$ and obtain a threshold value of 55 db. The threshold value in fixed value mode is easier to obtain since we just add the value specified in the parameters with the base value, so if the base value is 50 db and the fixed value is 5, the threshold is 55 db.

Therefore each frequency has its own threshold, which gives us flexibility, so we don't have an unique threshold value. The differences from the threshold are used so we can spot easily unusual peaks and also with the help of averages we can see how often values are above threshold for each frequency.

The novel file structure follows the advantages described in the power analyzer custom block. The file size for a 1024 vector length will be around 40 Kilobytes, and for a 2048 vector length around 80 Kilobytes. This proves to be a very efficient data storage method because the file size won't vary significantly if the scan lasts a few seconds, or for minutes or hours.

The file involved in this block is *power_comparator_ff.py*.

3.4. Script: Scan Base

This script is in charge of obtaining the average power values for all the spectrum range from 1 MHz up to 6 GHz.

The script is created initially in GNURadio Companion with three components which are the source, the custom log power block with Hamming window, and our custom power

analyzer block. We also have six variables and four user interface components. The variables are defined to hold the values of the most important values such as the frequency, sample rate and directory. The user interface components will show the values of the previously mentioned variables, and we have an additional component that will control the time between frequency jumps. We'll explain how this work, later in this chapter.

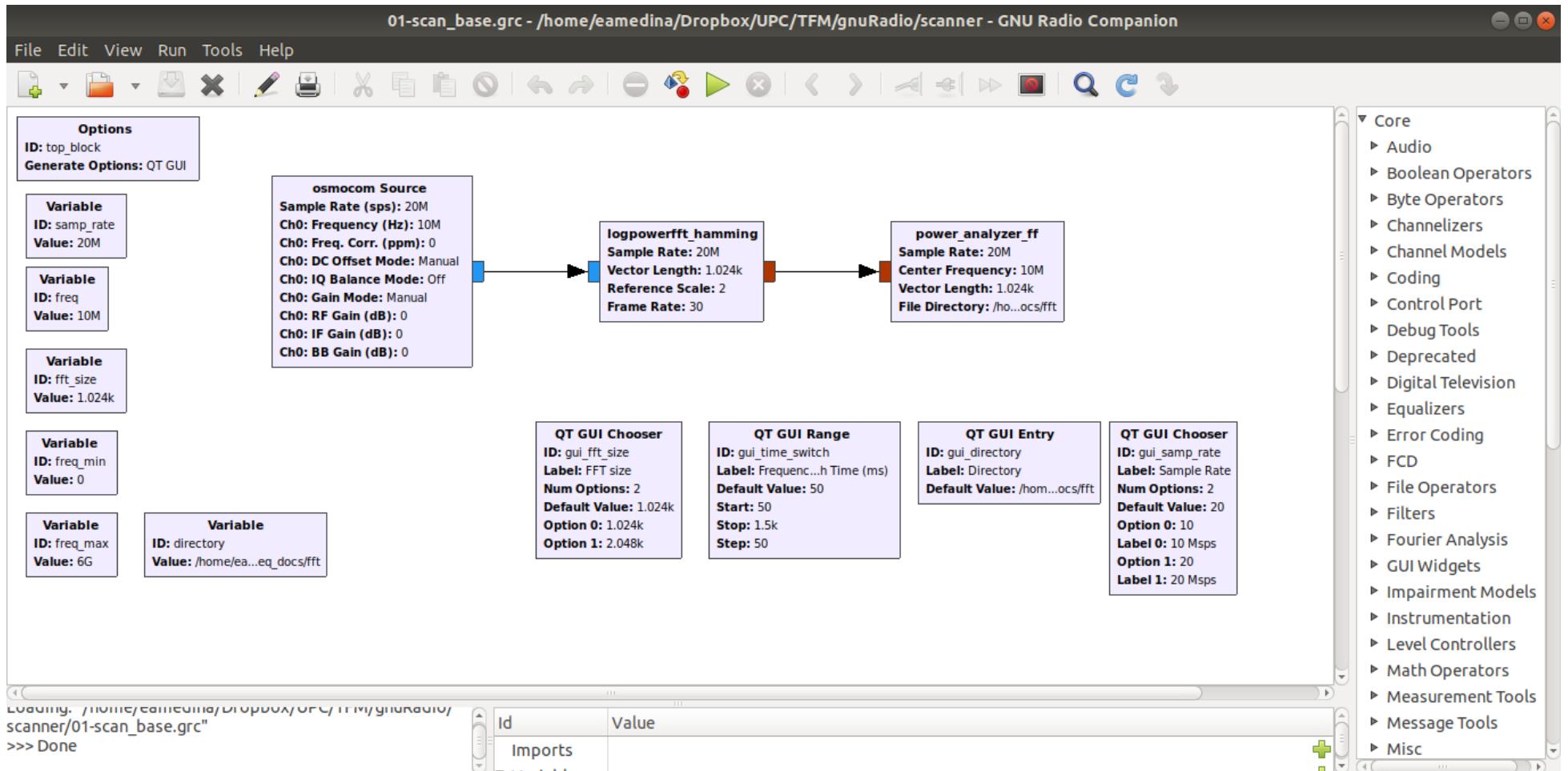


Figure 3.6: GNURadio Companion block structure for base scan

As it was explained in the GNU Radio Companion chapter, we have found several limitations that impede us to accomplish our objectives straight out of this software. We need to change the central frequency at which this script operates each certain amount of time, so we can cover all the supported spectrum by the HackRF, and the Companion software does not provide us with a block to do that. So, we must edit the script manually and we need a solid understanding of GNURadio blocks, QT and Python to do that.

Straight out of GNURadio Companion, the script indicates the central frequency to the source and it feeds with the data to the log power block, which decimates the data and converts it into a vector which size is determined by the vector length parameter. This output is fed into the custom analyzer block which generates the power values database file for that specific frequency, sample rate and vector length. It works correctly, but for one and only center frequency.

In order to adjust the script to our requirements of analyzing the spectrum from 1 MHz to 6 GHz, we need to create a process that changes the value of the center frequency every certain amount of time. For that purpose we choose a Timer from the QT framework, which changes the value of the frequency every certain time defined in the *time_switch* variable, and this process begins with the execution of the script.

The function in charge of changing the frequency is *recurring_timer*, which sets it in a value between the determined limits and dependent on the sample rate parameter. When we call the method *set_freq* we change the value of the frequency variable and inform both the source and the analyzer that the frequency has changed, so both can be synchronized and the analyzer can know to which frequencies correspond the values that it receives.

```
def startTimer(self):
    self.timer = QtCore.QTimer()
    self.timer.setInterval(self.time_switch)
    self.timer.timeout.connect(self.recurring_timer)
    self.timer.start()

def recurring_timer(self):
    if (self.get_freq() + self.samp_rate >= self.get_freq_max()):
        self.set_freq(self.get_freq_min() + self.samp_rate/2)
    else:
        self.set_freq(self.get_freq() + self.samp_rate)

def set_freq(self, freq):
    self.freq = freq
    self.osmosdr_source_0.set_center_freq(self.freq, 0)
    self.tfm_power_analyzer_ff_0_0.set_center_freq(self.freq)
```

Code 3.6. Timer in charge of switching the frequency

The only value that can be modified by the user is the frequency time switch, which is specified in milliseconds, and indicates the time at which the timer make the calls to change the frequency. We recommend a minimum value of 50 ms., since we have acknowledged that this time allows to have at least one input vector at the analyzer block per frequency jump. Using a sample rate of 20 Msps we must perform 300 frequency

jumps accounting for a total time of around 15 seconds for the whole spectrum range. This time can be greater, which means that we could have more than one reading at every center frequency, but the time to make a total spectrum loop will take longer.

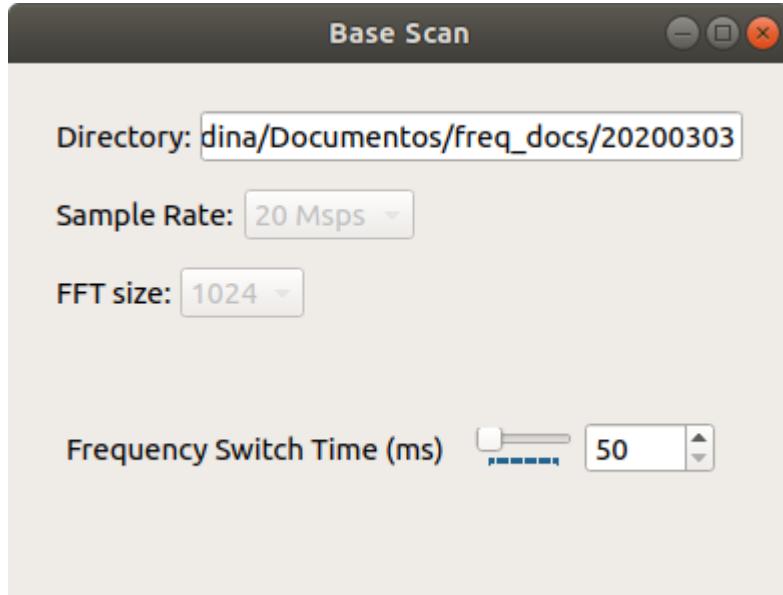


Figure 3.7: User interface components in base scan script

As we learned in the section of the power analyzer custom block, its output is a file with power averages whose name depends on the frequency, sample rate and vector length. Since in this script the frequency value is changing, the power analyzer block will generate as many files as frequency jumps. So, if it is the case of the previously explained example, we will have 300 files with the averaged powers for each determined frequency. All these files will account for a total size of around 6 Megabytes. This size won't vary significantly if the script runs for a few seconds or for hours, proving to be a very efficient data storage method.

All the files generated by this script will be fundamental to run the other spectrum analysis scripts and for the main script which displays graphics. Therefore it is mandatory to be the first executed script when using this project's software.

The files involved with this script are *01-scan_base.grc* and *01-scan_base.py*.

3.5. Script: Spectrum Scan

This script is in charge of comparing the real time power values with respect of the base power values for all the spectrum range from 1 MHz up to 6 GHz.

The script is created initially in GNURadio Companion with three components which are the source, the custom log power block with Hamming window, and our custom power comparator block. We also have seven variables and eight user interface components, to give the user a greater control over its execution. As in the previous script, the variables are defined to hold the values of the most important values such as the frequency, sample rate, directory, and frequency switch time. Additionally we define variables to

control the upper and lower frequencies limits, and also variables to control the operation mode of the comparator custom block. The user interface components will show the values of the static variables, and will provide components that will allow the user to control the time between frequency jumps, the upper and lower frequencies, and the comparator mode and value. We'll explain how this work, later in this chapter.

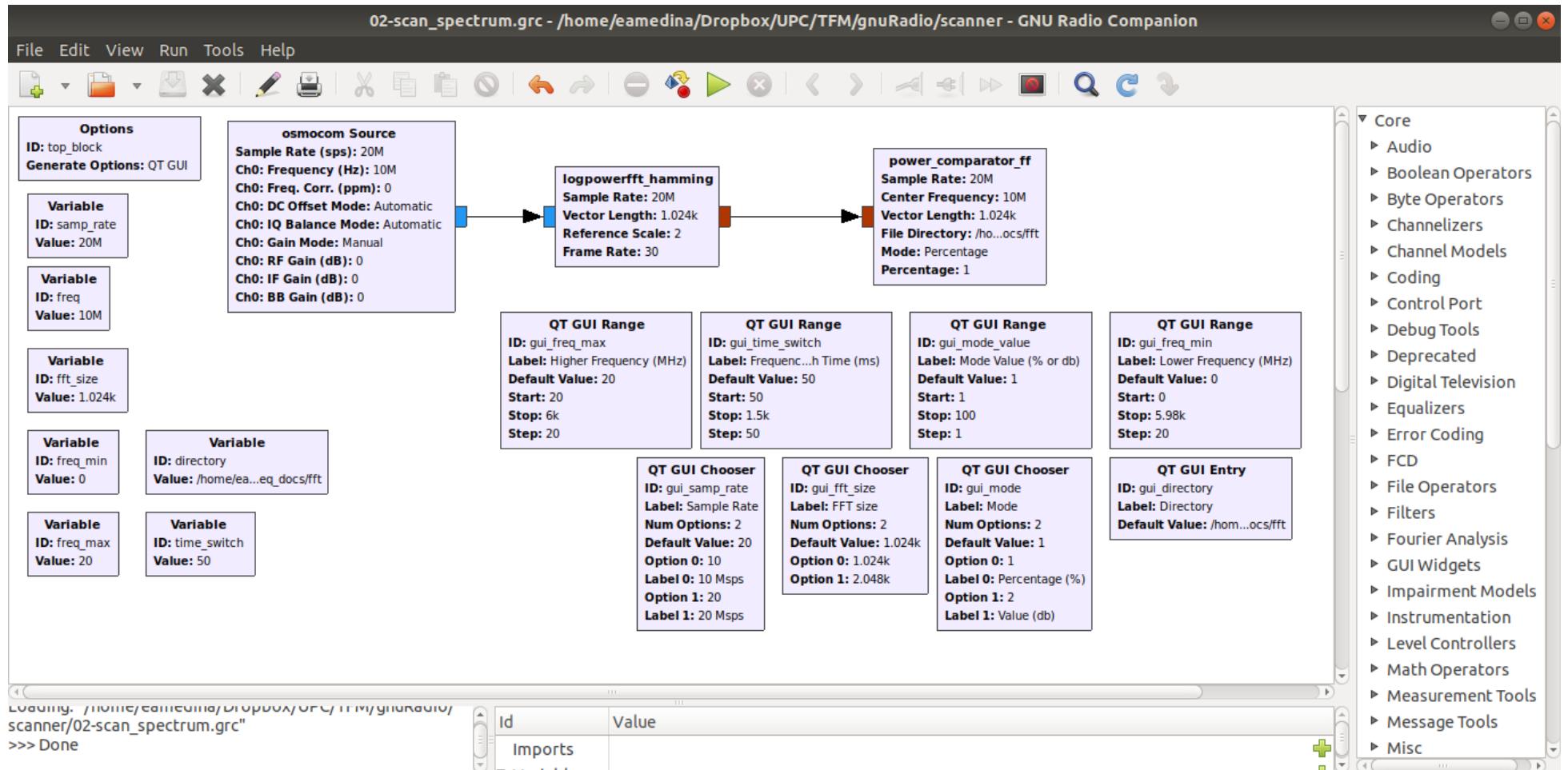


Figure 3.8: GNURadio Companion block structure for spectrum scan

Just like in the base scan script, we face the impossibility to create a process that changes the central frequency, so we have to do it manually modifying the script generated by GNURadio Companion.

The original script indicates the central frequency to the source and it feeds with the data to the log power block, which decimates the data and converts it into a vector which size is determined by the vector length parameter. This output is fed into the custom comparator block which generates the comparison values database file for that specific frequency, sample rate and vector length. It works correctly, but for one and only center frequency.

In this script we also analyze the spectrum from 1 MHz to 6 GHz, or user defined boundaries, so we need to create a process that changes the value of the center frequency every certain amount of time. We reuse the same solution that was used in the base scan script, choosing a QT Timer, which changes the value of the frequency every certain time defined in the *time_switch* variable, and this process begins with the execution of the script.

The functions that perform the task of changinf the frequency are the same as in the base scan script, and the code is the same as in the Code 3.6 block.

Besides using a different custom block as the file generator, in this script we give the user the chance to change more variables to her convenience. The user can change the value of the frequency switch time, the lower and upper frequency boundaries, and the operation mode and value of the comparator.

The frequency switch time indicates the value at which the timer executes the frequency changing function. For this script we have set a default value of 250 milliseconds, because the comparator has more operations to perform with the data and work with multiple files, and with this time we assure that we produce the corresponding file at every frequency jump. For a sample rate of 20 Msps, 300 frequency jumps will be performed accounting for a total time of 75 seconds to analyze the total spectrum from 1 MHz to 6 GHz. This time will vary if the user defines different boundary frequencies.

The user has the option to modify the lower and upper boundary frequencies, limiting the range at which the frequency jumps will be performed. This allows the user to focus on more specific frequencies rather than in the whole spectrum. These variables can change dynamically while the script is in execution providing flexibility to the program.

The comparator block has two operation modes that determine the threshold value at which power analysis will be performed. And this script gives the user the flexibility to change the threshold value while the script is running. The operation mode and the value can be changed at any time.

As we learned in the section of the power comparator custom block, its output is a file with differences and averages compared to the base values, and whose name depends on the frequency, sample rate and vector length. Since in this script the frequency value is changing, the power analyzer block will generate as many files as frequency jumps. So, if it is the case of the previously explained example, we will have 300 files with the differences and averages for each determined frequency. All these files will account for a total size of around 12 Megabytes. This size won't vary significantly if the script runs for a few seconds or for hours, proving to be a very efficient data storage method.

All the files generated by this script will be important to the main script which displays a graphic with both the base values and the maximum difference obtained from these files.

The files involved with this script are *02-scan_spectrum.grc* and *02-scan_spectrum.py*.

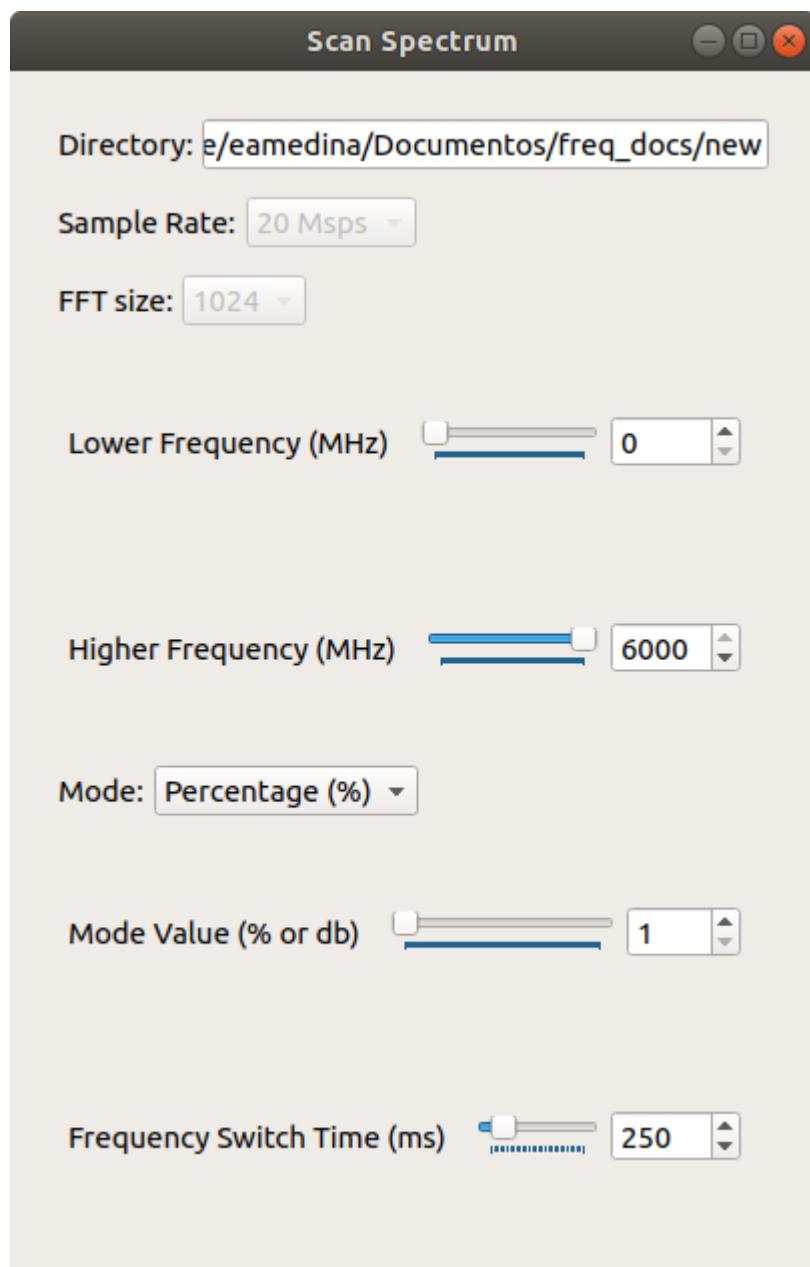


Figure 3.9: User interface components in spectrum scan script

3.6. Script: Band Scan (UPDATE)

This script is in charge of comparing the real time power values with respect of the base power values for a limited bandwidth of up to 20 MHz and with graphical tools included.

The script is created entirely in GNURadio Companion with four components which are the source, the custom log power block with Hamming window, our custom power comparator block, and a native QT GUI Sink. We also have six variables and six user interface components. As in the previous scripts, the variables are defined to hold the values of the most important values such as the center and boundaries frequencies, sample rate, directory and operation mode and values of the comparator custom block.

Contrary to the base scan and spectrum scan scripts, we won't have automatic frequency changes, we will give the user the total control of the frequencies analyzed when she want to focus its analysis in a given bandwidth. For that reason this script doesn't need to be modified.

The source feeds with the data to the gui sink and the log power block, which decimates the data and converts it into a vector which size is determined by the vector length parameter. This output is fed into the custom comparator block which generates the comparison values database file for that specific frequency, sample rate and vector length. The gui sink is fed directly from the source, and has options to display a real time frequency plot or a waterfall plot.

The operation mode selection and values for the comparator block follow the same guidelines as in the spectrum scan script.

Since this script is for a limited bandwidth which its maximum is given by the HackRF, we give the user an option to choose among the most common bands that can have drone RF activity, such as the ISM bands. This preset bands option sets the variables to predefined values of center frequencies dependent on the sample rate. We support only two sample rates, so for each option selected, we could have two different frequencies that work with its corresponding rate. One of the bands of interest is the 2.4 GHz WiFi band, and this band will be divided into chunks of a width determined by the sample rate, so for 20 Msps we can choose among five bands options, and for 10 Msps we can choose among ten bands options.

The main purpose of this script is to provide the user with a tool to inspect visually the band of interest. When using this script all the file database will also be generated, so all values obtained during the use of this script, will be reflected in the files.

The files involved with this script are *03-scan_band.grc* and *03-scan_band.py*.

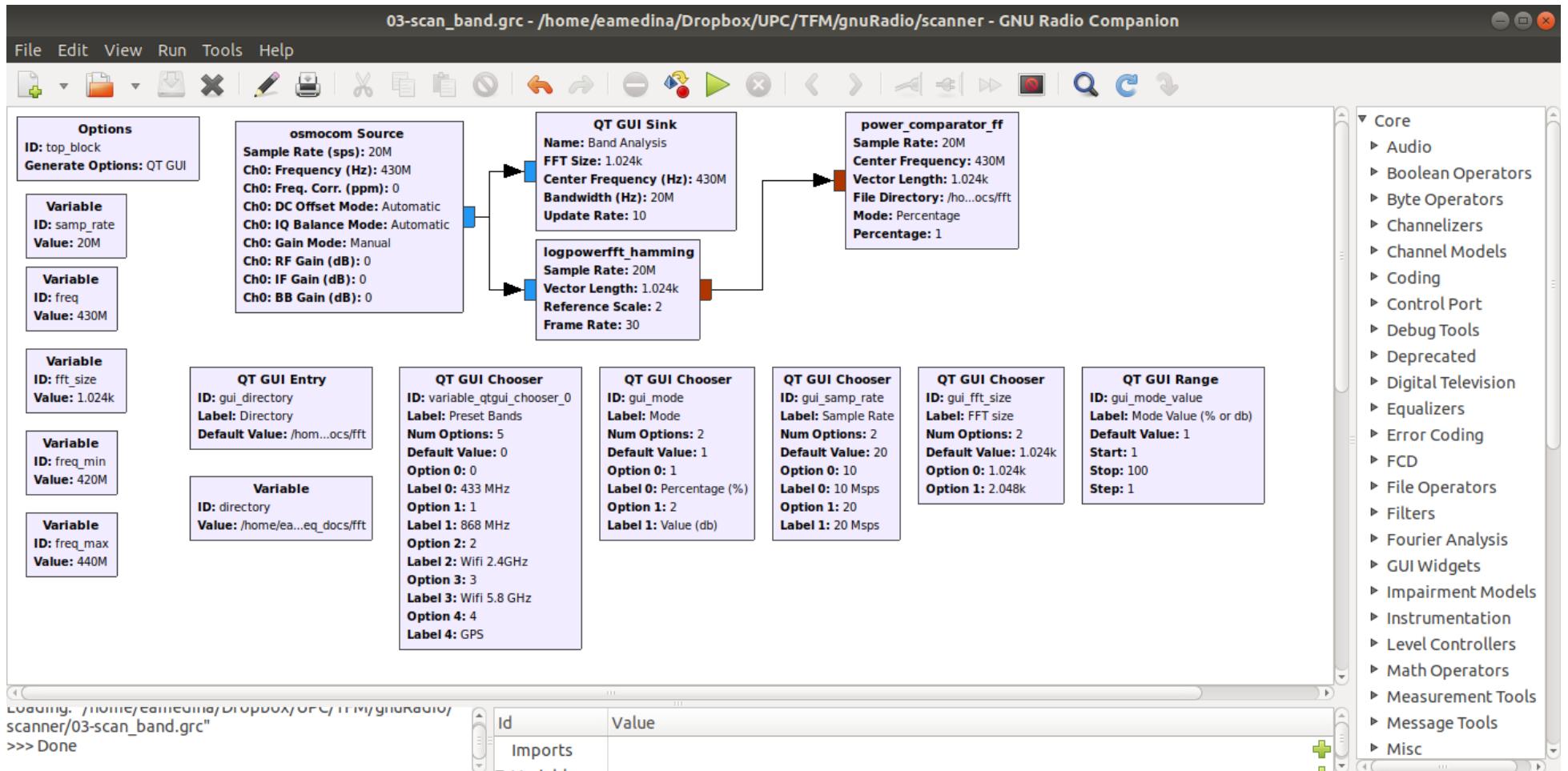


Figure 3.10: GNURadio Companion block structure for band scan

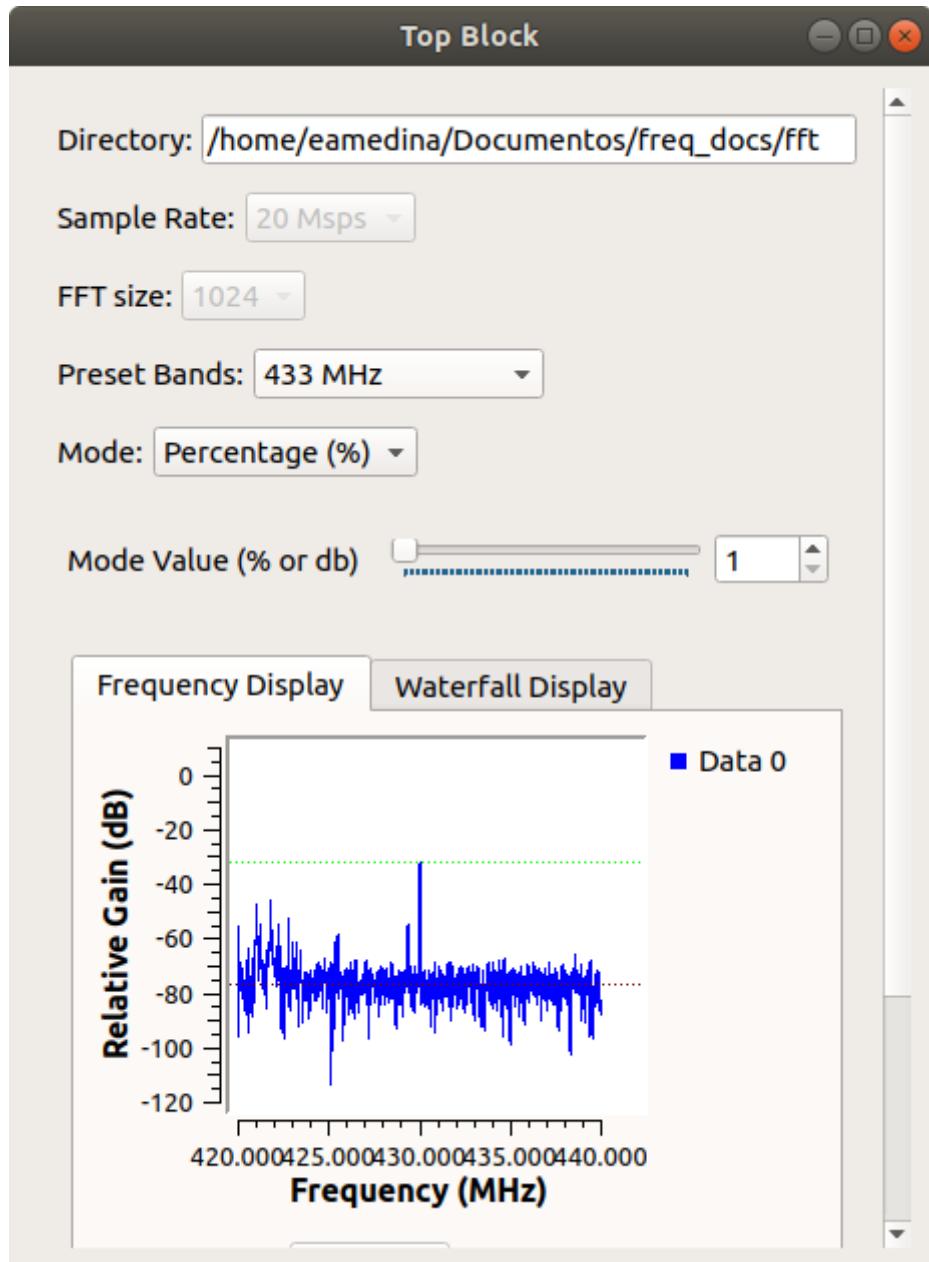


Figure 3.11: User interface components in band scan script

3.7. Script: Jammer

This script is in charge of generating a jamming signal of up to 20 MHz bandwidth in a frequency selected by the user.

The script is created initially in GNURadio Companion with four components which are the noise source, a multiplier, a throttle and the sink which in this case will be the HackRF. We also have four variables and nine user interface components. The variables are defined to hold the values of the center and boundaries frequencies, sample rate and frequency switch time. The user interface components will give the user the opportunity

to control the frequencies at which the noise will be emitted, and to control the HackRF gain parameters. We give the user the option to generate the noise in two modes, where the central frequency can be static or dynamically changed. We'll explain how this modes work later in this chapter.

Even though the script generated by GNU Radio Companion can work out of the box, we want to provide the user with the flexibility to generate the jamming noise to bandwidths greater than the maximum allowed by the HackRF, so we need to modify this script so we can achieve this functionality.

The original script consists of a noise source, that will use the CPU power to generate all the data, connected to a multiply block, that gives the source and additional gain, which is attached to a throttle block, which optimizes the use of the CPU power, and finally feed the sink which emits all data. This solution works for a determined frequency and sample rate.

The limitation of 20 Msps as the maximum sample rate supported by the HackRF, gives us a 20 MHz maximum bandwidth that we can interfere. But in bands such as 2.4 GHz, drones can use frequency hopping protocols along the whole band, so we must have the ability to interfere when this kind of behaviour is present. For that purpose, just like in the base and spectrum scan scripts, we need to create a process in which the frequency changes in time. We reuse the same solution that was used in the base scan script, choosing a QT Timer, which changes the value of the frequency every certain time defined in the *time_switch* variable, but contrary to previous scripts, this process will be initiated and terminated by the user exclusively.

We have two operations modes: a fixed mode with a bandwidth of the noise of 20 MHz, and a continuous one which boundary frequencies are limited by its corresponding variables and user interface components. When changing to the continuous mode, the timer will start to change the operating frequency of the sink, between the frequency boundaries and in a time that will also be controlled by the user with its respective interface.

Similar to what we saw in the band scan script, we provide the user with a set of preconfigured options based on the most common frequencies in which we can find drone activities. Additionally we provide a set of options corresponding to GPS frequencies, so we could interfere the communication of drones operating in autonomous mode.

The files involved with this script are *04-jammer.grc* and *04-jammer.py*.

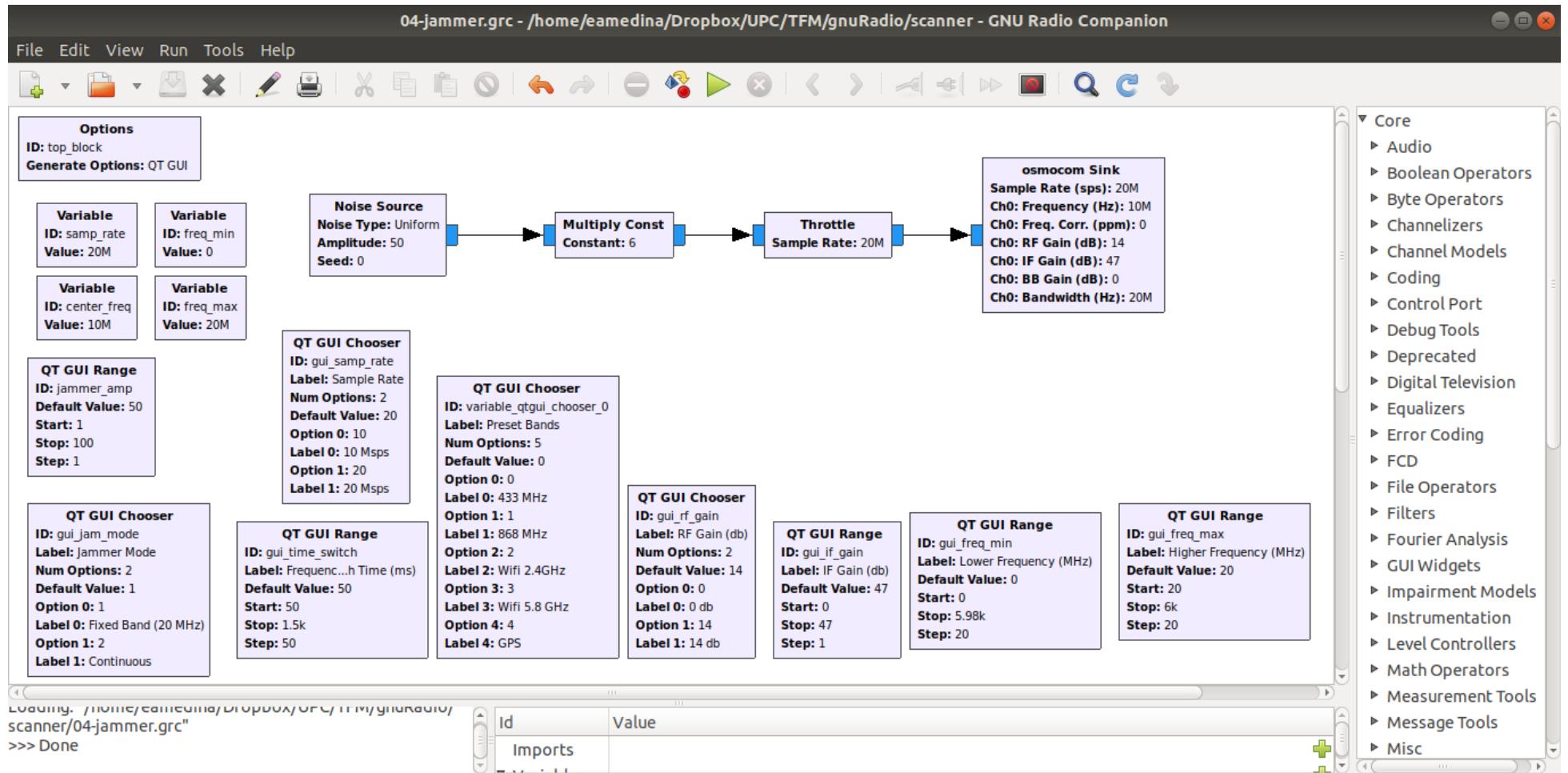


Figure 3.12: GNURadio Companion block structure for jammer script

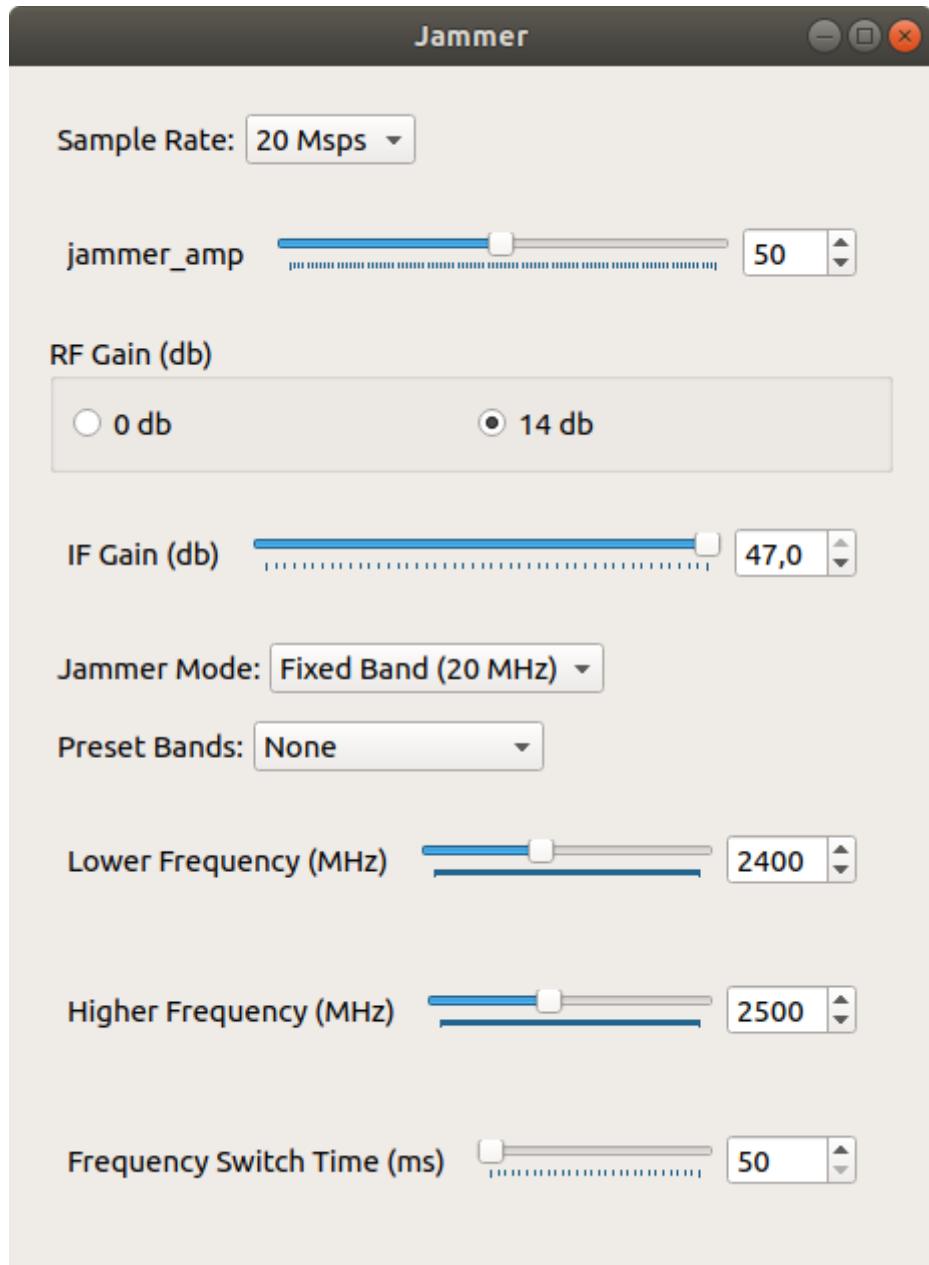


Figure 3.13: User interface components in jammer script

3.8. Script: Main Program

The main script of the project is the controller window. It has four buttons that execute the data acquisition and analysis scripts, and the inhibition script. It has three fields to configure the main parameters that will be passed to other scripts and will be used to display graphics within. These parameters are the directory, sample rate and FFT size.

In this project we are working with a file database approach, so that all information gathered and produced by our scripts will be stored in files that are located in the directory specified in the parameters. At the same time, these files depend on the values of sample rate and FFT size. As we will learn in the following sections, the change in one or both of these parameters lead to creation of different files, so we could have different combinations of generated files.

In this main window, we also have a graphic section, a table and an additional option with the “Choose band” label. When there is no data in the directory, it shows an empty graphic and an empty table. If there is data, we see a graphic displaying a line with the amount of points specified in FFT size parameter, in an interval of frequencies specified in the sample rate parameter. The blue line shows the data obtained from the Base Scan script, which are time-long averages of the power received in that frequency band. The red line shows the data obtained in the Spectrum Scan and/or Band Scan scripts, specifically the maximum power values obtained in that frequency band.

The table below shows all the data processed from the Spectrum Scan/Band Scan scripts. For a better understanding of the data here displayed, please go to those scripts sections. The table shows all the frequencies measured, from 1MHz to 6GHz, with the processed data. Since we are dealing with differences from the base power values, here we display those values, ordered by default by the maximum difference value. All columns of this table can be reordered ascendent or descendent with a click in the respective header.

The “Choose Band” parameter is set by default in the “CONTINUOUS” option. This means that in the background a timer will change the data displayed in graphic every 3 seconds. If the sample rate is set to 20 Msps, it will display sets of 20 MHz, changing the limits every 3 seconds. It also has an option for “ALL”, which will display all the data from 1MHz to 6GHz. As it does not provide a sharp look at the data, extra controls are given so that the user can change the frequency to be displayed and the bandwidth of the graphic. It is important to understand the file generation process of the base and spectrum scan scripts to select with accuracy the parameters that will generate a graphic in this option. Other options available in the “Choose Band” are the most used bands for drone communications which are 433 MHz, 868 MHz, and the Wifi band. This provides an easy configuration to check the behaviour of the spectrum graphically in bands of interest.

The purpose of the development of these two tools is to help the user to identify uncommon signals both visually and statistically, so the user can focus on analysing a specific band and confirm the presence of a drone.

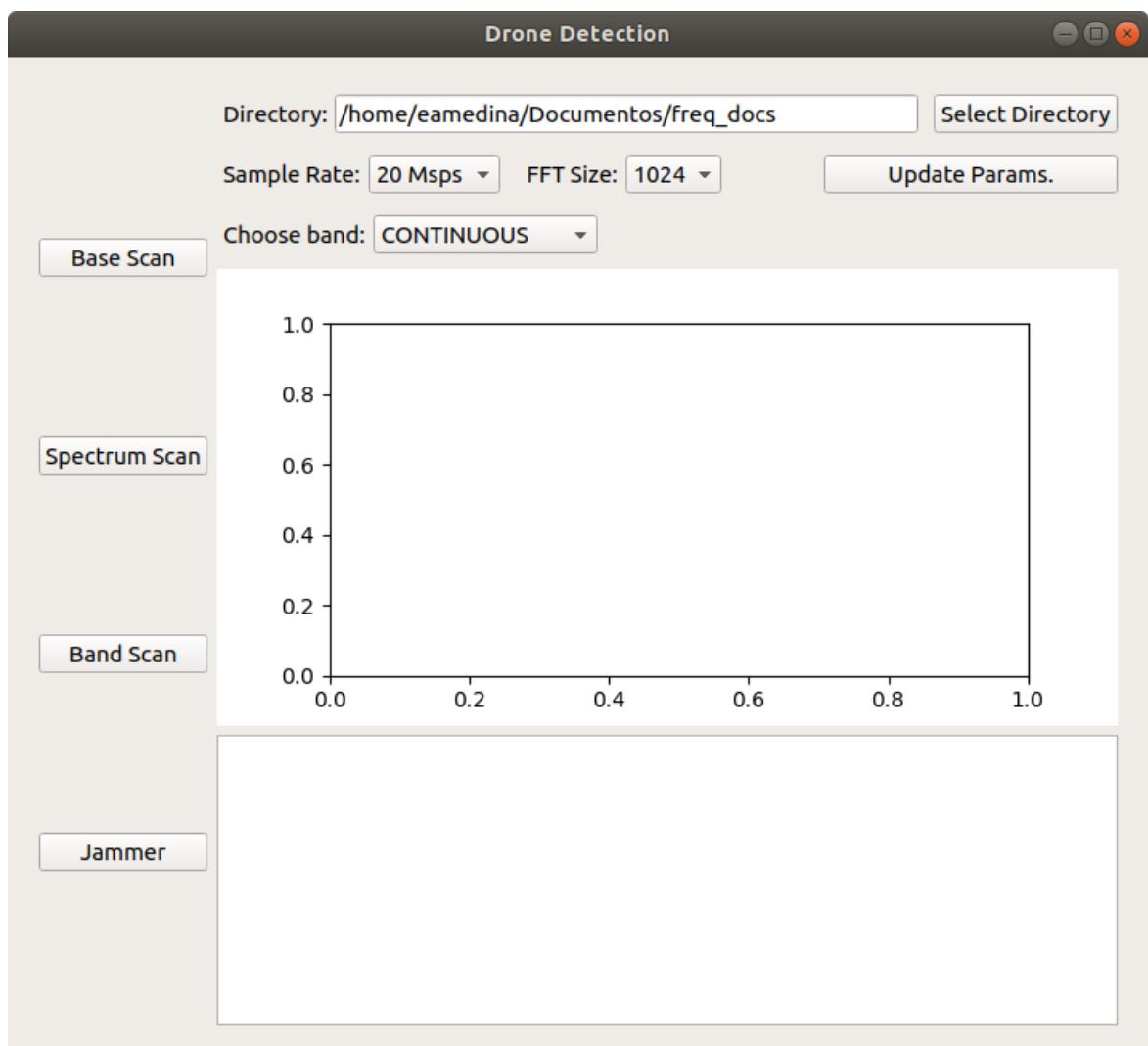


Figure 3.14: Main script with no data

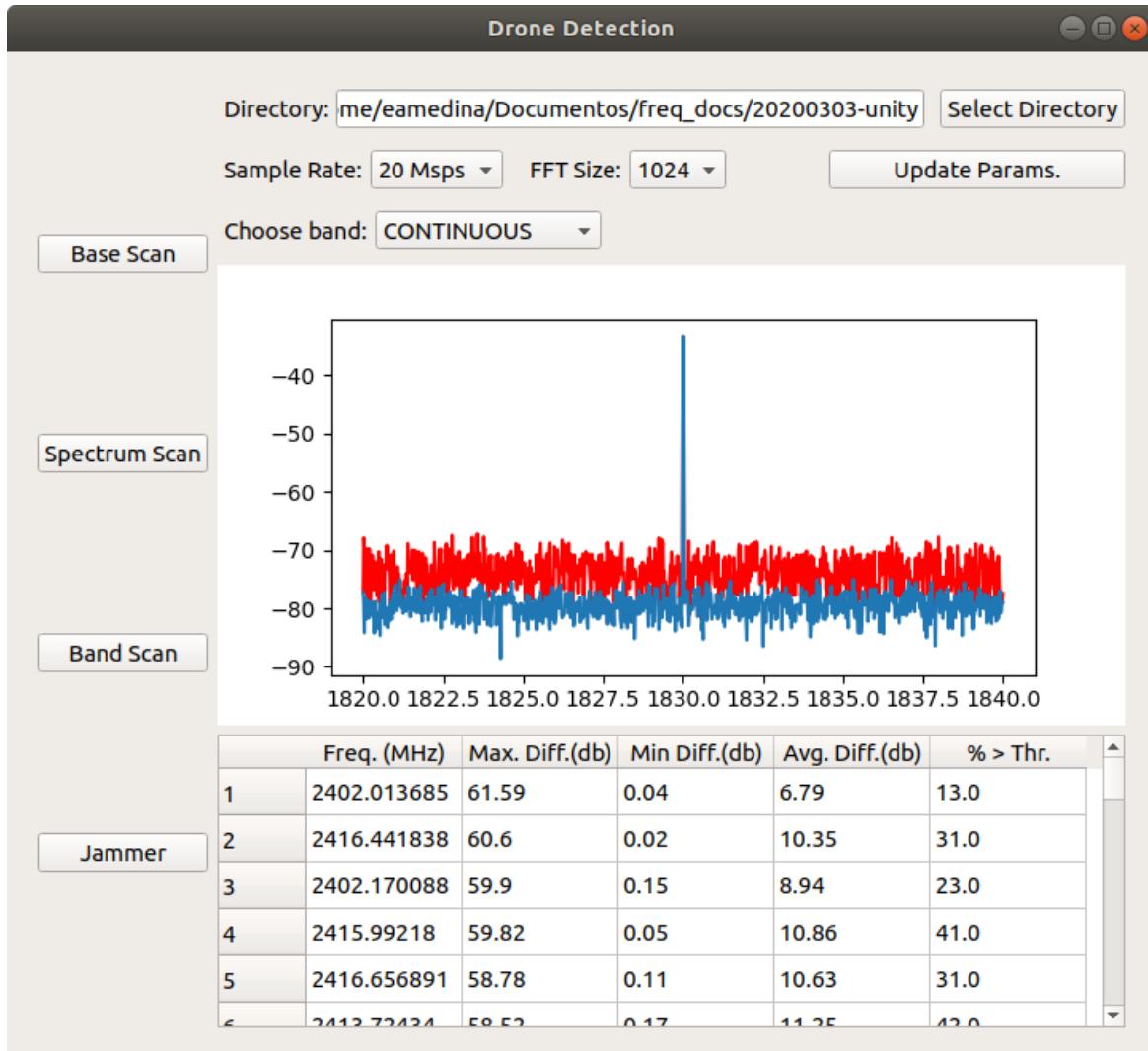


Figure 3.15: Main script with data in continuous mode

4. Results

To proceed with the testing of this project we will adopt two phases: first we will make tests on a laptop and then we will make the same tests in a Raspberry Pi. We will be analyzing both the accomplishment of the goals of this project and also verify the performance of the software.

The tests will consist of proving the correct functioning of all the scripts, and for the detection and interference of signals we will use three different RF systems operating at different bands.

The first system consists of a toy car with remote controller working at 27 MHz. The second is a universal garage remote controller working at 433 Mhz. And the last one is a drone working at 2.4 GHz. The intention to have diverse systems that aren't specifically drones is to prove that our solution can work in different segments of the spectrum.

4.1. Base Scan Script Tests

Our main focus in this script tests is to verify that this script creates the corresponding file database, and we will also monitor the system performance in the executing machine. We will try four different parameter combinations with 1024 and 2048 as the FFT size and 10 and 20 Msps as the sample rate, and each will have its own folder. We will execute the script for five minutes for each combination in the laptop and fifteen minutes in the raspberry with different frequency switch times.

4.1.1. Laptop Test: 10Msps 1024FFT 50ms

For this configuration, the script creates 600 files that occupy 11.6 Megabytes, accounting for a size of less than 20 Kilobytes each. When the script is running we see it uses around 82% of CPU cores and 2 out of 7.69 GHz of RAM memory, and the CPU usage peak does not exceed 30% for any of them.

When we explore the files, we can see a correct format with power and frequencies, and files have been created mostly with 15 input vectors, that indicates that around 15 full spectrum scans have been performed.

We can see in the file that the frequency delta is 9.775 KHz which correspond to the formula $10 \text{ MHz} (\text{sample rate}) \text{ over } 1023 (\text{FFT size minus one})$, since we are using zero indexed values.

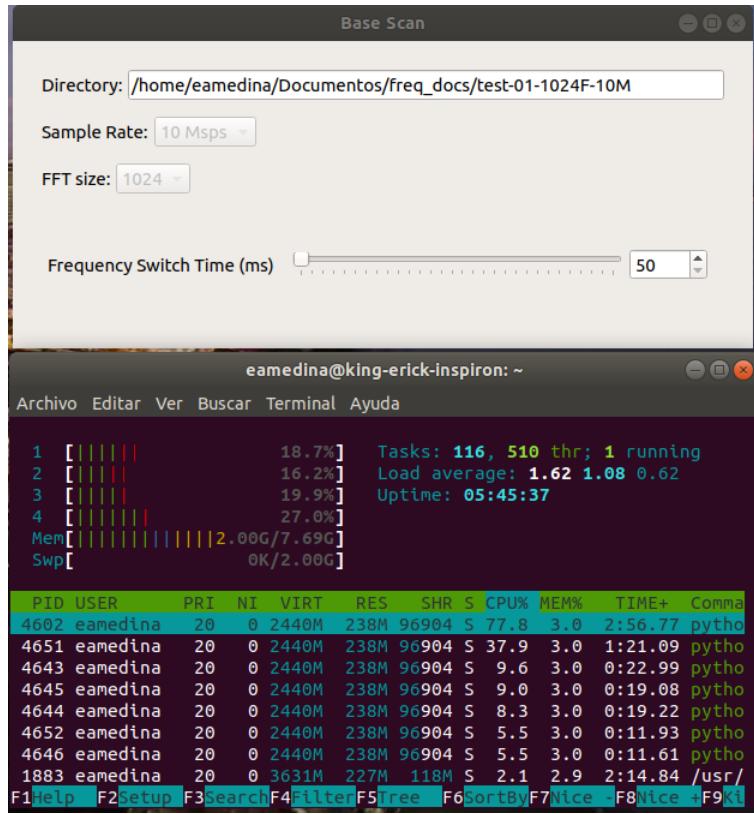


Figure 4.1: Laptop base script parameters configuration for 10 Msps-1024 FFT size-50 ms frequency jump time. CPU consumption below.

```

power_2425MHz_10Msps_1024FFT.txt - ...
File Edit Selection Find View Goto Tools Project Preferences Help
power_2425MHz_10Msps_1024FFT.txt x
1 |15
2 -78.49@2420.000000
3 -79.55@2420.009775
4 -78.45@2420.019550
5 -76.86@2420.029326
6 -78.16@2420.039101
7 -76.65@2420.048876
8 -76.24@2420.058651
9 -77.06@2420.068426
10 -78.20@2420.078201
11 -78.46@2420.087977
12 -77.83@2420.097752
13 -78.41@2420.107527
14 -81.36@2420.117302
15 -75.73@2420.127077
16 -77.05@2420.136852
17 -78.20@2420.146628
18 -77.04@2420.156403
19 -77.09@2420.166178
20 -78.72@2420.175953

```

Figure 4.2: File structure created by base script with corresponding index and frequency values for 10 Msps-1024 FFT size-50 ms frequency jump time.

The screenshot shows a file explorer window with the following details:

- Left sidebar:** Shows recent locations, including Carpeta personal, Escritorio, Descargas, Documentos, Imágenes, Música, Vídeos, Papelera, and an email entry for medvalmobile@gmail....
- Current folder:** Carpeta personal (indicated by a house icon)
- File list:** A table with columns: Nombre, Tamaño, and Modificación.
- File names:** power_5895MHz_10Msps_1024FFT.txt, power_5905MHz_10Msps_1024FFT.txt, power_5915MHz_10Msps_1024FFT.txt, power_5925MHz_10Msps_1024FFT.txt, power_5935MHz_10Msps_1024FFT.txt, power_5945MHz_10Msps_1024FFT.txt, power_5955MHz_10Msps_1024FFT.txt, power_5965MHz_10Msps_1024FFT.txt, power_5975MHz_10Msps_1024FFT.txt, power_5985MHz_10Msps_1024FFT.txt, power_5995MHz_10Msps_1024FFT.txt.
- File sizes:** 19,5 kB
- Last modified:** 21:42
- Total count:** 600 elementos seleccionados (11,6 MB)

Figure 4.3: Files generated by base script with its names and sizes for 10 Msps-1024 FFT size-50 ms frequency jump time.

4.1.2. Laptop Test: 10Msps 2048FFT 50ms

For this configuration, the script creates 600 files that occupy 23.1 Megabytes, accounting for a size of less than 40 Kilobytes each. When the script is running we see it uses around 180% of CPU cores and 2.06 out of 7.69 GHz of RAM memory, and the CPU usage peak does not exceed 55% for any of them.

When we explore the files, we can see a correct format with power and frequencies, and files have been created mostly with 15 input vectors, that indicates that around 15 full spectrum scans have been performed.

We can see in the file that the frequency delta is 4.885 KHz which correspond to the formula 10 MHz (sample rate) over 2047 (FFT size minus one), since we are using zero indexed values.

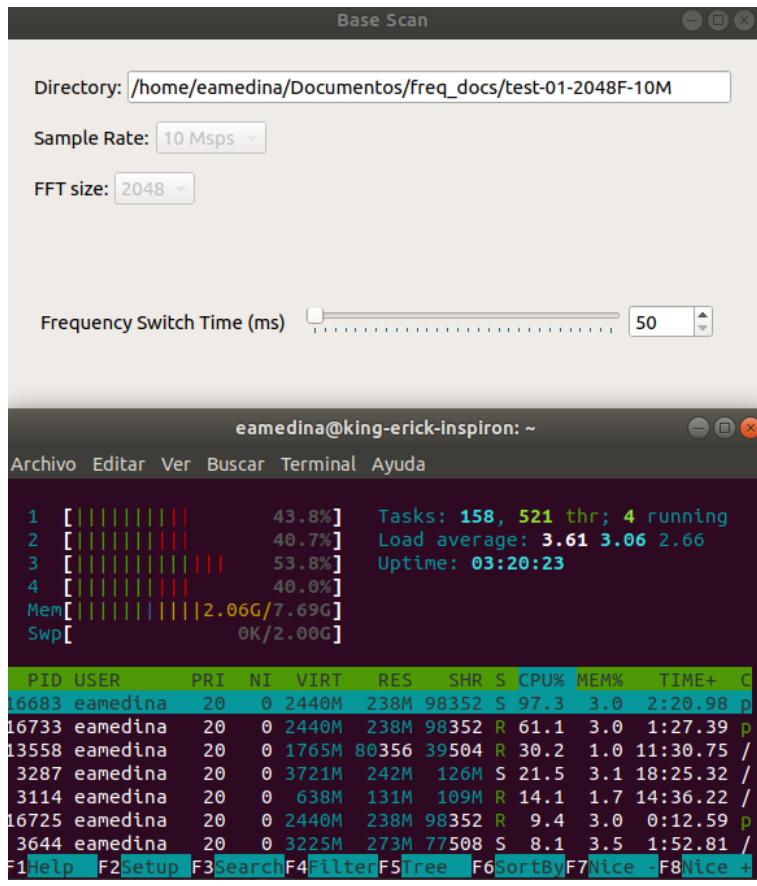


Figure 4.4: Laptop base script parameters configuration for 10 Msps-2048 FFT size-50 ms frequency jump time. CPU consumption below.

The figure shows a screenshot of a terminal window titled "power_2425MHz_10Msps_2048FFT.txt". The content of the file is as follows:

```

1 |15
2 -83.0202420.000000
3 -81.0062420.004885
4 -79.3902420.009770
5 -80.1702420.014656
6 -80.0402420.019541
7 -77.9302420.024426
8 -77.8602420.029311
9 -80.1202420.034196
10 -77.9002420.039082
11 -80.2402420.043967
12 -80.9402420.048852
13 -80.4202420.053737
14 -79.9402420.058622
15 -80.5002420.063508
16 -81.1502420.068393
17 -79.9902420.073278
18 -80.0102420.078163
19 -82.1902420.083048
20 -81.2502420.087934

```

At the bottom of the terminal window, it says "Line 1, Column 1" and "Tab Size: 4 Plain Text".

Figure 4.5: File structure created by base script with corresponding index and frequency values for 10 Msps-2048 FFT size-50 ms frequency jump time.

	Nombre	Tamaño	Modificación
○ Recientes	power_5895MHz_10Msps_2048FFT.txt	38,9 kB	17:46
🏠 Carpeta personal	power_5905MHz_10Msps_2048FFT.txt	38,9 kB	17:46
📄 Escritorio	power_5915MHz_10Msps_2048FFT.txt	38,9 kB	17:46
⬇ Descargas	power_5925MHz_10Msps_2048FFT.txt	38,9 kB	17:46
📁 Documentos	power_5935MHz_10Msps_2048FFT.txt	38,9 kB	17:46
📷 Imágenes	power_5945MHz_10Msps_2048FFT.txt	38,9 kB	17:46
🎵 Música	power_5955MHz_10Msps_2048FFT.txt	38,9 kB	17:46
🎥 Vídeos	power_5965MHz_10Msps_2048FFT.txt	38,9 kB	17:46
ⓧ Papelera	power_5975MHz_10Msps_2048FFT.txt	38,9 kB	17:46
✉ medvalmobile...	power_5985MHz_10Msps_2048FFT.txt	38,9 kB	17:46
+ Otras ubicaciones	power_5995MHz_10Msps_2048FFT.txt	38,9 kB	17:46

600 elementos seleccionados (23,1 MB)

Figure 4.6: Files generated by base script with its names and sizes for 10 Msps-2048 FFT size-50 ms frequency jump time.

4.1.3. Laptop Test: 20Msps 1024FFT 50ms

For this configuration, the script creates 300 files that occupy 5.8 Megabytes, accounting for a size of less than 20 Kilobytes each. When the script is running we see it uses around 161% of CPU cores and 2.09 out of 7.6 GHz of RAM memory, and the CPU usage peak does not exceed 55% for any of them.

When we explore the files, we can see a correct format with power and frequencies, and files have been created mostly with 35 input vectors.

We can see in the file that the frequency delta is 19.550 KHz which correspond to the formula 20 MHz (sample rate) over 1023 (FFT size minus one).

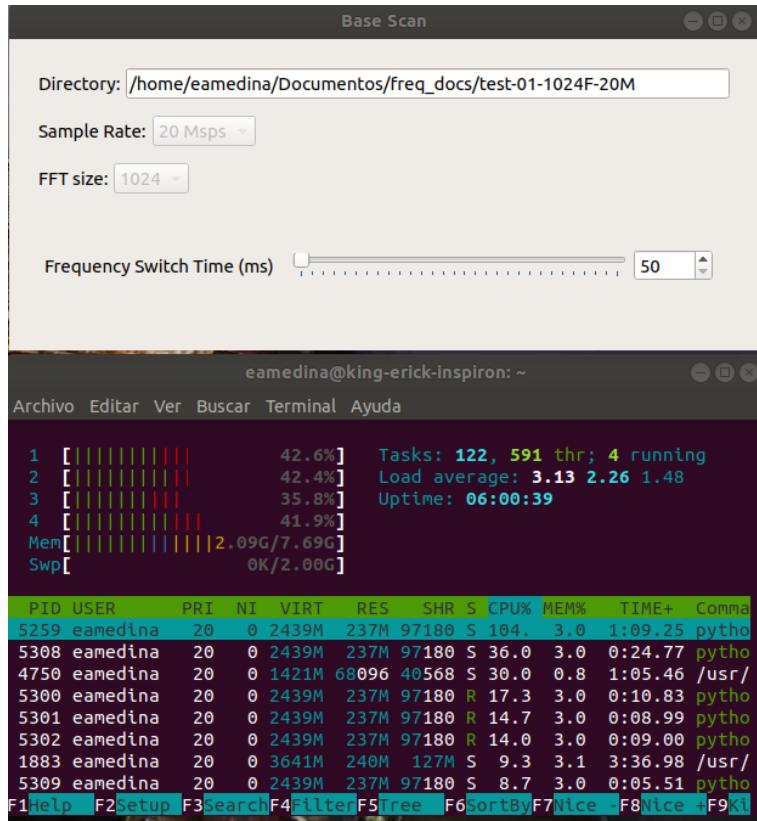


Figure 4.7: Laptop base script parameters configuration for 20 Msps-1024 FFT size-50 ms frequency jump time. CPU consumption below.

The figure shows a terminal window with the title bar 'power_2430MHz_20Msps_1024FFT.txt'. The window displays a text file with 20 lines of numerical data. The data consists of index numbers from 1 to 20 followed by corresponding frequency values. The values start at -72.6202420.000000 and decrease in increments of approximately 0.19550 until they reach -75.3202420.351906.

```

1 |35
2 -72.6202420.000000
3 -75.7902420.019550
4 -78.1902420.039101
5 -77.4202420.058651
6 -77.9902420.078201
7 -76.3302420.097752
8 -77.3402420.117302
9 -76.2402420.136852
10 -75.1002420.156403
11 -77.2302420.175953
12 -76.6202420.195503
13 -75.8802420.215054
14 -75.4202420.234604
15 -75.6002420.254154
16 -75.5402420.273705
17 -74.5202420.293255
18 -78.4602420.312805
19 -76.7102420.332356
20 -75.3202420.351906

```

Figure 4.8: File structure created by base script with corresponding index and frequency values for 20 Msps-1024 FFT size-50 ms frequency jump time.

	Nombre	Tamaño	Modificación
○ Recientes	power_5790MHz_20Msps_1024FFT.txt	19,5 kB	7 abr
🏠 Carpeta personal	power_5810MHz_20Msps_1024FFT.txt	19,5 kB	7 abr
📄 Escritorio	power_5830MHz_20Msps_1024FFT.txt	19,5 kB	7 abr
⬇ Descargas	power_5850MHz_20Msps_1024FFT.txt	19,5 kB	7 abr
📁 Documentos	power_5870MHz_20Msps_1024FFT.txt	19,5 kB	7 abr
📷 Imágenes	power_5890MHz_20Msps_1024FFT.txt	19,5 kB	7 abr
🎵 Música	power_5910MHz_20Msps_1024FFT.txt	19,5 kB	7 abr
🎥 Vídeos	power_5930MHz_20Msps_1024FFT.txt	19,5 kB	7 abr
ⓧ Papelera	power_5950MHz_20Msps_1024FFT.txt	19,5 kB	7 abr
✉️ medvalmobile...	power_5970MHz_20Msps_1024FFT.txt	19,5 kB	7 abr
+ Otras ubicaciones	power_5990MHz_20Msps_1024FFT.txt	19,5 kB	7 abr

300 elementos seleccionados (5,8 MB)

Figure 4.9: Files generated by base script with its names and sizes for 20 Msps-1024 FFT size-50 ms frequency jump time.

4.1.4. Laptop Test: 20Msps 2048FFT 50ms

For this configuration, the script creates 300 files that occupy 11.6 Megabytes, accounting for a size of less than 40 Kilobytes each. When the script is running we see it uses around 212% of CPU cores and 2.05 out of 7.6 GHz of RAM memory, and the CPU usage peak does not exceed 65% for any of them.

When we explore the files, we can see a correct format with power and frequencies, and files have been created mostly with 26 input vectors.

We can see in the file that the frequency delta is 9.770 KHz which correspond to the formula 20 MHz (sample rate) over 2047 (FFT size minus one).

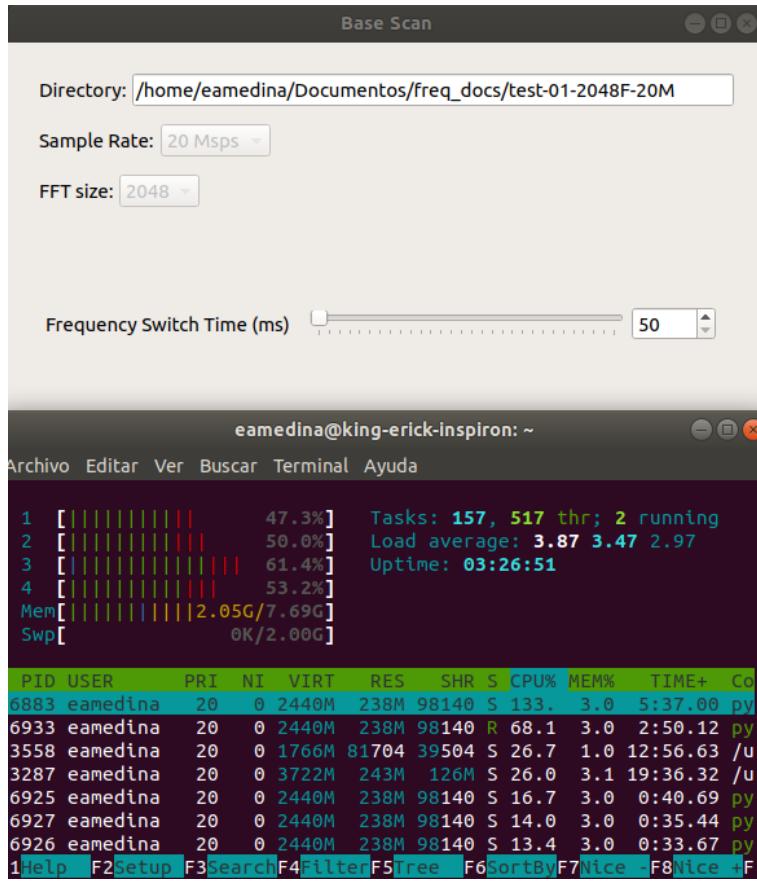


Figure 4.10: Laptop base script parameters configuration for 20 Msps-1024 FFT size-50 ms frequency jump time. CPU consumption below.

```

1 |26
2 -74.83@2400.000000
3 -78.97@2400.009770
4 -81.43@2400.019541
5 -81.73@2400.029311
6 -81.61@2400.039082
7 -84.44@2400.048852
8 -82.29@2400.058622
9 -82.69@2400.068393
10 -83.14@2400.078163
11 -82.03@2400.087934
12 -82.27@2400.097704
13 -81.69@2400.107474
14 -83.36@2400.117245
15 -81.75@2400.127015
16 -84.31@2400.136786
17 -82.43@2400.146556
18 -81.65@2400.156326
19 -81.96@2400.166097
20 -81.70@2400.175867

```

Figure 4.11: File structure created by base script with corresponding index and frequency values for 20 Msps-1024 FFT size-50 ms frequency jump time.

	Nombre	Tamaño	Modificación
○ Recientes	power_5790MHz_20Msps_2048FFT.txt	38,9 kB	18:03
🏠 Carpeta personal	power_5810MHz_20Msps_2048FFT.txt	38,9 kB	18:03
📄 Escritorio	power_5830MHz_20Msps_2048FFT.txt	38,9 kB	18:03
⬇ Descargas	power_5850MHz_20Msps_2048FFT.txt	38,9 kB	18:03
📁 Documentos	power_5870MHz_20Msps_2048FFT.txt	38,9 kB	18:03
📷 Imágenes	power_5890MHz_20Msps_2048FFT.txt	38,9 kB	18:03
🎵 Música	power_5910MHz_20Msps_2048FFT.txt	38,9 kB	18:03
🎥 Vídeos	power_5930MHz_20Msps_2048FFT.txt	38,9 kB	18:03
ⓧ Papelera	power_5950MHz_20Msps_2048FFT.txt	38,9 kB	18:03
✉ medvalmobile...	power_5970MHz_20Msps_2048FFT.txt	38,9 kB	18:03
+ Otras ubicaciones	power_5990MHz_20Msps_2048FFT.txt	38,9 kB	18:03

300 elementos seleccionados (11,6 MB)

Figure 4.12: Files generated by base script with its names and sizes for 20 Msps-2048 FFT size-50 ms frequency jump time.

4.1.5. Laptop Test Analysis for Base Script

We have proved the base scanning script which is in charge of obtaining the averaged base power values for all the spectrum from 1 MHz to 6 GHz in a time lapse of five minutes. We have verified the creation of the expected number of files, that files have the correct naming format, that the data in it has the corresponding frequency values, and the CPU resources it uses while running. In the next table we make a summary of all the identified differences.

Table 1. Base script test results in laptop

		PARAMETER CONFIGURATION			
VALUE		10 Msps	10 Msps	20 Msps	20 Msps
1024 FFT size		2048 FFT size		1024 FFT size	
50 ms		50 ms		50 ms	
FILES GENERATED	600	600	300	300	
TOTAL FILES SIZE (MB)	11.6 MB	23.1 MB	5.8 MB	11.6 MB	
MAX. FILE SIZE (KB)	19.5 KB	38.9 KB	19.5 KB	38.9 KB	
FILE NAMING FORMAT	power_5995MH z_10Msps_1024 FFT	power_5995MH z_10Msps_2048 FFT	power_5990MH z_20Msps_1024 FFT	power_5990MH z_20Msps_2048 FFT	
FILE INDEX VALUE	15	15	35	26	
FILE FREQUENCY DELTA (KHz)	9.775 KHz	4.885 KHz	19.550 KHz	9.770 KHz	
% CPU USED	82%	180%	161%	212%	
MEMORY USED (GB)	2.0	2.06	2.09	2.05	

The script works accurately as in the number of files created for each configuration. If we divide the 6 GHz in 10 MHz bands we have 600 parts, and dividing it in 20 MHz bands we have 300 parts. This indicates the number of files that must be created, and its number only depends on the sample rate parameter, independently of the FFT size. All configurations accomplish their expected result.

The files generated accomplish the naming format for each configuration, identifying correctly the central frequency, sample rate and FFT size, as we can see in Figures 3, 6, 9 and 12.

We can see differences in the file sizes and the total size for all the files of configuration. This is explained by the fact that we have a different quantity of files created when the sample rate changes, but also the quantity of information that we store in the file varies

greatly with the FFT size. For FFT size 1024, we will have 1024 frequency values with its corresponding power value, plus the file index. But for FFT size 2048, we will have 2048 frequency values, plus the index. That's the double of information, which in fact is reflected in the file size, which in FFT size 2048 is always the double size of files with FFT size 1024. This indicates that the parameter that influences the file size is the FFT size, and that all configurations with same FFT size will have the same file size independently of the sample rate. It is important to notice that the file size doesn't increase exponentially in time, it is because all the power values and frequency values follow the same format with a fixed length, and it is only the index length which varies in time, but we are talking about variations of a few digits, which are negligible.

As for the total size of the files generated by the script, we can see that the most efficient configuration is with 20 Msps and 1024 FFT size with a size under 6 MB, since all the spectrum information can be contained in 300 files with 1024 lines of power and frequency information plus the index. With this configuration we obtain a ratio of 1 MB of information per each GHz analyzed. The biggest total file size is under 24 MB, for the 10 Msps and 2048 FFT size, which consists of 600 files containing 2048 lines of power and frequency information plus the index. This accounts for a ratio of 4 MB per GHz. We can see that coincidentally the two remaining configurations 10 Msps-1024FFT size and 20Msps-2048FFT size have the same total file size is under 12 MB even though in the first we have 600 files and in the second we have 300 files, but this can be explained since files in the second configuration carry the double of information than in the first one. The ratio for both these configurations is 2 MB of information per each GHz of spectrum.

The file index indicates the number of times a new input vector has been used to calculate the power averages. And this value can be used to determine the number of times a value was received for a given frequency band, helping us determine the times the script made a total spectrum scan. Even though the index can be different for certain files, if we open randomly some files we will see a value that repeats more frequently than others. For a sample rate of 10 Msps, with a frequency jump time of 50 ms, we expect a total spectrum scan time of 30 seconds. And in five minutes we expect to have at least ten total spectrum scans. But in reality we can see that for both configurations, the most common index is 15, which indicates at least 15 spectrum scans. For a sample rate of 20 Msps, with a frequency jump time of 50 ms, we expect a total spectrum scan time of 15 seconds. For the five minutes of scan we expect to have 20 total spectrum scans but we can see that with 1024 FFT size we have an index of 35, and for 2048 FFT size we have an index of 26. These differences can be explained by the fact that in those 50 ms in which the Hack RF is scanning a given center frequency, it can feed the power analyzer block with more than one vector, resulting in a greater value than the expected. As this situation depends on the HackRF and the computation times of the laptop, we can have different indexed values in different frequency documents within the same configuration.

The frequency delta is the value between two adjacent frequencies after the FFT transformation, and it is different for all configurations. We see that we obtain the greatest delta at 20Msps-1024 FFT size, with 19.550 KHz between frequency values, and the minimum at 4.885 KHz for 10Msps-2048FFT size.

We wanted to check the performance of the laptop while running the script. Even though we only obtained snapshots in a given time of the CPU performance, this help us identify the configurations that consume more computation power. We can assume that

configurations with 2048 FFT size, will require more power, since they make the double of operations than in 1024 FFT size, and it is demonstrated in the results obtained, since 10Msps-2048FFT uses 180% while 10Msps-1024FFT only 80%. The same is observed in the other configurations 20Msps-2048FFT uses 212% against 10Msps-1024FFT with 161%. It is necessary to note that the use percentage includes all processes run in the laptop at that time, and that all tests were performed under the same circumstances.

We can see that the RAM memory doesn't vary greatly among the different configurations, and this can be explained by the fact that the only difference in memory usage between the different configurations, is that the 2048FFT load the double information in memory than 1024FFT, but it is neglectable if we compare them in the Gigabytes order of magnitude.

Of all the four different configurations used to test the base scan script we can see that we can get better results using 20 Msps and 1024 FFT size. It gives us a the smallest total file size for all the information with 5.8 MB, it also gave us the most total spectrum scans in five minutes with 35. It is also has a better CPU performance compared to configurations with 2048 FFT sizes.

4.1.6. Raspberry Test: 20Msps 1024FFT 500ms

Initially the tests for this script in Raspberry were run using 50 ms. as the frequency switch time, but we saw that due to the lower CPU power less than 50% of the files were created at the end of the five minutes. Even though of the total scan time increased from five minute to ten minutes, it was not guaranteed that all frequencies would be scanned. So we opted to increase the frequency switch time from 50 ms. to 100 ms. to 200 ms. to finally 500 ms. as the time in which we saw that all frequencies were analyzed during one full spectrum scan. Logically, the total time for the test has to increase, since each total spectrum scan takes now 300 seconds or five minutes. So we define the new total time as 15 minutes.

4.2. Spectrum Scan Script Tests

Our main focus in this script tests is to verify that this script creates the corresponding file database, and we will also monitor the system performance in the executing machine. We will try four different parameter combinations with 1024 and 2048 as the FFT size and 10 and 20 Msps as the sample rate, and each will have its own folder. We will execute the script for five minutes for each combination in the laptop and fifteen minutes in the raspberry with different frequency switch times. For laptios, the frequency switch time is defined in 250 ms, and we set the operation mode to fixed with a threshold of 10 db from the base.

Aditonally we will use the Why Evo and the toy remote controller to generate signals in 27 MHz and 433 MHz respectively, so we can verify if generated signals can be detected by the script. These generators will be a distance under two meters away from the HackRF.

It is important to state, that the folder chosen to run this tests, have to be the same where the base script generated its respective files, since they will be used to be compared with the real time data.

4.2.1. Laptop Test: 10Msps 1024FFT 250ms

For this configuration, the script creates 600 files that occupy 22.4 Megabytes, accounting for a size of less than 40 Kilobytes each. When the script is running we see it uses around 110% of CPU cores and 1.69 out of 7.69 GHz of RAM memory, and the CPU usage peak does not exceed 40% for any of them.

When we explore the files, we can see a correct format with differences, averages, minimums and maximums with their respective frequencies, and files have been created mostly with 16 input vectors. We can see in the file that the frequency delta is 9.775 KHz.

To check if the script has detected unusual activity in 27 MHz and in 433 MHz we open their respective files:

compare_25MHz_10Msps_1024FFT (Fig. 4.16)

compare_435MHz_10Msps_1024FFT (Fig. 4.17)

For the first file we see that a peak was detected around 27.15 MHz, with a value 44 db above the threshold. For the second file we see a peak detected around 433.92 MHz, with a value 55 db above the threshold. We can confirm that the script has effectively detected the signals that we have generated for this test.

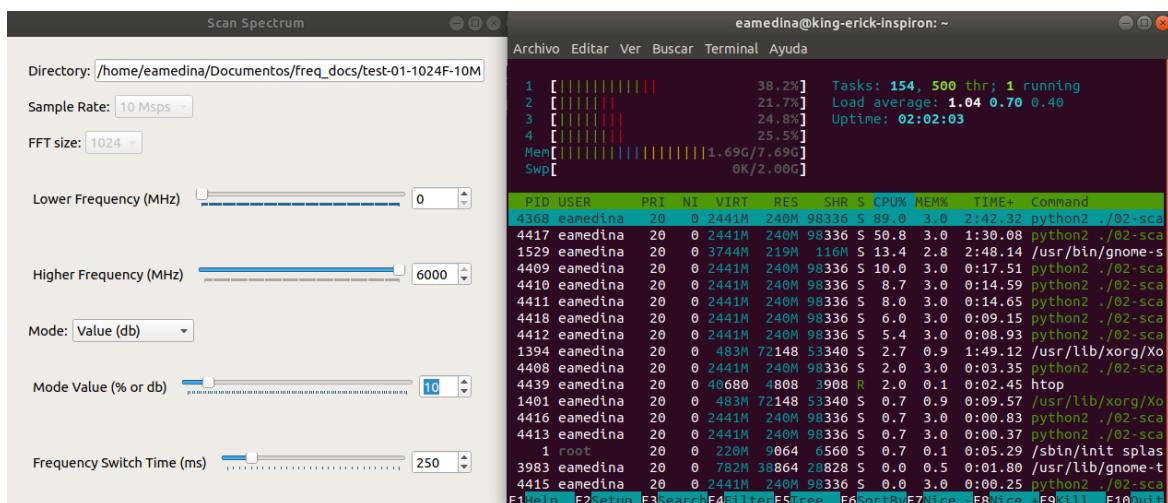


Figure 4.13: Laptop spectrum script parameters configuration for 10 Msps-1024 FFT size. CPU consumption in the right.

A screenshot of a file explorer window titled "Carpeta personal". The left sidebar shows standard folder icons: Recientes, Carpeta personal, Escritorio, Descargas, Documentos, Imágenes, Música, Vídeos, Papelera, and Otras ubicaciones. The main pane lists 600 files, each with a small document icon, the name "compare_xMHz_10Msps_1024FFT.txt", a size of "38,8 kB", and a modification time of "15:18". The files are sorted by name. A status bar at the bottom right indicates "600 elementos seleccionados (22,4 MB)".

Figure 4.14: Files generated by spectrum script with its names and sizes for 10 Msps-1024 FFT size.

```

~/Documentos/freq_docs/test-01-1024F-10M/compare_2425MHz_10Msps_1024FFT.txt - ...
File Edit Selection Find View Goto Tools Project Preferences Help
compare_2425MHz_10Msps_1024FFT.txt x
1 ;16
2 8;0.50;1.18;12.46;22.30@2420.000000
3 8;0.50;4.03;17.46;26.12@2420.009775
4 9;0.56;4.21;15.90;25.56@2420.019550
5 7;0.44;12.06;16.86;22.05@2420.029326
6 9;0.56;2.03;14.19;24.73@2420.039101
7 6;0.38;2.47;17.82;23.08@2420.048876
8 7;0.44;1.37;12.27;22.74@2420.058651
9 7;0.44;6.33;17.54;26.15@2420.068426
10 6;0.38;13.65;20.22;29.69@2420.078201
11 7;0.44;3.89;17.28;22.97@2420.087977
12 8;0.50;4.88;17.27;22.66@2420.097752
13 9;0.56;2.44;17.77;28.36@2420.107527
14 9;0.56;2.21;19.95;29.11@2420.117302
15 6;0.38;14.24;18.99;21.66@2420.127077
16 7;0.44;10.04;19.42;25.41@2420.136852
17 6;0.38;15.04;20.33;27.18@2420.146628
18 7;0.44;15.12;19.01;25.32@2420.156403
19 7;0.44;11.78;19.20;25.74@2420.166178
20 9;0.56;5.10;18.53;26.55@2420.175953

```

Figure 4.15: File structure created by spectrum script with corresponding index and frequency with differences values for 10 Msps-1024 FFT size.

A screenshot of a terminal window titled "compare_25MHz_10Msps_1024FFT.txt - Su..." showing a list of numerical values. The values are organized into two columns, each starting with a line number (e.g., 724, 725, etc.) and followed by a series of numbers separated by semicolons. A cursor is positioned over the value at line 734, which is highlighted in yellow. The terminal window has a dark background and white text. At the bottom, it shows "3 lines, 101 characters selected" and "Tab Size: 4 Plain Text".

Figure 4.16: File data with values of a peak detected in 27 MHz with spectrum script for 10 Msps-1024 FFT size.

A screenshot of a terminal window titled "compare_435MHz_10Msps_1024FFT.txt - Su..." showing a list of numerical values. The values are organized into two columns, each starting with a line number (e.g., 397, 398, etc.) and followed by a series of numbers separated by semicolons. A cursor is positioned over the value at line 405, which is highlighted in yellow. The terminal window has a dark background and white text. At the bottom, it shows "4 lines, 140 characters selected" and "Tab Size: 4 Plain Text".

Figure 4.17: File data with values of a peak detected in 433 MHz with spectrum script for 10 Msps-1024 FFT size.

4.2.2. Laptop Test: 10Msps 2048FFT 250ms

For this configuration, the script creates 600 files that occupy 46 Megabytes, accounting for a size of less than 78 Kilobytes each. When the script is running we see it uses around 132% of CPU cores and 1.80 out of 7.69 GHz of RAM memory, and the CPU usage peak does not exceed 40% for any of them.

When we explore the files, we can see a correct format with differences, averages, minimums and maximums with their respective frequencies, and files have been created mostly with 16 input vectors. We can see in the file that the frequency delta is 4.885 KHz.

To check if the script has detected unusual activity in 27 MHz and in 433 MHz we open their respective files:

compare_25MHz_10Msps_2048FFT (Fig. 4.21)

compare_435MHz_10Msps_2048FFT (Fig. 4.22)

For the first file we see that a peak was detected around 27.22 MHz, with a value 32 db above the threshold. For the second file we see a peak detected around 433.92 MHz, with a value 60 db above the threshold. We can confirm that the script has effectively detected the signals that we have generated for this test.

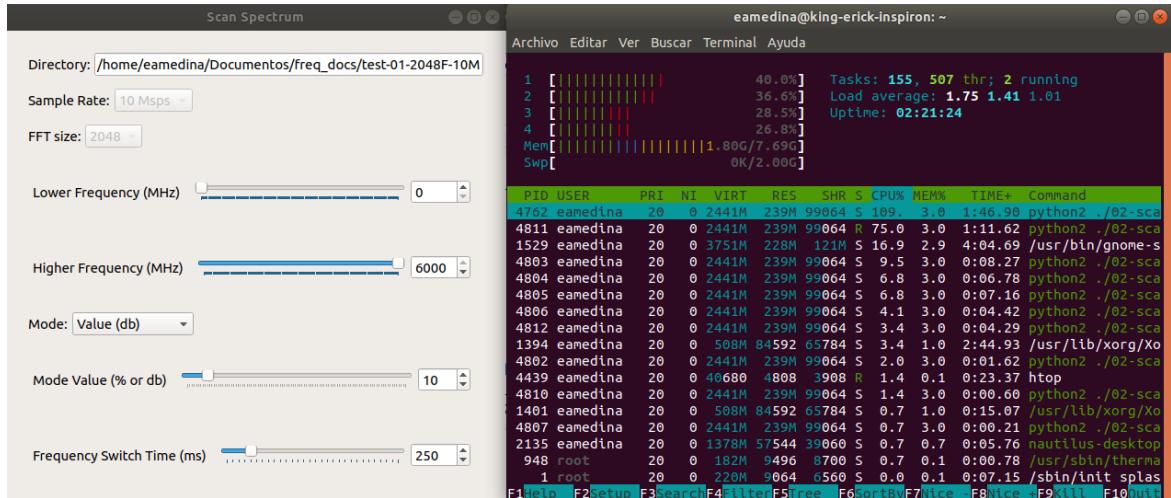


Figure 4.18: Laptop spectrum script parameters configuration for 10 Msps-2048 FFT size. CPU consumption in the right.

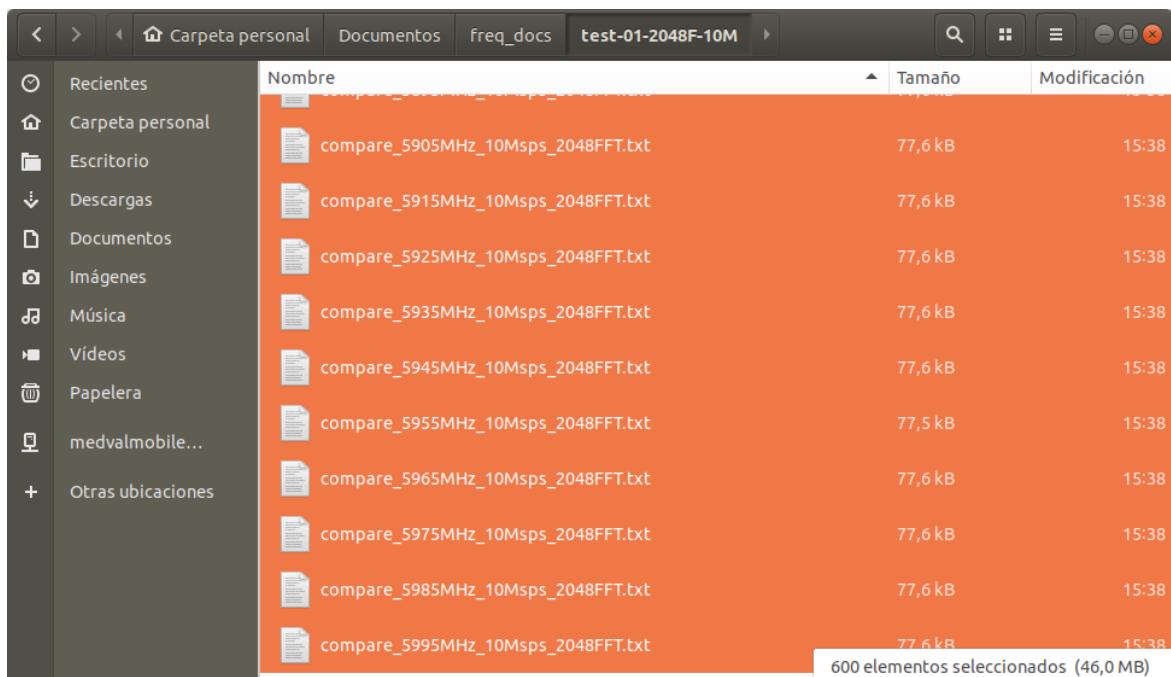


Figure 4.19: Files generated by spectrum script with its names and sizes for 10 Msps-2048 FFT size.

Figure 4.22: File data with values of a peak detected in 433 MHz with spectrum script for 10 Msps-2048 FFT size.

4.2.3. Laptop Test: 20Msps 1024FFT 250ms

For this configuration, the script creates 300 files that occupy 11.4 Megabytes, accounting for a size of less than 40 Kilobytes each. When the script is running we see it uses around 123% of CPU cores and 1.81 out of 7.69 GHz of RAM memory, and the CPU usage peak does not exceed 35% for any of them.

When we explore the files, we can see a correct format with differences, averages, minimums and maximums with their respective frequencies, and files have been created mostly with 31 input vectors. We can see in the file that the frequency delta is 19.550 KHz.

To check if the script has detected unusual activity in 27 MHz and in 433 MHz we open their respective files:

compare_30MHz_20Msps_1024FFT (Fig. 4.26)

compare_430MHz_20Msps_1024FFT (Fig. 4.27)

For the first file we see that a peak was detected around 27.17 MHz, with a value 31 db above the threshold. For the second file we see a peak detected around 433.93 MHz, with a value 50 db above the threshold. We can confirm that the script has effectively detected the signals that we have generated for this test.

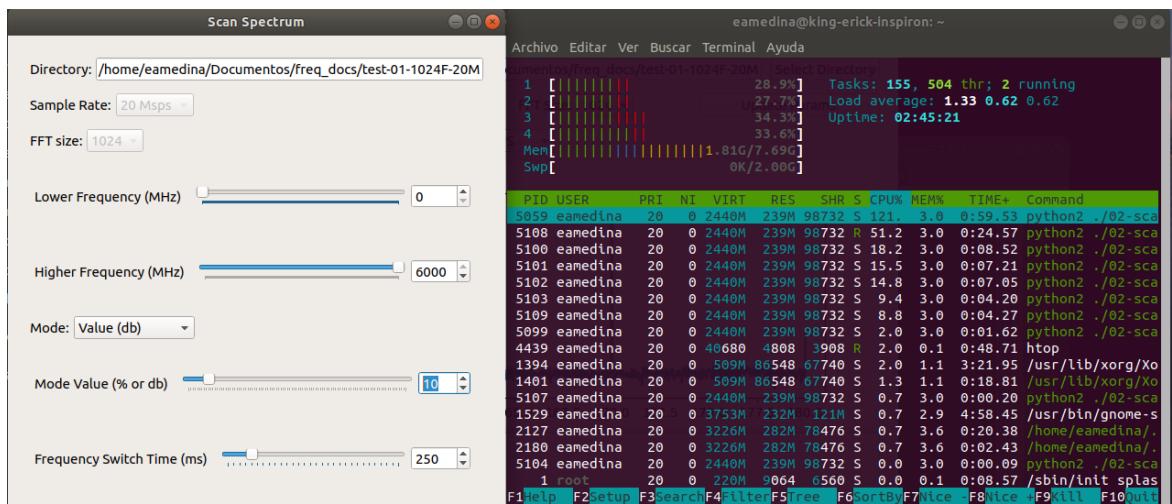


Figure 4.23: Laptop spectrum script parameters configuration for 20 Msps-1024 FFT size. CPU consumption in the right.

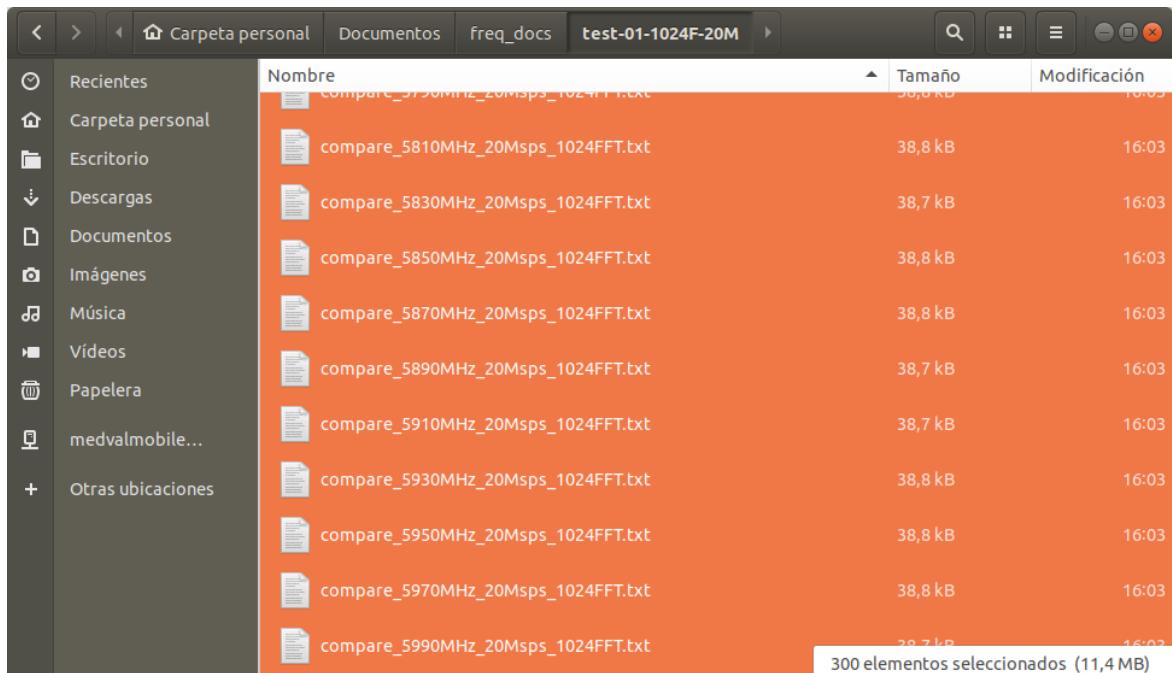


Figure 4.24: Files generated by spectrum script with its names and sizes for 20 Msps-1024 FFT size.

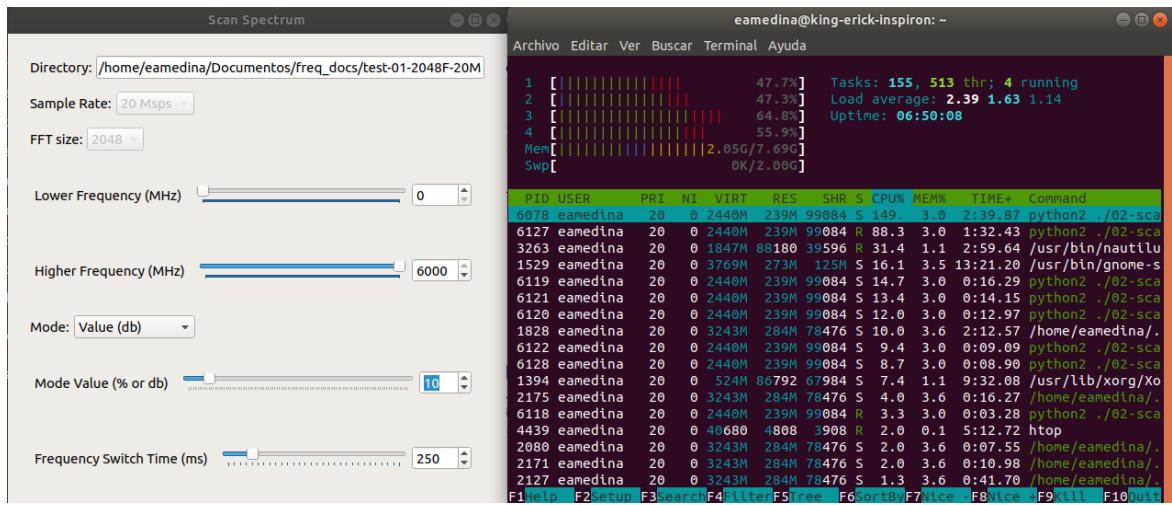


Figure 4.28: Laptop spectrum script parameters configuration for 20 Msps-2048 FFT size. CPU consumption in the right.

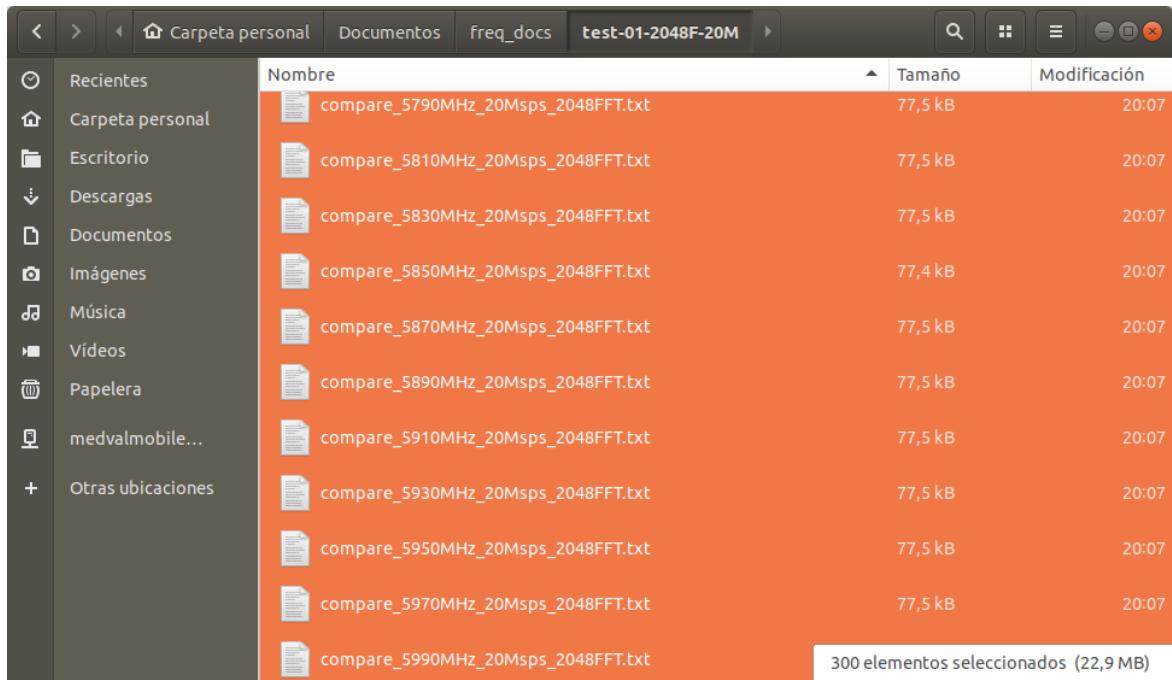


Figure 4.29: Files generated by spectrum script with its names and sizes for 20 Msps-2048 FFT size.


```
~/Documentos/freq_docs/test-01-2048F-20M/compare_430MHz_20Msps_2048FFT.txt - S... ◻ X
File Edit Selection Find View Goto Tools Project Preferences Help
compare_430MHz_20Msps_2048FFT.txt
1418 10;0.31;3.11;15.95;23.09@433.834880
1419 8;0.25;4.37;13.72;24.61@433.844651
1420 9;0.28;7.62;15.15;27.66@433.854421
1421 11;0.34;4.75;16.36;27.37@433.864191
1422 10;0.31;7.41;15.84;28.41@433.873962
1423 10;0.31;4.02;17.11;31.56@433.883732
1424 9;0.28;4.40;15.13;32.66@433.893563
1425 5;0.16;0.30;17.81;36.62@433.903273
1426 13;0.41;0.27;25.99;39.70@433.913643
1427 15;0.47;1.38;33.67;53.36@433.922814
1428 14;0.44;2.78;35.10;52.37@433.932584
1429 15;0.47;0.38;23.17;40.11@433.942355
1430 9;0.28;0.64;13.83;34.58@433.952125
1431 11;0.34;1.54;15.69;33.65@433.961895
1432 11;0.34;5.49;15.45;30.63@433.971666
1433 11;0.34;4.41;16.82;28.98@433.981436
1434 9;0.28;2.10;14.89;27.31@433.991207
1435 8;0.25;7.27;13.98;24.69@434.000977
1436 9;0.28;3.54;14.47;22.69@434.010747
1437 11;0.34;5.32;15.25;24.48@434.020514
1438 10;0.31;1.05;13.67;22.64@434.030388
```

Figure 4.32: File data with values of a peak detected in 27 MHz with spectrum script for 20 Msps-2048 FFT size.

5. Budget

Depending on the scope of the thesis, this document should include:

- Components list with approximate costs (prototype).
- Design, prototyping and other tasks costs (hours_person x cost).
- Financial viability analysis.

6. Environment Impact (optional)

The tasks involved in the completion of this thesis and the results having any identifiable environmental impact should be described in this section.

The impact may be negative (environmental cost), positive (solution that improves on the environmental impact of other projects) or both.

7. Conclusions and future development

This should include your summary, conclusions and recommendations.

Bibliography

A thorough reference list such as that shown in the following examples: Conference paper [1], journal paper [2], book [3], standard-1 [4], standard-2 [5], online reference [6], patent [7], M.S. thesis [8] and Ph.D. dissertation [9].

- [1] J. Polastre, R. Szewczyk, D. Culler. "Telos: enabling ultra-low power wireless research". In *Proceedings of the Fourth International Symposium on Information Processing in Sensor Networks, IPSN 2005*, 25-27 April 2005, Los Angeles, USA. pp. 364-369. doi: 10.1109/IPSN.2005.1440950.
- [2] V.C. Gungor, B. Lu, G.P. Hancke. "Opportunities and challenges of Wireless Sensor Networks in Smart Grid". *IEEE Transactions on Industrial Electronics*, vol. 56, no. 10, pp. 3557-3564, October 2010. DOI: 10.1109/TIE.2009.2039455.
- [3] R. Faludi. *Building Wireless Sensor Networks: with ZigBee, XBee, Arduino, and Processing*, 1st ed. Sebastopol, USA: O'Reilly Media, 2010.
- [4] *Internet Protocol, Version 6 (IPv6) Specification*. IETF RFC 2460, December 1998.
- [5] *IEEE Standard for Information technology. Telecommunications and information exchange between systems Local and metropolitan area networks. Specific requirements. Part 11: Wireless LAN Medium Access Control (MAC) and Physical Layer (PHY) Specifications*. IEEE Std 802.11-2012.
- [6] T. Tarun, P. Viswanathan, S. Suman. "Wireless Sensor Network White Paper". *Tetcos Engineering*, 2012. [Online] Available: http://www.tetcos.com/Enhancing_Throughput_of_WSNs.pdf. [Accessed: 23 October 2012].
- [7] J. P. Wilkinson, "Nonlinear resonant circuit devices," U.S. Patent 3 624 125, July 16, 1990.
- [8] M.V. Alvarez Fernández. "Feasibility study and design for Wireless Sensor Networks in a space environment". M.S. thesis, Faculty of Electrical Engineering, Mathematics and Computer Science, Delft University of Technology, Delft, The Netherlands, 2011.
- [9] J. O. Williams, "Narrow-band analyzer," Ph.D. dissertation, Department of Electrical Engineering, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA, USA, 1993.

Appendices (optional)

Appendices may be included in your thesis, but it is not a requirement.

Glossary

A list of all acronyms and what they stand for.

LINKS

dji firefighting - <https://venturebeat.com/2019/04/20/dji-rd-head-dreams-of-drones-fighting-fires-by-the-thousands-in-aerial-aqueduct/>

heat drone - <https://abcnews.go.com/US/drone-finds-missing-year-minnesota-boy-cornfield/story?id=66327536>