

# CAR KEY JAMMING DETECTION

---

By Khodor Safa  
17<sup>th</sup> August 2017

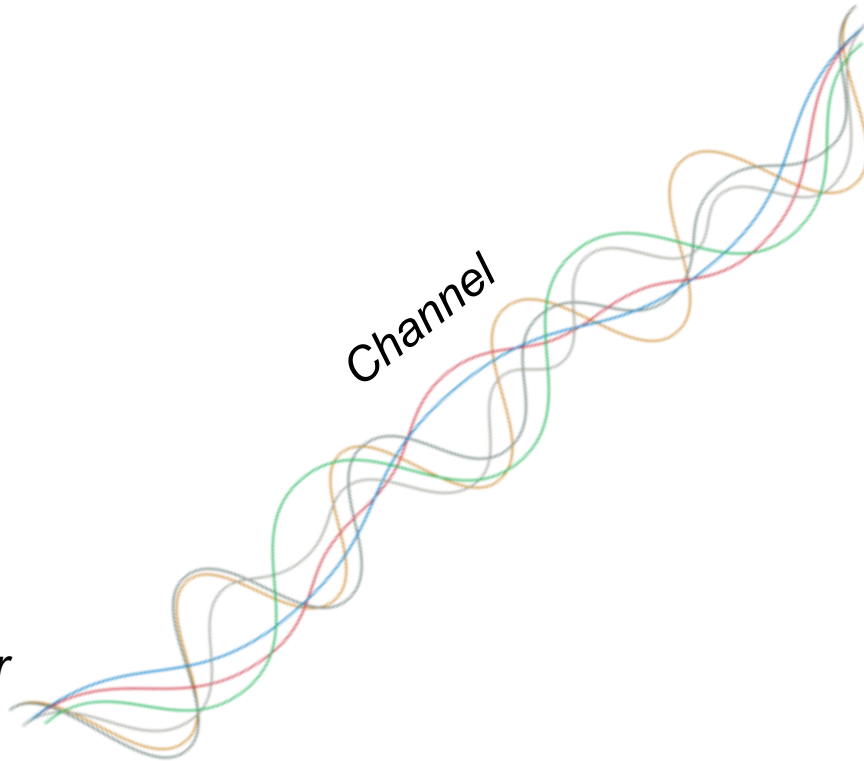
# How does Jamming Work?

*Receiver*

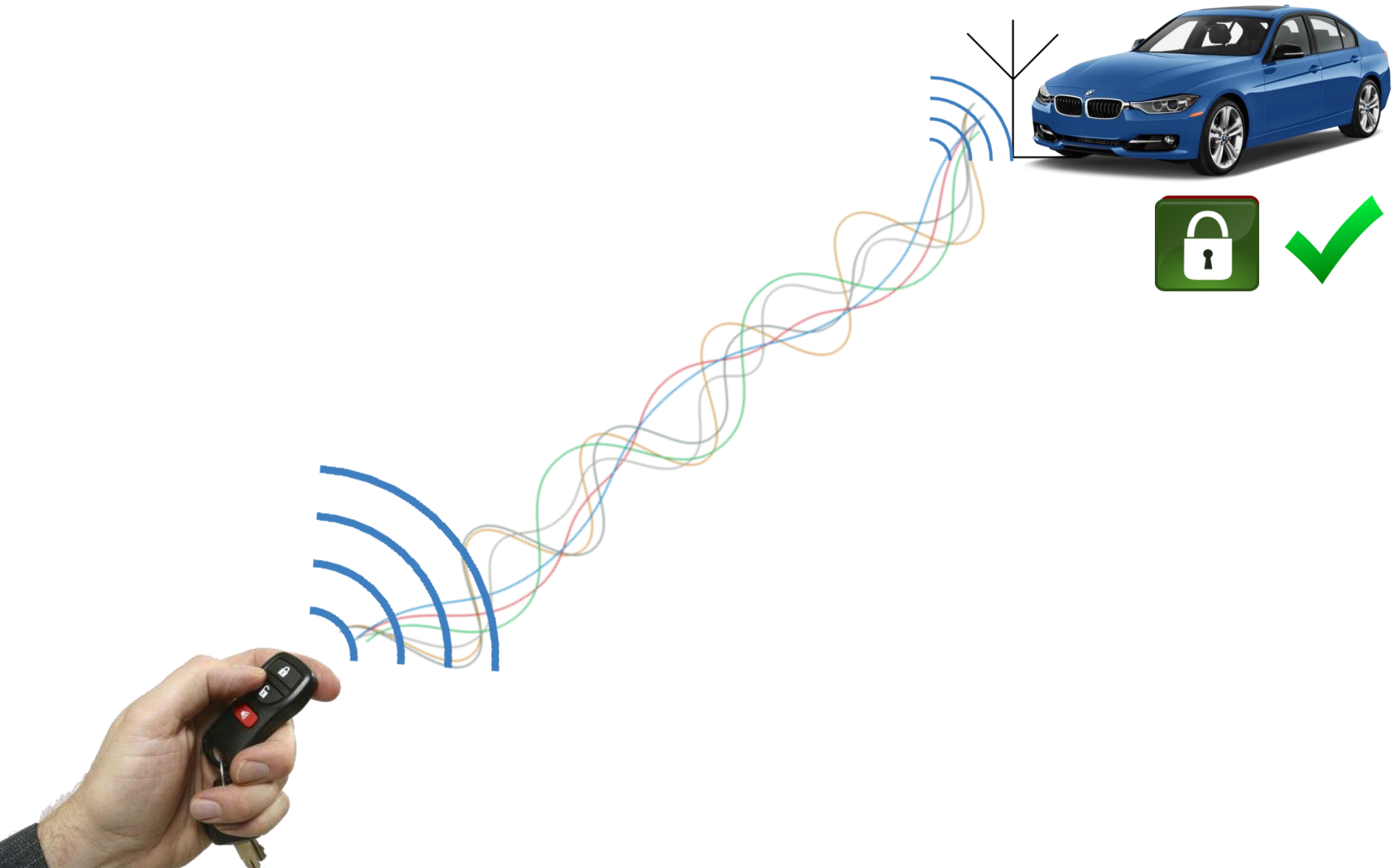


*Channel*

*Transmitter*



# No Jammer



What happens  
when you  
introduce a  
jammer?



# With Jammer



# How to prevent against jamming attacks?



Use a Physical lock



Check car doors



Install a jamming detector

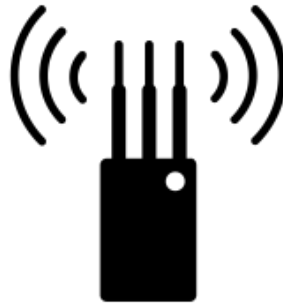


# Project Process



## Car Key Signal Detection

- Testing Different Keys
- Testing Range



## Signal Jamming

- Investigate Jamming Techniques



## Jammer Detection

- Investigate Jamming Detection methods

# Project Setup



*USRP 2920*



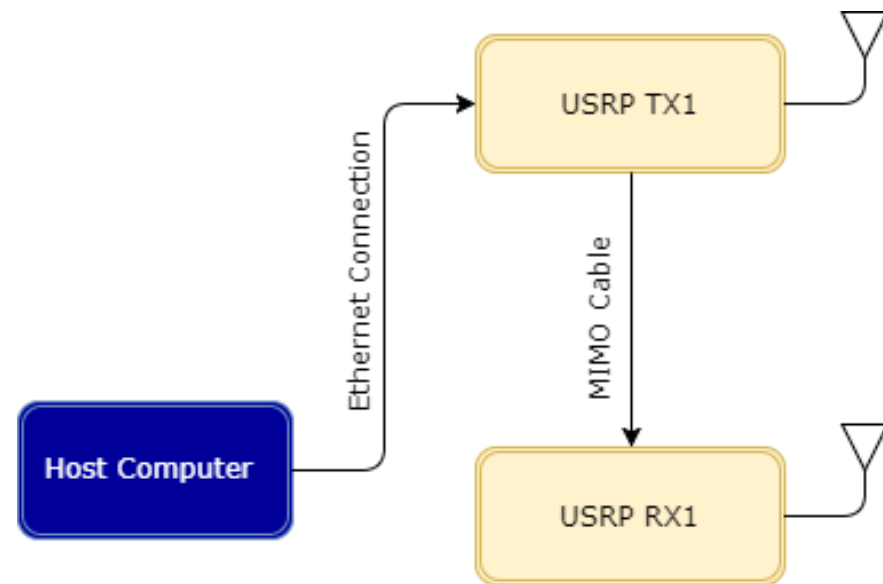
*VERT2450 Antenna*



*Ethernet Cable*



*MIMO Cable*





# Car Key Signal Detection



- I. Car key fobs operate at 315MHz or 433MHz frequencies
- II. A total of 6 available keys have been tested on:
  - 1. Three Mercedes keys
  - 2. One Mazda key
  - 3. Two KIA keys
- III. The testing parameters:  
Distance and Power

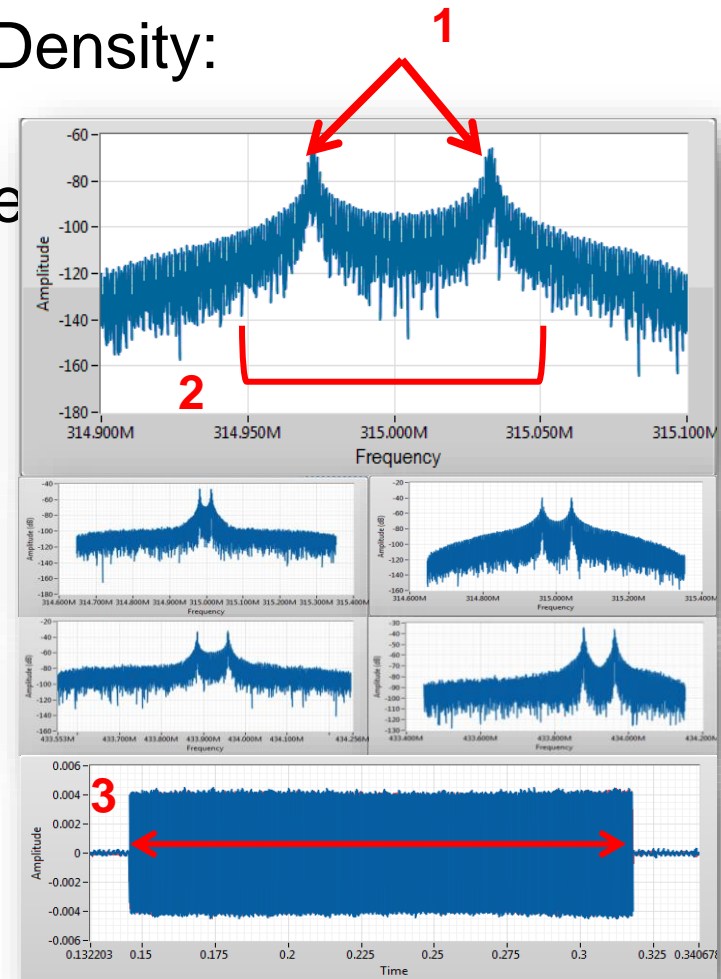
# Car Key Signal Testing - Results

Looking at the Power Spectrum Density:

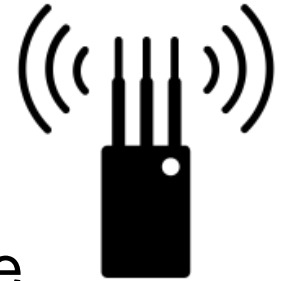
1. We notice that we always have two peaks representing distinct frequencies.

2. The bandwidth for these results does not exceed 200KHz

3. The transmission time is very short



# Signal Jamming



Based on the previous three results, we can conclude these minimal Jammer requirements



Centered at 315/433MHz



The bandwidth can be fixed to 200KHz



It should be running *before* activating the key signal

# Types of Jammers

## Reactive Jamming

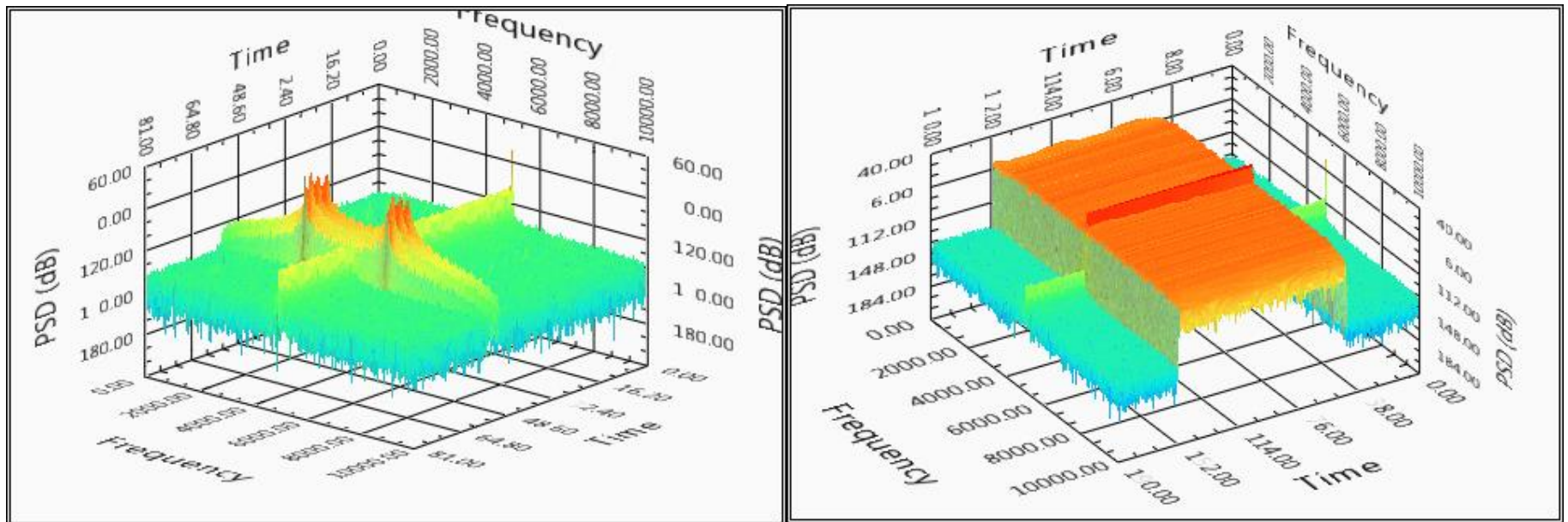
- Waits until there is transmission over the channel to start jamming

## Proactive Jamming

- Transmits data regardless if there is a communication link

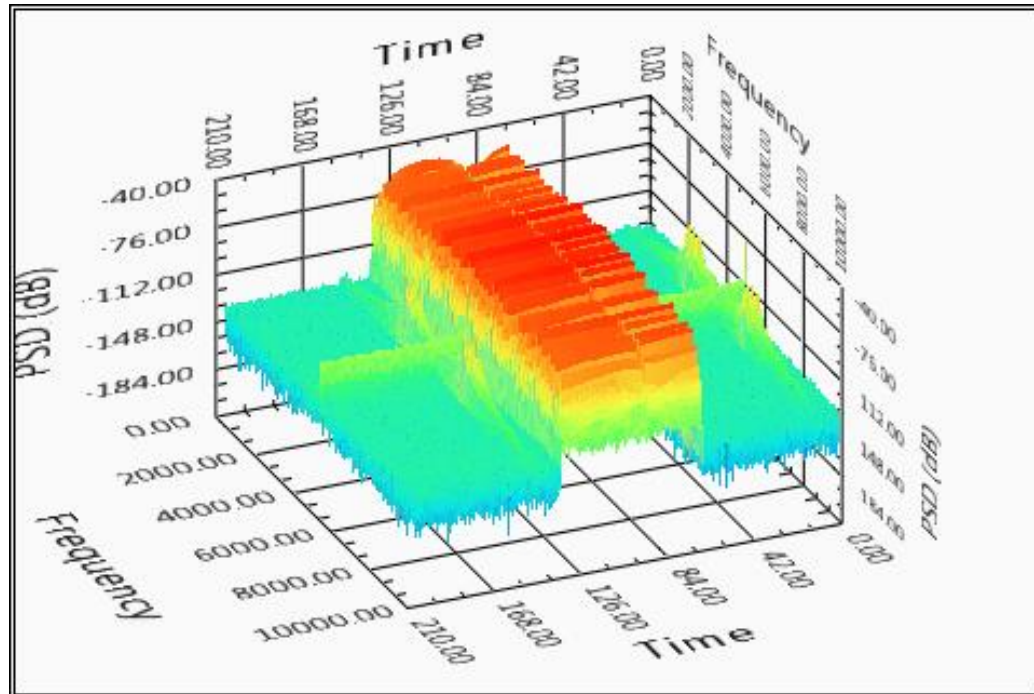
# Jamming Techniques

**Increasing the noise floor (White Noise Jamming):**  
transmitting random data with *high power*, to *drown* the message signal or cause enough *interference* to distort it



# Jamming Techniques

**Single or Multi-tone Jamming:** transmit at a single or multiple frequencies at a higher power to jam the targeted message.



# Pros and Cons

## White Noise Jamming

Pros: high jamming efficiency

Cons: high power consumption

## Multi-tone Jamming

Pros: low power consumption

Cons: lower jamming efficiency

# Jamming Detectors Scope



Industrial  
Scope

Commercial  
Scope



# Commercial Product

## Device Description:



Installed inside of the car



Connected to the car battery for power

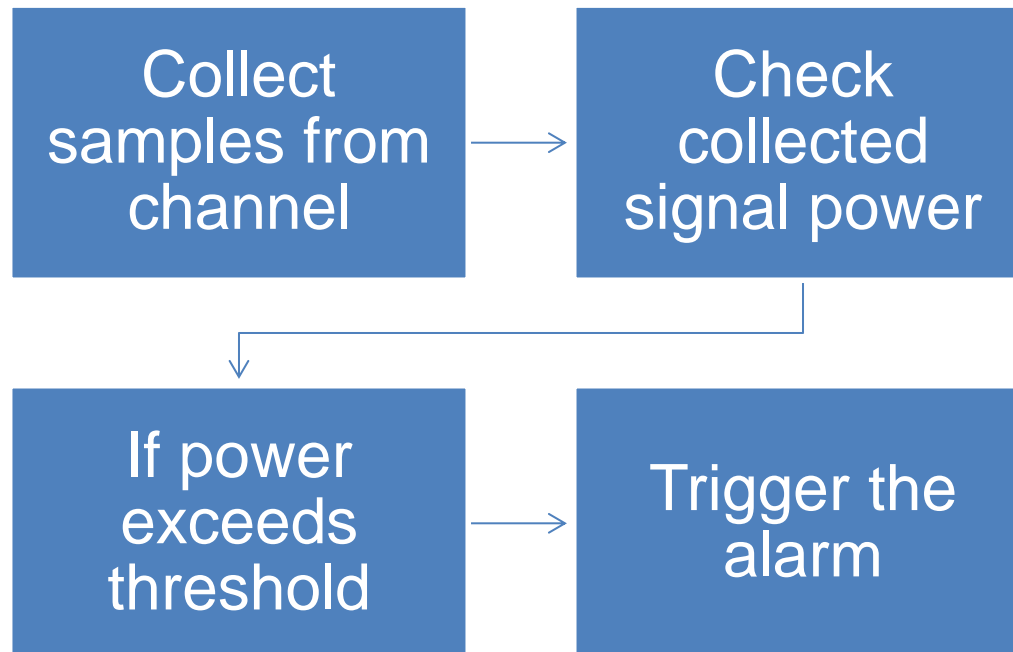


Scans environment for any undesirable signal that might interfere with the message

# Jamming Detection Methods

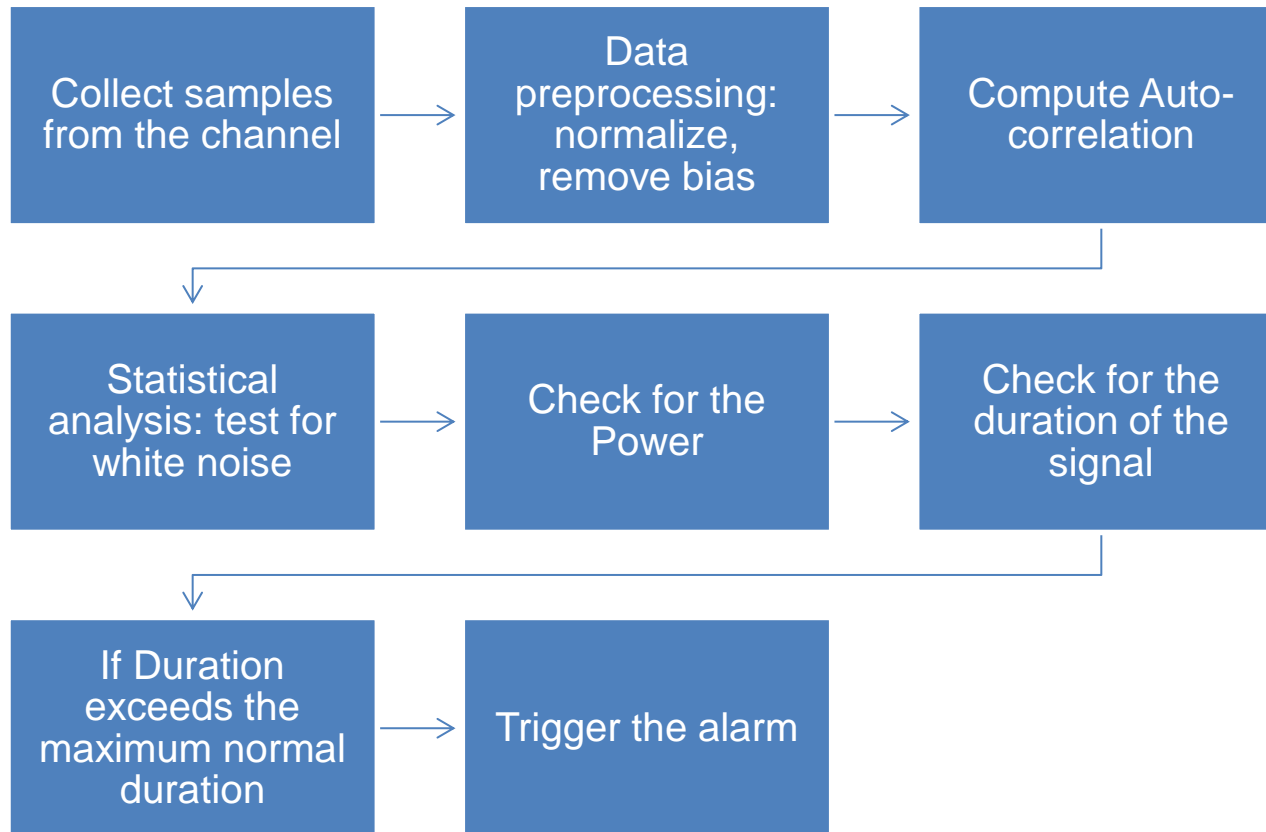
Define the parameters for the following method: ***power*** of detected signals and their **duration (time)**.

Method 1: threshold monitoring



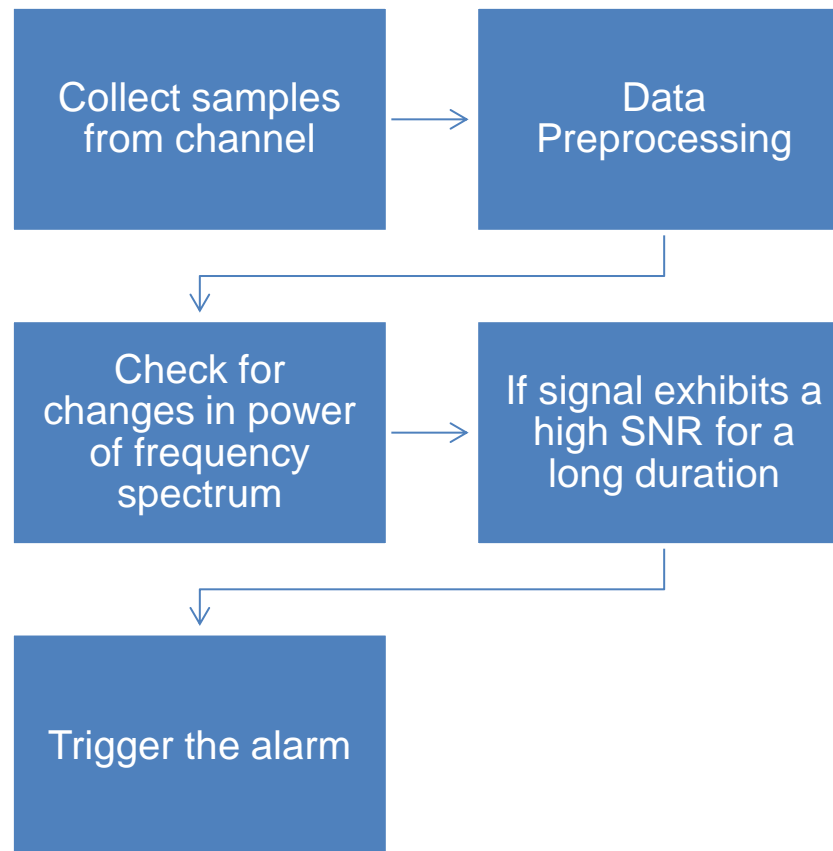
# Jamming Detection Methods

## Method 2: Noise Floor monitoring



# Jamming Detection Methods

## Method 3: Spectrum changes monitoring



# Jamming Detection Methods

## Threshold Monitoring

Pros: Very simple to implement

Cons: Some jammers can get around it if their power doesn't trigger this threshold

## White Noise Monitoring

Pros: very robust against different techniques, uses statistical analysis for a 95% confidence interval

Cons: complex, increased computational power

## Power Spectrum Changes Monitoring

Pros: much more reliable than the Method 1, less complex than Method 2

Cons: None.

# Current Solutions: Sanji ZX JamAlert



1. Can be installed to any type of vehicle
2. It is activated when the ignition is off, then starts monitoring the environment for any jamming signal
3. It sounds an alarm when it detects any remote jamming signal



# Observed Problems with this solution

The device is activated when it senses that the ignition is off. We can infer that it does not take into account the cases when the car is being locked and unlocked without triggering the ignition, which in turn does not trigger the security system rendering it useless against attackers.

The description specifies that it detects remote jamming with no indication if it is adaptable to different types of jammers, which raises questions concerning its robustness and reliability.

# Challenges



Student Mindset



Constructing a solid framework



Lack of specific documentation



# References

1. <http://www.sanji.co.za/zx%20jamalert.htm>
2. <https://www.iol.co.za/motoring/cars/hyundai/protect-your-hyundai-from-remote-jammers-2010311>
3. [http://www.carmag.co.za/news\\_post/hyundais-anti-car-jammer-device/](http://www.carmag.co.za/news_post/hyundais-anti-car-jammer-device/)
4. <http://www.news24.com/Video/Motoring/watch-how-to-prevent-your-car-from-getting-signal-jammed-20160307>
5. Grover, Kanika, Alvin Lim, and Qing Yang. "Jamming and anti-jamming techniques in wireless networks: a survey." *International Journal of Ad Hoc and Ubiquitous Computing* 17.4 (2014): 197-215.
6. Li, Mingyan, Iordanis Koutsopoulos, and Radha Poovendran. "Optimal Jamming Attack Strategies and Network Defense Policies in Wireless Sensor Networks." *IEEE Transactions on Mobile Computing*, vol. 9, no. 8, 2010, pp. 1119-1133.
- 7.

# Questions & Answers

# Acknowledgements

Special thanks to:

- National Instruments
- Ramzi Mourtada – Internship Program Mentor
- Samah Chazbeck – Project Mentor
- BDD Community

Contacts details:

E-mail: [khodor.m.safa@gmail.com](mailto:khodor.m.safa@gmail.com)

Phone Number: +96171396944