Cyber Breakfast - Crime in the Radio Field

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Cryptology and Software-Defined Radios

Cryptology

- Cryptography
  - design of mathematical/physical methods for information protection
  - security based on intractable noise or presumably hard problems
- Cryptanalysis
  - searches for the ways on how to break cryptosystems
  - by solving those supposedly intractable or hard problems

Security Notions

- Information-theoretics viewpoint
  - perfect secrecy
  - $\Pr[M = m \mid C = c] = \Pr[M = m]$
- Computational complexity approach
  - practical security against attackers with a limited computing power
  - AES, SHA-2/3, RSA, (EC)DSA, (EC)DH, etc.

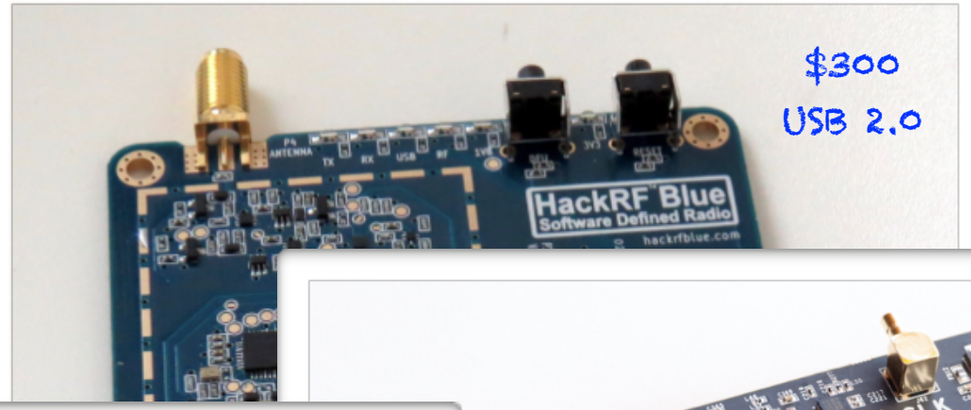
Protocol Failures

The way we present research results

The way we really get them…

Software Defined Radio

about $20 (NooElec)
RX only



$300
USB 2.0

bladeRF $420 - 1500
USB 3.0

> $2000
1 GigE

USRP B210 $1400
USB 3.0

Baseband Sampling Theorem (ST)

- Let $s(t)$ be a Fourier-integrable signal having its highest non-negligible frequency $|f_{max}| < f_s/2 = 1/(2T_s)$.

- Such $s(t)$ can be then accurately reconstructed from its discrete-time samples as:

$$s(t) = \sum_{k=-\infty}^{\infty} s(kT_s) \frac{\sin \pi(\frac{t - kT_s}{T_s})}{\pi(\frac{t - kT_s}{T_s})} = \sum_{k=-\infty}^{\infty} s(kT_s) \operatorname{sinc}(\frac{t - kT_s}{T_s})$$

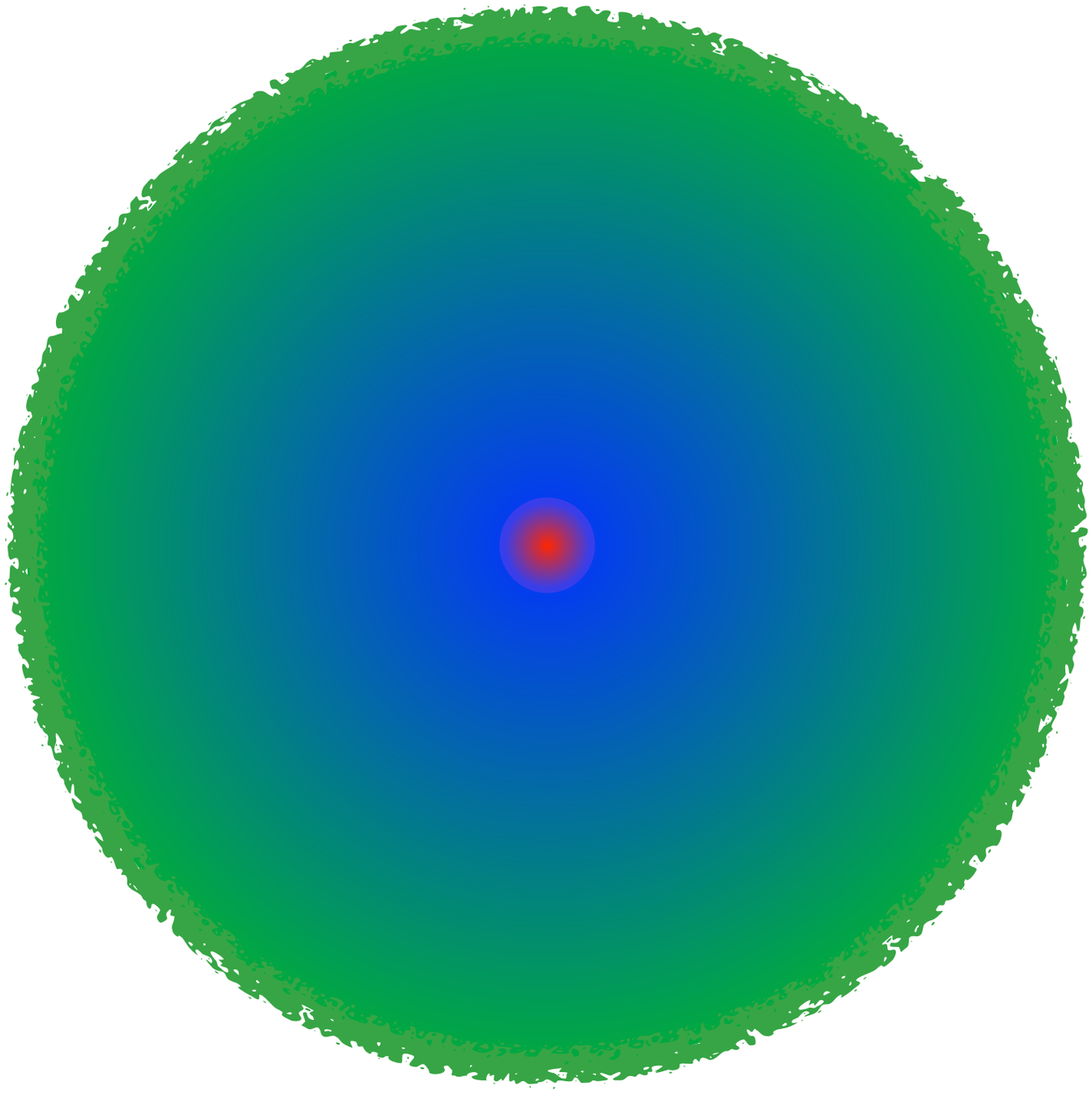
— Kotelnikov, Nyquist, Shannon, Whittaker

SDR as a Threat

DSP routines are SW. This can be shared, installed, and executed all around the world instantly with a very modest background.

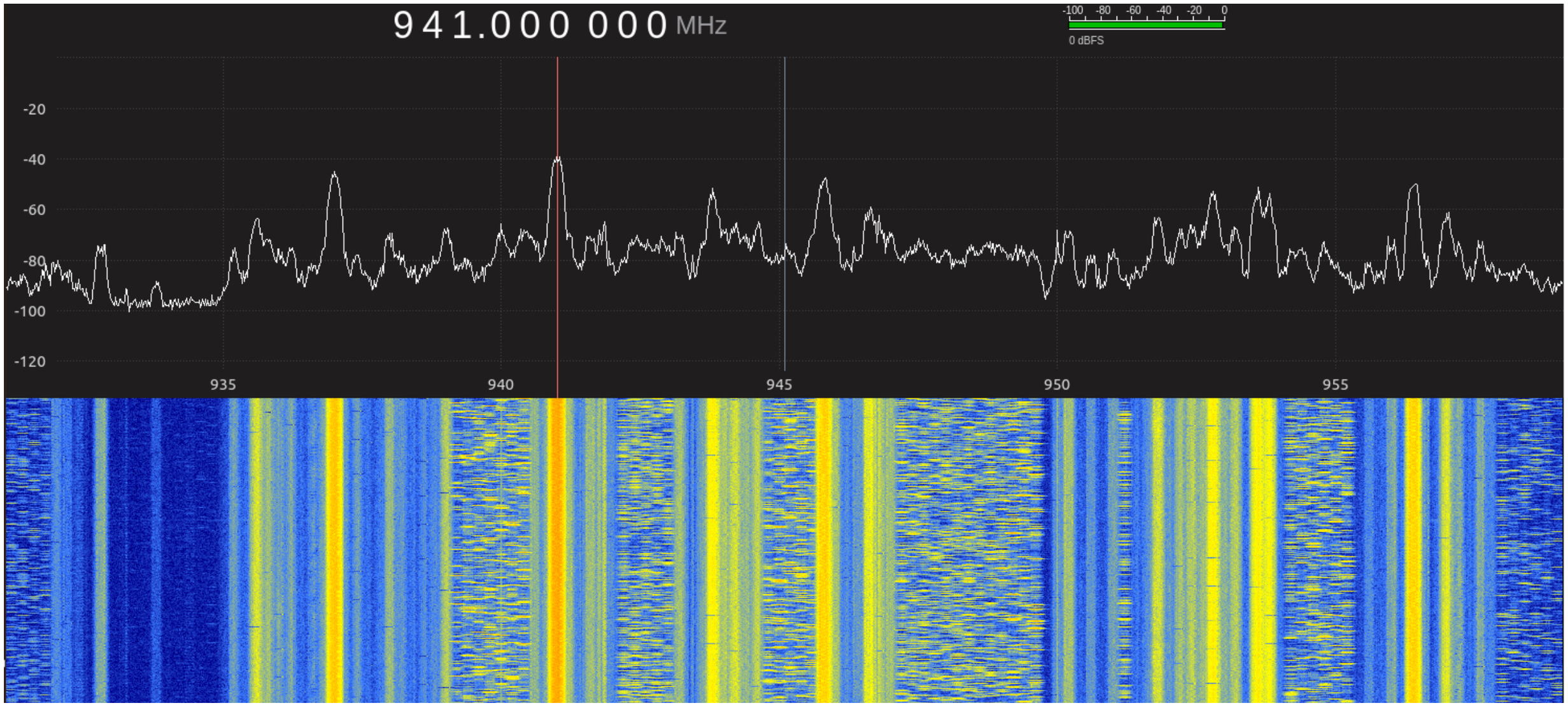
Just like any other exploit code.

EM Radiation Regions

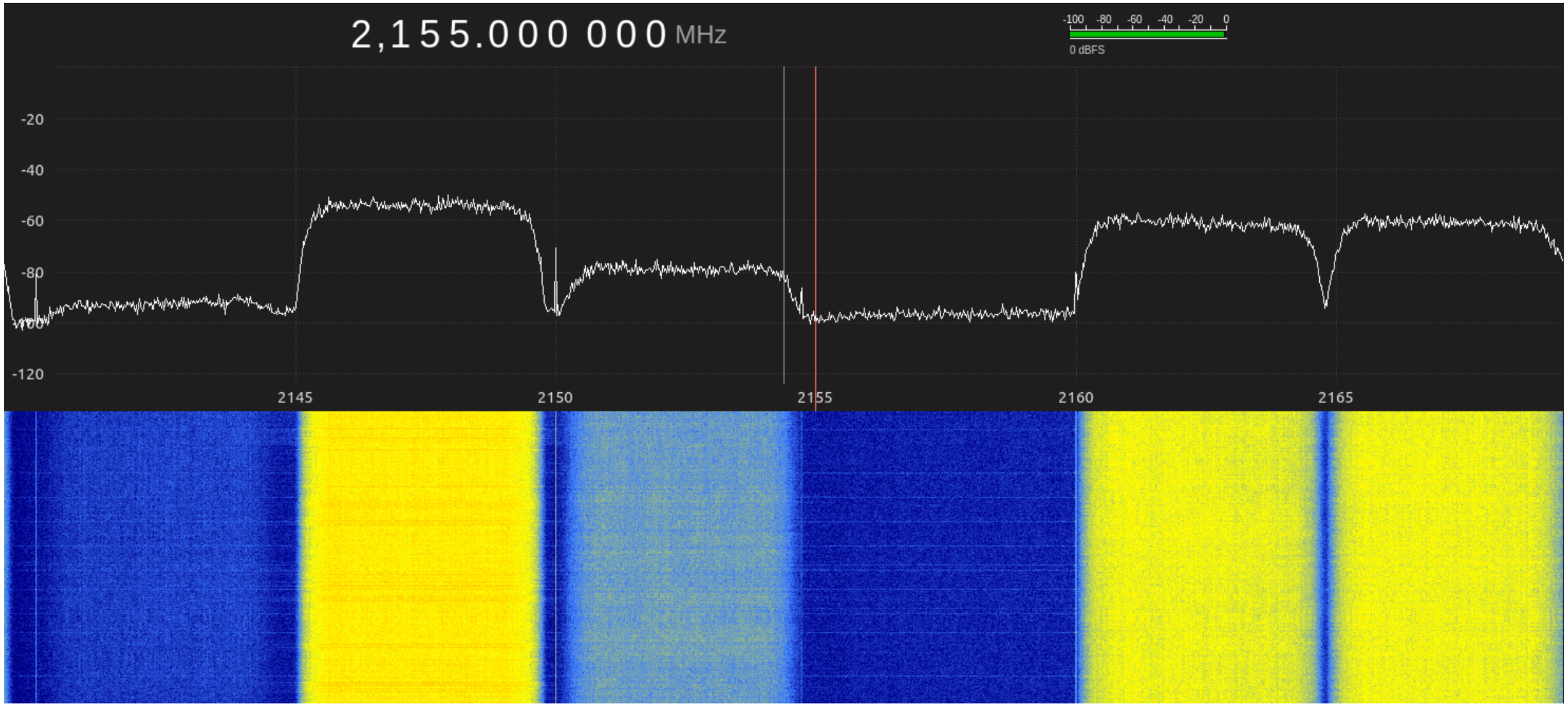


Mobile Networks

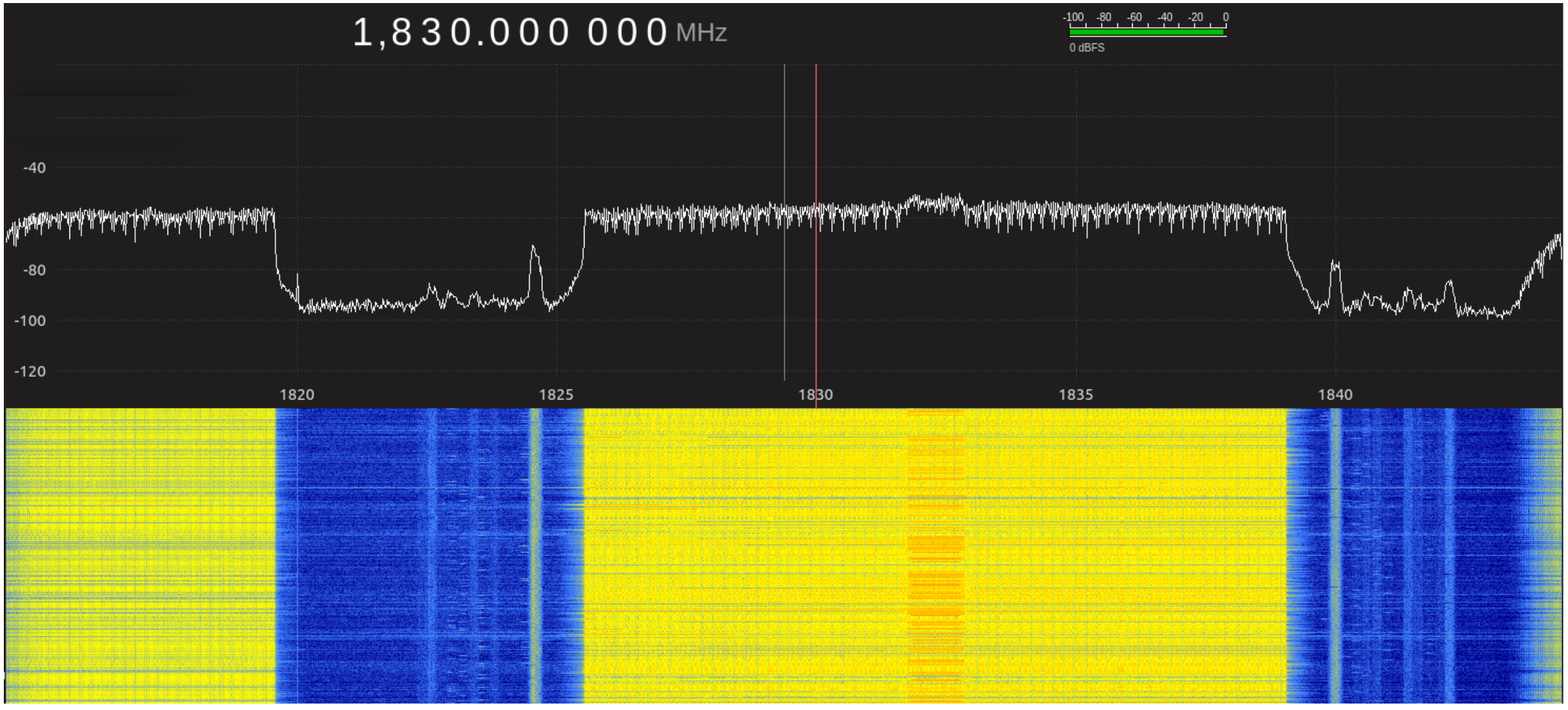
GSM / EDGE Radio Access Network (GERAN) Downlink Spectrogram



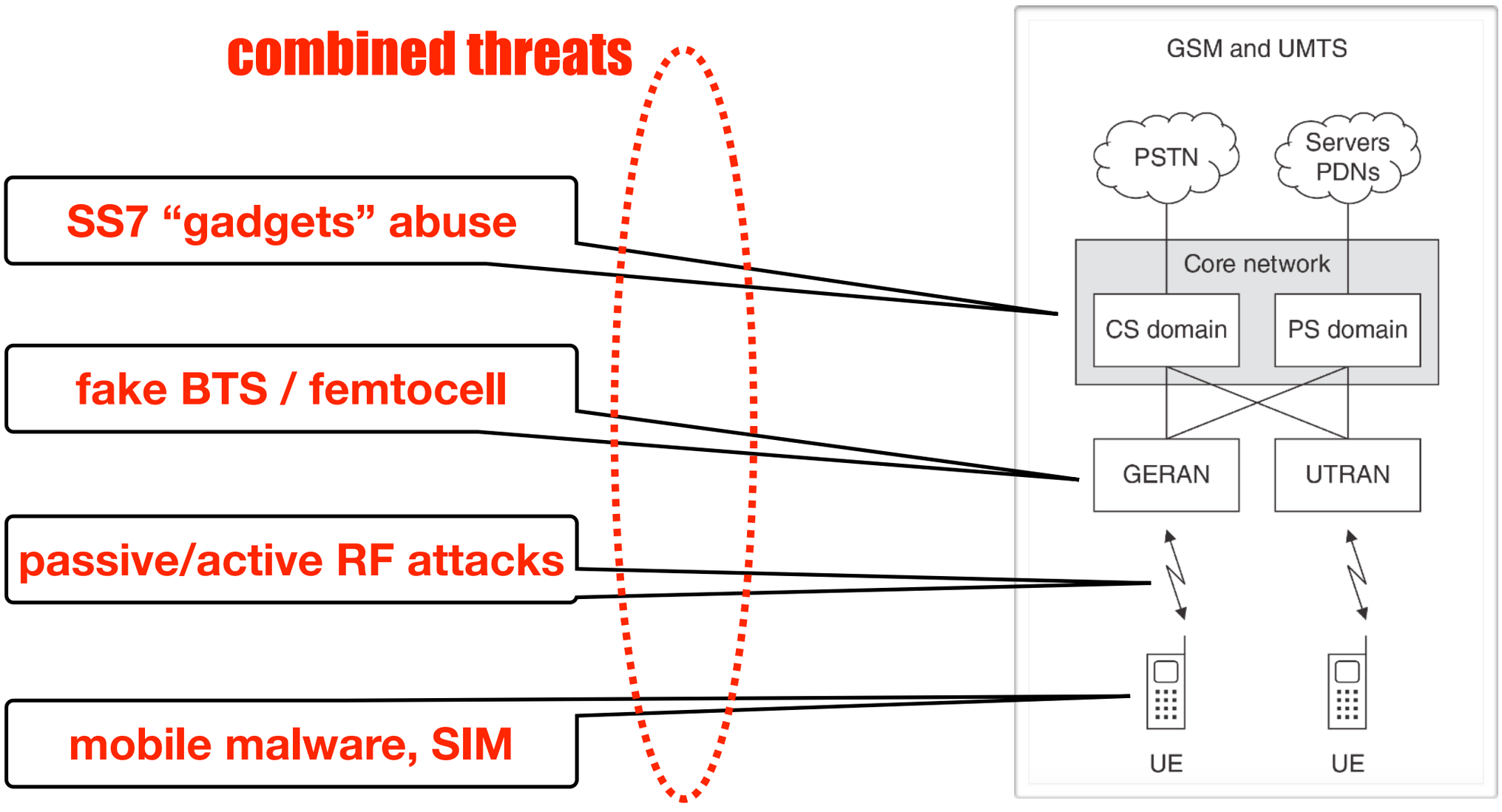
UMTS Terrestrial Radio Access Network (UTRAN) Downlink Spectrogram

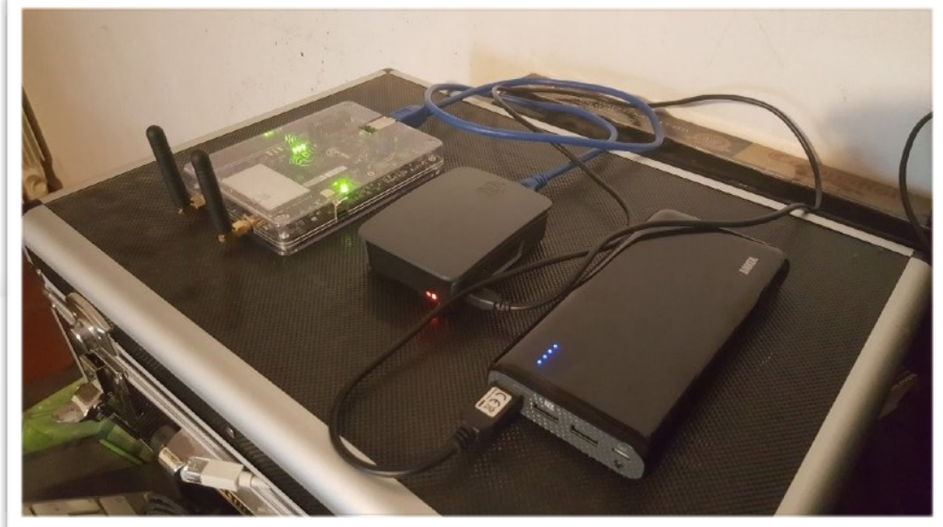


Evolved UMTS Terrestrial Radio Access Network (E-UTRAN) Downlink Spectrogram



Mobile Attacks Playground





RTL-SDR.COM

RTL-SDR (RTL2832U) and software defined radio news and projects. Also featuring Airspy, HackRF, FCD, SDRplay and more.

OCTOBER 4, 2016

BUILDING YOUR OWN ROGUE GSM BASESTATION WITH A BLADERF

Over on his blog author Simone Margaritelli has added a tutorial that shows how to set up a bladeRF to act as a GSM basestation (cell tower). Having your own GSM basestation allows you to create your own private and free GSM network, or for more malicious illegal users it can allow you to create a system for intercepting peoples calls and data. Simone stresses that it is well known that GSM security is broken (and is probably broken by design), and now it is about time that these flaws were fixed.

In his tutorial he uses a single bladeRF x40 and a Raspberry Pi 3 as the processing hardware. The bladeRF is a $420 transmit and receive capable software defined radio with a tuning range of 300 MHz – 3.8 GHz and 12-bit ADC. He also uses a battery pack which makes the whole thing portable. The software used is Yate and YateBTS which is open source GSM basestation software. Installation as shown in the tutorial is as simple as doing a git clone, running a few compilation lines and doing some simple text configuration. Once set up mobile phones will automatically connect to the basestation due to the design of GSM.

Once setup you can go further and create your own private GSM network, or make the whole thing act as a “man-in-the-middle” proxy to a legitimate GSM USB dongle, which would allow you to sniff the traffic on anyone who unknowingly connects to your basestation. This is similar to how a “Stingray” operates, which is a IMSI-catcher device used by law enforcement to intercept

Mobile-Terminated (MT) versus Mobile-Originated (MO)

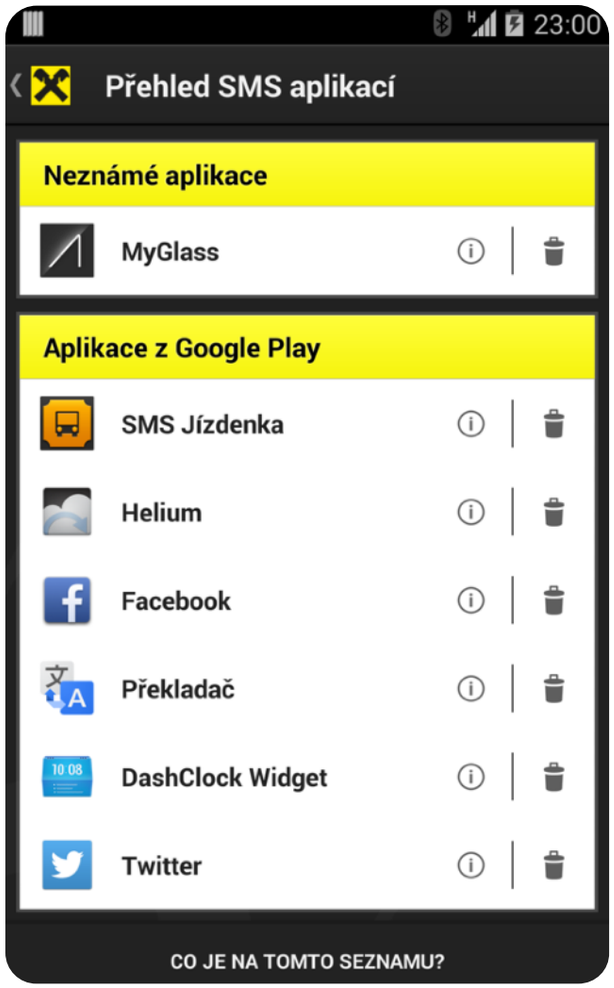
- If any, we shall definitely **stay with Mobile Terminated services** (SMS reception, voice call answer) if we want to get at least “something”

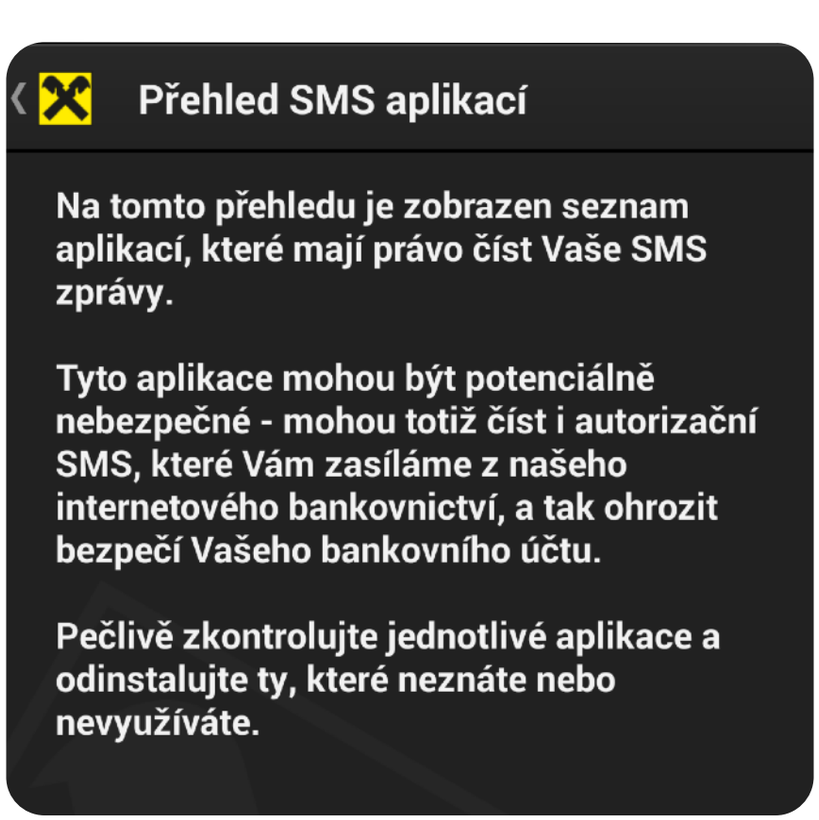
- Mobile Originated based checks (SMS sender, voice call originator) are far easier to spoof

- Paris Hilton was already able to use a Caller ID spoofer in 2009

[Paris Hilton, 2012]

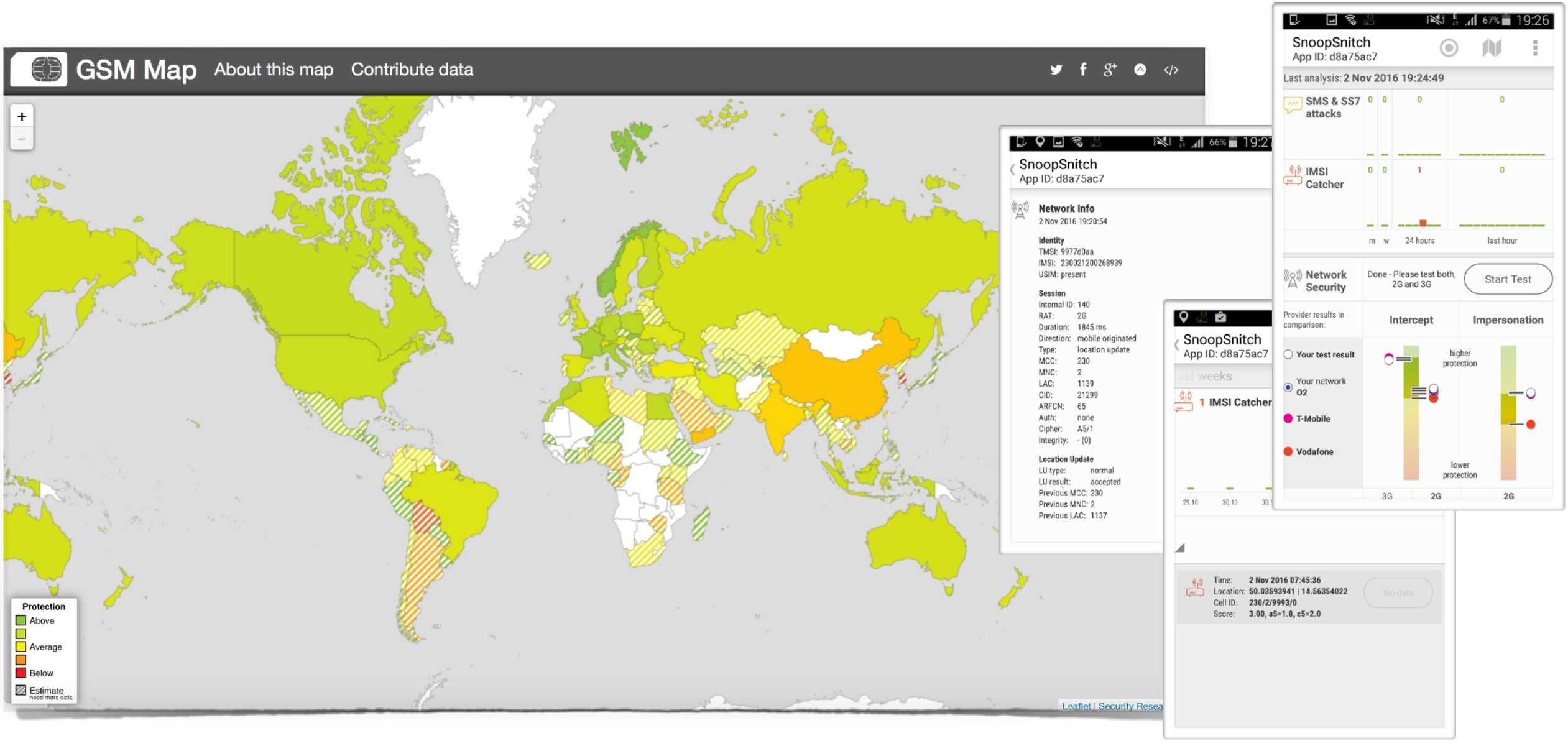
S.A.S. Sidekick of a Mobile Banking Application





- Seek-And-Smash
- This honest mobile application searches for the specific type of *broadcast receiver* that is potentially capable of SMS interception
- When found, it issues a warning to the user suggesting the suspicious application removal

One weak operator to rule them all…

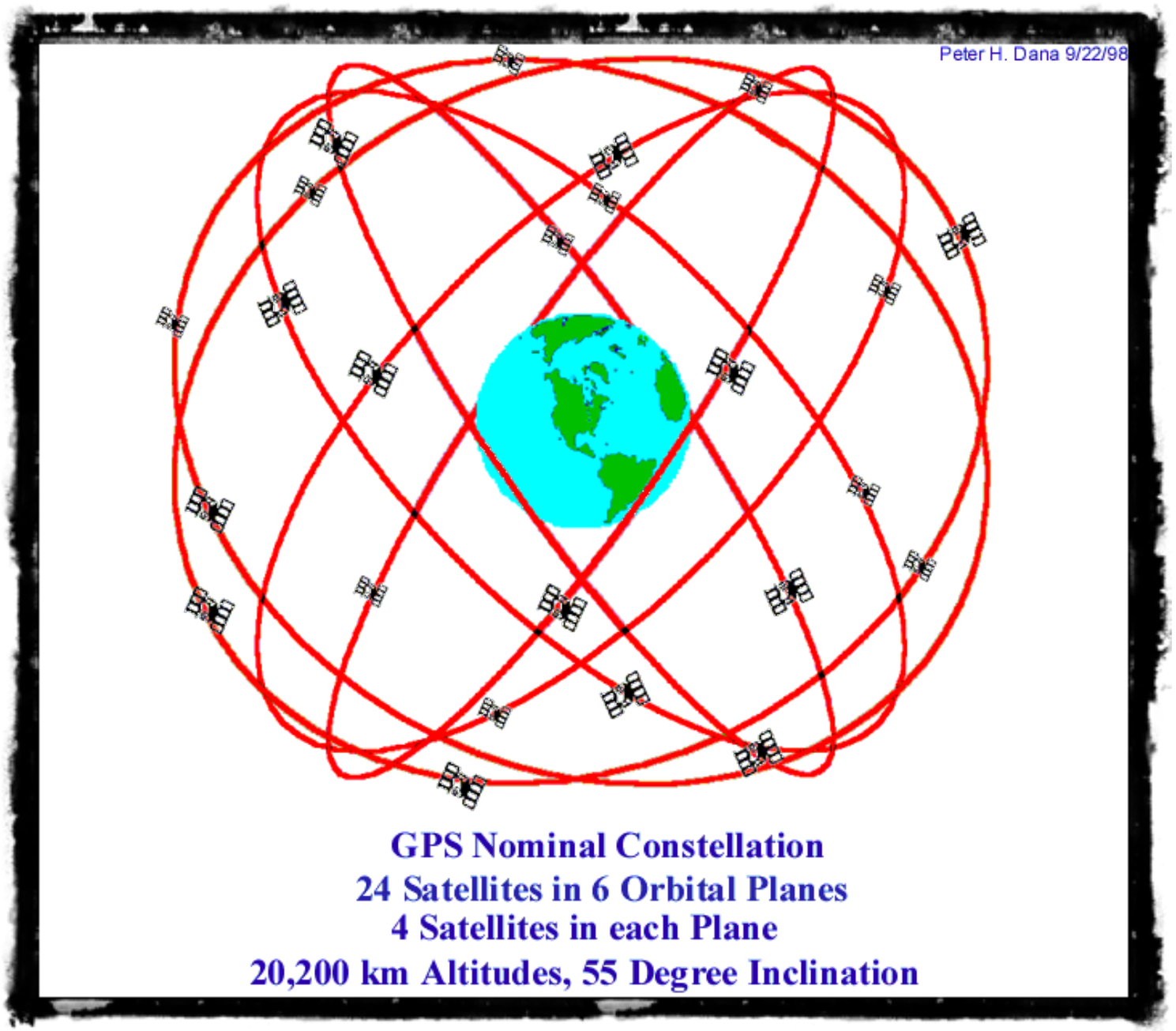


GNSS - Global Navigation Satellite Systems

DAILY NEWS 10 August 2017

Ships fooled in GPS spoofing attack suggest Russian cyberweapon

GPS Space Segment Constellation



Satellite clock observation expose time delay that in turn reveals the satellite distance

t_{sent_sv1}

t_{sent_sv2}

t_{sent_sv3}

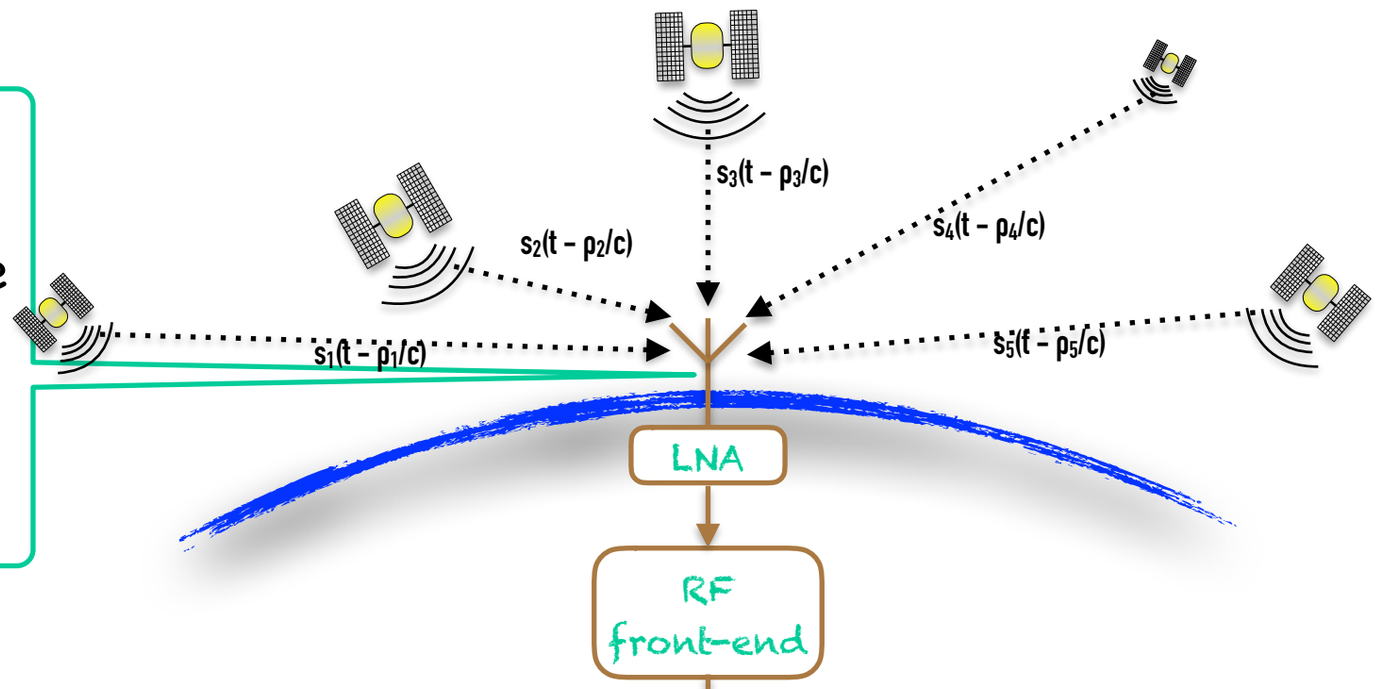
four satellites to get X, Y, Z, and t_bias

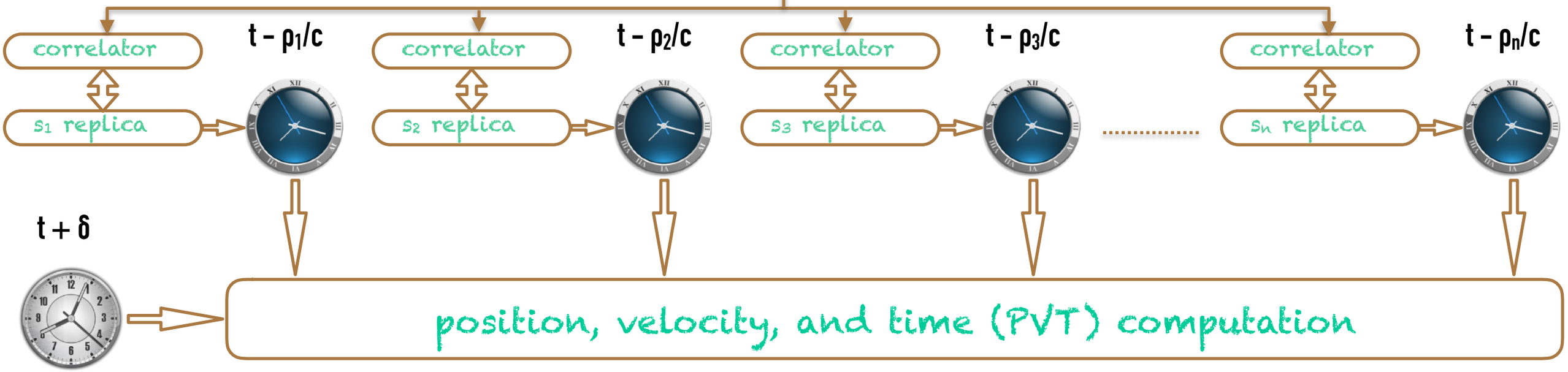
$t_{rec}+t_{bias}$

t_{sent_sv4}

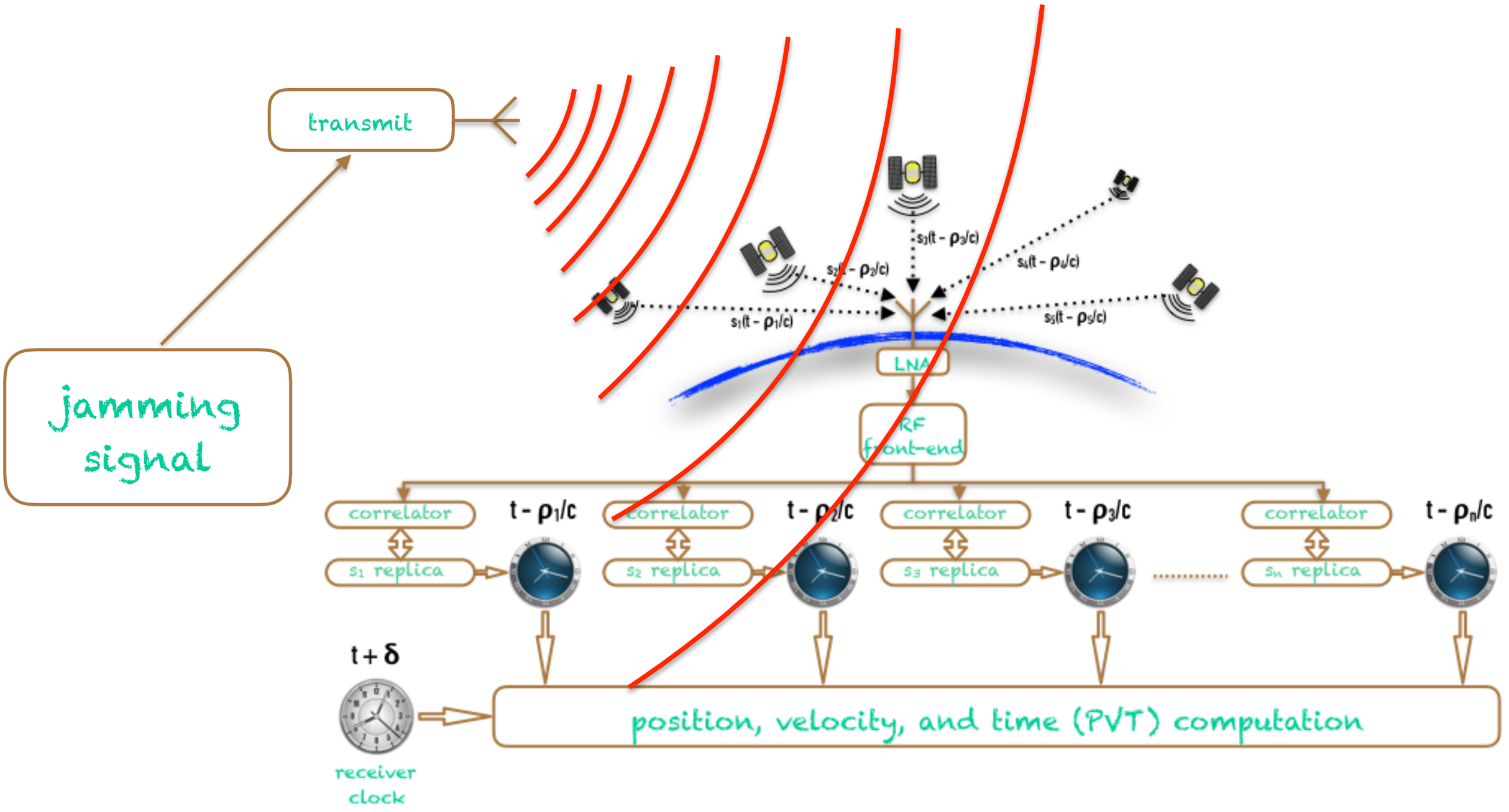
GNSS Tracking Illustration

Antenna phase center – apparent location of EM wave reception, according to which rho_i is considered.

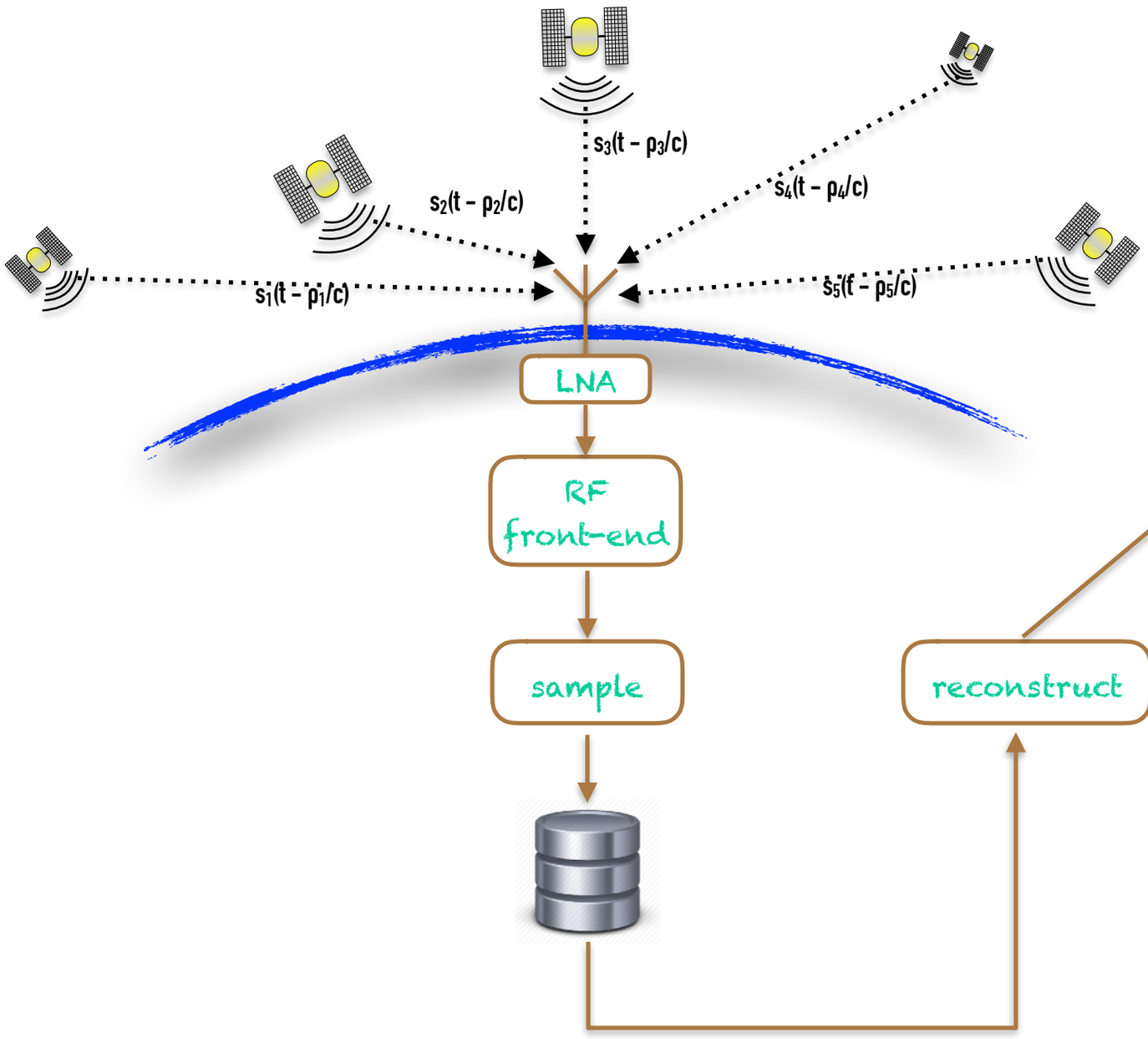


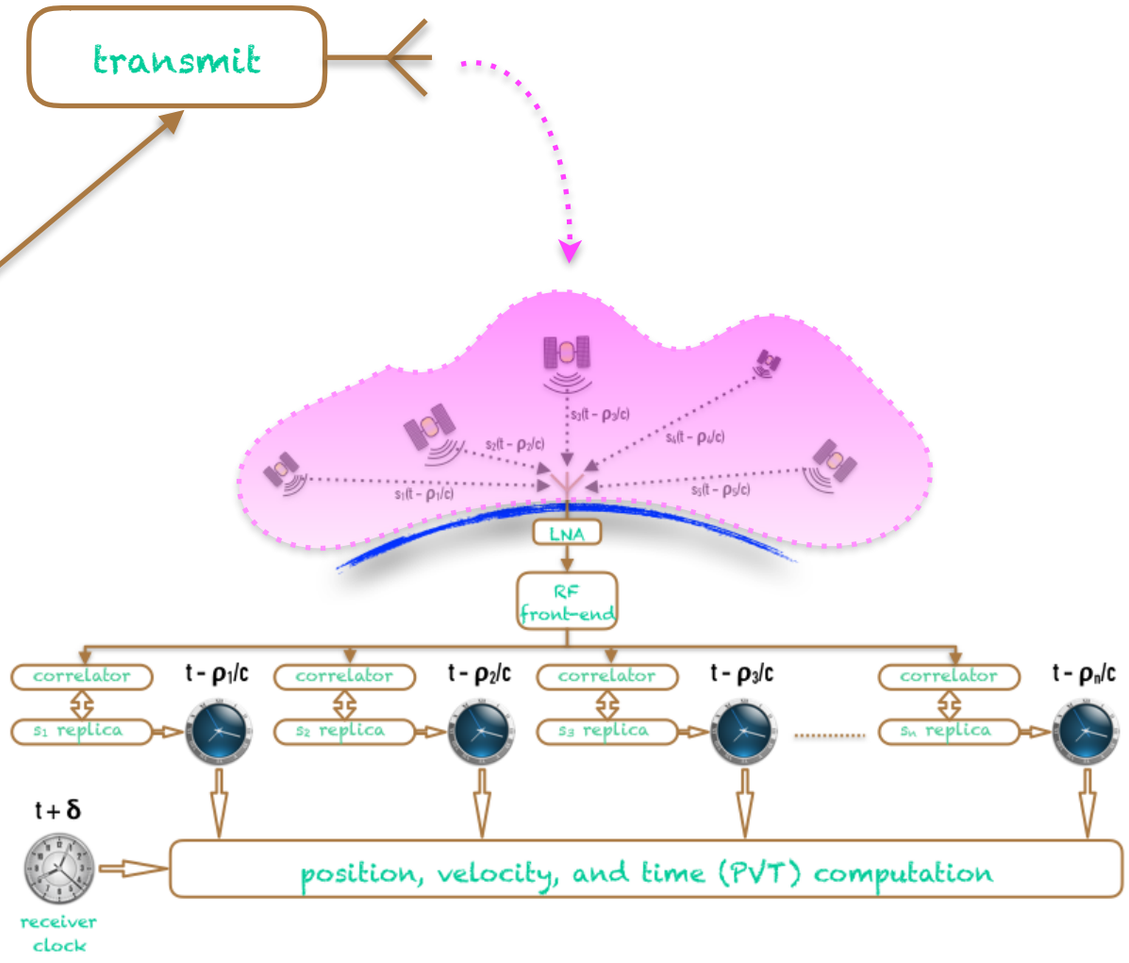


GNSS Jamming Attack

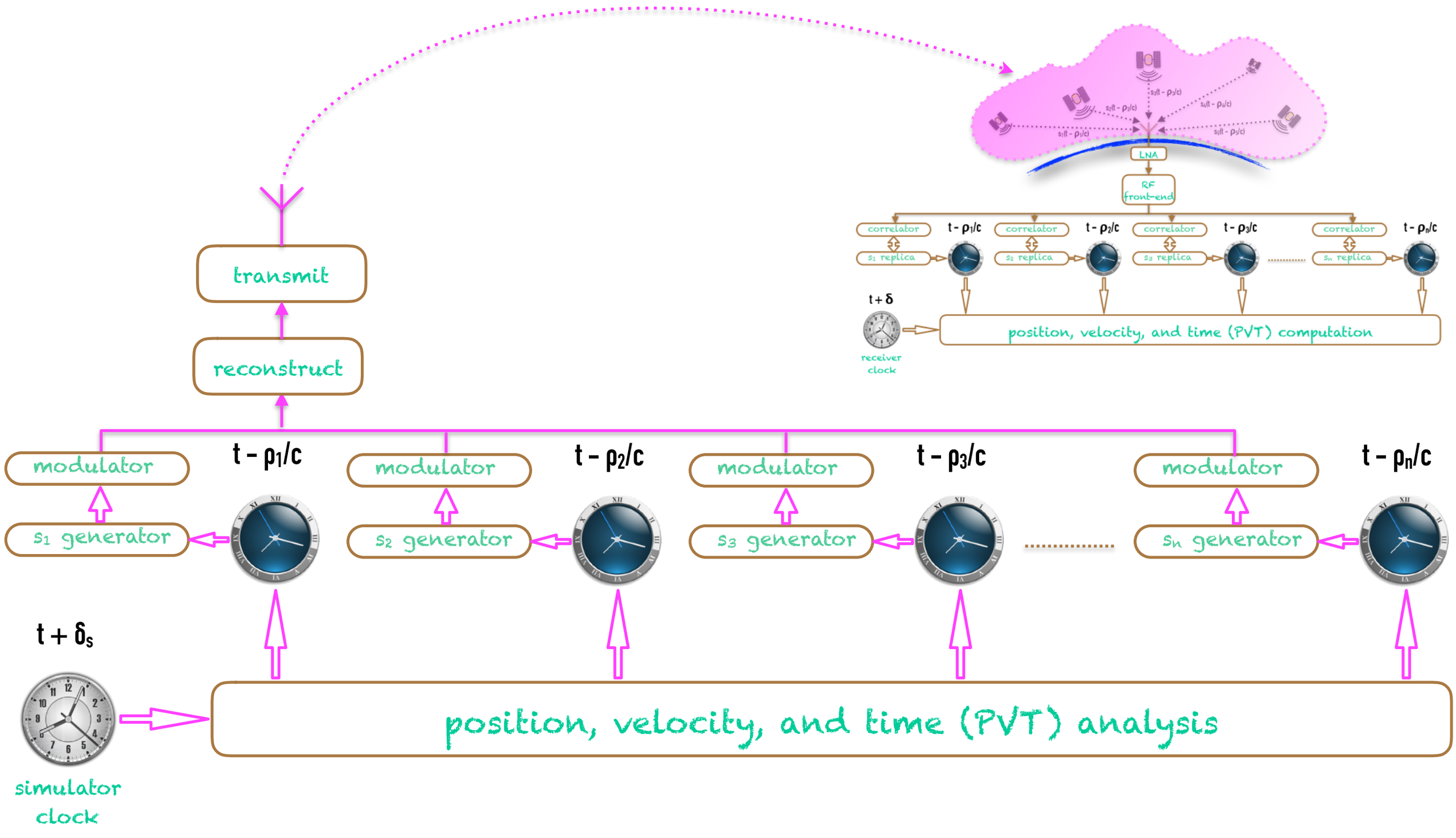


GNSS Replay Attack (Meaconing)





GNSS Spoofing Attack by Tracking Reversal



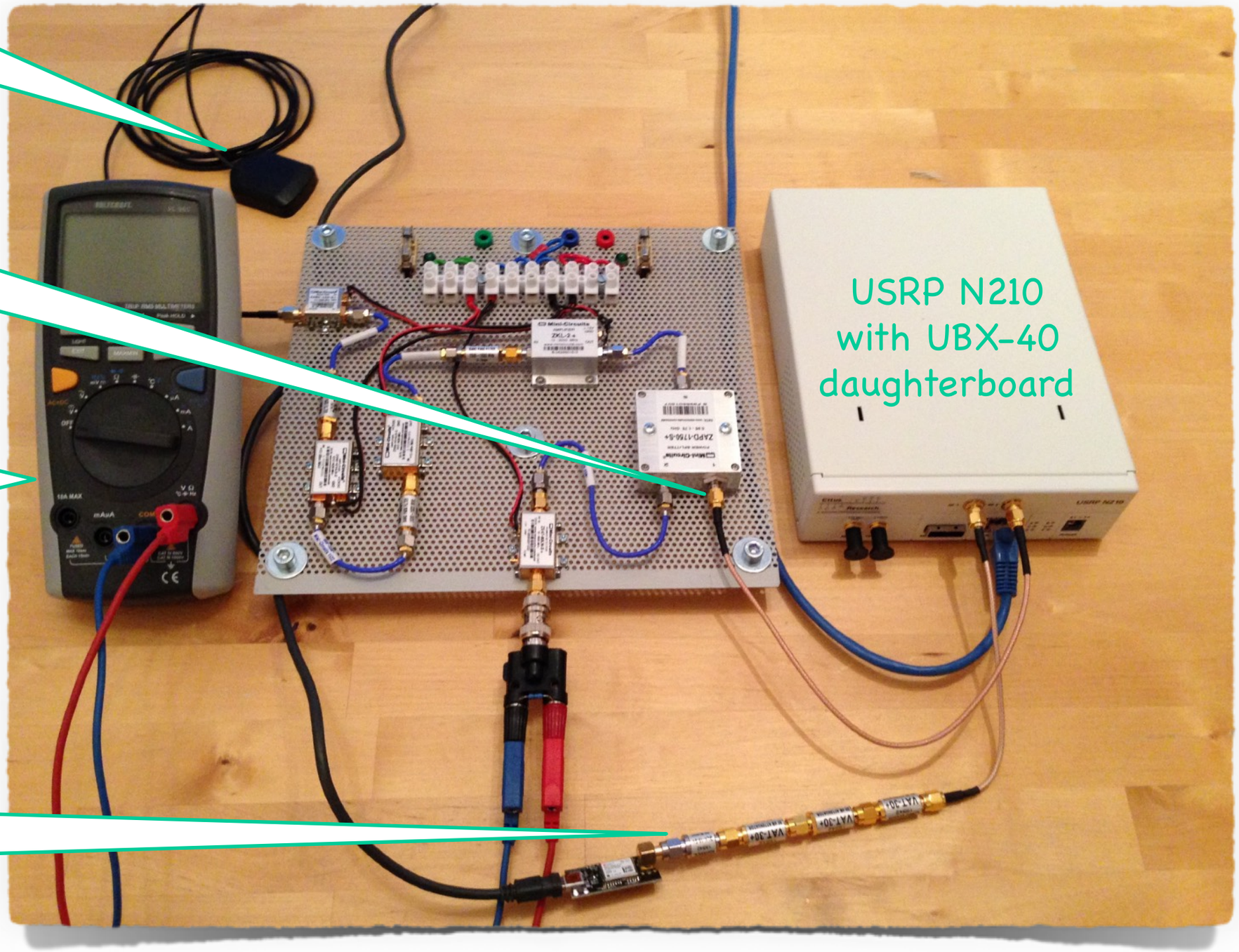
Record & Replay (Meaconing) Setup

Active antenna

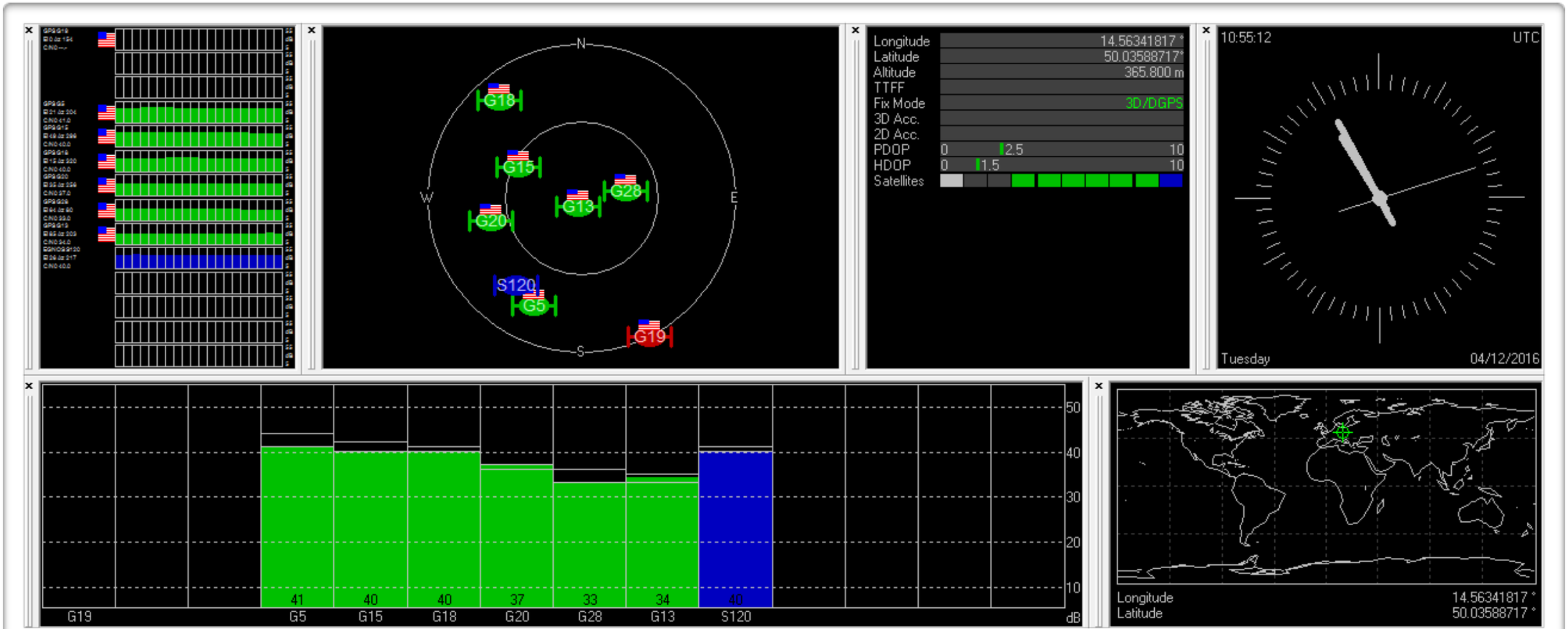
Rx path delivers the original GNSS signal to be recored.

RSSI monitor checks the original RF signal received.

Later on, Tx path verifies the replayed signal with u-blox receiver. Don't forget the DC block and attenuators (3x30 dB in this case)!



GPS L1 C/A Meaconing Verification



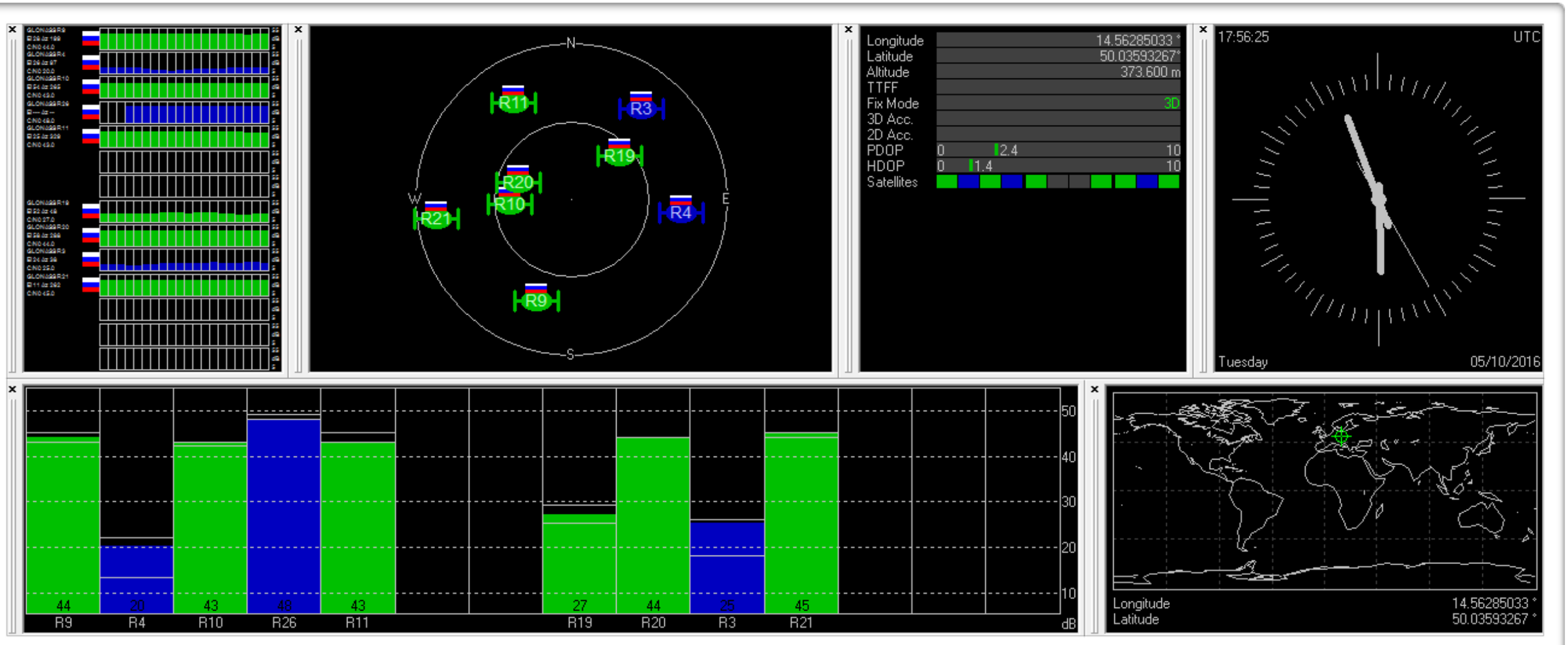
Note we have also successfully recorded the SBAS/EGNOS signal channel PRN120 coming from Inmarsat 3F2 AOR-E. The DGPS indicator above shows this signal has already been used for a fix assurance.

Incidental Radiation

- Despite the direct shielded connection in between the SDR and demo GNSS receiver, there was an incidental radiation strong enough, so a smartphone nearby was able to get a fix to the fake signal.
- The distance to the smartphone was several meters from the table where SDR was running.
- We can imagine how powerful the attack can be if one would really decide to transmit via a full-fledged antenna.

[screenshot & idea courtesy by Jiří Buček]

GLONASS L1OF Meaconing Result



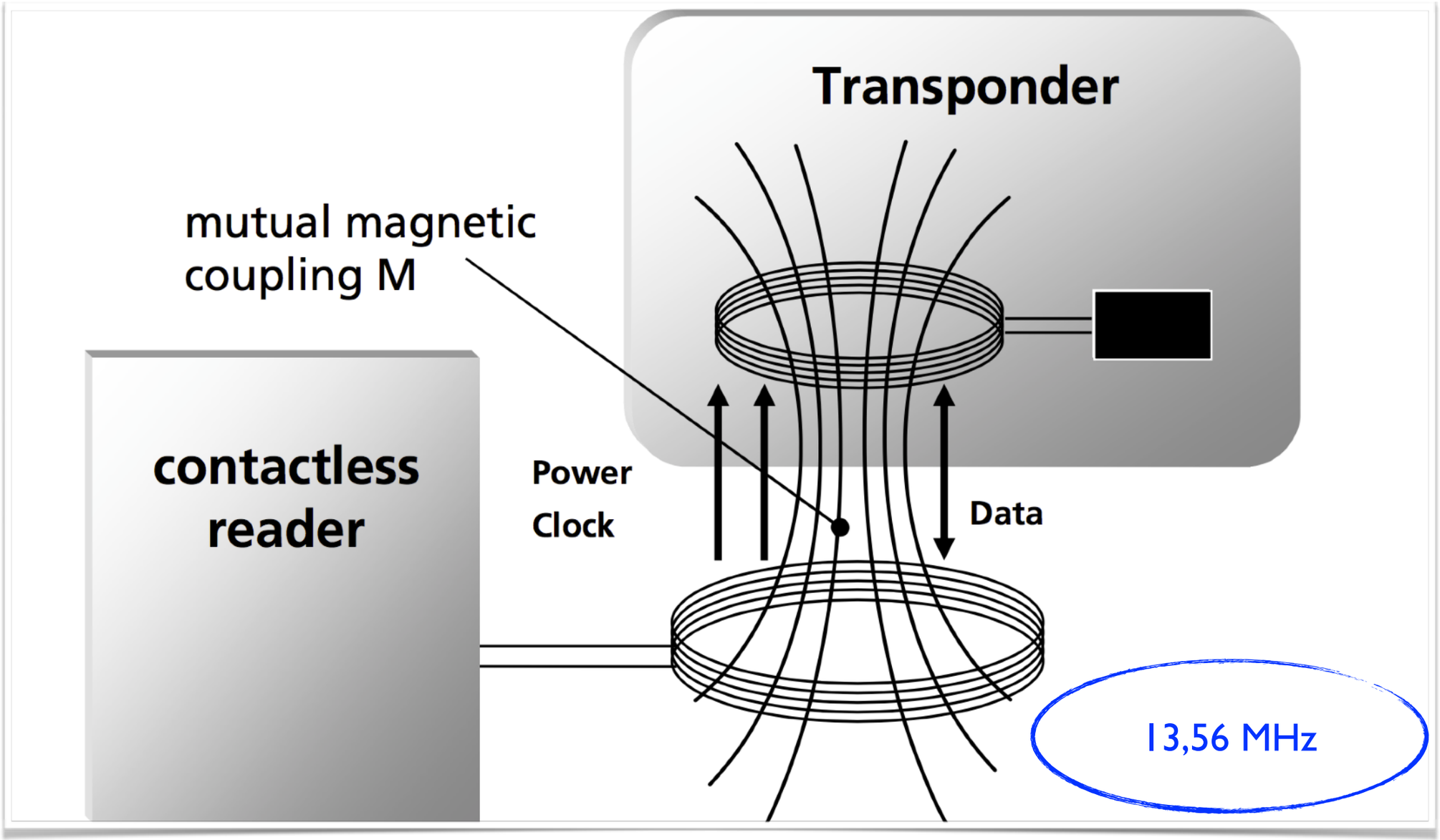
Each SV in this view uses its own carrier frequency [GLONASS ICD, 08], however, we have recorded the whole FDMA multiplex centred at 1602 MHz with 8.333333... MHz bandwidth (adjusted for USRP N210 clock ratio) via bandpass signal complex sampling.

Incidental Radiation Again…

[screenshot & idea courtesy by Jiří Buček]

NFC - Near Field Communication

NFC General Operation Mode



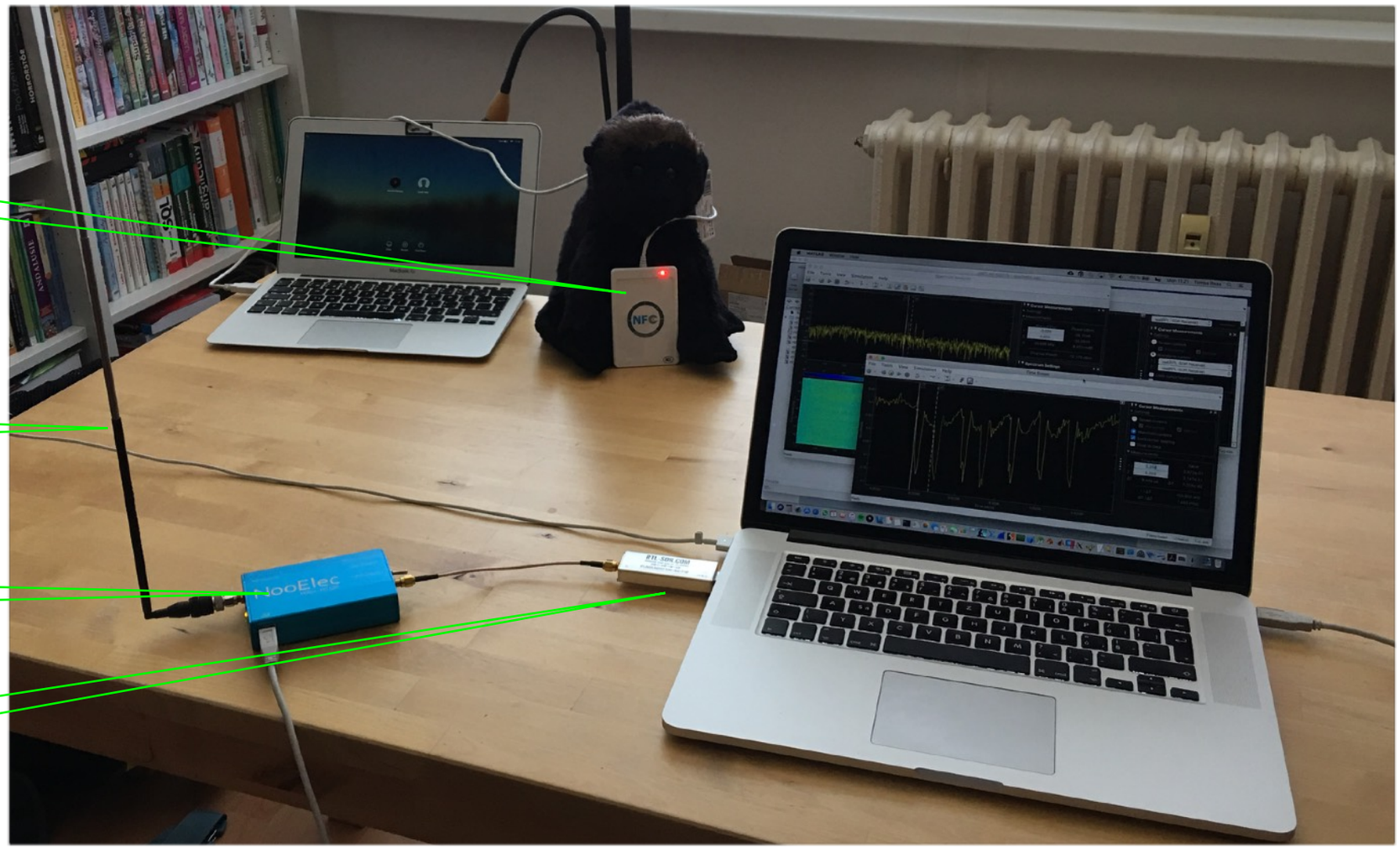
Hardware Setup

ACR122 NFC reader

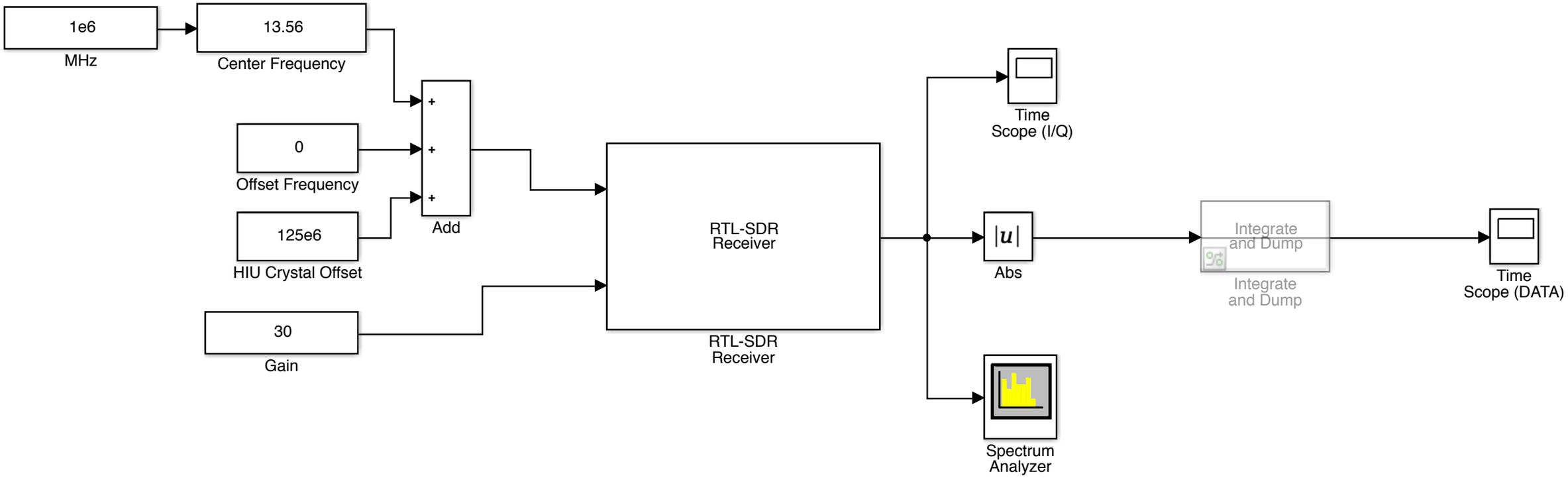
Simple telescopic antenna (untuned - a place for

NooElec HAM It Up upconverter

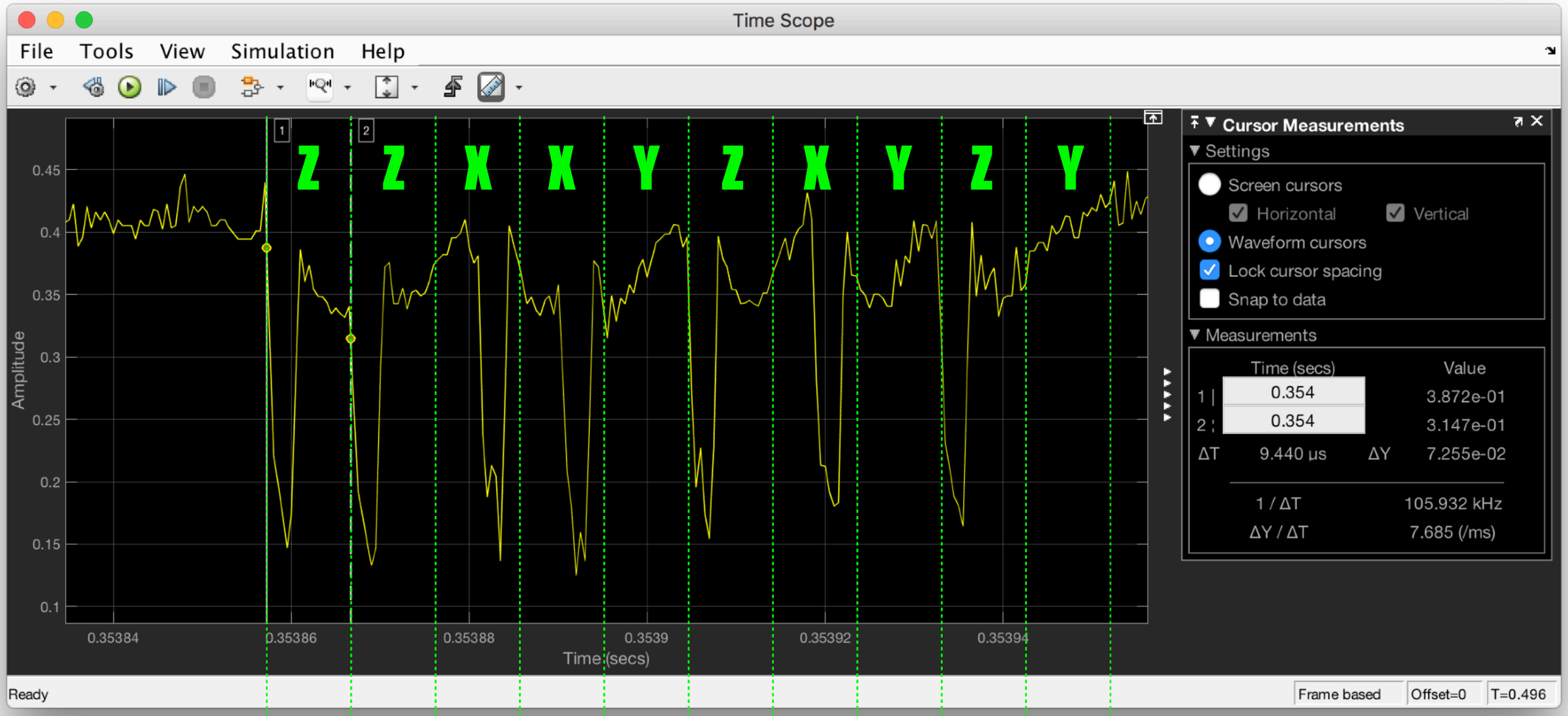
RTL-SDR v.3



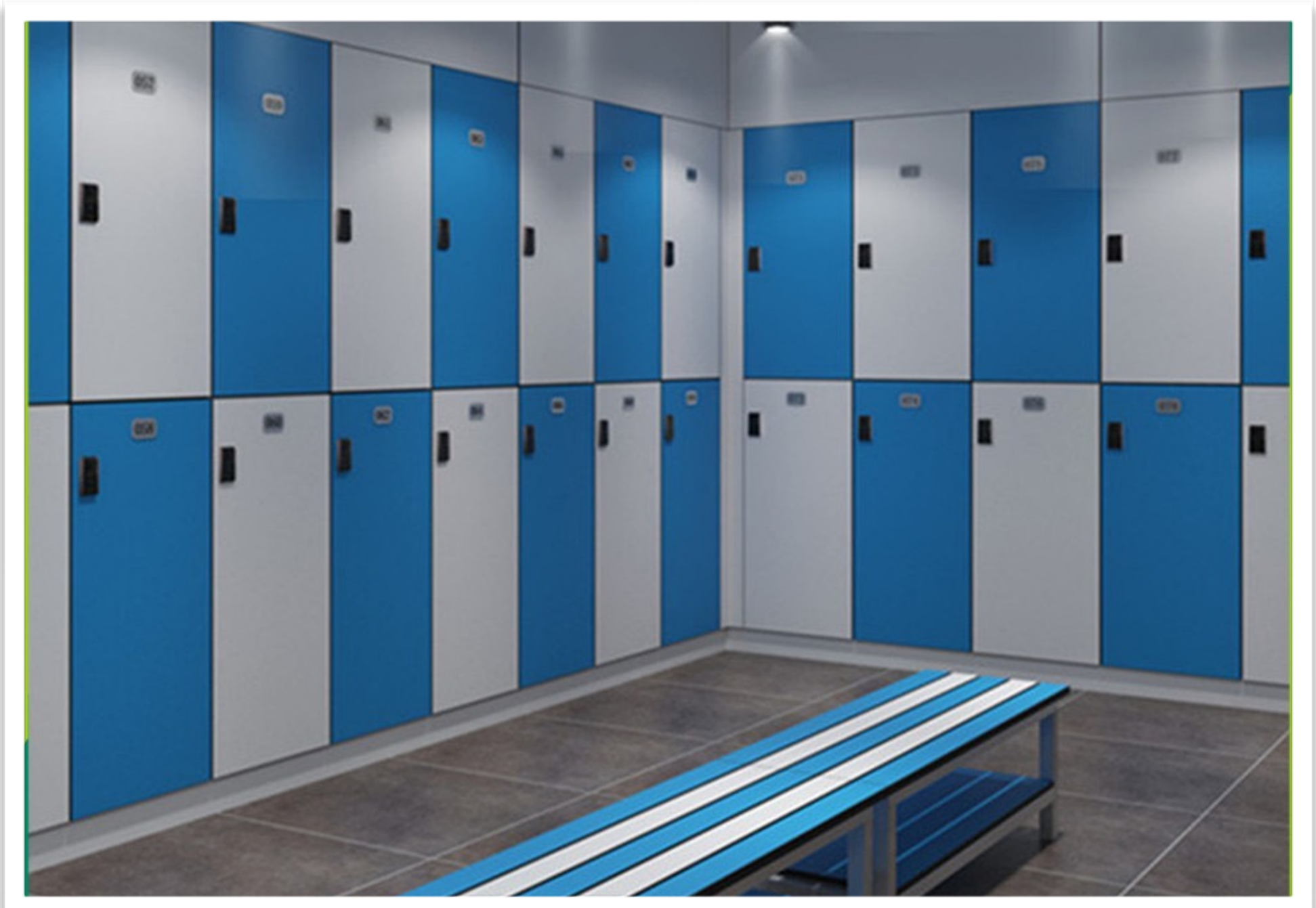
Radio Definition in Simulink



Identifying Miller Code Symbols



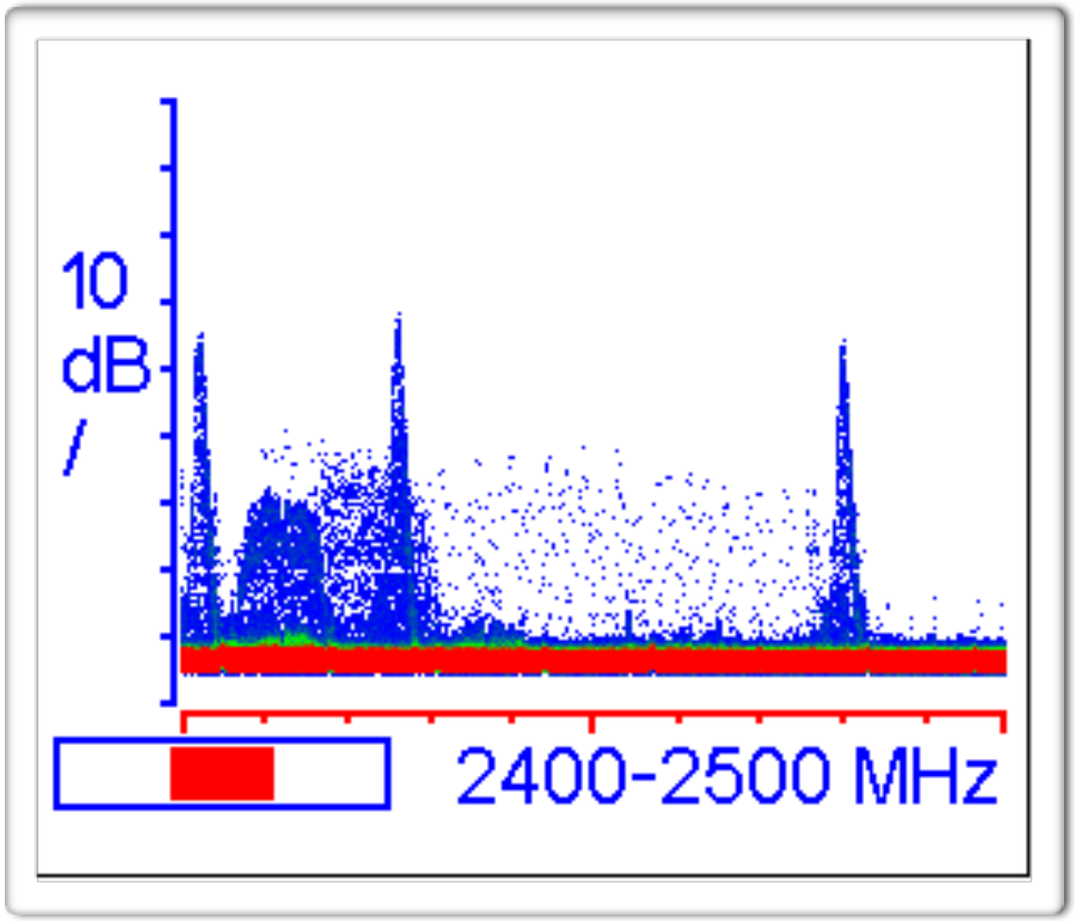
Attack in Changing Room



BLE - Bluetooth Low Energy

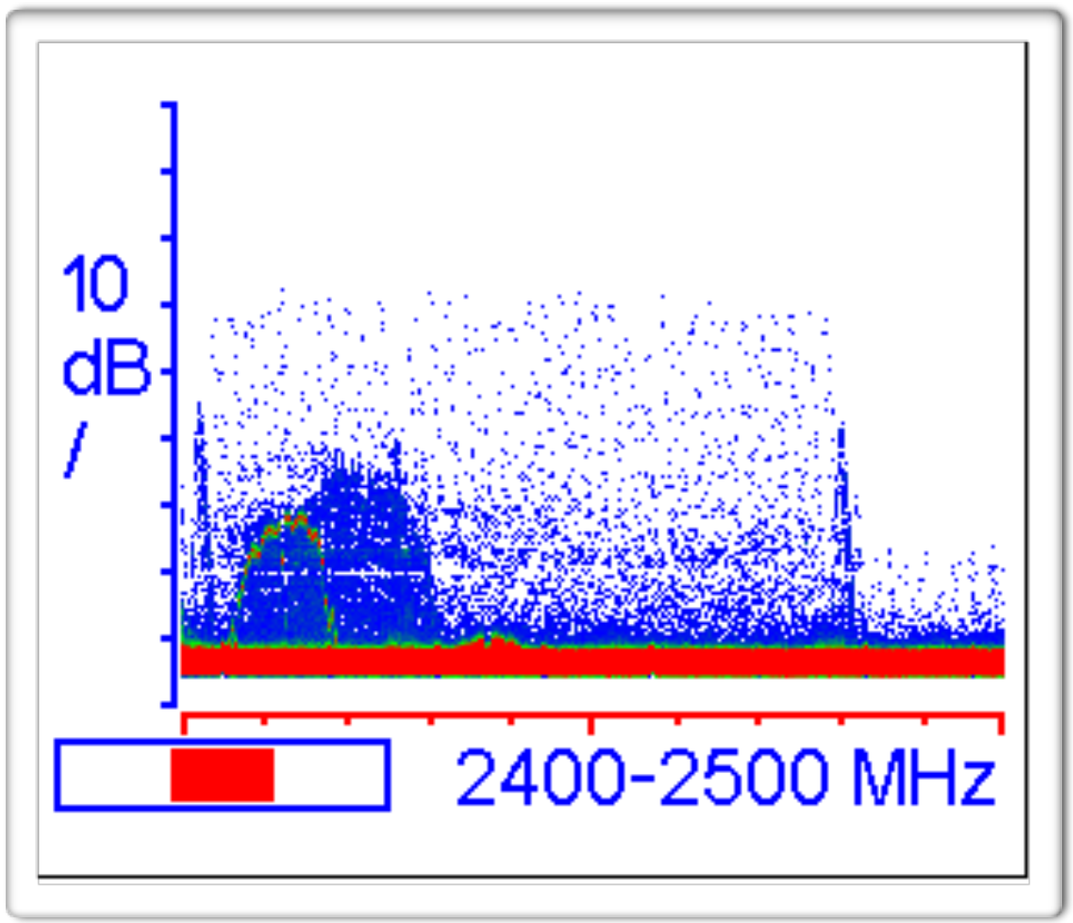
… (a.k.a. Bluetooth Smart)

BLE Radio Spectrum



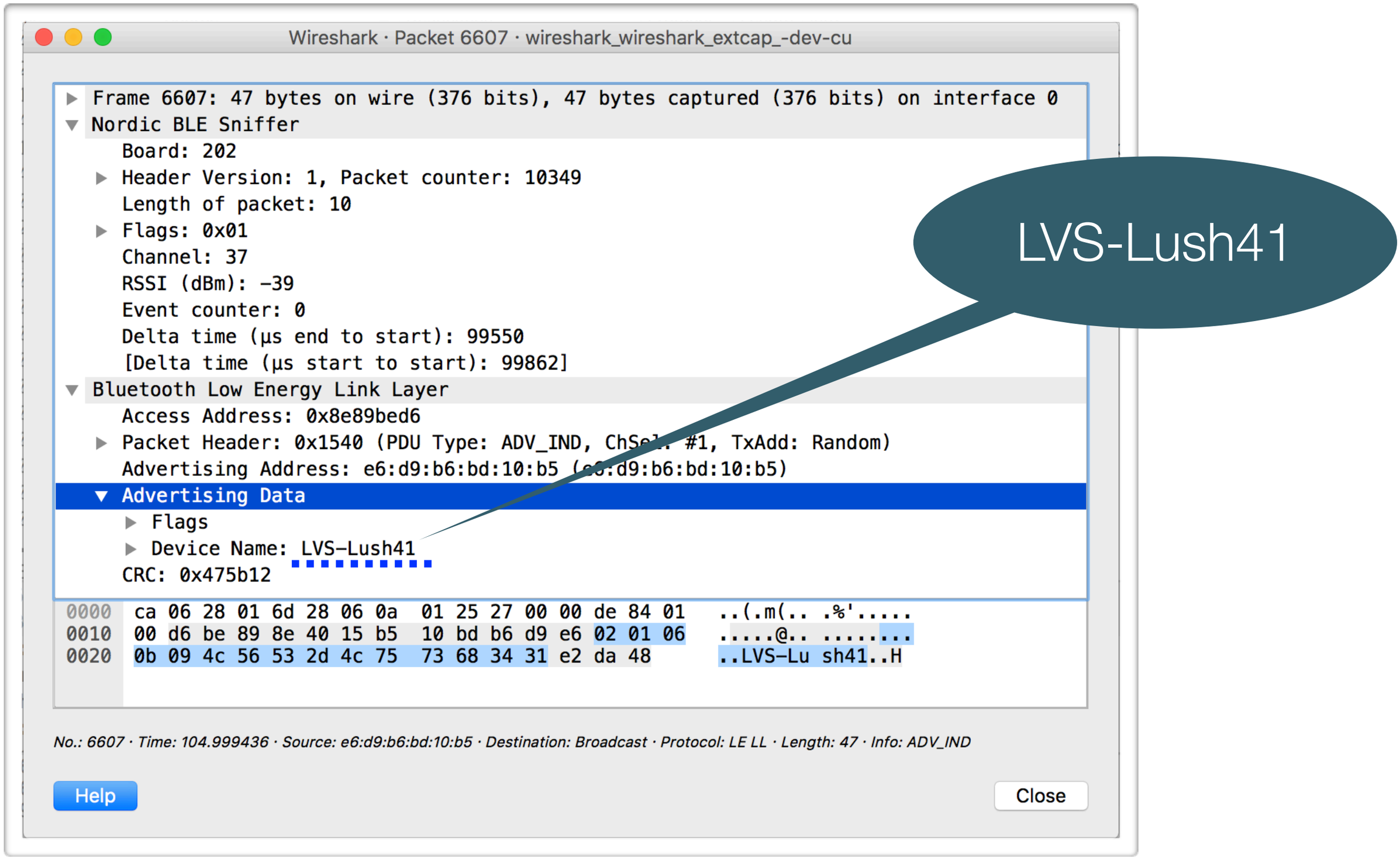
advertising

connection



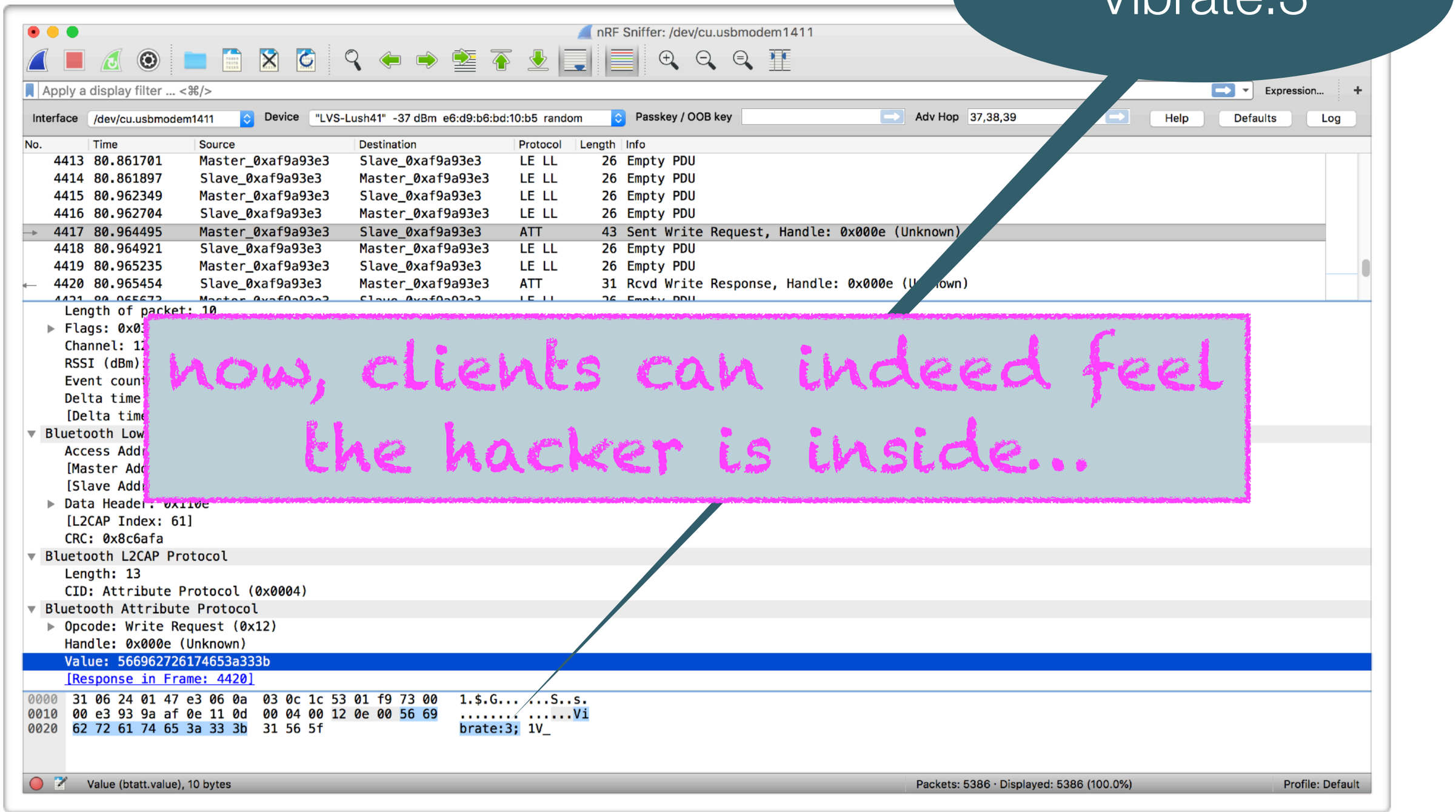
[Indicative wide-band RF scans by RigExpert IT-24 analyser for 2.4 GHz]

Device Identification



LVS-Lush41: Lovense Lush

Unprotected Control Commands 😉😳😄



Conclusion

- **Software-defined radio breaks the barrier in between eager hackers and security-by-obscurity radio systems**

  ... what used to be a question of deep radio understanding and practical HW skills, is now a question of a few off-the-shelf components, basic course in DSP, and widespread SW frameworks for SDR

... in this light, the risk of many RF applications is clearly underestimated