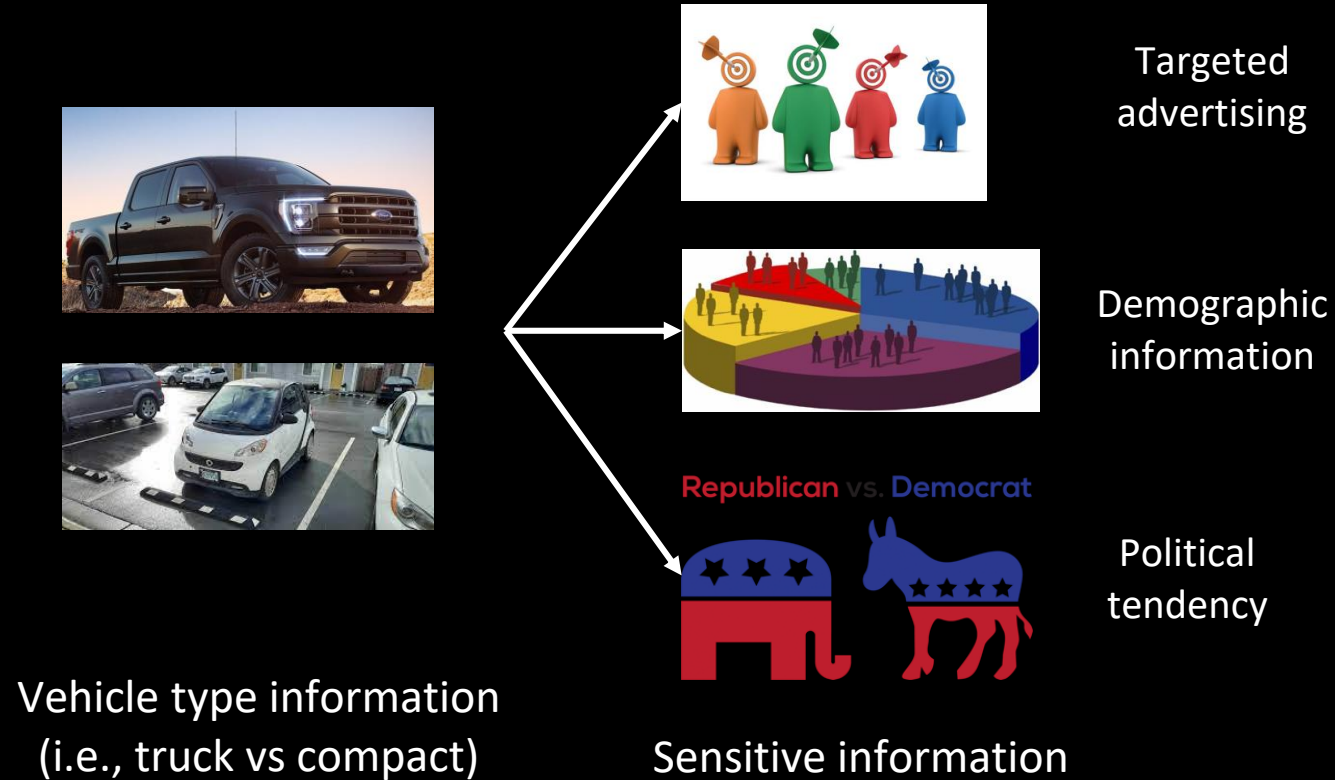


# Guess Which Car Type I am Driving? Information Leak via Driving Apps

Dongyao Chen, Mert D. Pesé, and Kang G. Shin



# Vehicle Type can link to Sensitive Info



# Vehicle Type can link to Sensitive Info



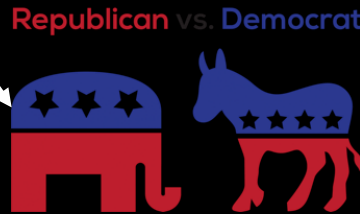
Vehicle type information  
(i.e., truck vs compact)



Targeted advertising



Demographic information



Political tendency

Sensitive information



**Unusually Popular Cars in Republican and Democratic Districts**  
Based On % of Cars Serviced by YourMechanic

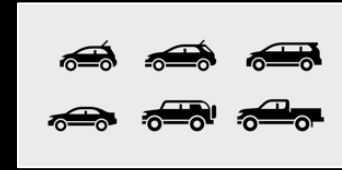
Red Cars		Blue Cars	
Rank	Car Make and Model	Rank	Car Make and Model
1	Dodge Ram 1500	1	Toyota Prius
2	GMC Sierra 1500	2	Audi A4
3	Ford F-150	3	BMW 328i
4	Chevrolet Silverado 1500	4	BMW 325i
5	Chevrolet C1500	5	Acura TSX
6	Toyota Tundra	6	Mini Cooper
7	Chevrolet Suburban 1500	7	Saab 3-Sep
8	Kia Sorento	8	Toyota Matrix
9	Dodge Dakota	9	Honda Fit
10	Chevrolet Tahoe	10	Toyota Yaris



# Can our Smartphone Stealthily Leak this Info?



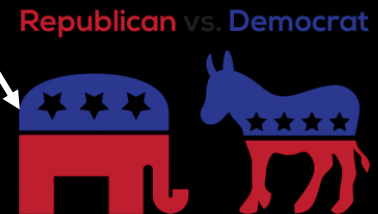
Driving analysis app,  
motion tracking app



Targeted  
advertising



Demographic  
information



Political  
tendency

Sensitive information

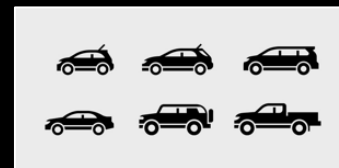
# Can our Smartphone Stealthily Leak this Info?



**Motion Sensors** can be a Loophole!

They are pivotal but require zero-permission!

Characterizing **Vibration Patterns** for differentiating cars

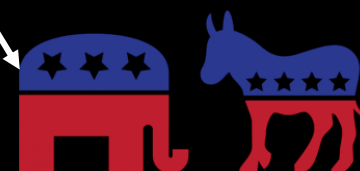


Targeted advertising



Demographic information

Republican vs. Democrat

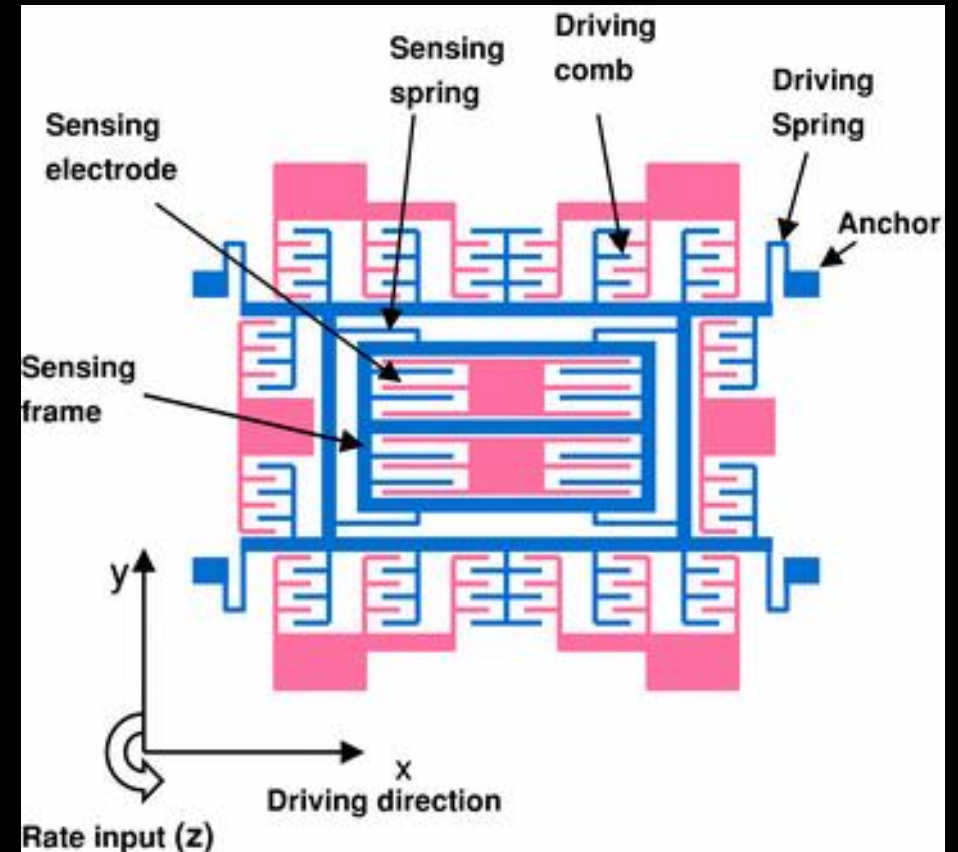


Political tendency

Sensitive information

# Sensing Vibrations with Motion Sensors (IMU)

- The embedded oscillator of accelerometer and gyroscopes can be used for sampling high-speed vibrations



[Michalevsky *et. al* 2014]

# Threat Model

## Moving vehicle

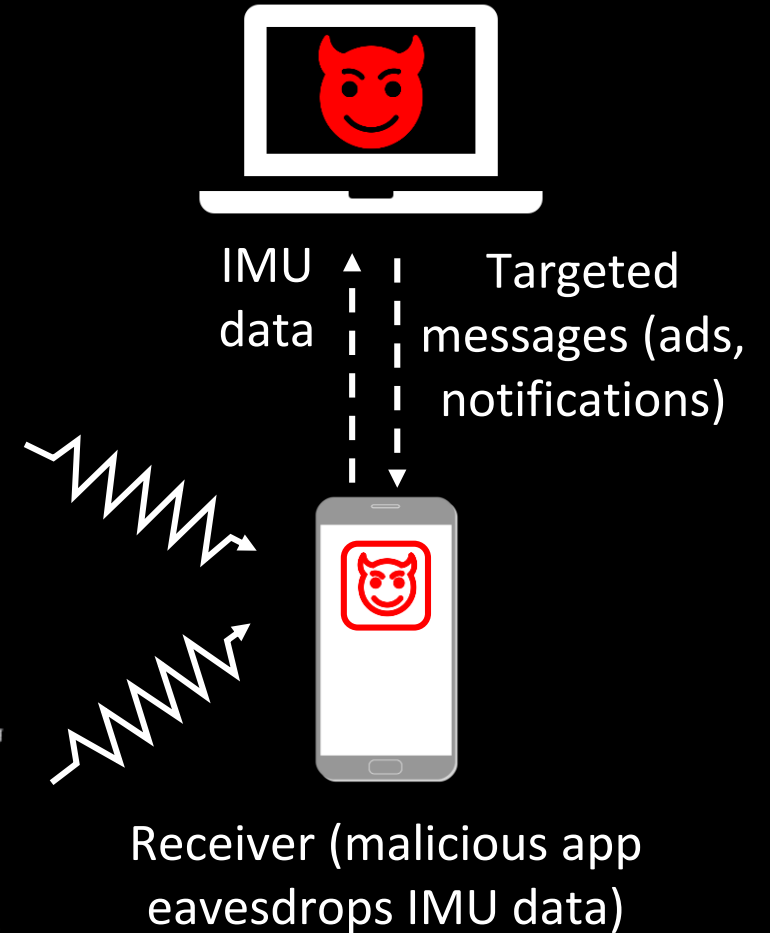


Source (engine, wheels)



Propagation path (vehicle chassis)

## Idling vehicle



Receiver (malicious app eavesdrops IMU data)

# Inferring Type of an Idling and Moving Vehicle

Vibration pattern varies depends on whether the vehicle is moving



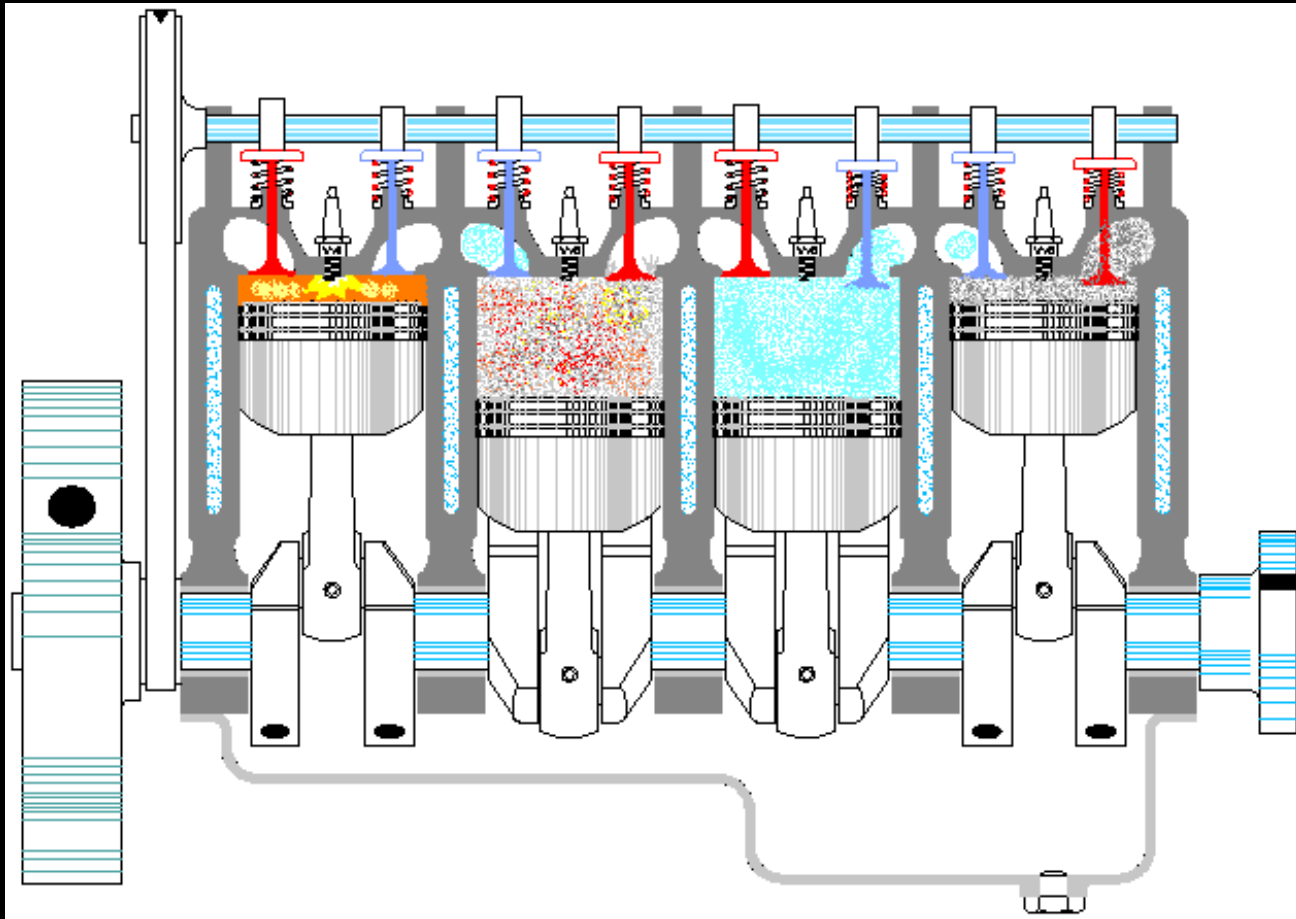
Idling vehicle



Moving vehicle

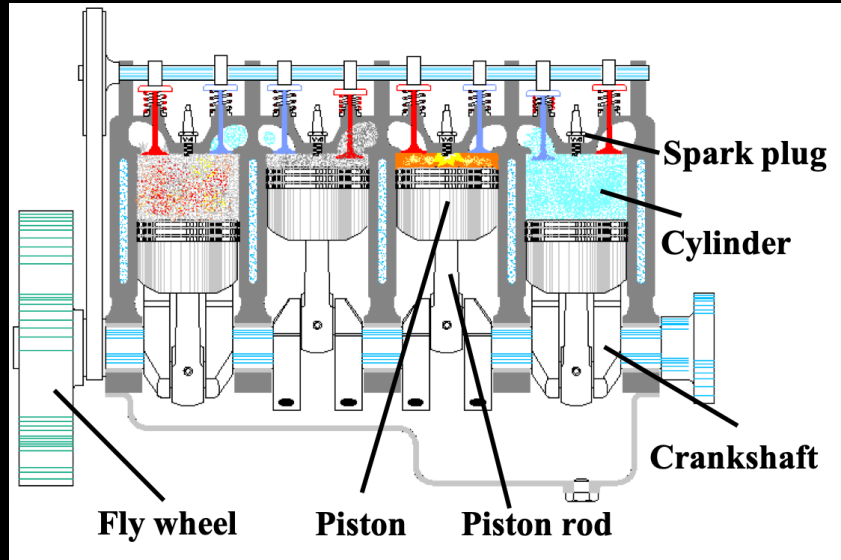


# Inferring Type of an Idling Vehicle



- Engine is the **dominant source of vibration** when car is idling
- Engine is representative of car types
  - Hybrid: 3~4-cylinder
  - Pickup truck: 6~8-cylinder

# Inferring Type of an Idling Vehicle



1. Combustion frequency:  $f_c = \frac{RPM}{60} \frac{C}{2}$

2. N-th order overtones:  $f_{c,N} = N f_c$

3. Aliased frequency that can be detected by motion sensors

$$f_{c,N}^a = |f_{c,N} - K f_s|$$

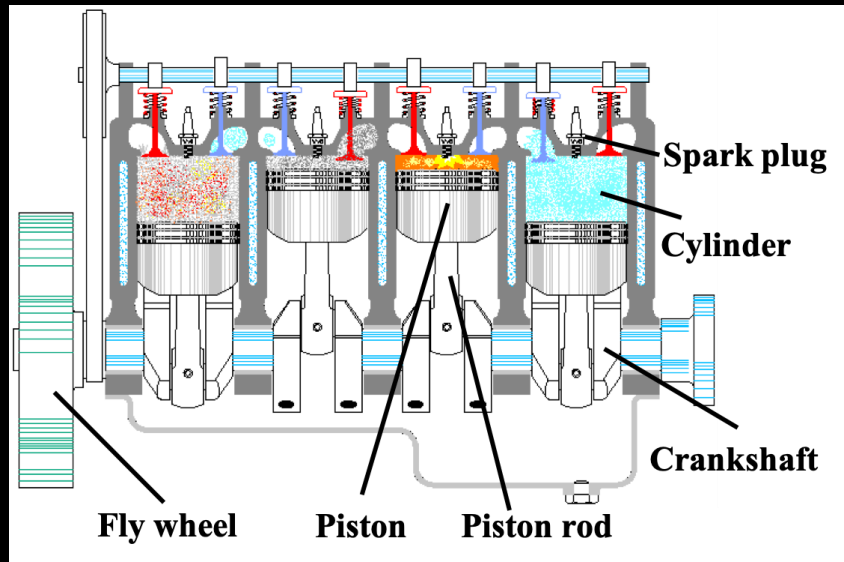
4. The detectable engine overtone at specific engine RPM is:

$$f_{c,N}^a(RPM) = \left| N \frac{RPM}{60} \frac{C}{2} - K f_s \right|$$

$$0 \leq f_{c,N}^a \leq f_s/2 \quad K \in \mathbb{Z}$$

The first **2** order overtones are the strongest

# Inferring Type of an Idling Vehicle

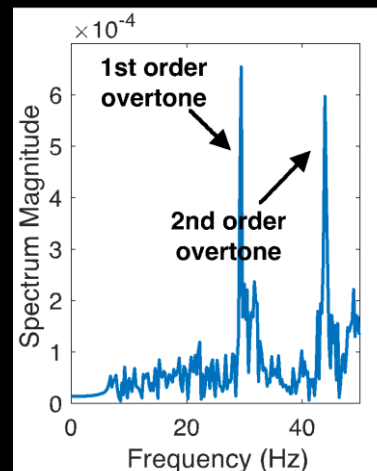


Overtone order # cylinder	N=1	N=2	N=3
4	[20 33.3]	[33.3, 50]	[0, 40]
6	[30, 50]	[0, 40]	[0, 50]
8	[33.3, 50]	[0, 33.3]	[0, 50]

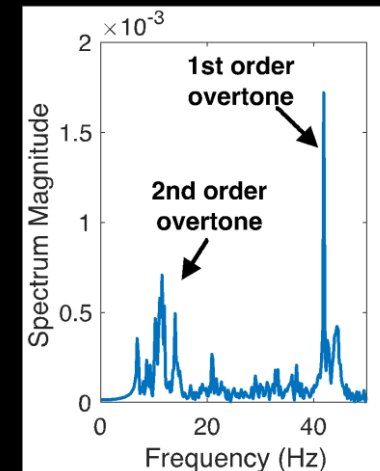
The detectable engine overtone at specific engine RPM:

$$f_{C,N}^a(\text{RPM}) = \left| N \frac{\text{RPM}}{60} \frac{C}{2} - K f_s \right|$$

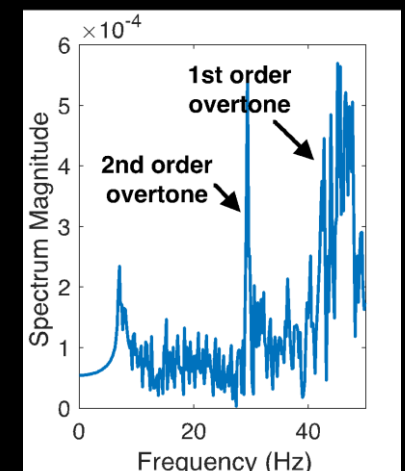
$$0 \leq f_{C,N}^a \leq f_s/2 \quad K \in \mathbb{Z}$$



4-cylinder



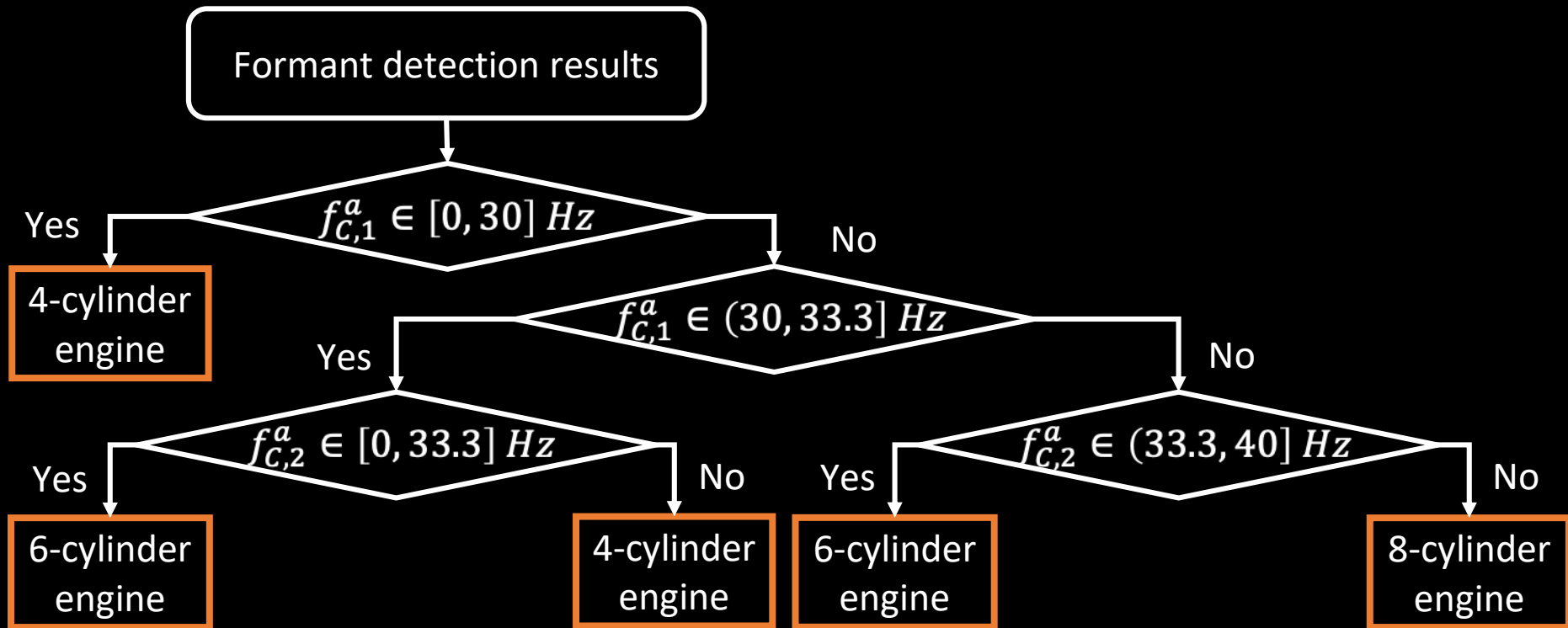
6-cylinder



8-cylinder

# Inferring Type of an Idling Vehicle

A decision tree can be constructed based on the distribution of  $f_{C,N}^a$



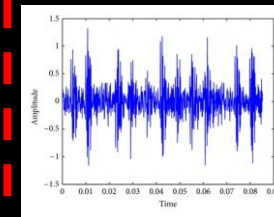
# Inferring Type of a Moving Vehicle



Vibration source  
(Engine)



Filters (vehicle frame, chassis,  
suspension etc.)

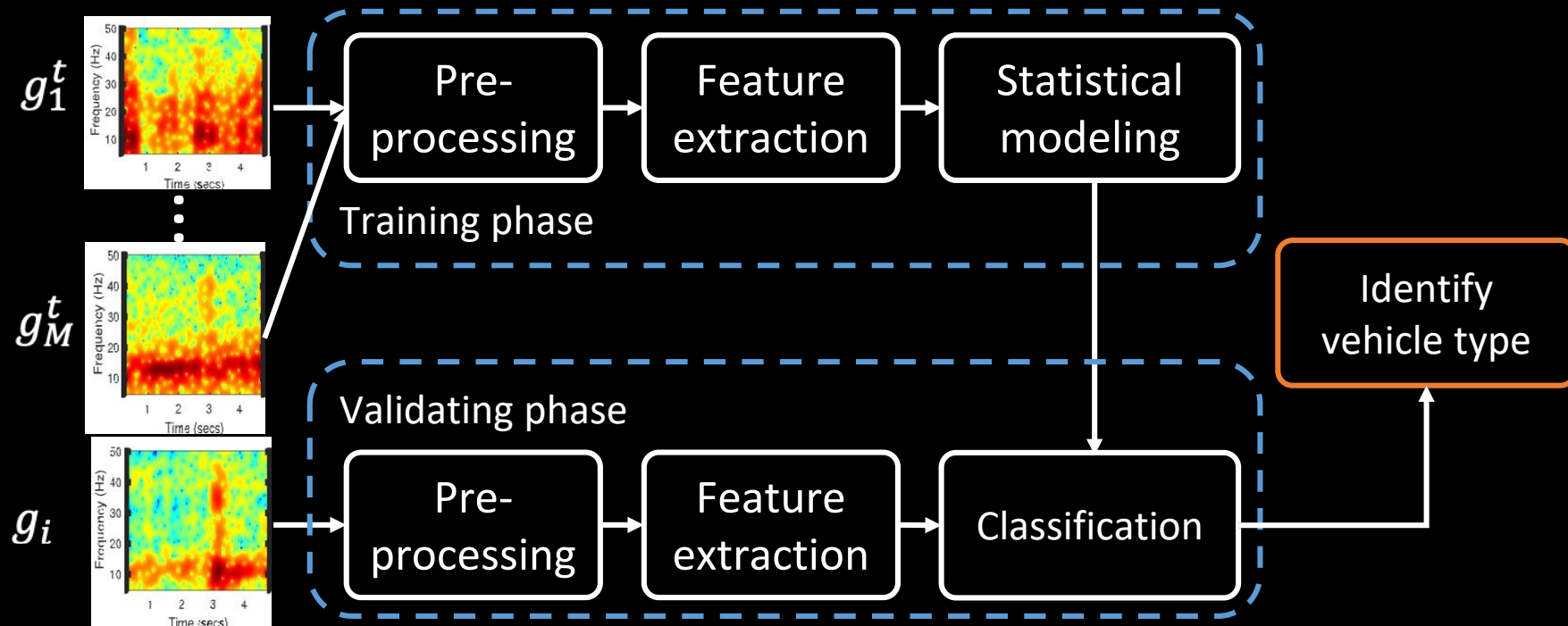


Vibration  
signal

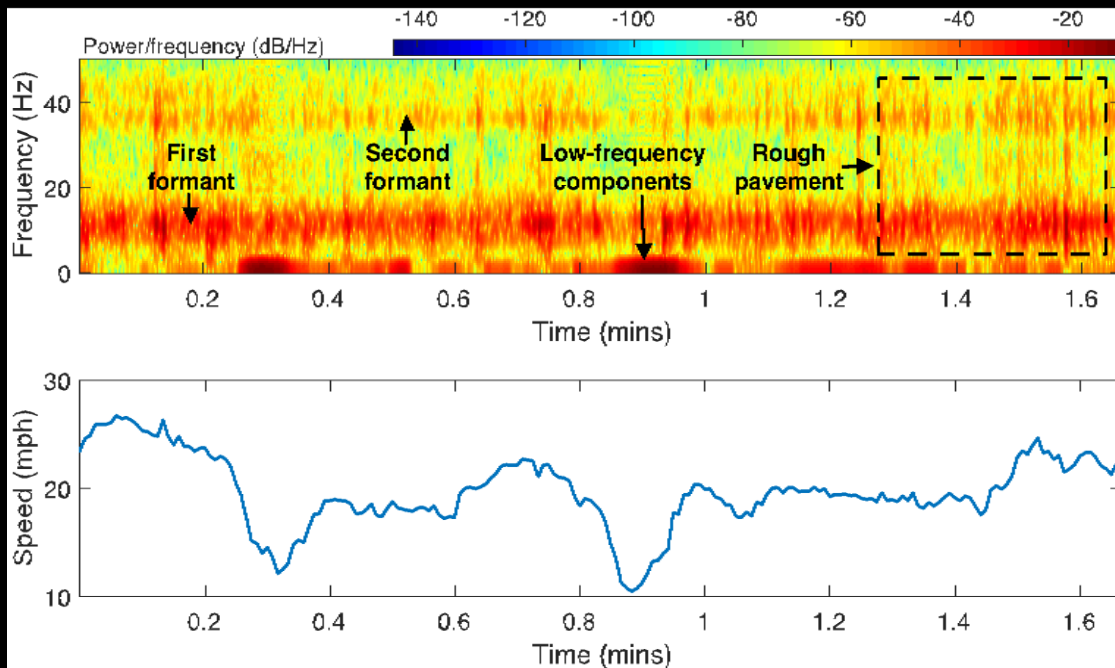
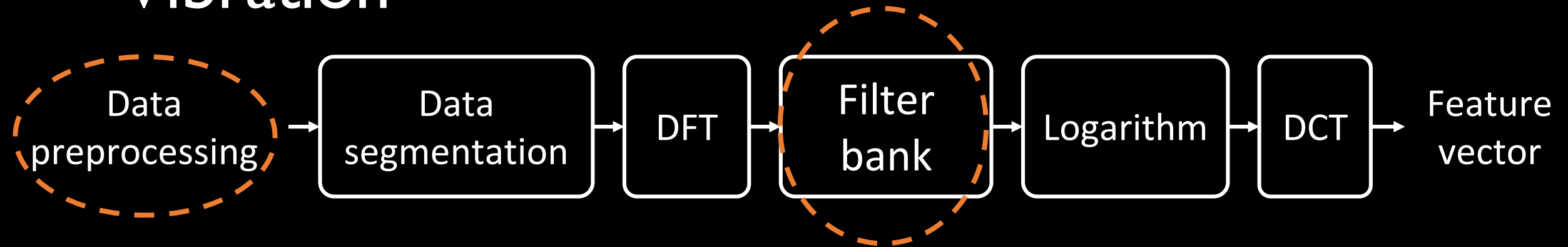
# Inferring Type of a Moving Vehicle

- Insights from the pipeline of speaker recognition

Raw vibration data  $\longrightarrow$  Source filter model  $\longrightarrow$  Characterizing the car type



# Feature Extraction: Adapt to Vehicle Vibration



Spectral features when the vehicle is moving

1. Maneuver generates the low-frequency components (<5 Hz)
2. Key formants are distinguishable even on rough pavement

# Evaluation Setting

Cases	Vehicle type	Experimental vehicle(s)
C-1	Compact	Toyota Corolla 2009; Hyundai Elantra 2008; Nissan Sentra 2018
C-2	Mid-size	Honda Accord 2006, 2013; Toyota Camry 2010, Toyota Camry 2010, 2011; Ford Fusion 2018; Mercedes Benz C180 2016
C-3	SUV	Honda CRV 2013, 2014; Jeep Campus 2014; Ford Explorer 2011, 2016
C-4	Pickup truck	GMC Sierra 2015, 2016; Ford F-150 2017

- For each vehicle type we extract the gyroscope sensor data from idling and moving stages



# Evaluation

Identifying types of idling vehicles

# cylinder	Precision	Recall	F-1
4	0.82	0.82	0.82
6	0.67	0.50	0.57
8	0.67	1.00	0.80

# Evaluation

Identifying types of moving vehicles

Predicted Vehicle Types	1	85.0% 85	0.0% 0	0.0% 0	0.0% 0
	2	14.0% 14	90.0% 90	6.0% 6	14.0% 14
	3	0.0% 0	5.0% 5	83.0% 83	1.0% 1
	4	1.0% 1	5.0% 5	11.0% 11	85.0% 85
		1	2	3	4
		Actual Vehicle Types			

The overall accuracy is **85.75%**

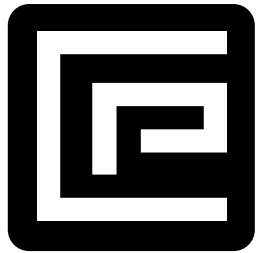
# Conclusion

- VeFi exploits the vibration pattern to differentiate vehicle types
- A high-frequency vibration pattern can characterize:
  - Engine type for idling cars
  - Car body type for moving cars

# Thanks!

## Q & A

Research Presented by:



**TigerSec Laboratory**  
@ **Clemson University**

