

# MetaWave: Attacking mmWave Sensing with Meta-material-enhanced Tags

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# Introduction

- Millimeter Wave (mmWave) Sensing



**Autonomous  
Vehicle**



**Delivery Robot**



**Automated  
Forklift**



**Logistics Robot**



**Drone**



**Perimeter  
Protection**

# Introduction

- mmWave Attacks

highly expensive  
easily detectable



**Attacker**



Active jamming  
Malicious signals



**Autonomous Vehicle**



**Delivery Robot**



**Automated Forklift**



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**Drone**



**Perimeter Protection**

# Introduction

- How to we attack the sensor passively?



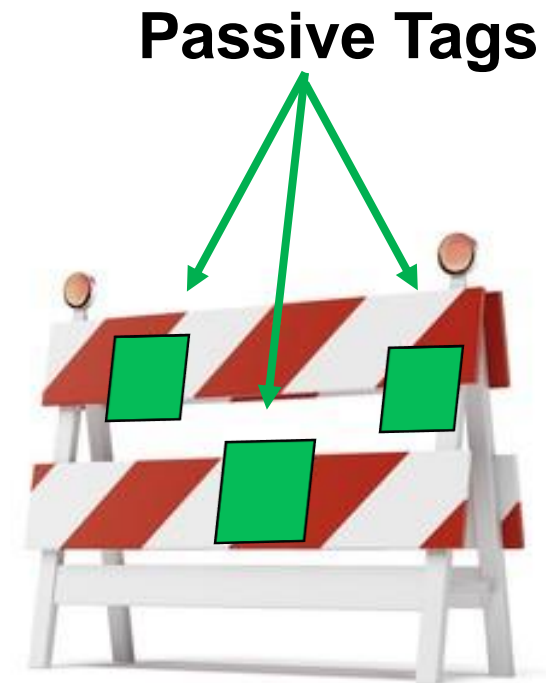
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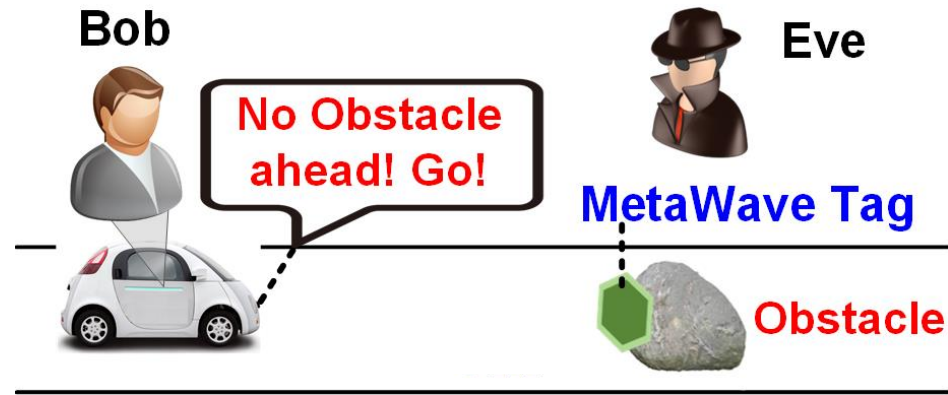
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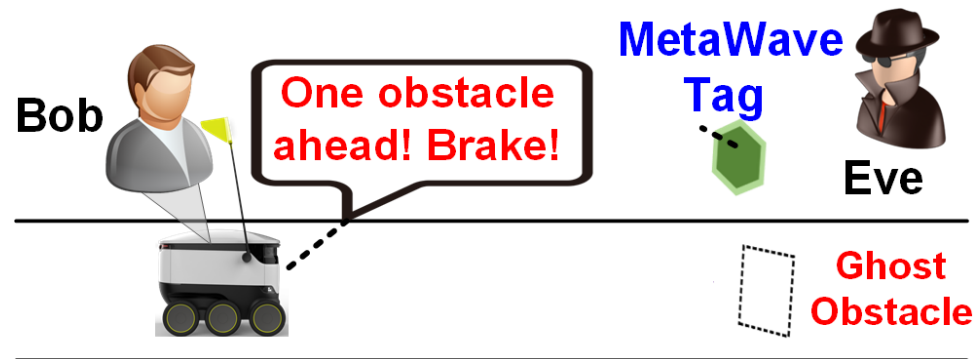


# Threat Model

- Vanish Attack



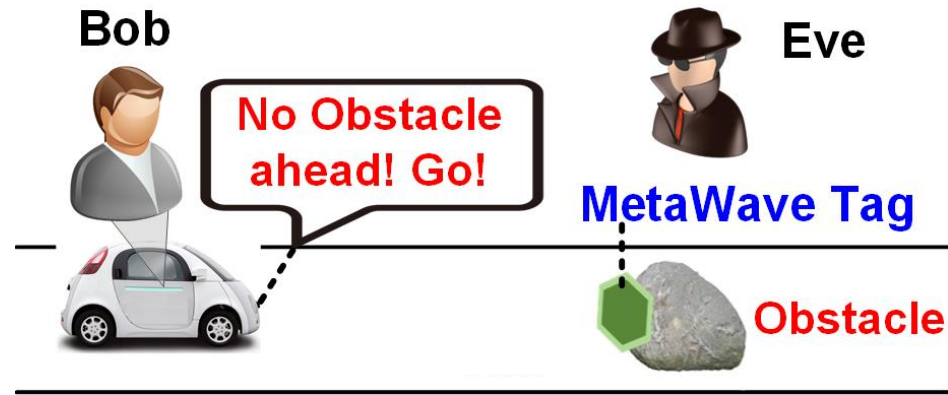
- Ghost Attack



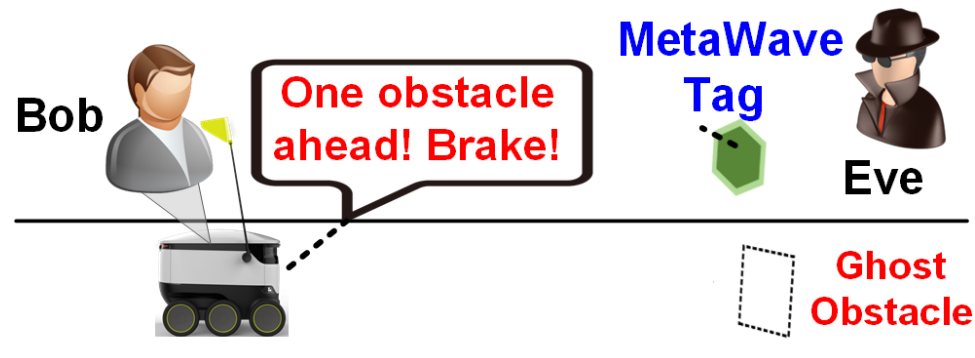
- Passive Attack
  - Security check
  - Prevent suspicious equipment's
- Practical
  - No access or modification the victim's hardware
- Black Box
  - No access to the details of the sensing algorithms

# Threat Model

- Vanish Attack



- Ghost Attack

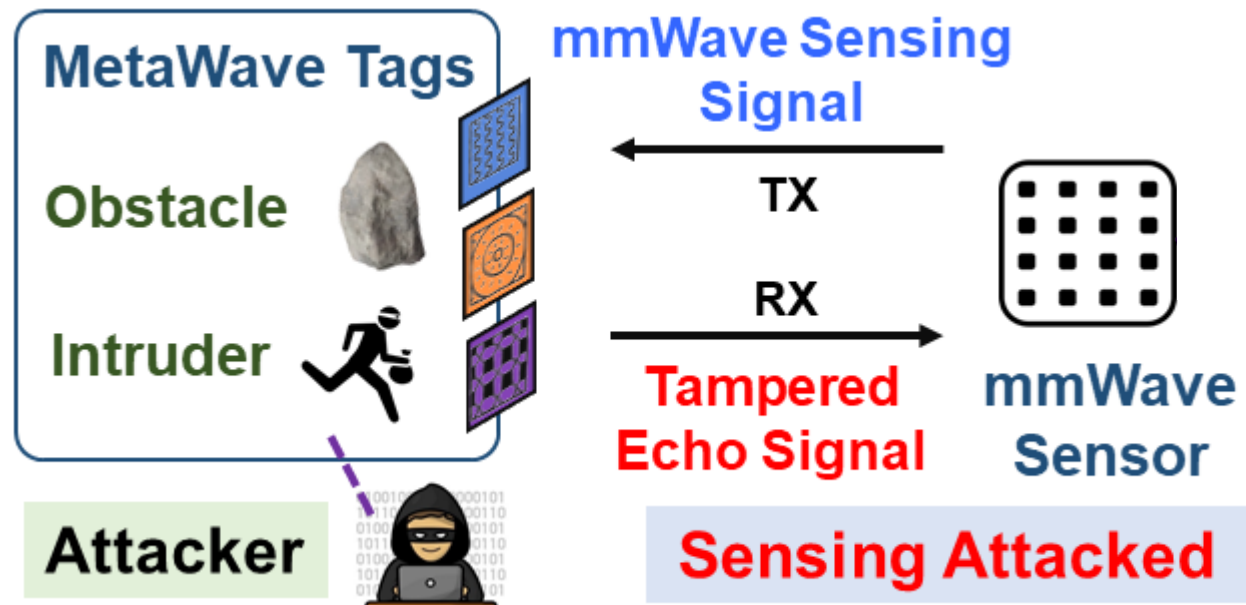


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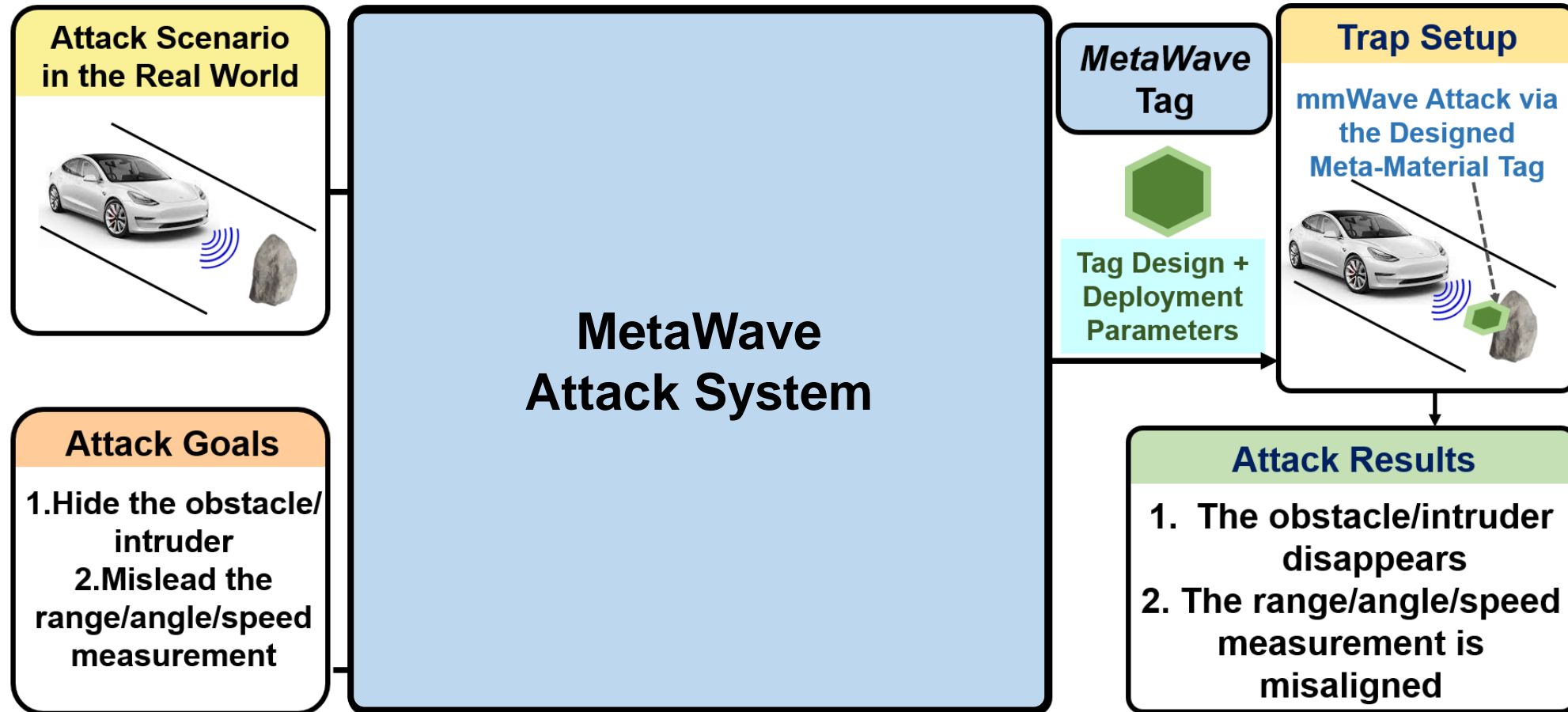
# Introduction

- mmWave Attack using passive meta-material tags



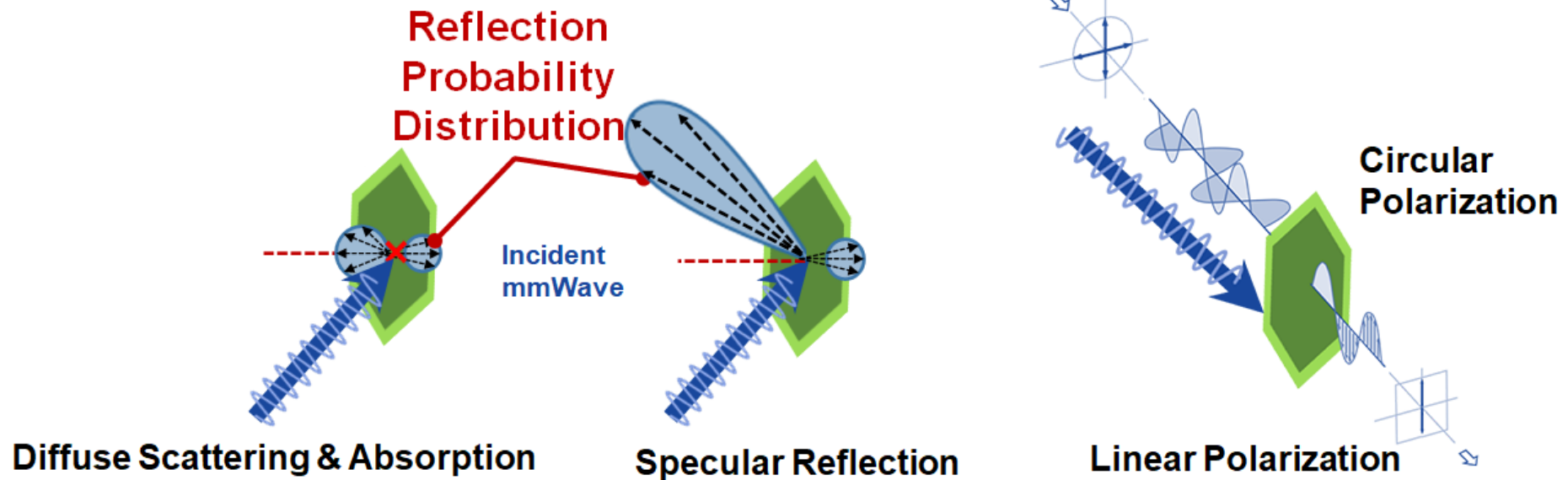
# Introduction

- mmWave Attack using passive meta-material tags



# System Design

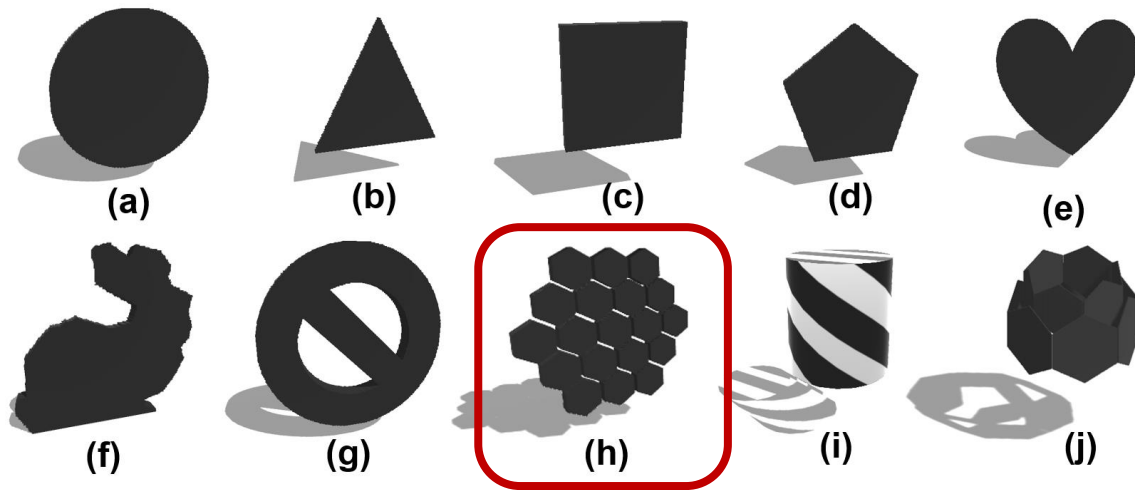
- Meta-material Tags



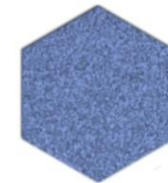
(a) Absorption Tag (b) Reflection Tag (c) Polarization Tag

# System Design

- **MetaWave** Tag Design

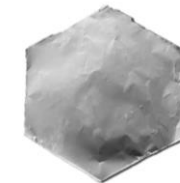


Absorption tag



(k)

Reflection tag



(l)

Polarization tag



(m)



Urethane foam

**\$10-30**



Tin Foil

**\$0.02**

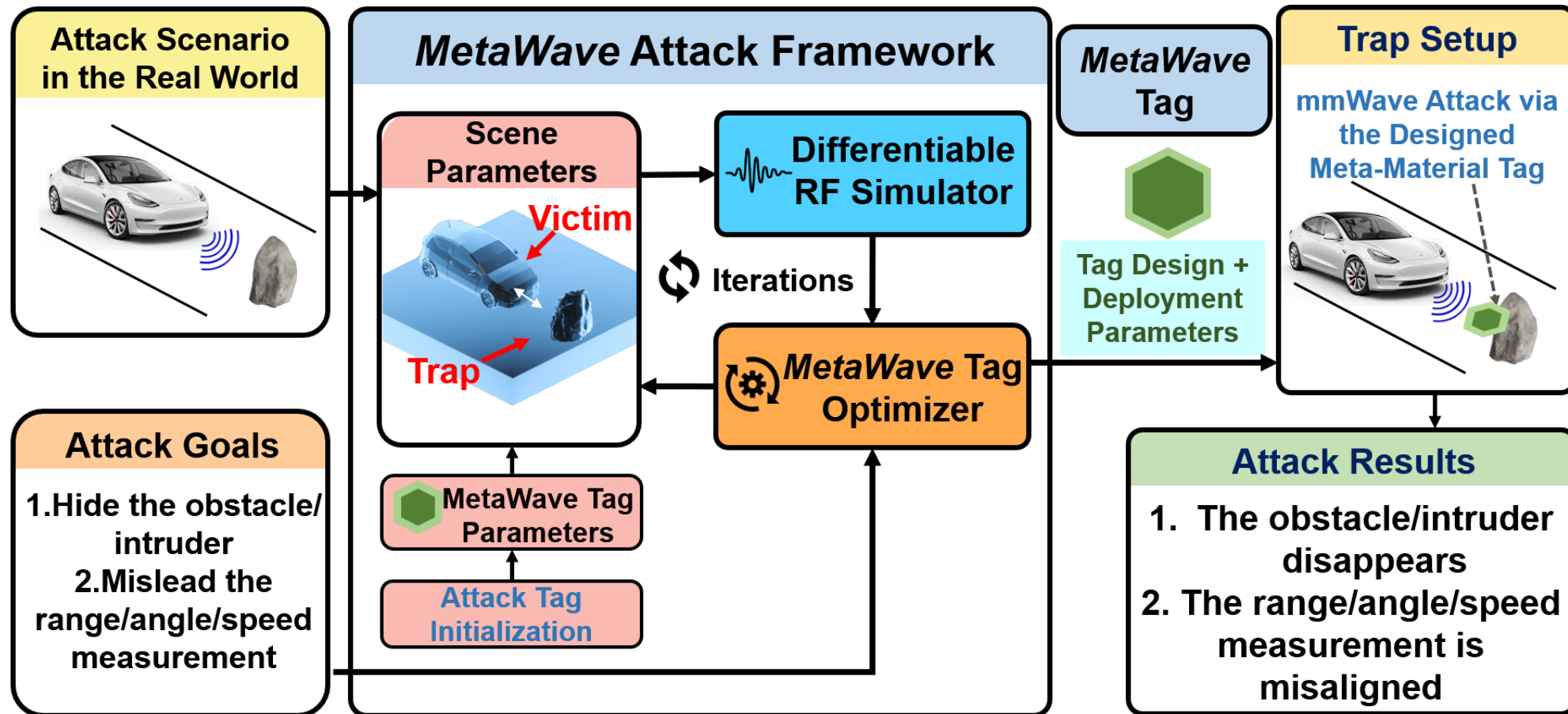


Copper Wire

**\$9-16**

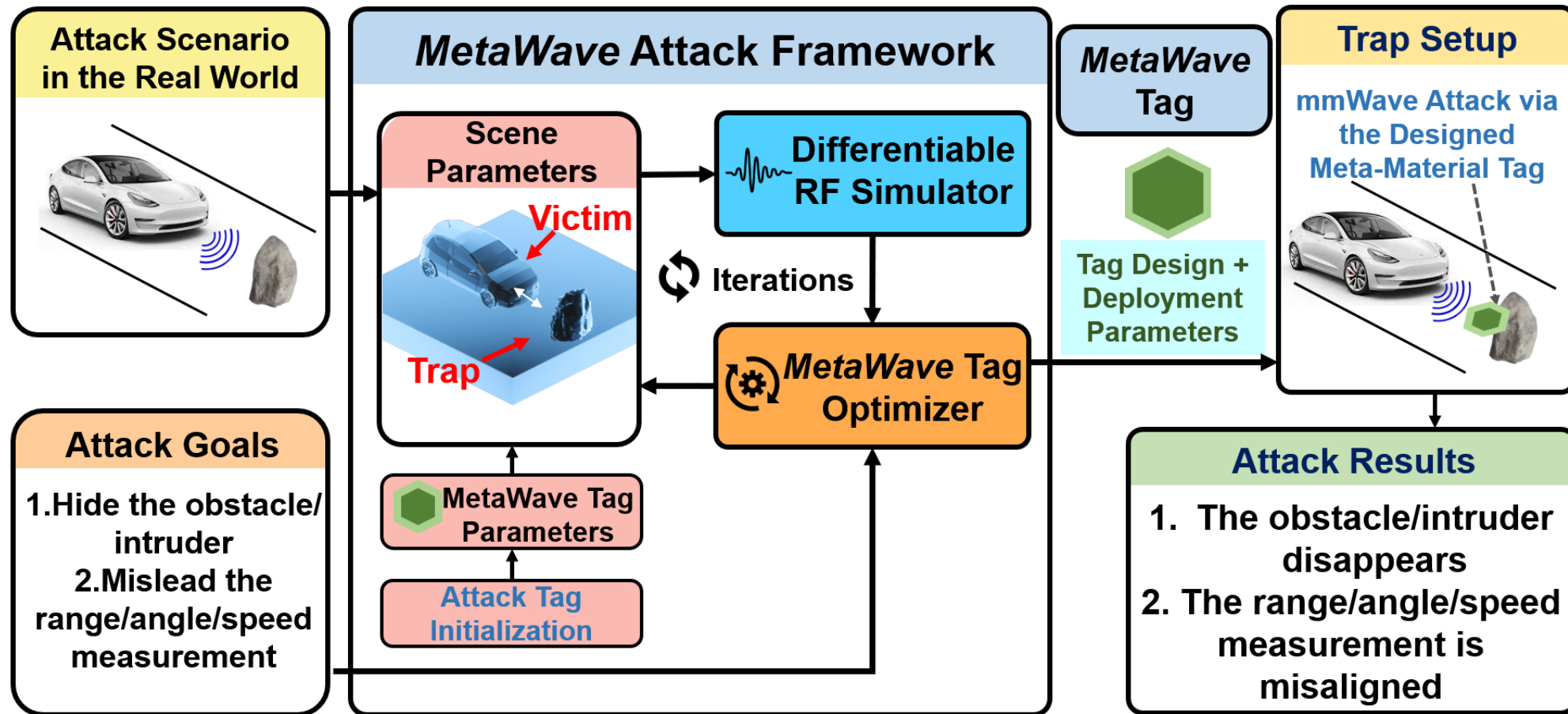
# System Design

- **MetaWave** Attack Framework Design



# System Design

- **MetaWave** Attack Framework Design



# Attack System Integration

## Scene Parameters

TABLE I: Scene parameter examples in the proposed simulator

	Parameter Categories	Example Value	Description
Victim	mmWave Frequency	24 GHz	Frequency of target radar
	mmWave Polarization	Circular	Polarization method of mmWave
	mmWave Bandwidth	500 MHz	Bandwidth of mmWave
	mmWave Carrier	FMCW	Waveform modulation method
	Sensing Algorithm	Range FFT	Function mapping raw signal to sensing results
	Sensing Distance	10m	Function distance of victim's radar
	Victim/Radar Rotation	(1,0.5,0.5,1)	Quaternion (x,y,z,w)
	Victim/Radar Position	(0,2,0)	3D vector (x,y,z)
Trap	Ghost/Target Rotation	(0,1,0,0)	Quaternion (x,y,z,w)
	Ghost/Target Position	(0,1,5)	3D vector (x,y,z)
	Ghost/Target Geometry	Car	List of Points defines the mesh
	Ghost/Target Material	Metal	BSDF of surface properties
	Environment	Road	List of environment meshes

## Tag Parameters

TABLE II: Tag parameter examples for mmWave attack

Parameter Categories	Example Value	Description
<b>Tag Design Parameters</b>		
Tag Material	Absorb	BSDF of MetaWave tag
Tag Pattern	Honeycomb	Texture, Geometry, or Presets
<b>Tag Deployment Parameters</b>		
Relative Size	(0.1,0.1,0.1)	3D vector (x,y,z)
Relative Position	(0,0,-0.5)	3D vector (x,y,z)
Relative Rotation	(0,0,0,0)	Quaternion (x,y,z,w)
Position Tolerance	(0,0,-0.5)	3D vector (x,y,z)
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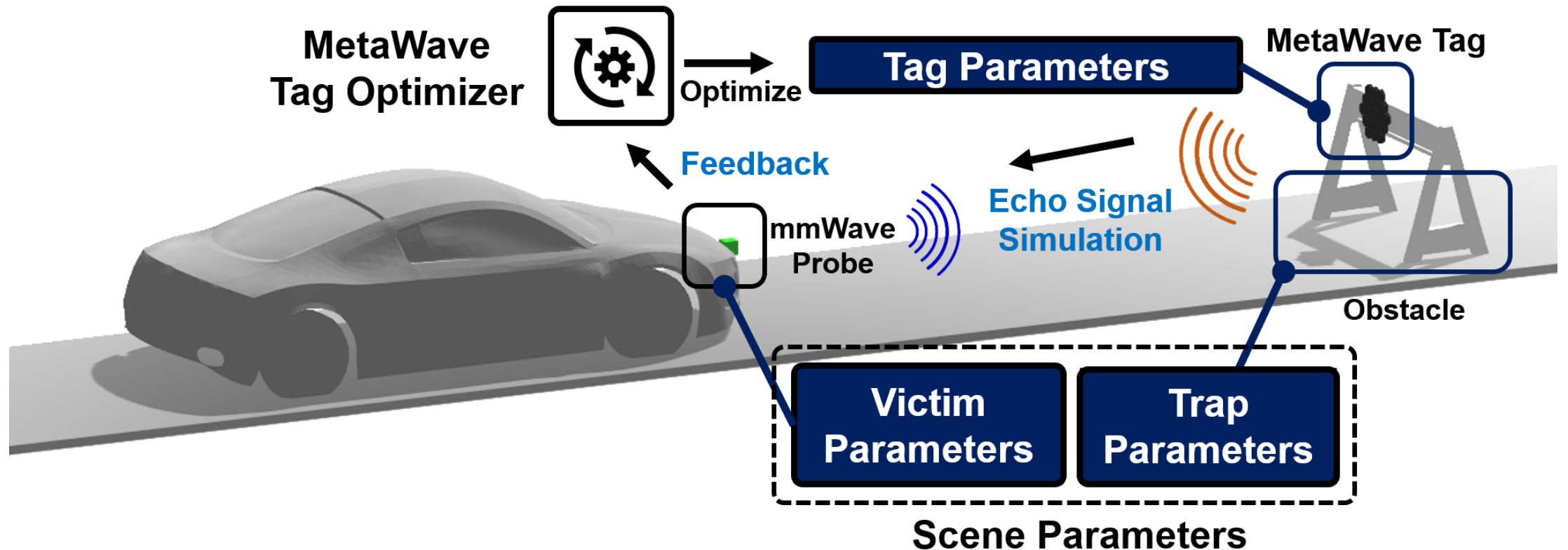
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# Attack System Integration

- *MetaWave* Tag Advancement



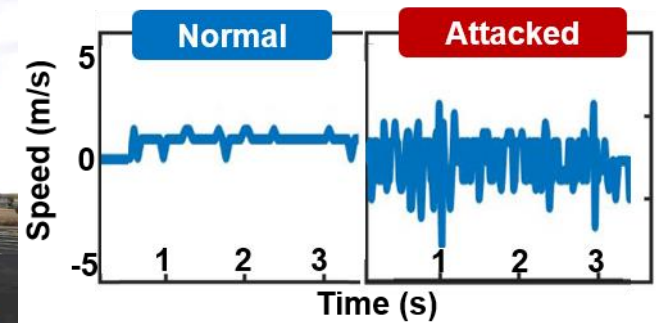
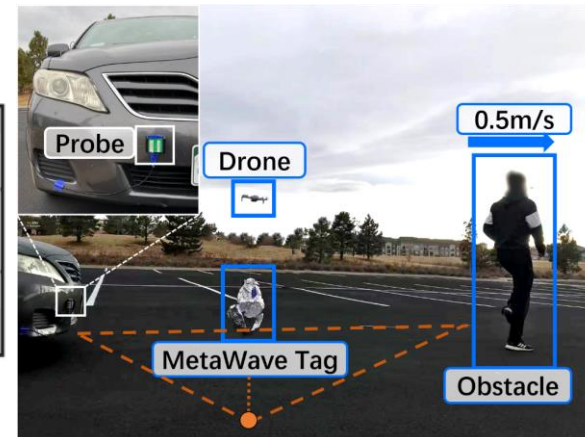
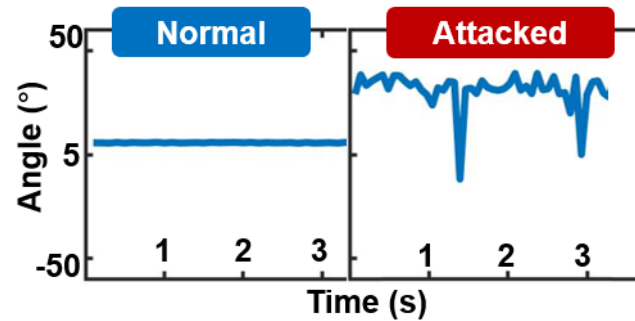
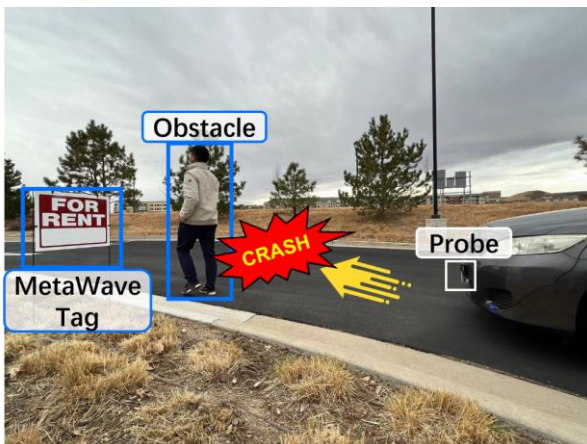
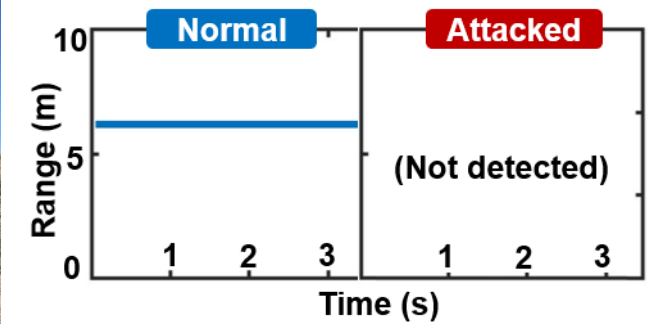
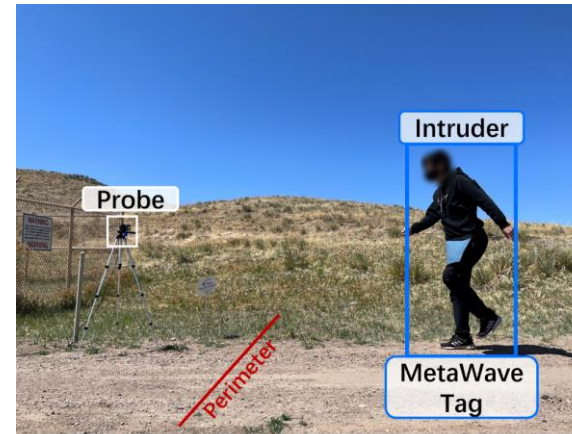
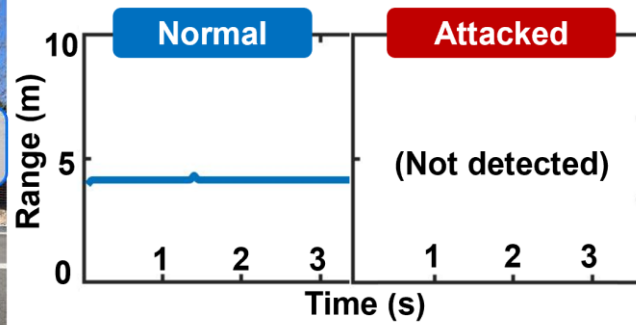
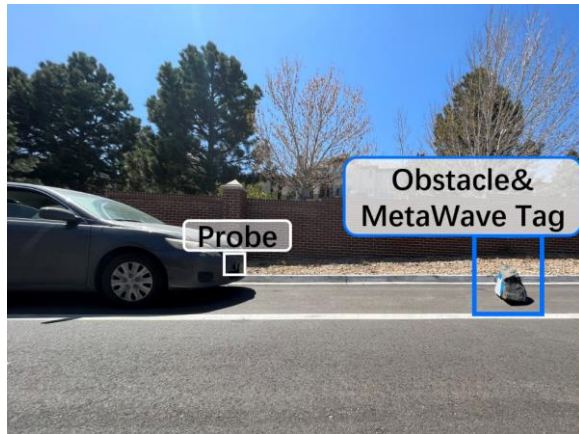
# Practicality and Generalization Evaluation



- Overall Performance
  - Attacking **Range** Measurements
    - **97%** attack success rate
  - Attacking **Angle** Measurements
    - **96%** attack success rate
  - Attacking **Speed** Measurements
    - **91%** attack success rate

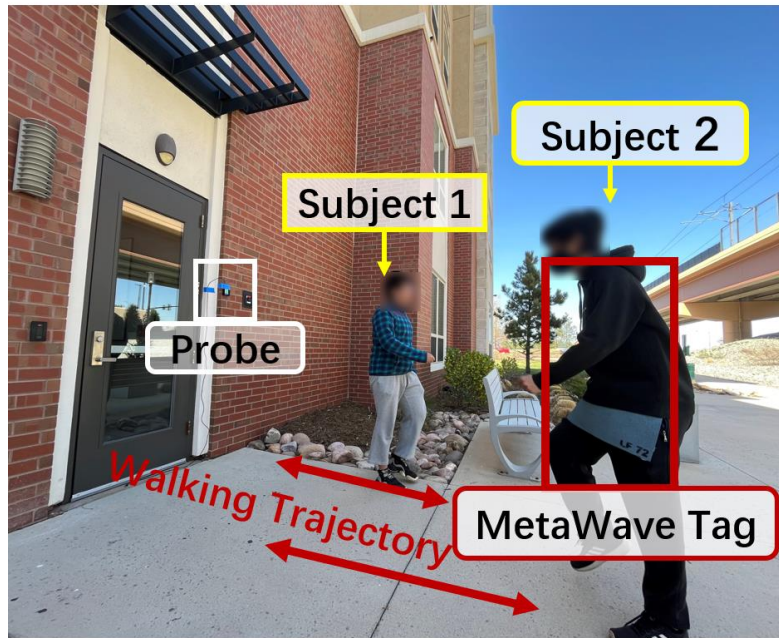
# Real-World Attack Evaluation

- Real-World Attack Results

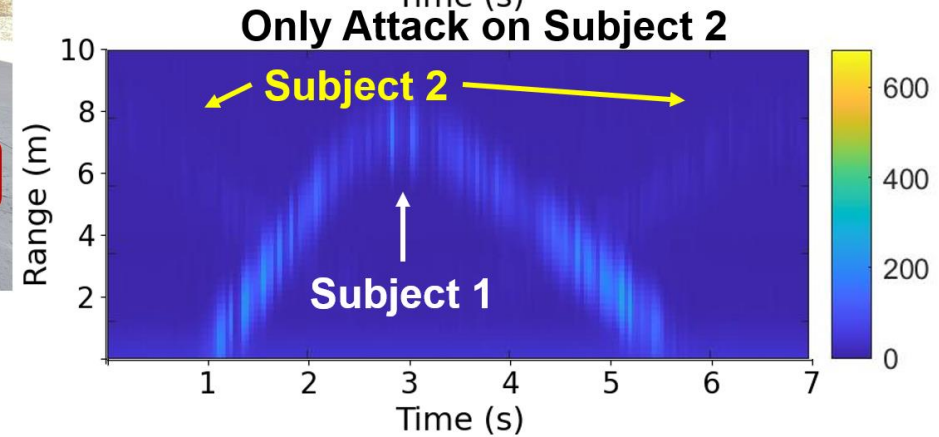
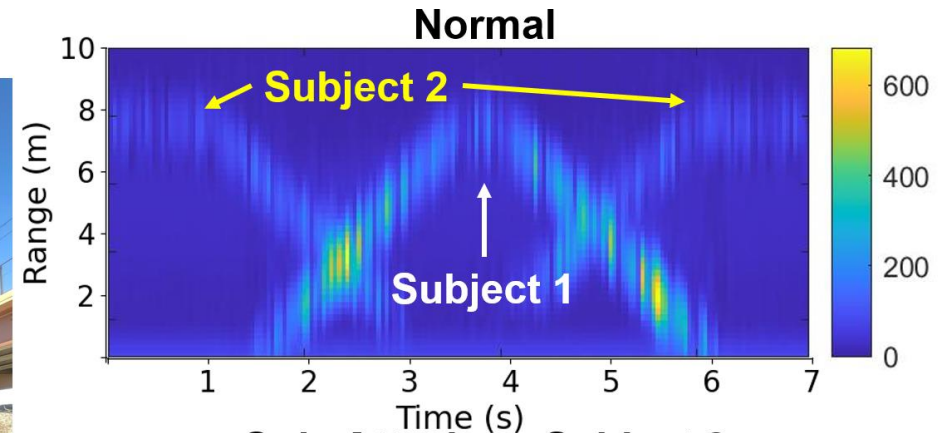


# Real-World Attack Evaluation

- Multi-Object Attack



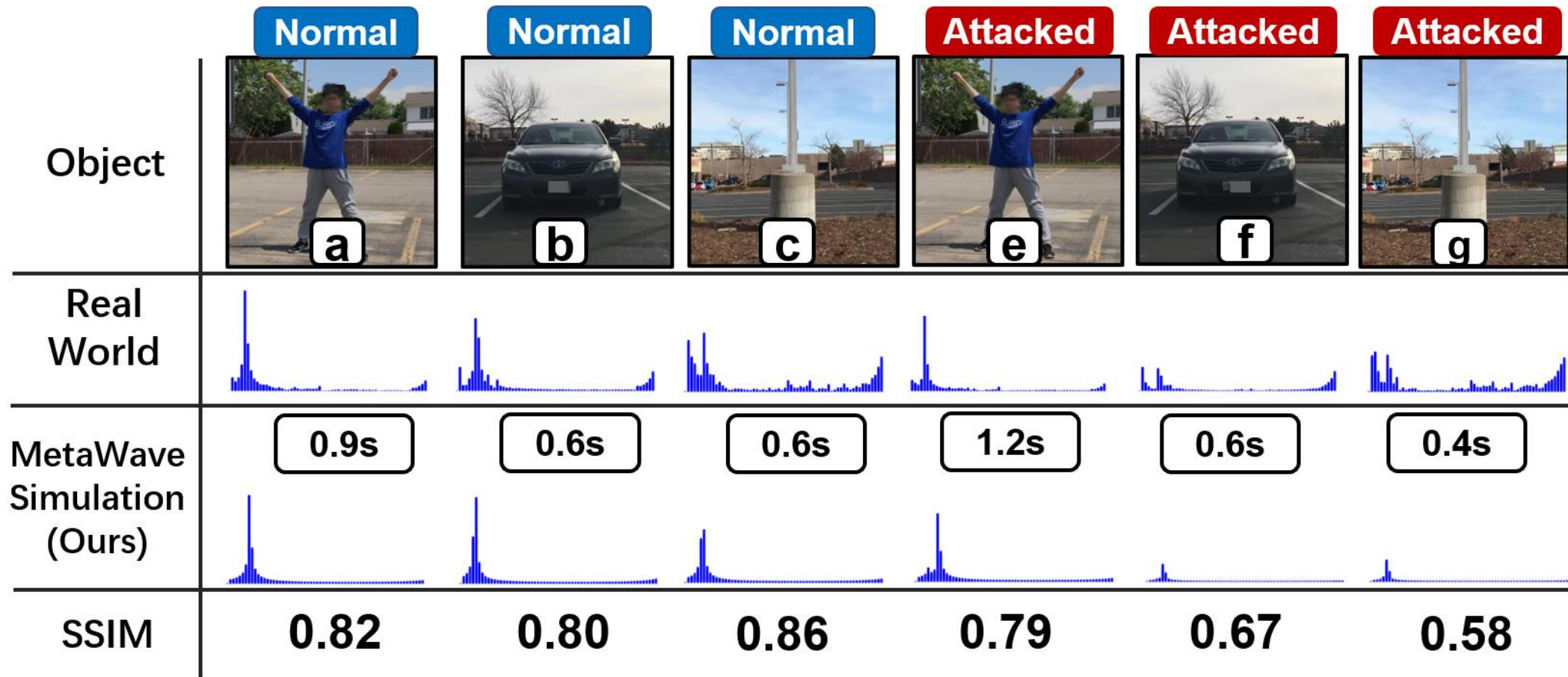
(a)



(b)

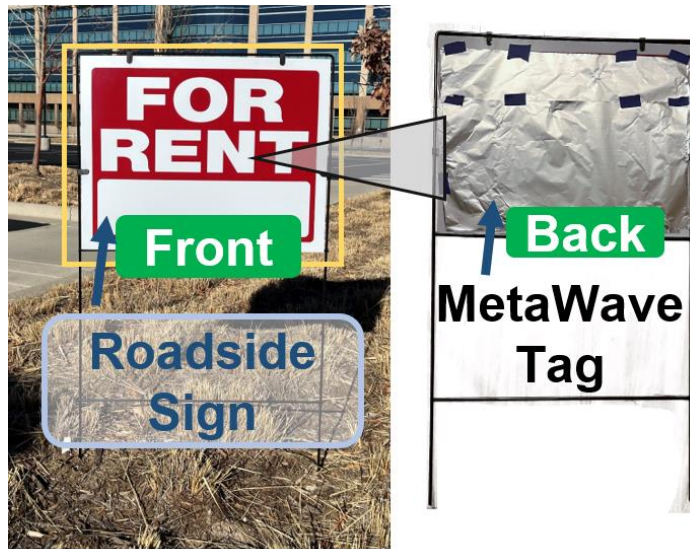
# Simulator-Based Attack System Evaluation

- System Simulation Performance



# Countermeasures

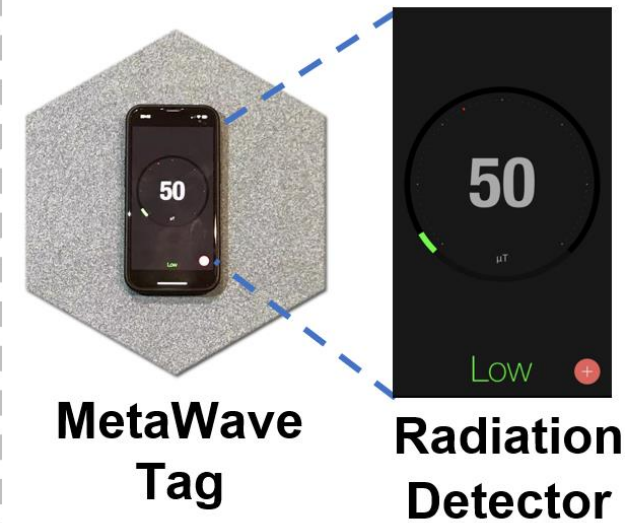
- Security Check / Radiation Detection



(a)



(b)



(c)

# Countermeasures

- **RF Fingerprinting**

- Use the physical characteristics to judge if the echo signal comes from the same hardware
- It can be used to detect malicious signal, but not passive tags.

- False Alarm Detection

- Constant False-Alarm Rate (CFAR) technology
- Meta-material tags to change the echo signal along with the environment

- Multi-sensor

- Employ different mmWave sensors operating under different sensing frequency
- MetaWave attacks are effective over a wide band of sensing frequencies

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  - Constant False-Alarm Rate (CFAR) technology
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  - Employ different mmWave sensors operating under different sensing frequency
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# Conclusion

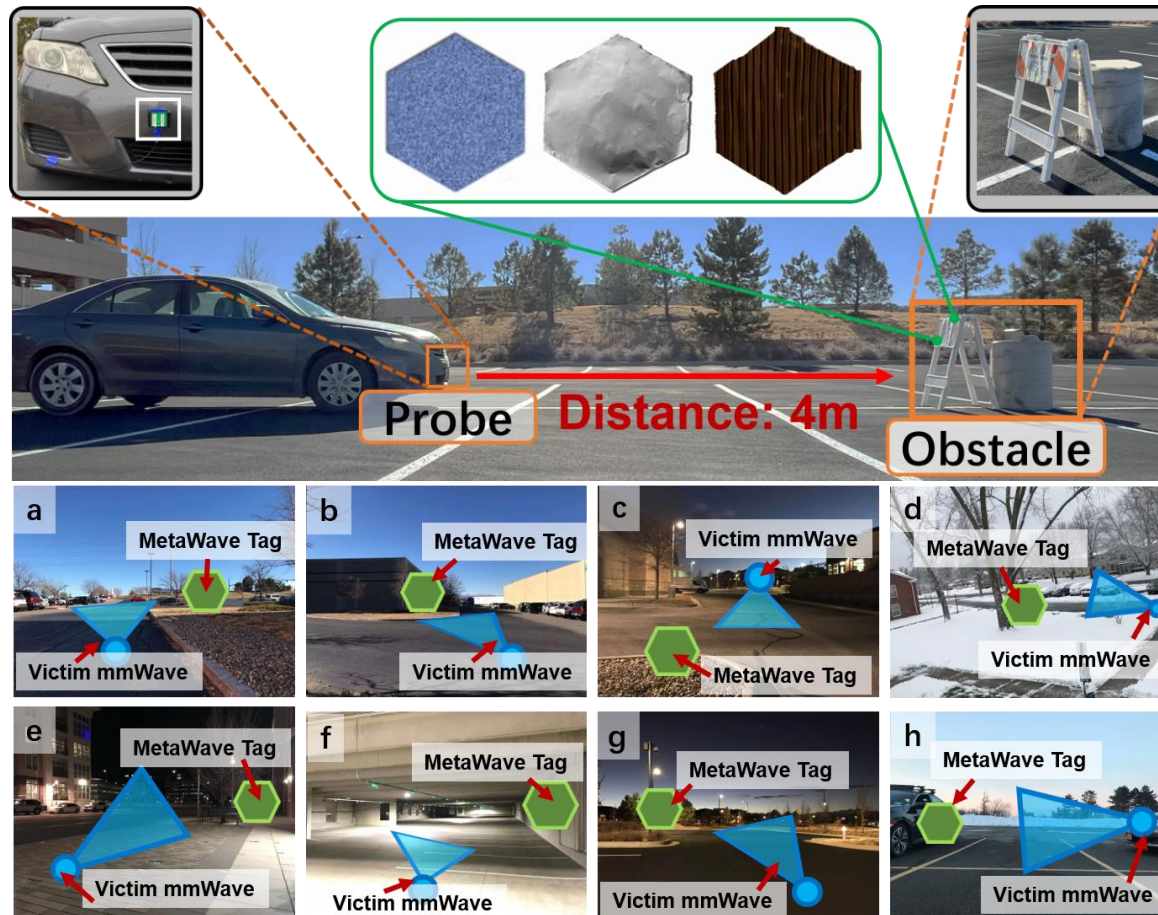
- New passive attack type with meta-material enhanced tags on mmWave sensing
- The first low-cost and easily obtainable meta-material-enhanced tags with specific designs for mmWave ghost and vanish attacks.
- Simulator-based mmWave attack framework to optimize the attack.





# Evaluation Setup

- System Setup



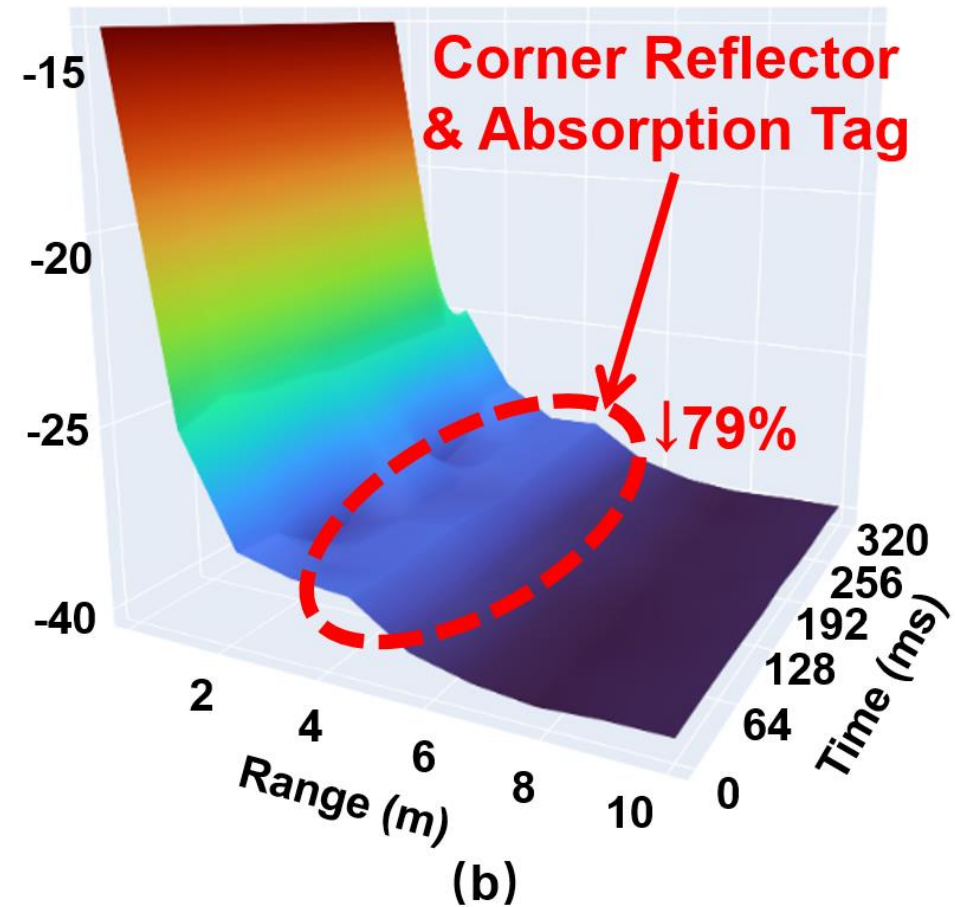
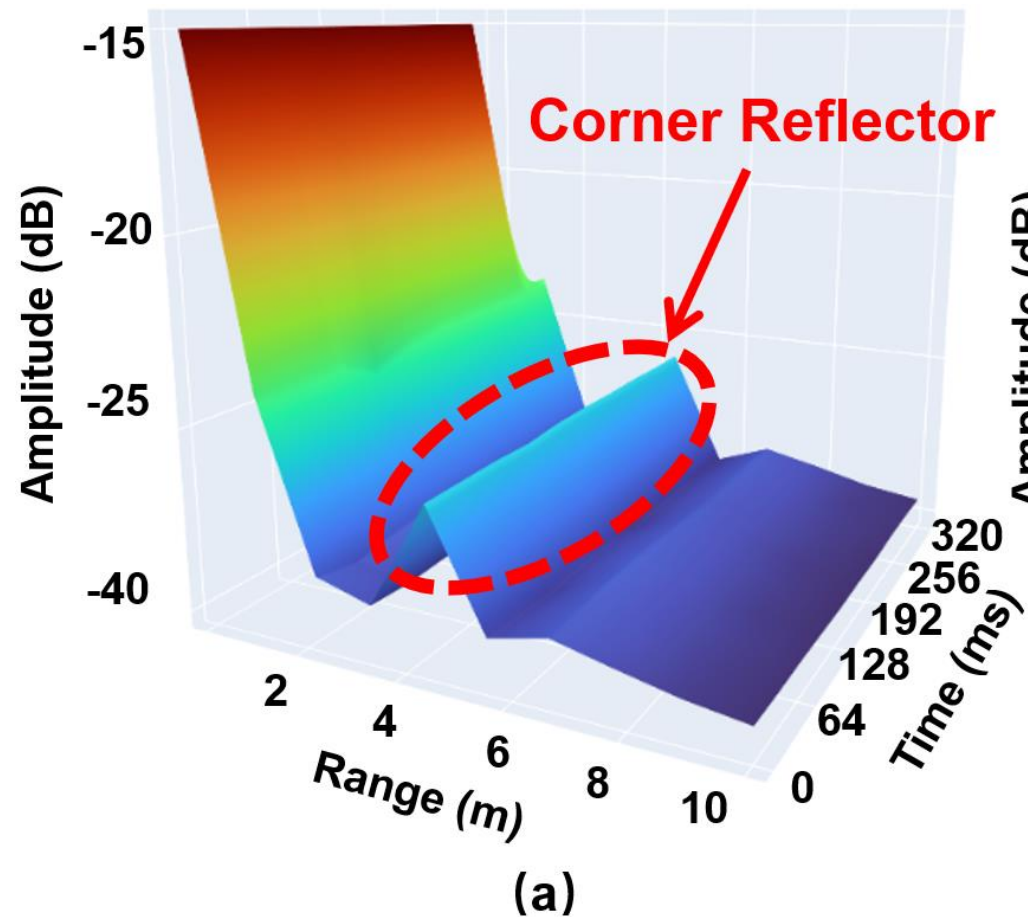
# Introduction



- Features
  - Stealthy -- Passive Tag
  - Viable -- easily obtainable COTS material tag, low bar to launch attacks
  - Versatile -- multi-function attacks through a united design framework

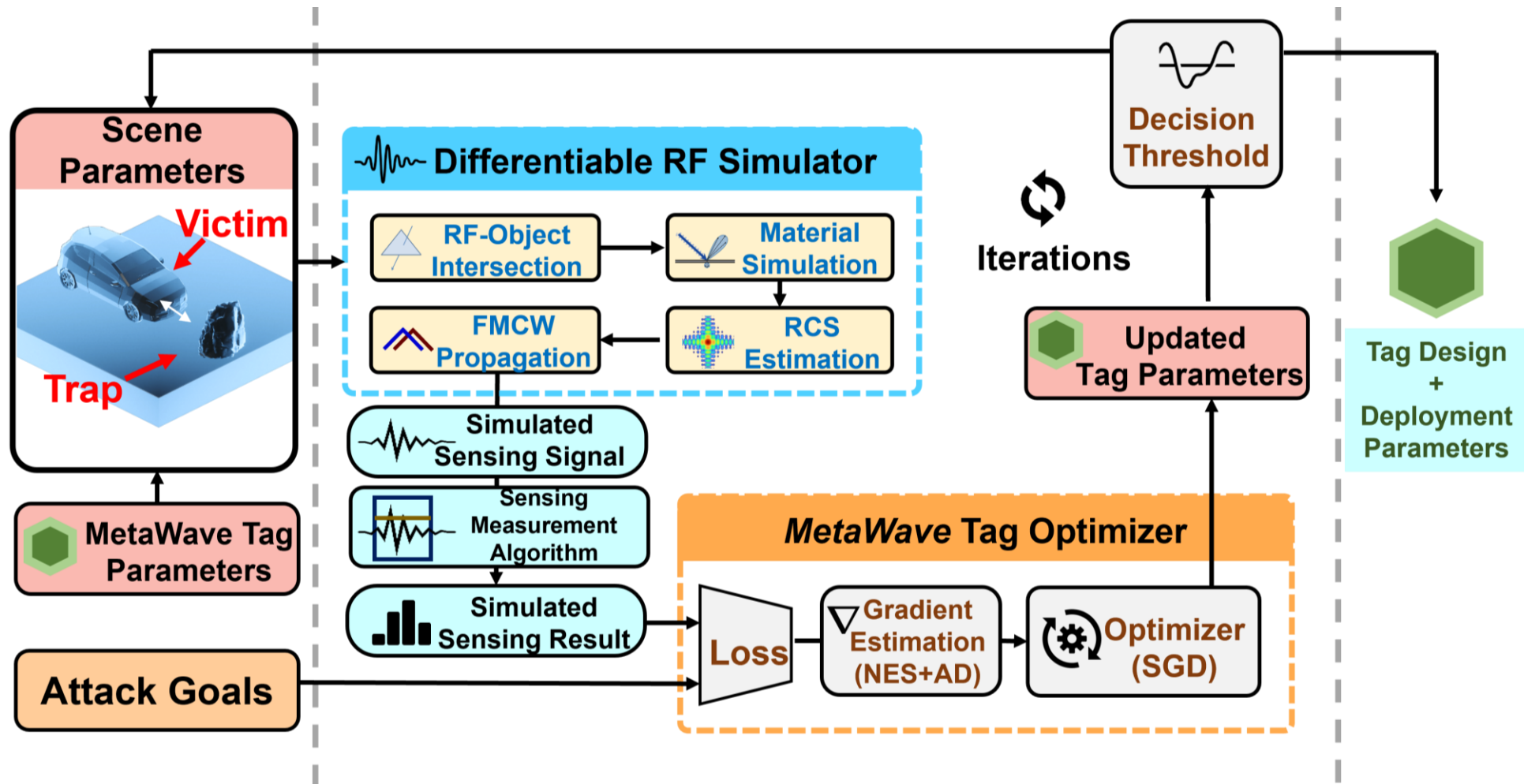
# Preliminaries

- Feasibility Study



# System Design

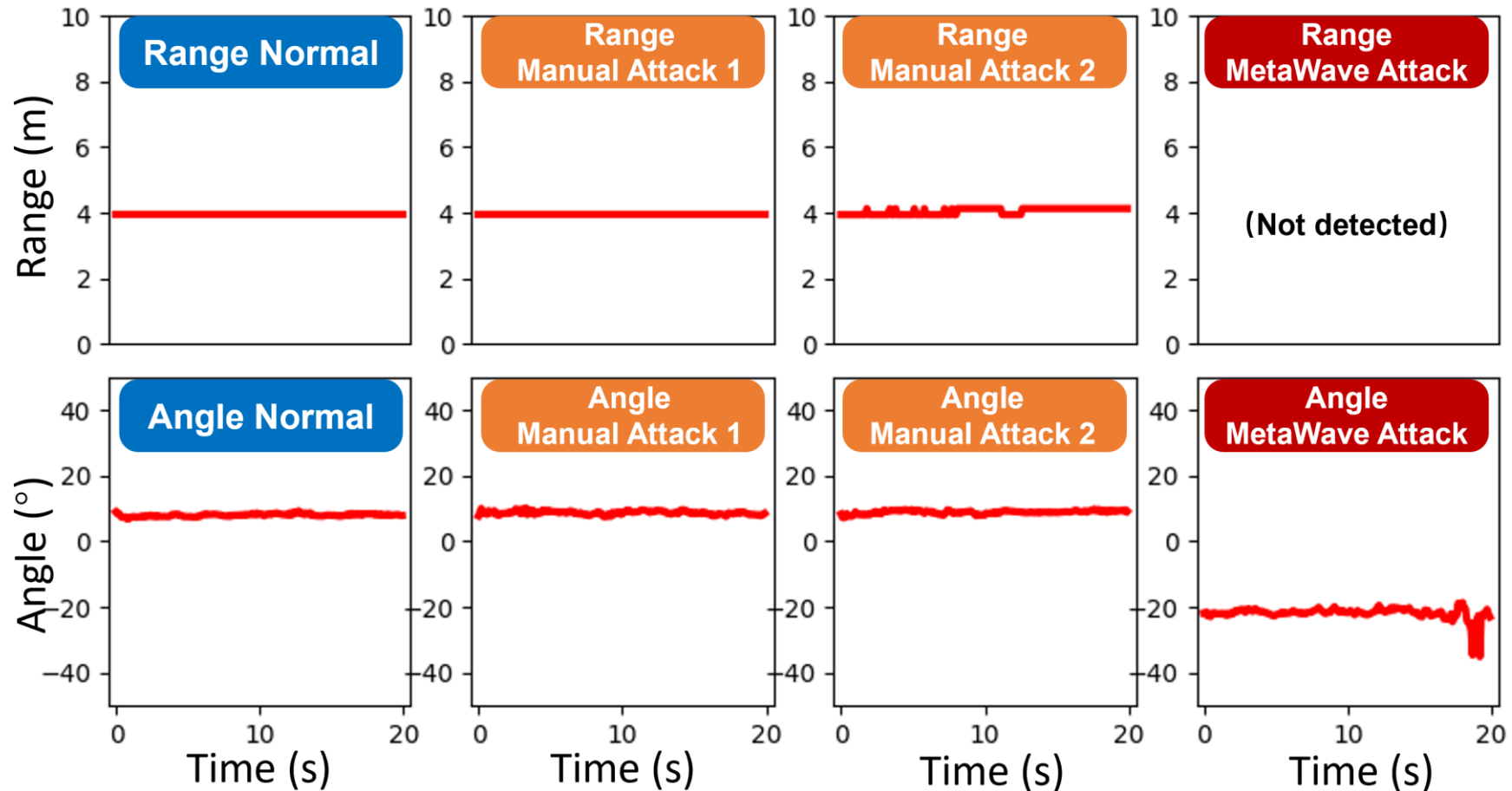
- *MetaWave* Attack Framework Design





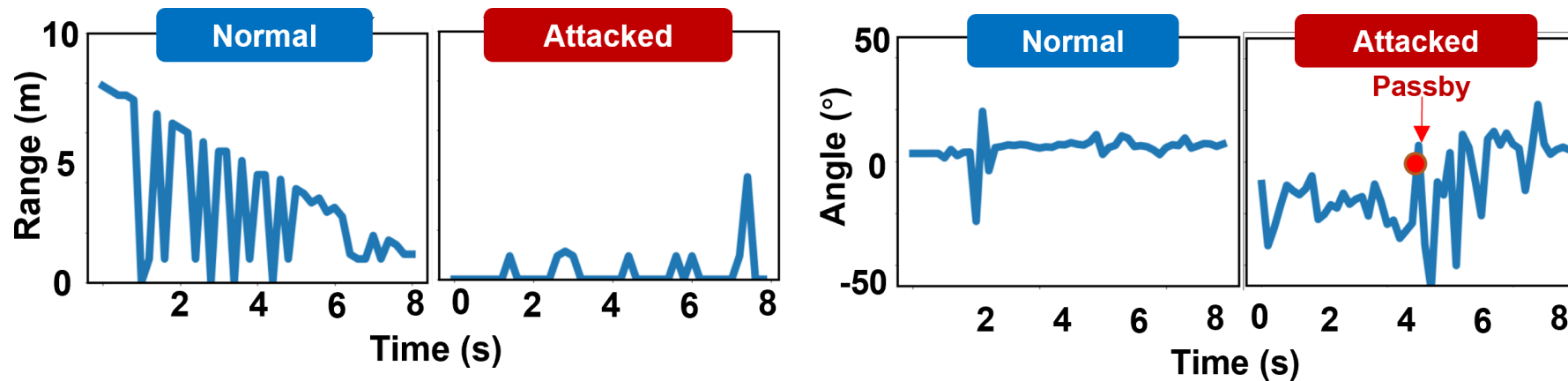
# Practicality and Generalization Evaluation

- **MetaWave** Tag Optimizer Analysis



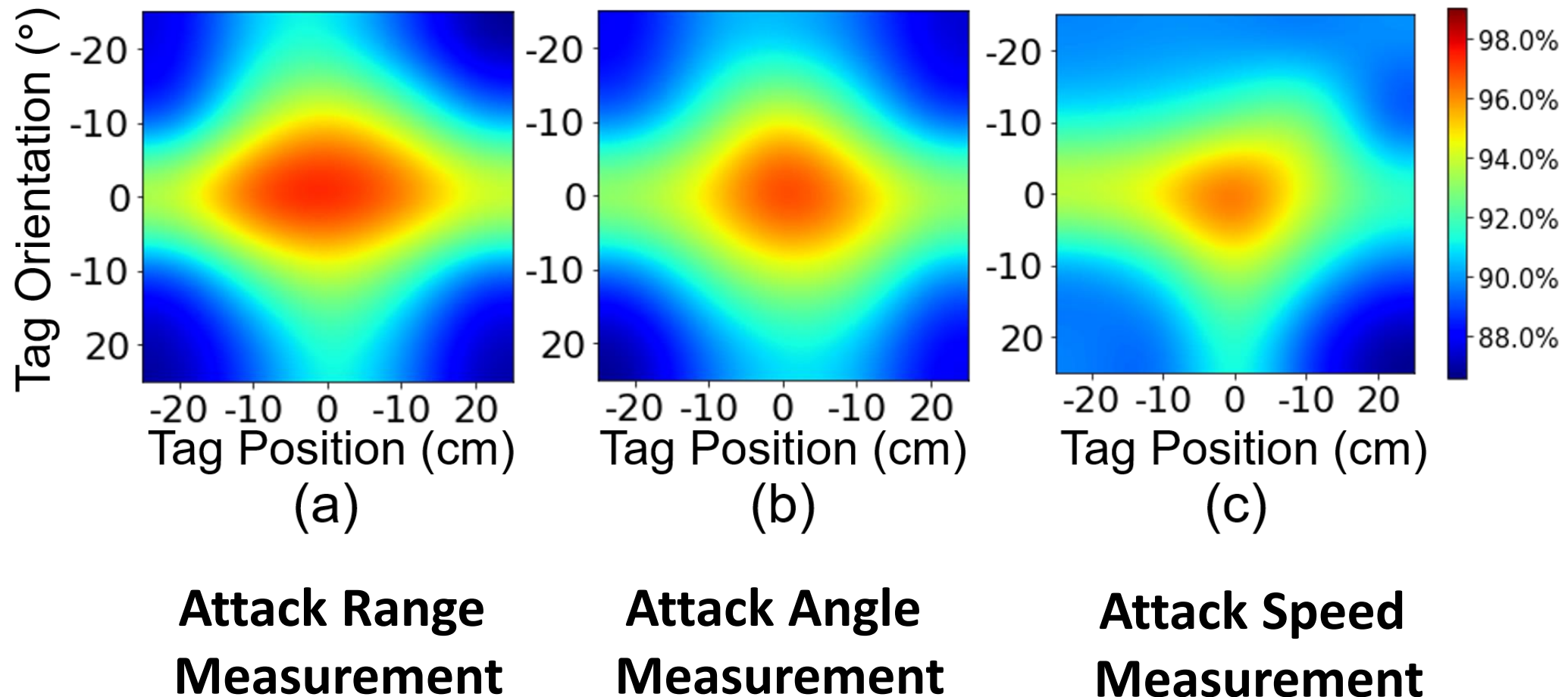
# Real-World Attack Evaluation

- Dynamic Attack of the Moving mmWave Sensor



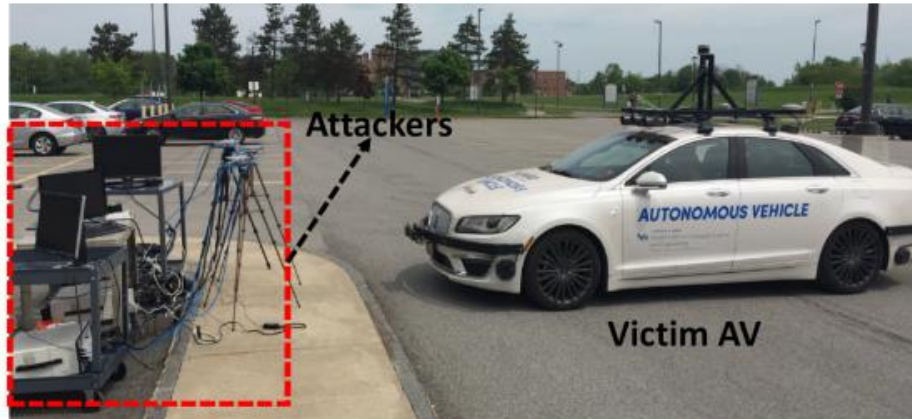
# Practicality and Generalization Evaluation

- Attack Measurement

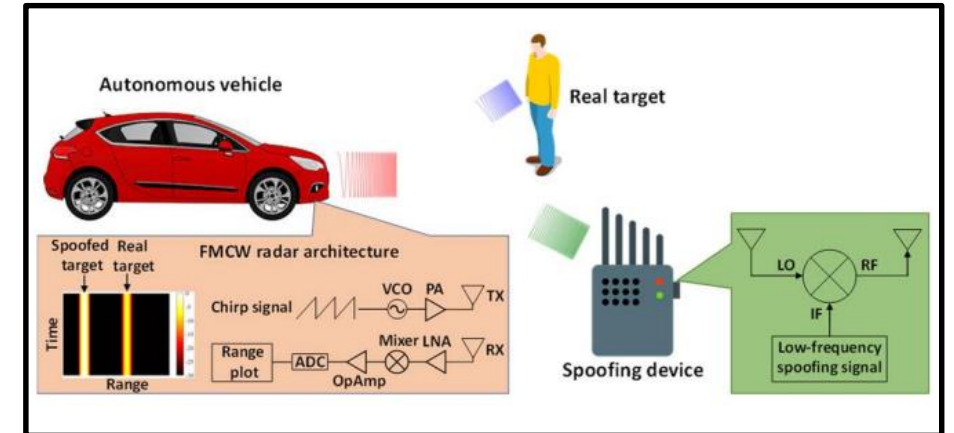


# Related Work

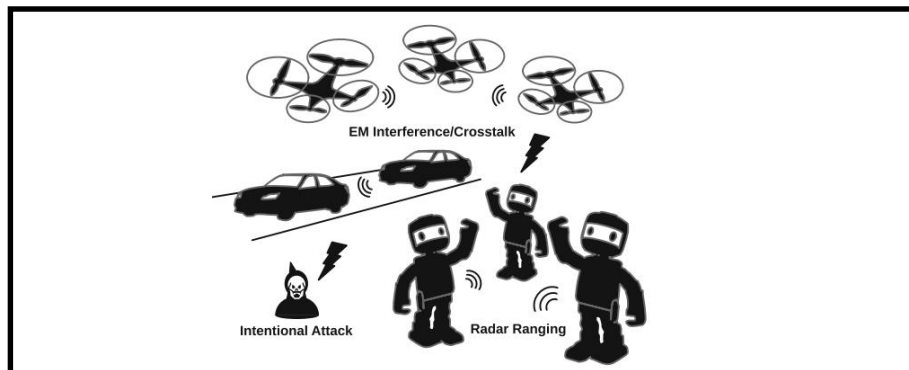
- Attack on mmWave Sensing



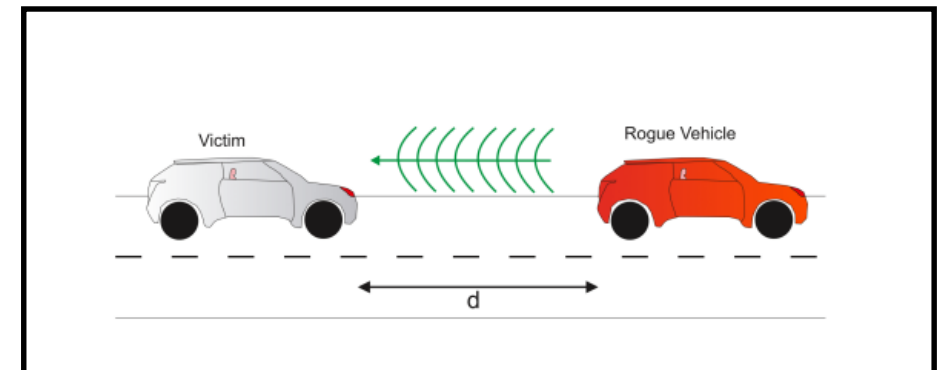
Sun et al.



Nallabolu et al.



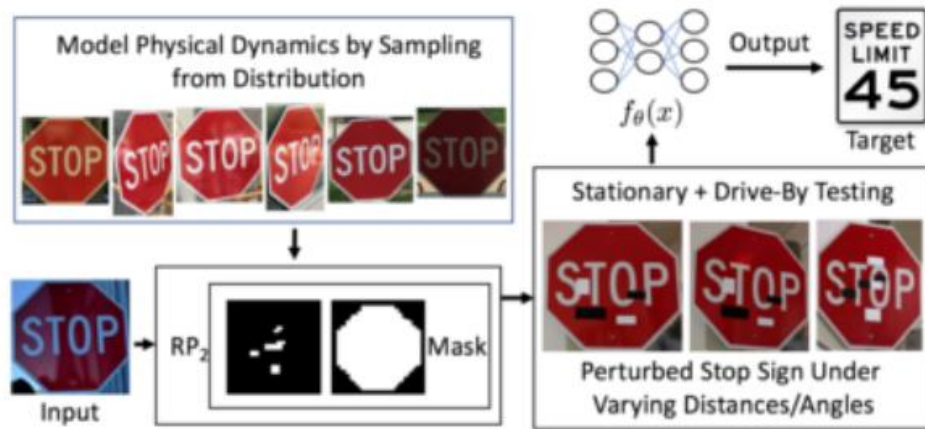
Nashimoto et al.



Komissarov et al.

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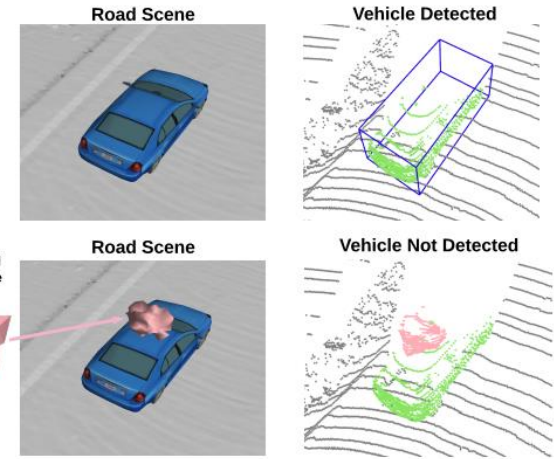
- Physical Attack on Sensing



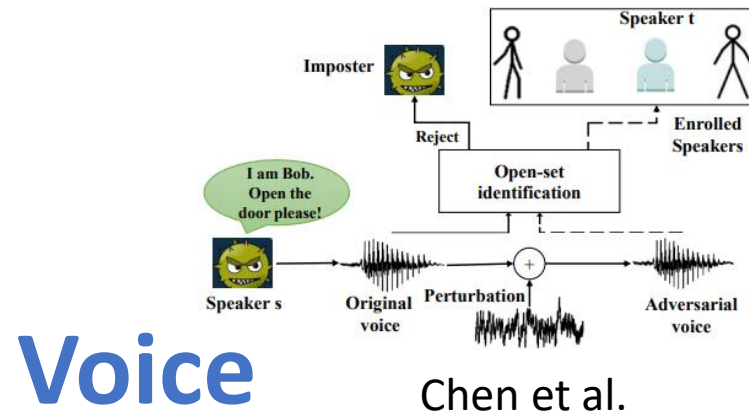
Camera

Wei et al.

Lidar



Tu et al.

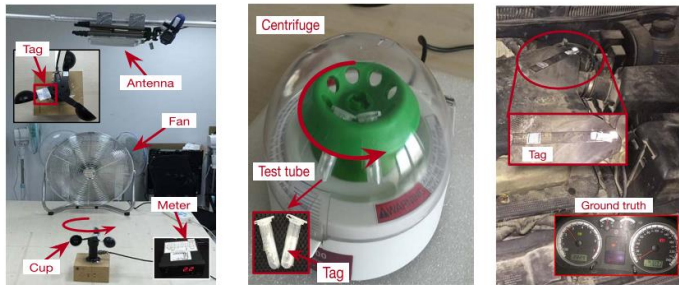


Voice

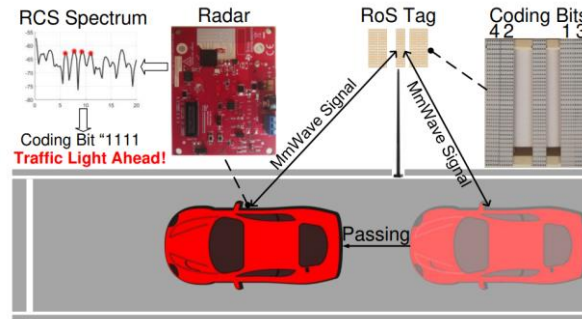
Chen et al.

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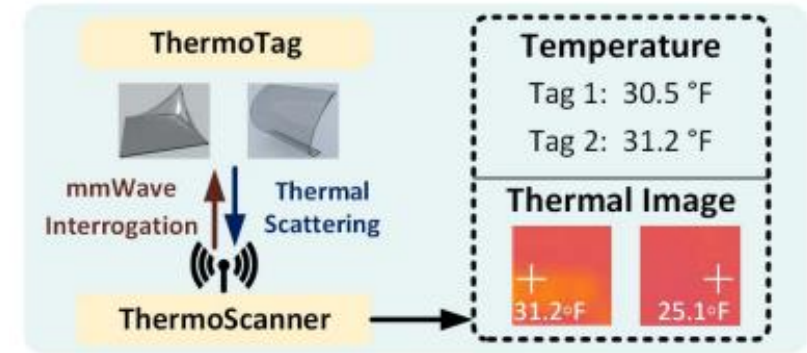
- mmWave Sensing with Meta-material Tags



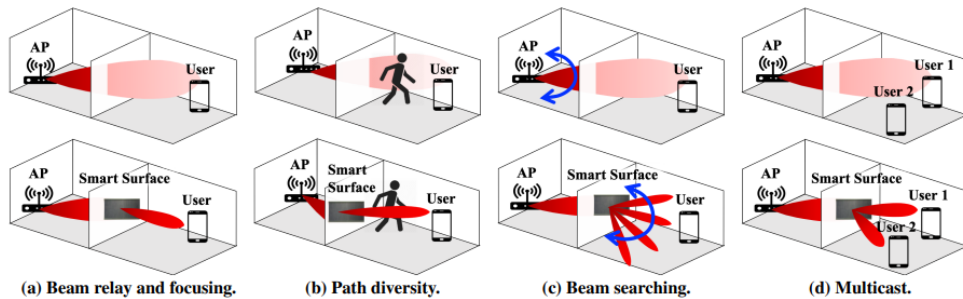
Lin et al.



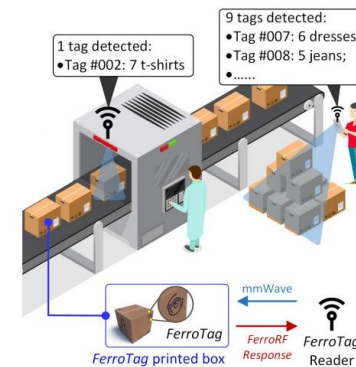
Nolan et al.



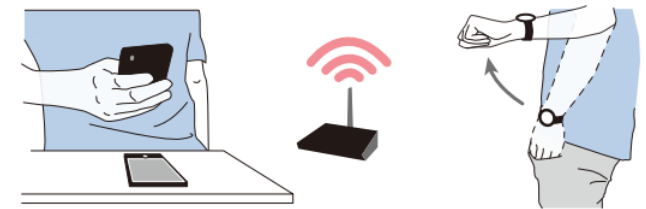
Chen et al.



Cho et al.



Li et al.



Chen et al.

# Countermeasures



- Victim awareness
  - RF Fingerprint
  - False Alarm Detection
  - Multiply mmWave Sensors