Non-invasive Spoofing Attacks for Anti-lock Braking Systems

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- Motivation: Attacks on Control Systems
- Anti-Lock Braking Systems (ABS)
- ABS Spoofing Algorithm
- ABS Hacker Hardware
- Implementation Results
- Conclusions



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- Side-channel attacks: How to use the interaction between the physical environment and the embedded processing components to leak information about the behavior of the cyber components.
- Active physical attacks (our work): How to use the interaction between the physical environment and the embedded processing components to influence/alter the behavior of the cyber components.



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- Active physical attacks (our work): How to use the interaction between the physical environment and the embedded processing components to influence/alter the behavior of the cyber components.
 - Feedback control system are active systems. Information collected form the physical environment **influence** the decisions of the controller.



Attacks on Control System :

Timing attacks on scheduling over communication bus.

2 Spoofing or replay of control signals and/or sensor outputs.

Physical attacks on sensors and/or actuators.



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In this work:

- We play the role of an attacker.
- Objective: discover how much the attacker can harm the ABS system through its sensors.
- ABS sensors:
 - Magnetic speed sensors to measure individual wheel speeds.
 - Sensors are exposed to an external attacker from underneath the body of a vehicle.



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Anti-Lock Braking System



Basic speed sensor operation for ABS systems



Physical Attacks on ABS Sensors

Invasive attacks:

- Attacker has to tamper with internal components, e.g., internal circuitry, wiring, or change software.
- Can be easily detected by smart circuit design and/or tamper proof packaging.

Non-invasive attacks:

- Attacker alters the physical environment around the sensor.
- More difficult to detect. System designer can no longer blindly trust the output of the sensor.





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Disruptive attack:

- Malicious actuator is placed near the ABS sensor.
- The generated magnetic field is superimposed to the original magnetic field.
- Result: sensor will measure "wrong" wheel speed.



Spoofing attack:

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- ABS sensor measures the synthetic signal.
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 - High permeability ferromagnetic material.
 - Provides return path for the magnetic flux, and thus significantly decreases the magnetic flux reaching the sensor.
 - However, air gap is very small (2-5 mm).

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System Model:

$$\dot{x} = Ax + Bu + Pw,$$
 (1)
 $\dot{w} = Sw,$ $e = Cx - Qw.$

$$S = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & \omega_o & 0 & 0 \\ -\omega_o & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & \omega_a \\ 0 & 0 & -\omega_a & 0 \end{pmatrix} P = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} Q = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

 Objective (Error-Feedback Output Regulation): Design a dynamic controller

$$\dot{z} = g(z, e), \qquad \qquad u = f(z) \qquad (2$$

such that

$$(x, z) = (0, 0)$$
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 - Utilizes a non-linear high-gain observer and a non-linear controller to suppress the unknown frequency.

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Metric	Indirect Adaptive Method	Direct Adaptive Method	Nonlinear High gain Observer
Number of states	18	12	8
Matrix Inversion	9×9	N/A	8×8



ABS Spoofing Algorithm: Direct Adaptive Method



Idea: Design an adaptive filter as following:



- Fix the filter structure.
- 2 Allow only one parameter q_0 to be adapted.
- 3 Use gradient descent to update q_0 such that:

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$$\begin{split} q_{0_{n+1}} &= q_{0_n} + F_n \phi_n \epsilon_{n+1}, \\ F_{n+1} &= \frac{1}{\lambda_{1_n}} \left[F_n - \frac{F_n \phi_n \phi_n^T F_n}{\frac{\lambda_{1_n}}{\lambda_2} + \phi_n^T F_n \phi_n} \right] \\ \lambda_{1_n} &= \begin{cases} \lambda_0 \lambda_{1_{n-1}} + 1 - \lambda_0 & \text{if } \lambda_{1_n} > \lambda_{threshold} \\ \lambda_{threshold} & \text{otherwise} \end{cases} \end{split}$$



From Theory to Practice



Actuator:

- Stack of 4-flat PCB coils driven by high current op-amp.
- By increasing the number of internal layers, the number of coil turns increases and thus current decreases.

Sensor and filtering:

- Flat coil with differential output.
- Two phase filters:
 - Amplification: using instrumentation amplifier with high common-mode rejection
 - Noise rejection: elliptic curve low pass filter.
- Both sensor and actuator are designed to fit within the air-gap in the ABS sensor (final width = 0.95 mm).







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Low power MSP430F2410:

- Polls the radio interface until the attack command is received.
- Boots up the powerful processor with its peripherals.
- High power ARM Cortex M4 STM32F407:
 - Powerful processor for DSP computations needed for active shielding (runs at 2.5 KHz)
- Current consumption:
 - 6.18 mA in idle mode which corresponds to 5.4 days.
 - 109 mA in attack mode which corresponds to 3 hour attack.







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The used testbed includes:

- Two Mazda RX7 ABS sensors.
 - One provides the actual speed.
 - The other suffers the attack.
- Mounted on the same Mazda RX7 tone ring.
- MAX9926U ABS sensor interface evaluation kit.
- Tone ring is rotated using a DC motor controlled through Matlab xPC target.





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Implementation Results







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- Non-invasive attacks on cyber-physical systems pose considerable threats.
- Such attacks are harder to detect at the sensor level and thus require higher level detection mechanisms
- Small electronic module is designed and implemented to show the feasibility of the idea using ABS as an example.

