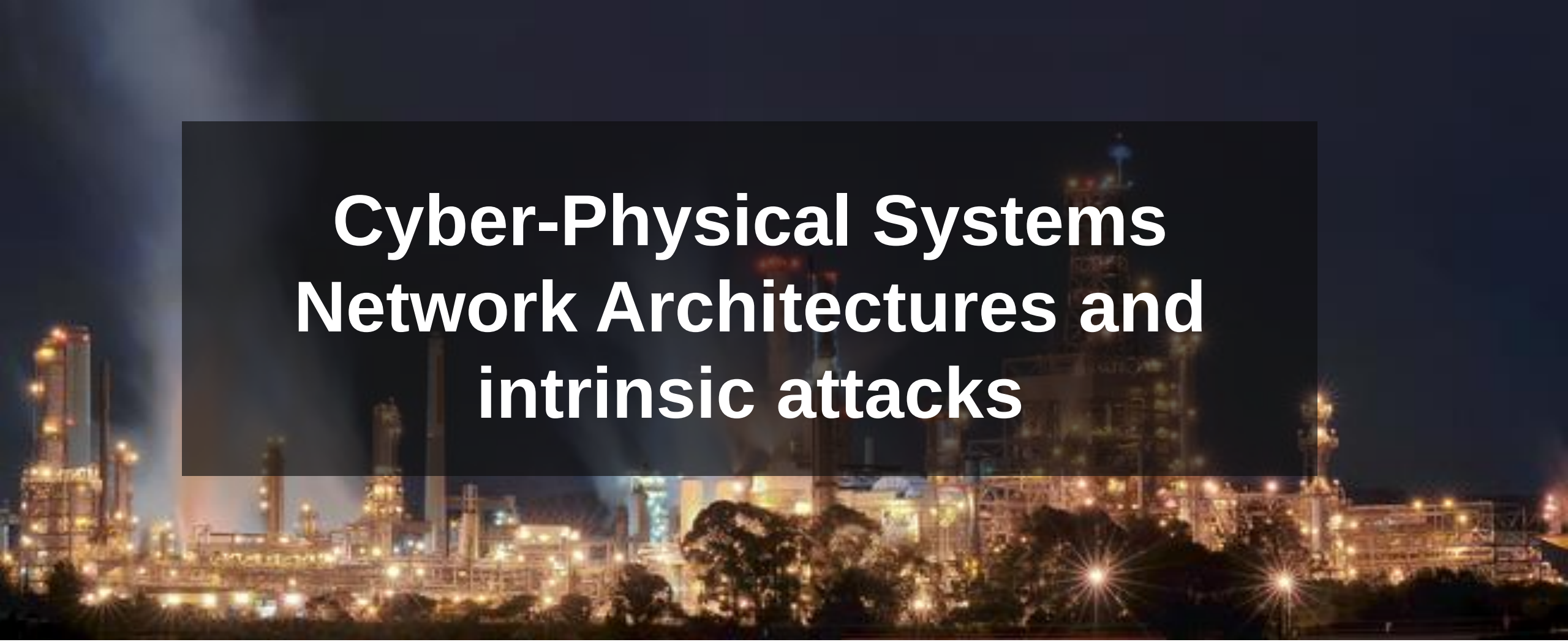


Cyber-Physical Systems Network Architectures and intrinsic attacks

Marina Krotofil

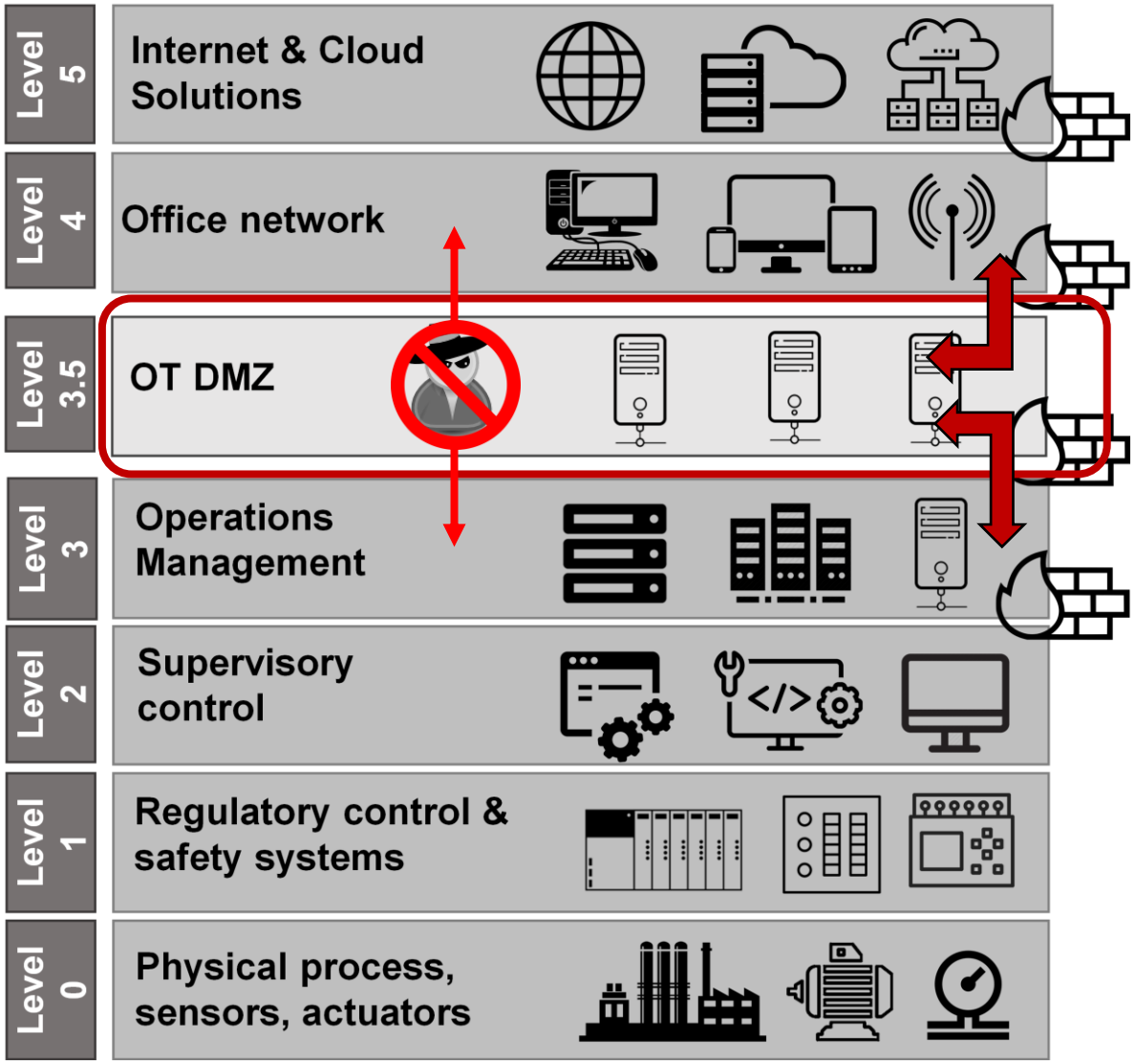
COINS summer school on Security Applications, Lesbos, Greece (online)
14-18.06.2021

Agenda

- **Security/network architectures**
  - **OT/ICS** – no or “strictly supervised” Internet
  - **IIoT** – “one-way” Internet
  - **IoT** – bidirectional Internet
  - **Edge computing**
- **CPS-specific attacks** (not preventable by any traditional IT security methods)
  - “Stale Data” attack
  - “Data Veracity” attack
  - Escaping security boundaries or “evil bubbles” attack

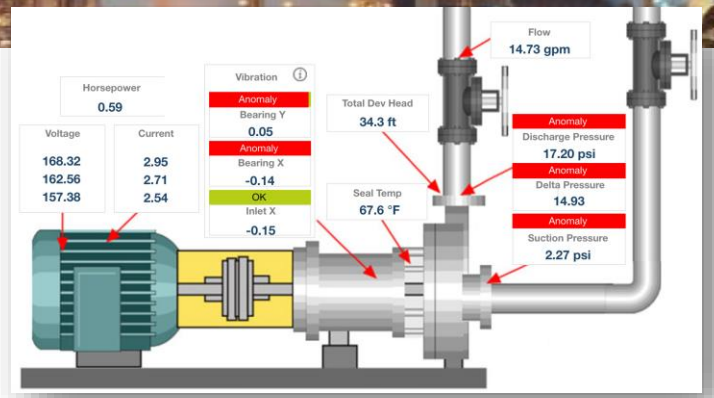
CPS network architectures

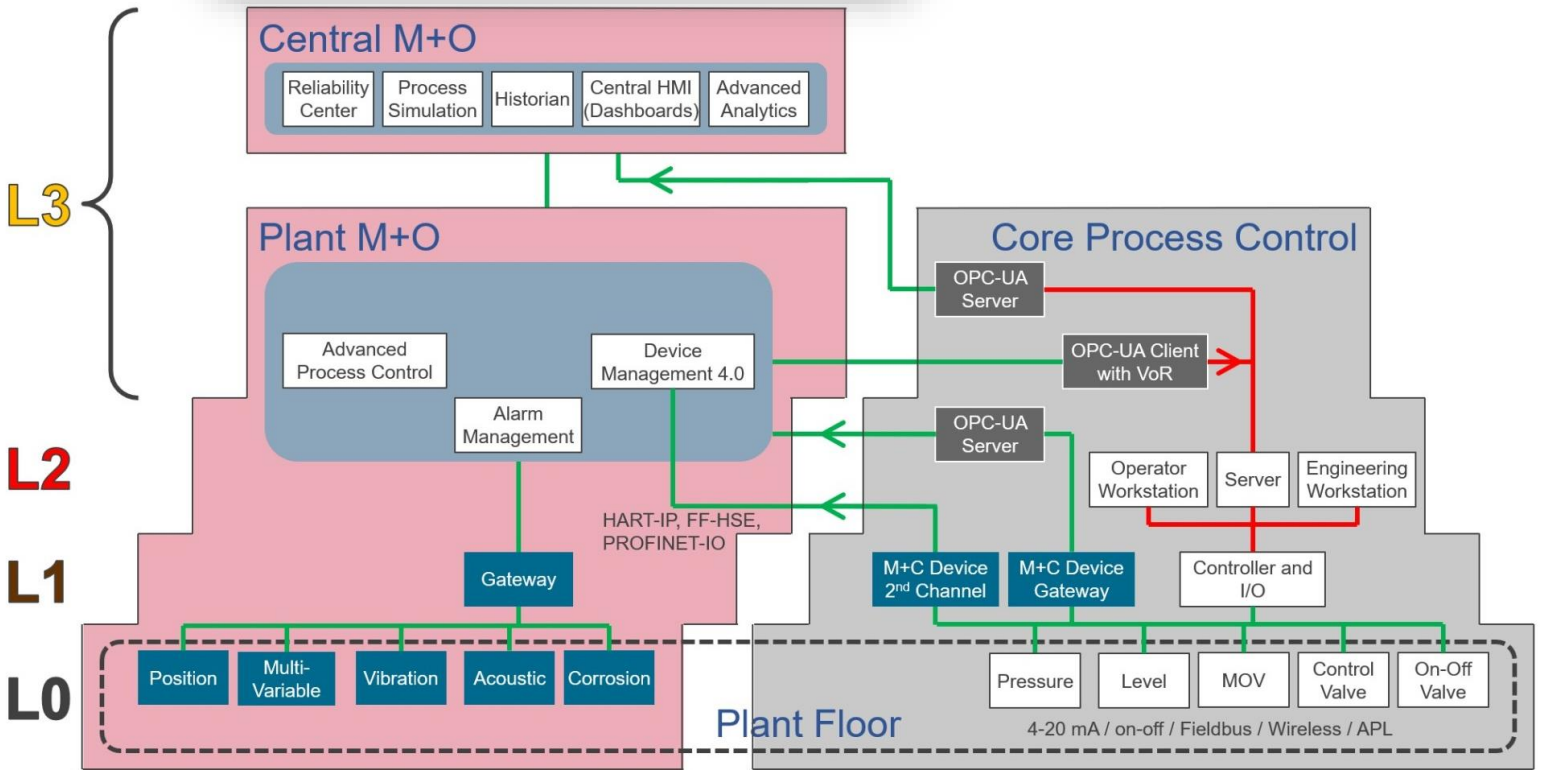
ICS/OT – typical architecture



- **Strong physical security**
- In rare cases air gapped
  - Data exchange over USB or similar
- **Limited and tightly configured** data exchange & communication flows through OT DMZ
  - Should prevent & detect >90% of automated & human-assisted intrusions/attacks
  - (Mostly) wired communication
- **Lower requirement to security of end-points**

IIoT – independent reliable data infrastructure

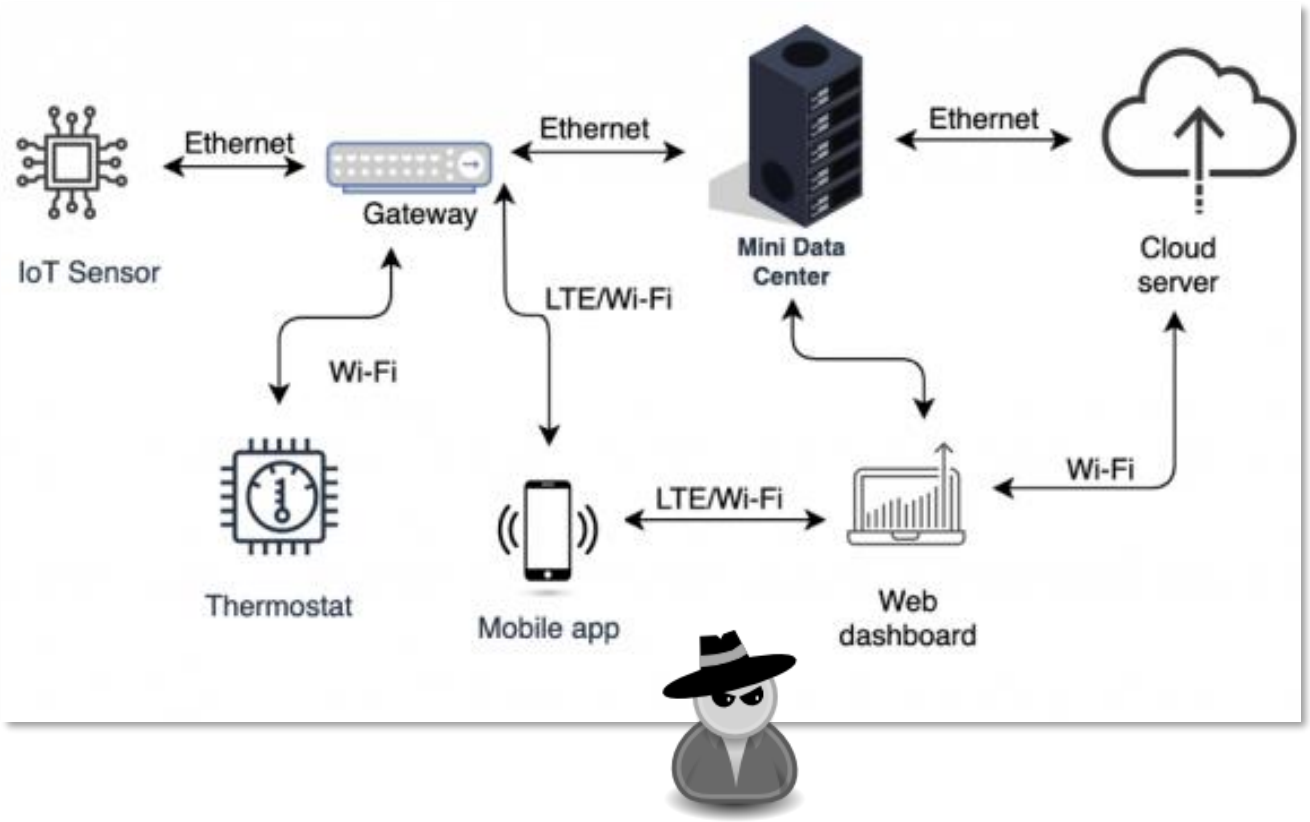




https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/implementing-namur-open-architecture-noa-jonas-berge/

- Strong physical security
- Typically <u>one way</u> communication, can be enforced with data diodes
- Data exchange between bore process control and IIoT is limited & securely provisioned
- **Lower requirement to security of end-points** (often simple analog sensors)

IoT – by definition is exposed to Internet

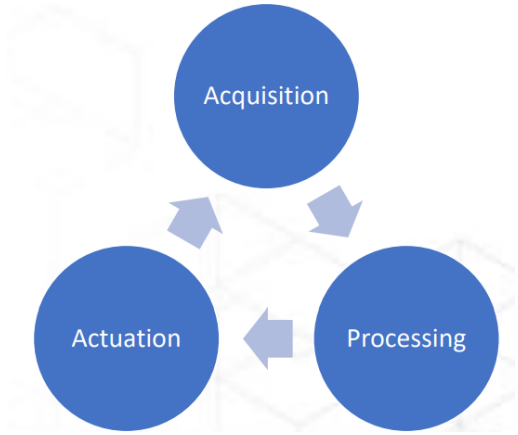


- **Physical security cannot be guaranteed**
- **Internet-connected:** directly or via some networking equipment (e.g. gateway)
- Predominately wireless communication
- **High requirement to security of end-point IoT devices**

Edge computing

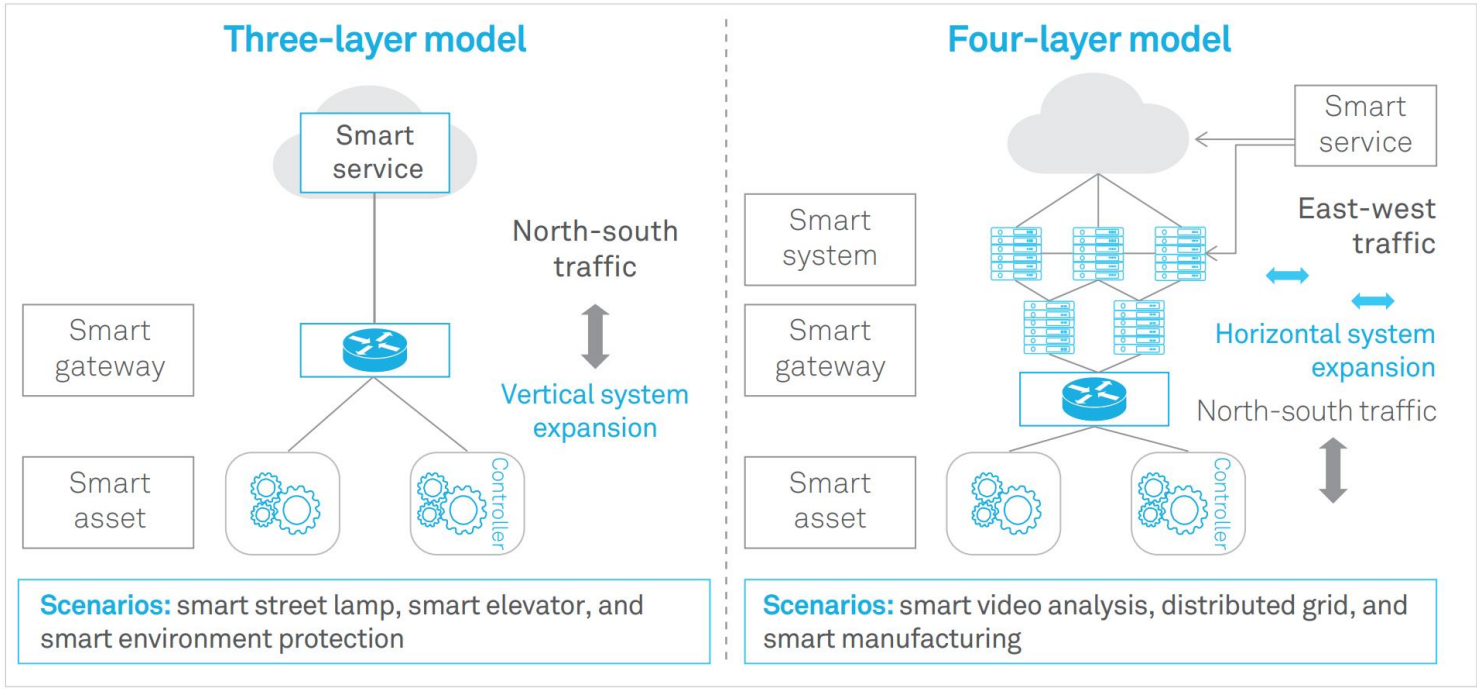
Advantages

- On premises data acquisition, processing & actuation
- Some resiliency
- Lower latency
- Less network traffic
- Data retention on premises



https://conference.hitb.org/hitb-lockdown002/sessions/the-fragile-art-of-edge-computing-walk-through-access-control-systems/

Edge Computing Reference Architecture 2.0



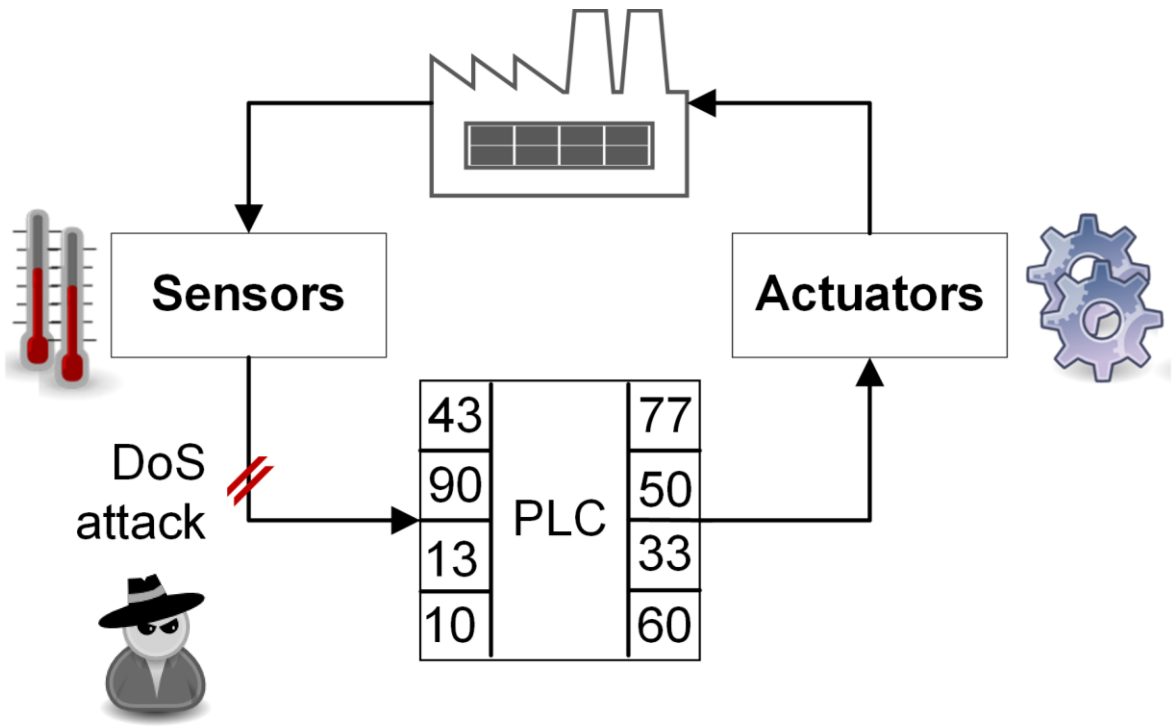
http://en.ecconsortium.net/Uploads/file/20180328/1522232376480704.pdf

Stale Data attack

Stale Data attack: Exploiting control features

- (Most) cyber-physical systems adhere to hard real-time control requirements
- Process data may only be valid for a short time & become irrelevant if arriving just few milliseconds too late
- Data timeliness must be protected and **"stale“ data** should be recognized & discarded

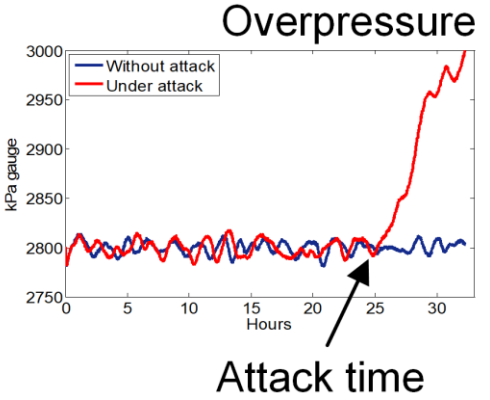
Giving “new life” to DoS attacks



DoS / packet delay / packet drop / network congestion / etc.

Controller output

77	76	75	76	75	72	74	74	73
50	49	48	51	51	50	49	50	51
33	33	31	30	32	32	31	33	33
60	61	**62**	61	**56**	**51**	**46**	**41**	**35**



PLC scan cycles

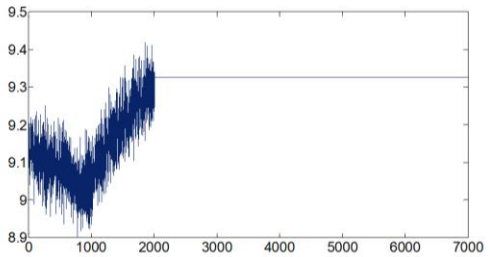
43	45	47	45	43	43	44	43	43
90	89	88	91	91	90	89	90	91
13	15	17	15	13	13	14	13	13
10	17	**10**	12	**10**	**10**	**10**	**10**	**10**

Stale data

Last stored value

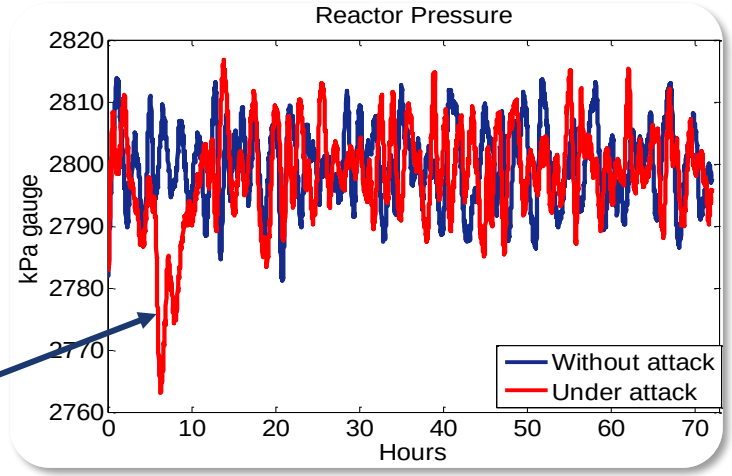
Attack time

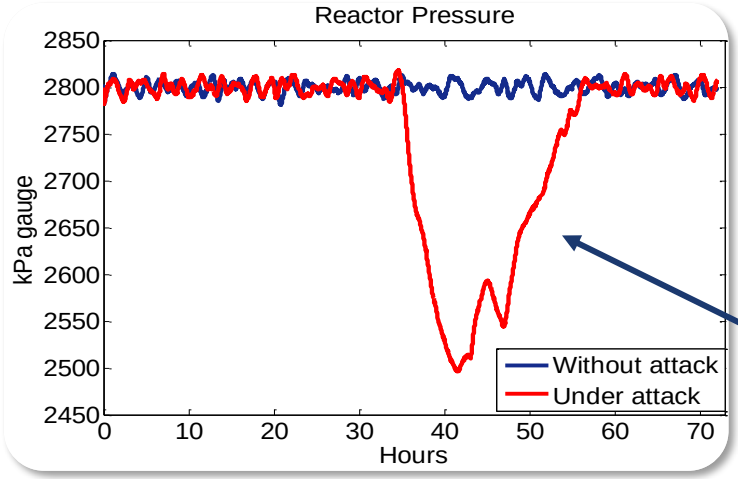
Attack duration



Timing of DoS attack matters

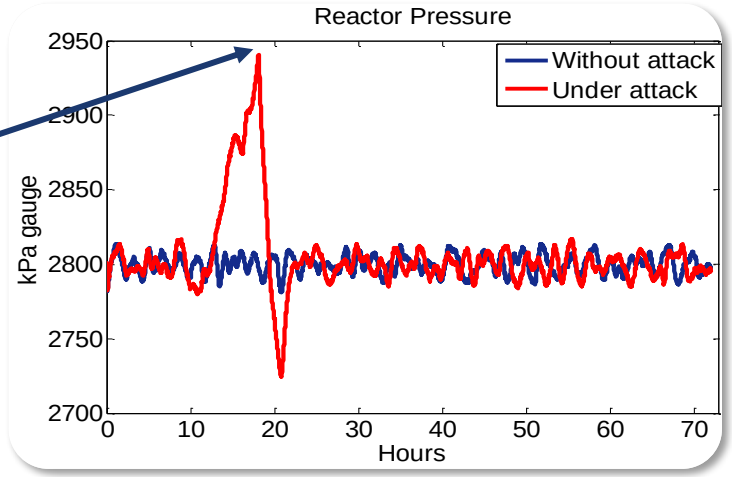
Ordinary glitch

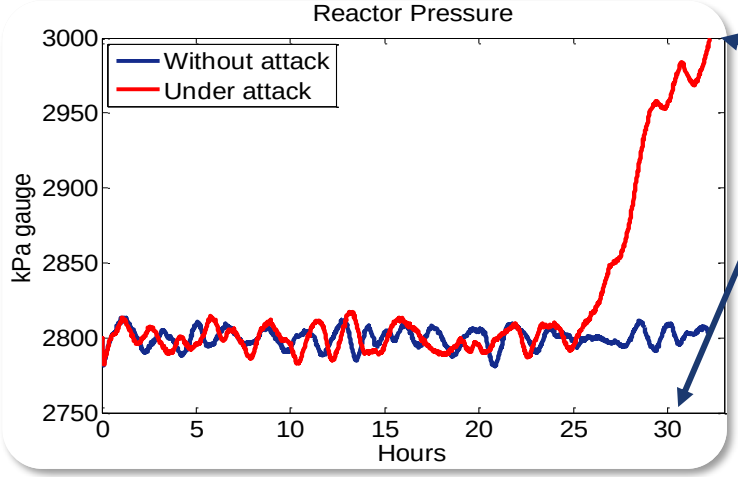




Economic inefficiency

Near miss (almost safety accident)

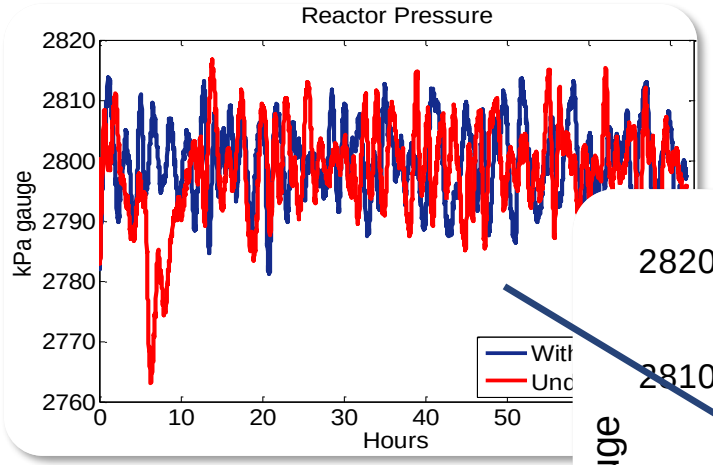


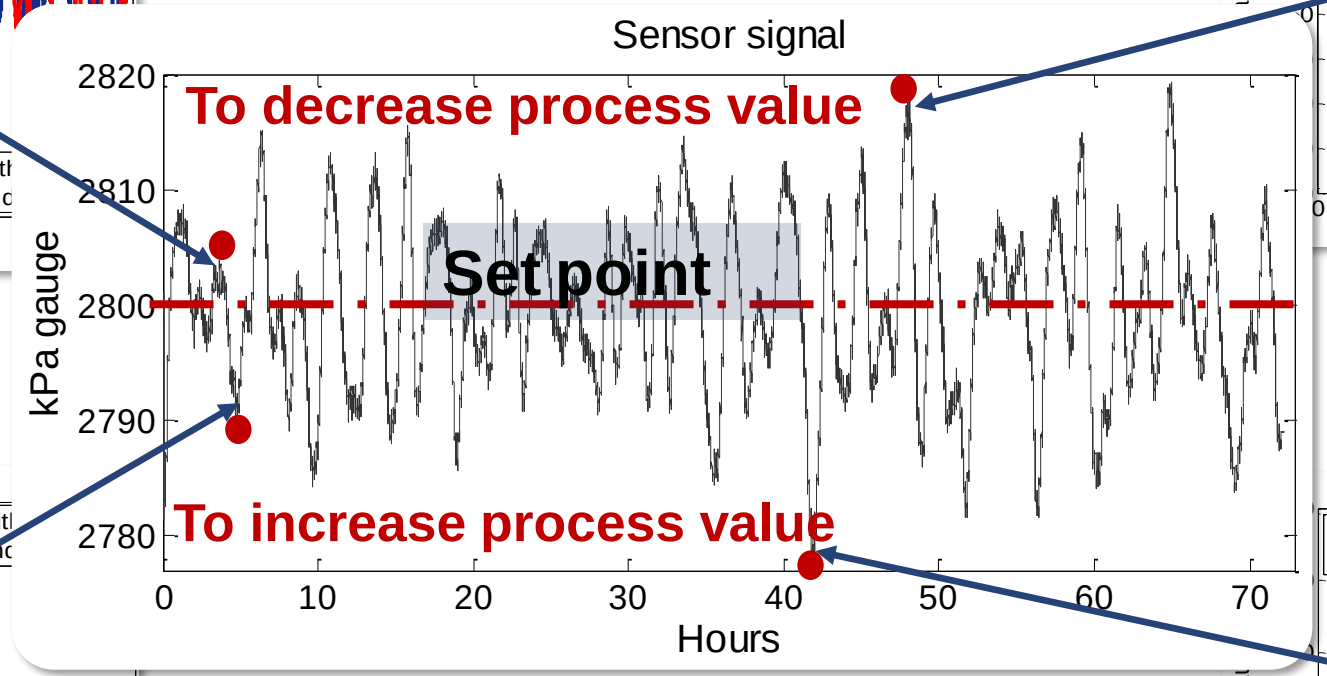


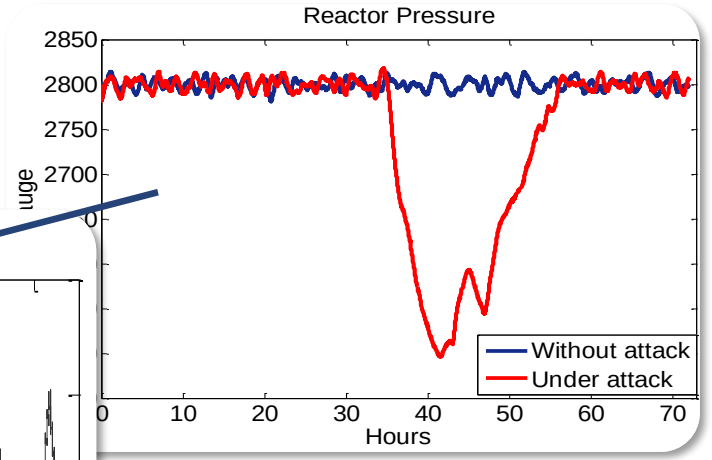
Safety shutdown

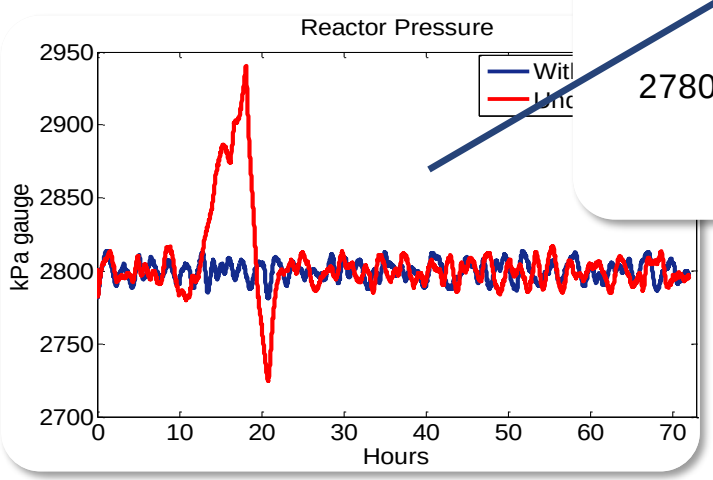
Impact of 8h long DoS attacks on reactor pressure sensor at random time

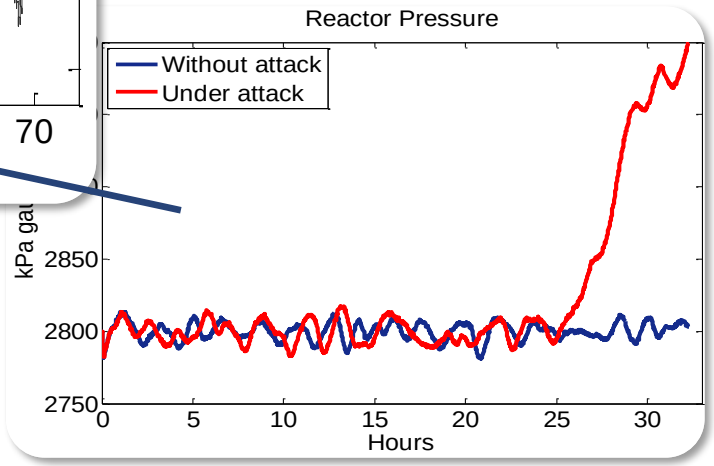
Process response depends on DoS value











Where this approach could be useful?

```
 434 1.070135    10.85.64.50     10.21.81.252    DNP 3.0    162 from 16 to 1024, len=255, Unconfirmed User Data, TL fragment 23
 553 1.131345    10.85.64.50     10.21.81.252    DNP 3.0    112 from 16 to 1024, Response
 740 1.447104    10.21.81.252    10.85.64.50     DNP 3.0     78 from 1024 to 16, Read, Internal Indications
 749 1.510921    10.85.64.50     10.21.81.252    DNP 3.0     75 from 16 to 1024, Response
 777 1.844267    10.21.81.252    10.85.64.50     DNP 3.0     78 from 1024 to 16, Read, Internal Indications
 785 1.908871    10.85.64.50     10.21.81.252    DNP 3.0     75 from 16 to 1024, Response
1199 2.219736    10.21.81.252    10.85.64.50     DNP 3.0     78 from 1024 to 16, Read, Internal Indications
1211 2.283874    10.85.64.50     10.21.81.252    DNP 3.0     75 from 16 to 1024, Response
1269 2.594731    10.21.81.252    10.85.64.50     DNP 3.0     78 from 1024 to 16, Read, Internal Indications
1560 2.961068    10.85.64.50     10.21.81.252    DNP 3.0     75 from 16 to 1024, Response
1571 3.022307    10.85.64.50     10.21.81.252    DNP 3.0     78 from 1024 to 16, Read, Internal Indications
```

```
 42 22.216012    192.168.0.100    192.168.0.2      Modbus/TCP    66    Query: Trans:     2; Unit:   1, Func:   6:
 43 22.223304    192.168.0.2      192.168.0.100    TCP           60 502 → 15425 [ACK] Seq=90 Ack=85 Win=11680 Len=
 44 22.230517    192.168.0.2      192.168.0.100    Modbus/TCP    66 Response: Trans:     2; Unit:   1, Func:   6:
 45 22.431041    192.168.0.100    192.168.0.2      TCP           54 15425 → 502 [ACK] Seq=85 Ack=102 Win=65419 Len
 46 28.010511    192.168.0.100    192.168.0.2      Modbus/TCP    66    Query: Trans:     2; Unit:   1, Func:   3:
 47 28.013147    192.168.0.2      192.168.0.100    TCP           60 502 → 15425 [ACK] Seq=102 Ack=97 Win=11668 Len
 48 28.025390    192.168.0.2      192.168.0.100    Modbus/TCP    83 Response: Trans:     2; Unit:   1, Func:   3:
 49 28.230019    192.168.0.100    192.168.0.2      TCP           54 15425 → 502 [ACK] Seq=97 Ack=131 Win=65390 Len
```

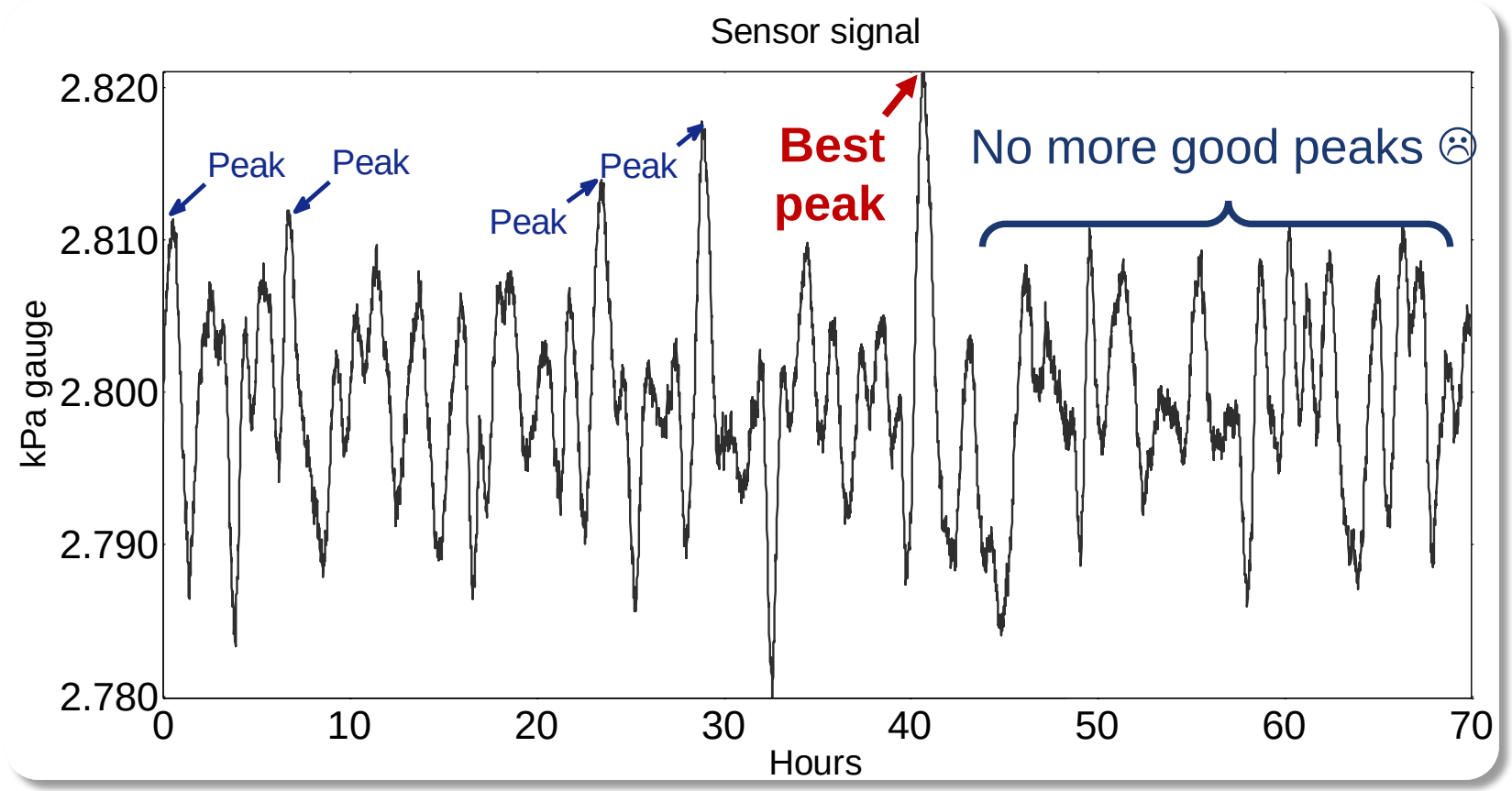
```
▷ Object(s): Binary Input With Status (Obj:01, Var:02) (
◢ Object(s): 16-Bit Analog Input (Obj:30, Var:02) (0x1e0
  ▷ Qualifier Field, Prefix: None, Range: 8-bit Start ar
  ▷ [Number of Items: 70]
  ◢ Point Number 0 (Quality: Online), Value: 1678
      [Point Index: 0]
      Value (16 bit): 1678
  ▷ Point Number 1 (Quality: Online), Value: 1358
  ▷ Point Number 2 (Quality: Online), Value: 1760
  ▷ Point Number 3 (Quality: Online), Value: 1677
  ▷ Point Number 4 (Quality: Online), Value: 1629
  ▷ Point Number 5 (Quality: Online), Value: 1803
  ▷ Point Number 6 (Quality: Online), Value: 74
  ▷ Point Number 7 (Quality: Online), Value: 103
  ▷ Point Number 8 (Quality: Online), Value: 25
```

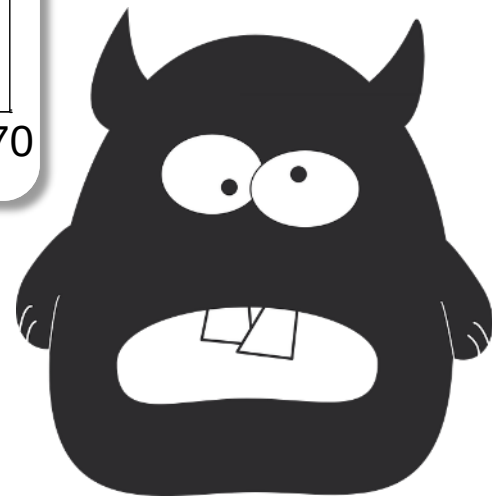
```
0030  81 1e 02 00 00 45 01 8e  06 01 4e 05 01 e0 06 01   .....E.  ..N.....
0040  8d 06 01 5d 06 01 0b 07  01 4a 00 01 67 00 01 19   ...]....  .J..g...
0050  00 01 0f 00 01 f1 00 01  74 00 01 da 00 01 05 01   ........  t.......
0060  01 f3 00 01 fb 00 01 b7  00 01 b6 00 01 b6 00 01   ........  ........
0070  b7 00 01 b9 00 01 b6 00  01 01 80 01 01 80 01 01   ........  ........
0080  80 01 01 80 01 01 80 01  01 80 01 0e 0e 01 0f 0e   ........  ........
```

```
▷ Frame 48: 83 bytes on wire (664 bits), 83 bytes captured (664 bits)
▷ Ethernet II, Src: PhoenixC_8c:36:75 (00:a0:45:8c:36:75), Dst: WistronI_a4:f5:3a (3c:97:0e:a4:f5:3a)
▷ Internet Protocol Version 4, Src: 192.168.0.2, Dst: 192.168.0.100
▷ Transmission Control Protocol, Src Port: 502, Dst Port: 15425, Seq: 102, Ack: 97, Len: 29
▷ Modbus/TCP
◢ Modbus
    .000 0011 = Function Code: Read Holding Registers (3)
    [Request Frame: 46]
    Byte Count: 20
    Register 0 (UINT16): 104
    Register 1 (UINT16): 97
    Register 2 (UINT16): 99
    Register 3 (UINT16): 107
    Register 4 (UINT16): 101
    Register 5 (UINT16): 100
    Register 6 (UINT16): 0
    Register 7 (UINT16): 0
    Register 8 (UINT16): 0
    Register 9 (UINT16): 0
```

```
0000  3c 97 0e a4 f5 3a 00 a0  45 8c 36 75 08 00 45 00   <....:.. E.6u..E.
0010  00 45 00 11 00 00 40 06  f8 eb c0 a8 00 02 c0 a8   .E....@. ........
0020  00 64 01 f6 3c 41 00 44  7e da e2 88 bc c9 50 18   .d..<A.D ~.....P.
0030  2d a0 2e 92 00 00 00 02  00 00 00 17 01 03 14 00   -....... ........
0040  68 00 61 00 63 00 6b 00  65 00 64 00 00 00 00 00   h.a.c.k. e.d.....
```

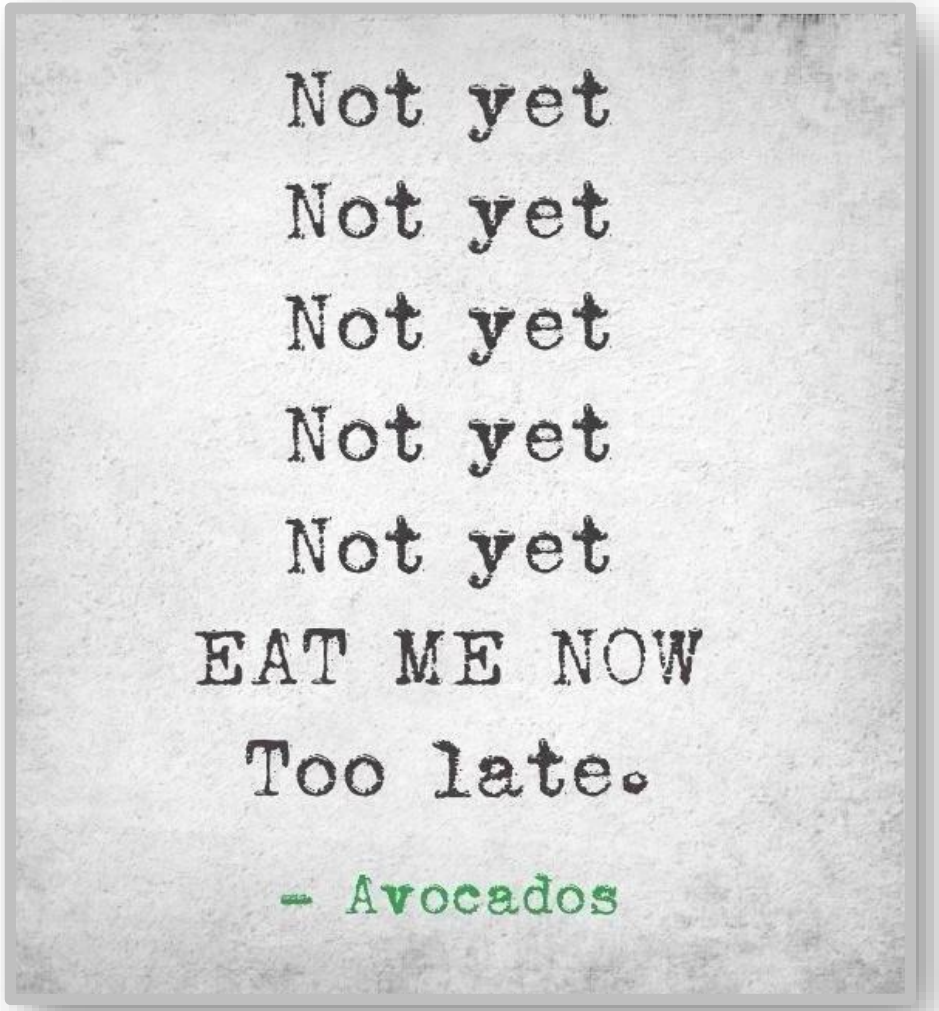
Quest for best peak





- **REAL TIME** decision making problem
- Searching for the **“BEST”** peak
- Achieving results within some time horizon

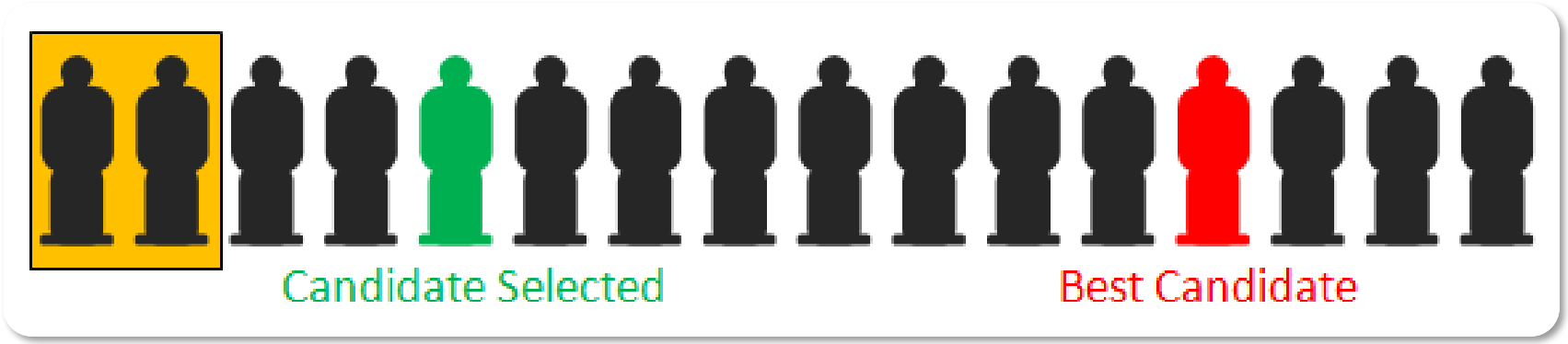
Avocado problem



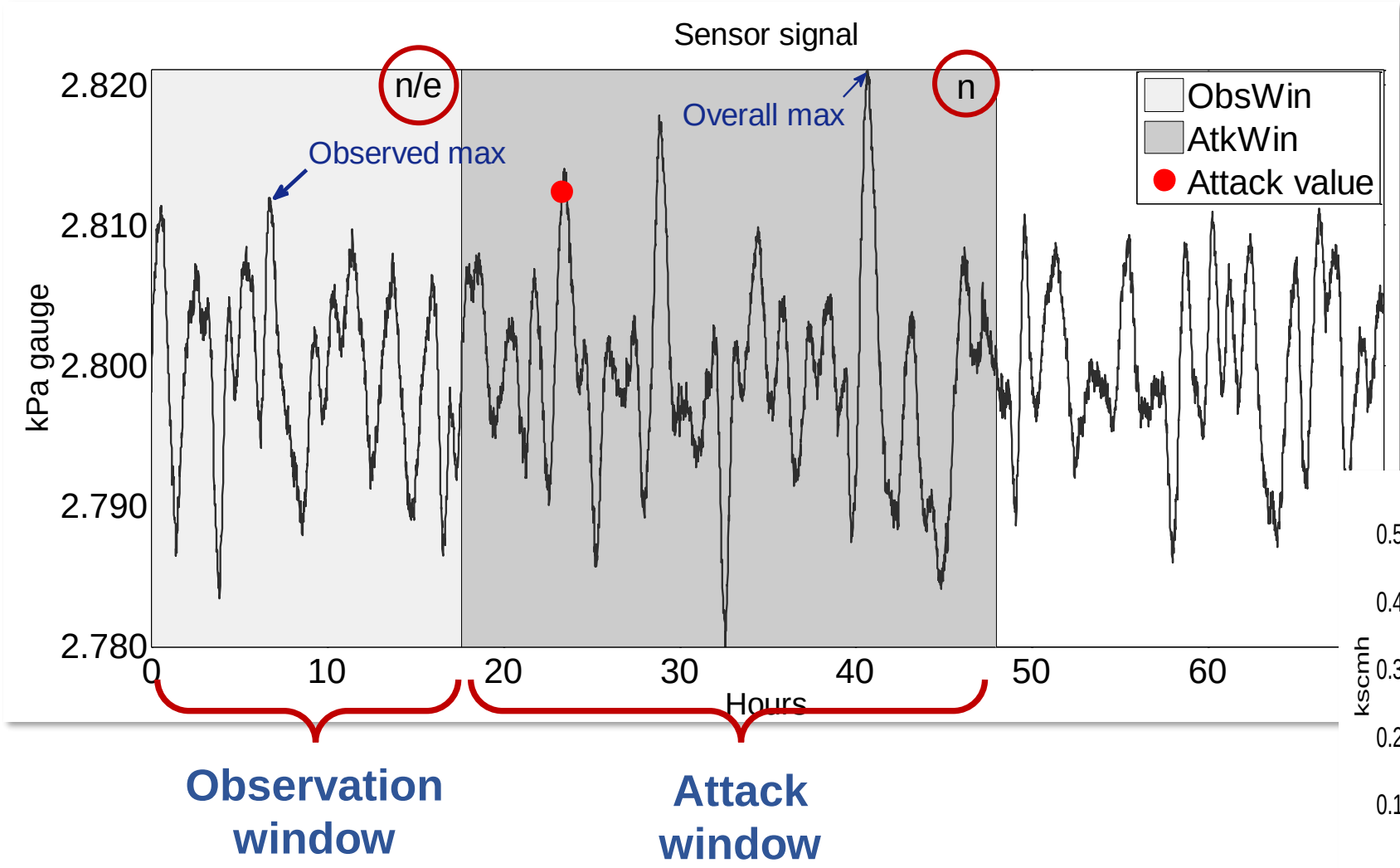
Avocado problem

- Problem of choosing the time to take a particular action
  - Based on sequentially observed random variables
  - In order to maximize an expected pay off
- Applied in a wide range of applications including financial
  - Best time to buy or sell stocks

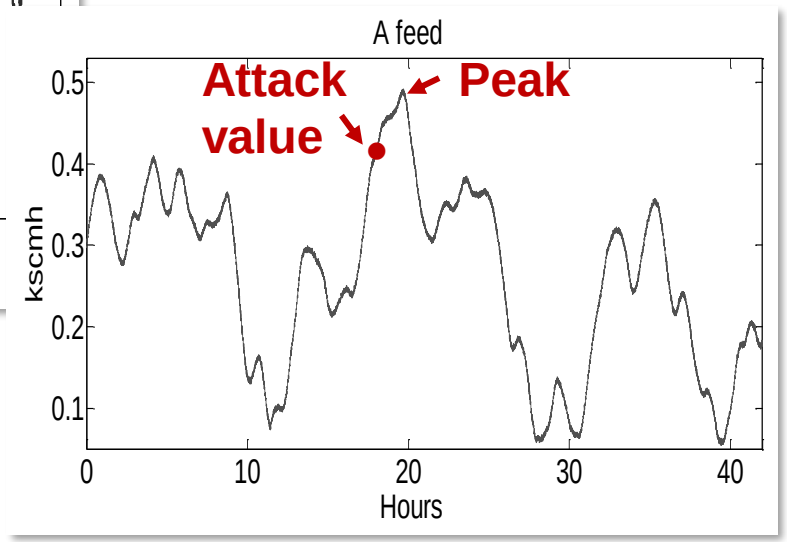
Secretary Problem



Secretary Problem applied to sensor signal

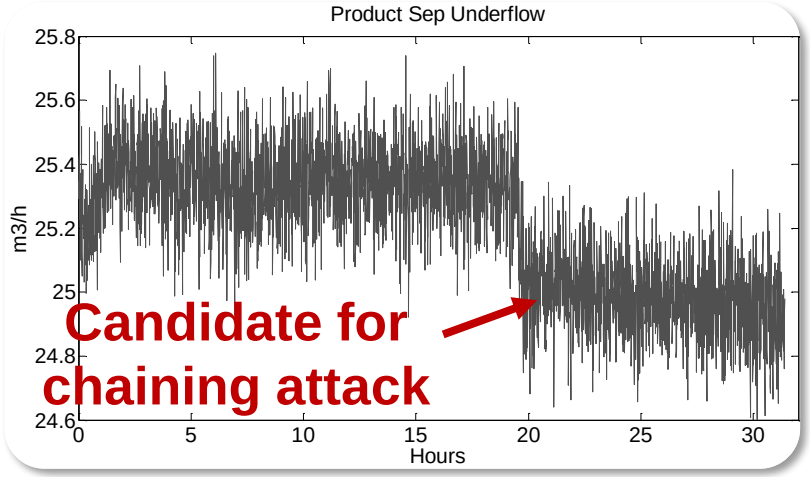


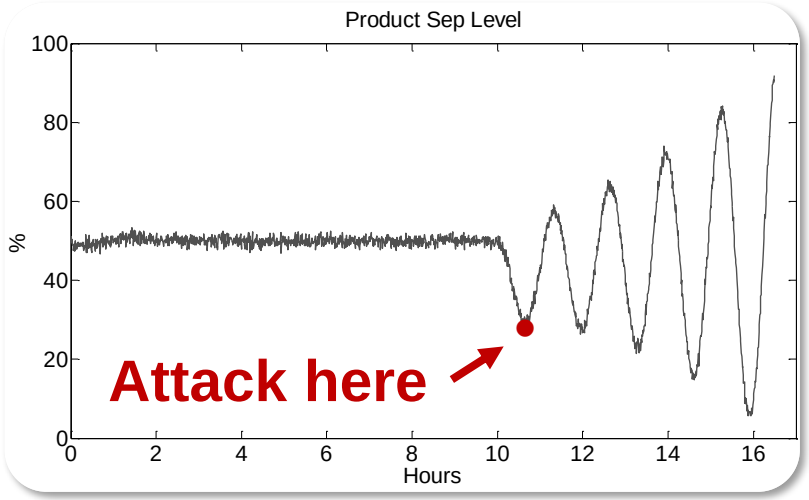
- **n** – number of hours (e.g. 24 hrs)
- **Number of candidates:** # sensor signal samples in 24 hrs



DoS attacks can be chained

- **Chain DoS attacks: on sensors**
- Use change detection algorithms (e.g. CUSUM) to detect state change

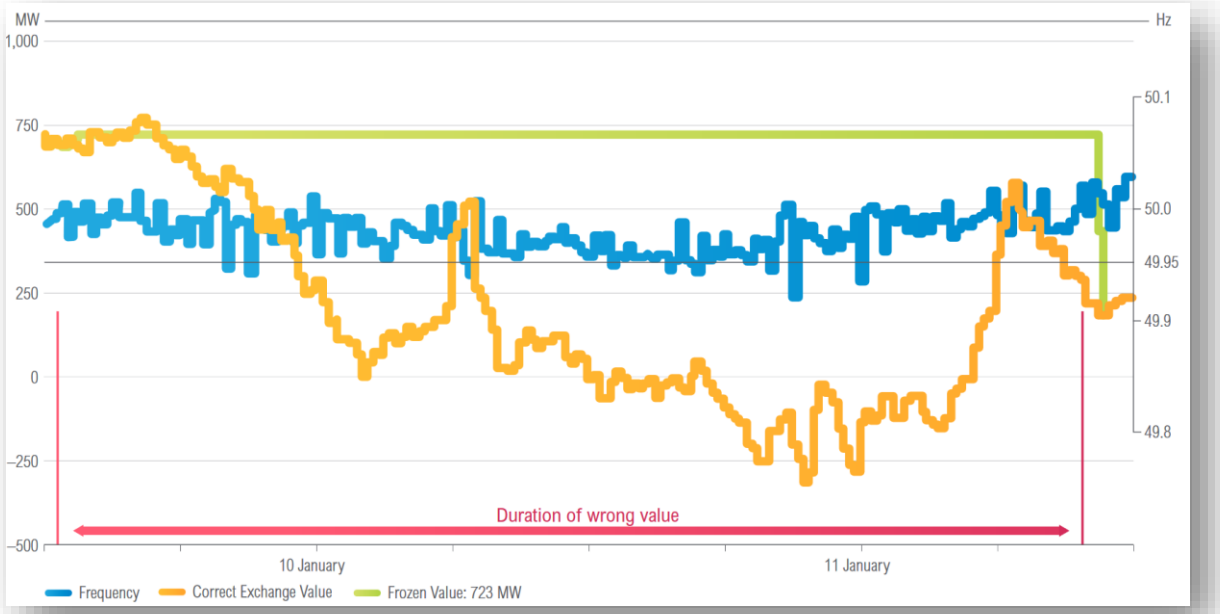




- **Chain two DoS attacks:** on sensor & actuator
- Unsafe state achieved in **3.43 h** vs. **12.03 h** in case of direct attack

Stale data almost collapsed EU power grid

- On 10 January 2019, 21:02 CET, the Continental Europe Power System which stretches across 26 countries registered for nine seconds the largest absolute frequency deviation since 2006. Among the main causes of the incident was a failure of a communication line, which resulted in **stale data**



https://eepublicdownloads.entsoe.eu/clean-documents/news/2019/190522_SOC_TOP_11.6_Task%20Force%20Significant%20Frequency%20Deviations_External%20Report.pdf

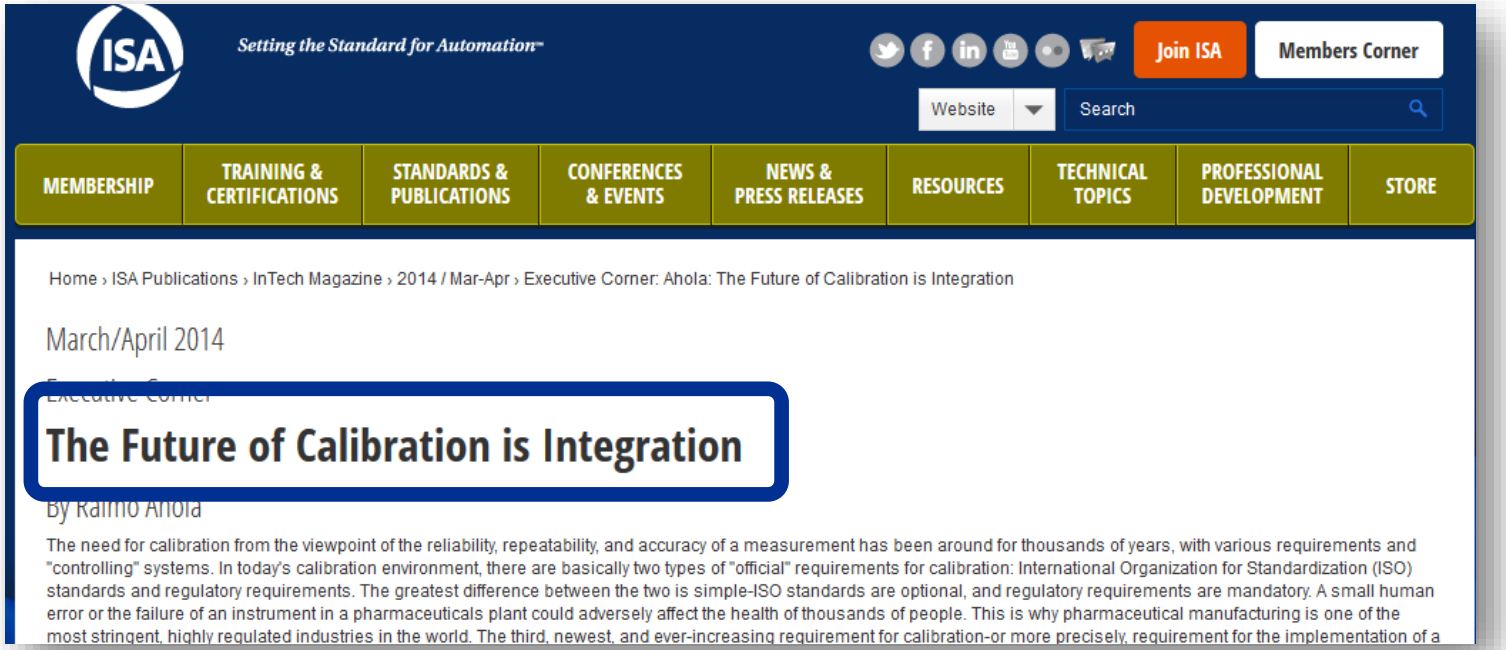
Data Veracity attack

Process data security requirements

- Process data originate in physical world and their accuracy is paramount

Example: Instrument calibration

InTech, ISA magazine, April 2014



HIMA presentation, October 2014

- Due to a known bug at the engineering Software, all scaling of the SIS AI got altered to 0 to 100% automatically
- Altered values got loaded and activated automatically based on an unknown Bug at the same System

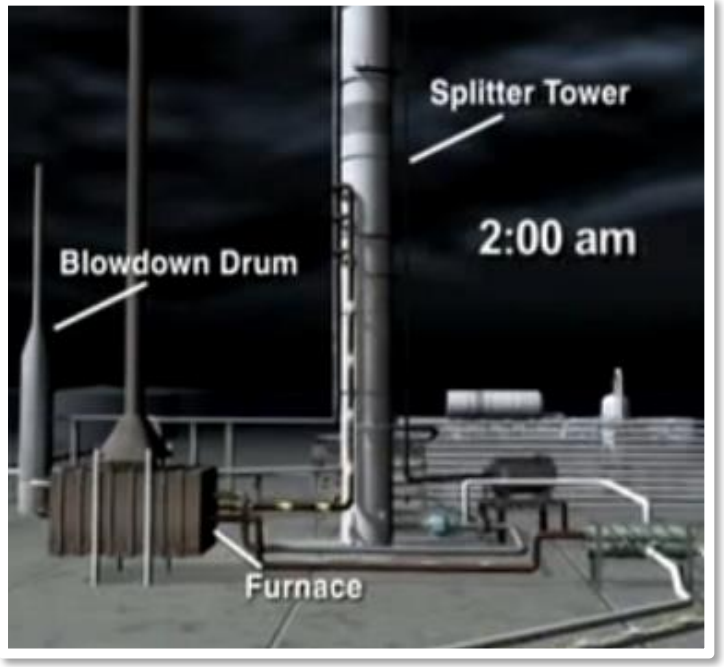
Core principle of application security

NEVER TRUST YOUR INPUTS

Veracity: data security property that a statement about an aspect relevant in a given application truthfully reflects reality

Process data security requirements

- Worst accident in the recent USA history (2005)
- 15 killed, 180 injured
- **Wrong calibration the splitter tower level indicator**
  - It showed that the tower level was declining when it was actually overfilling with flammable liquid hydrocarbons
- The further chain of events eventually led to an explosion

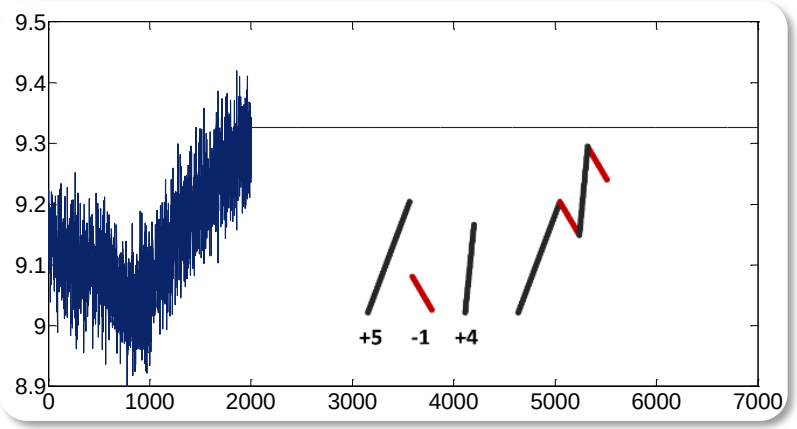


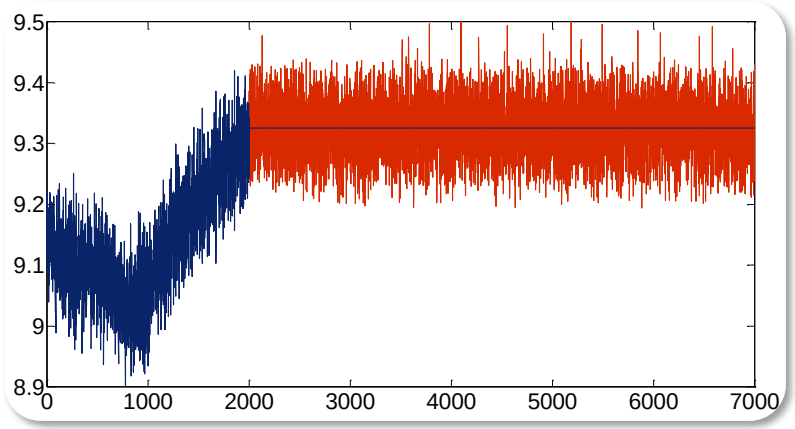
http://www.csb.gov/bp-america-refinery-explosion/

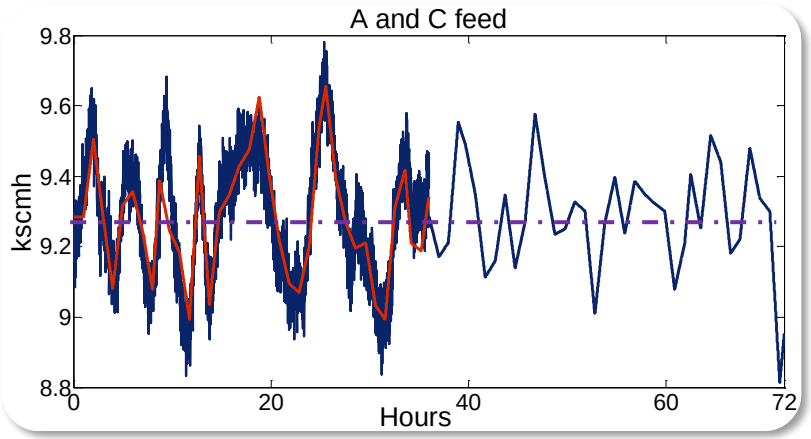
Attack concealment

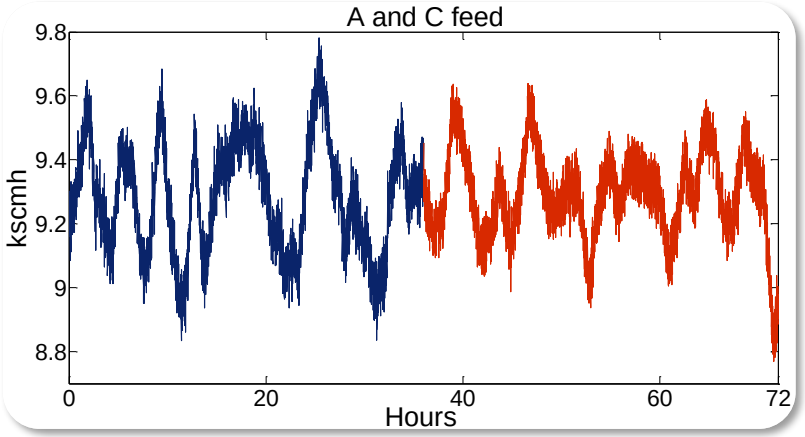
- „Record-and-play-back“
  - Used in Stuxnet ;-)
  - Storage requirements
- Derive process model
  - Requires knowledge, CPU cycles and storage
- Crafted sensor signals
  - Reconstruction of sensor data features

Spoofing sensor signals inside transmitter





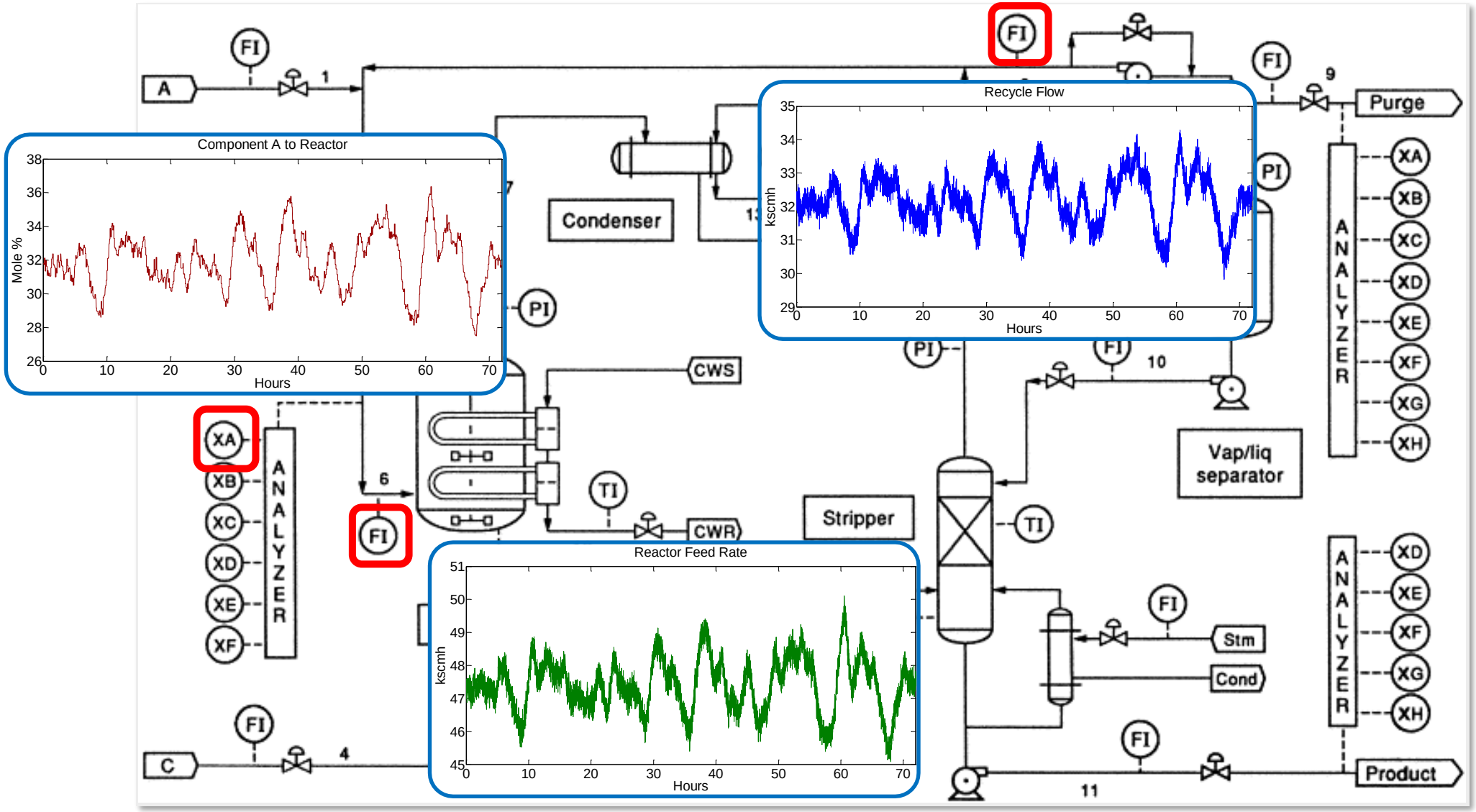




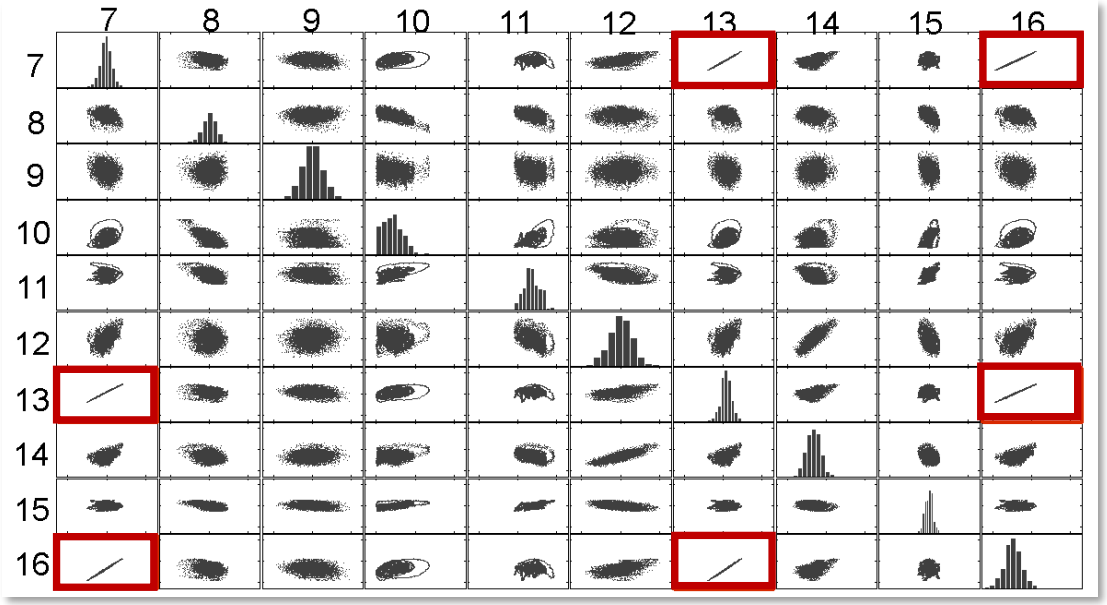
Find X differences ;-)

M. Krotofil, J. Larsen, D. Gollmann. The Process Matters: Ensuring Data Veracity in Cyber-Physical Systems (ASIACCS, 2015)

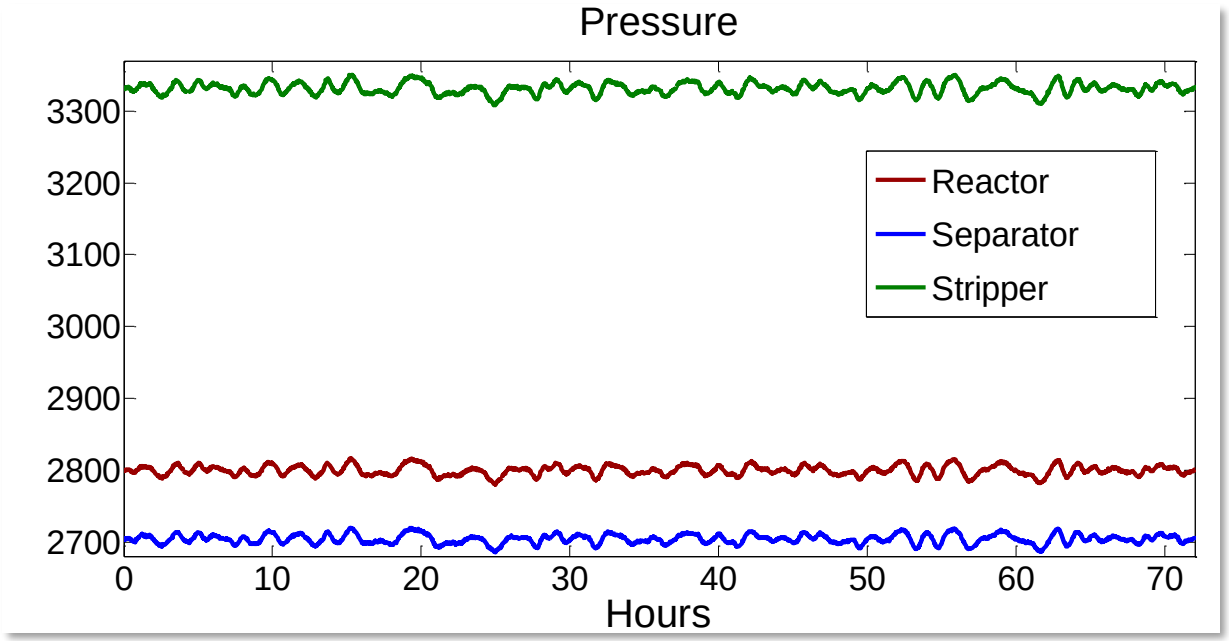
Correlated sensor signals



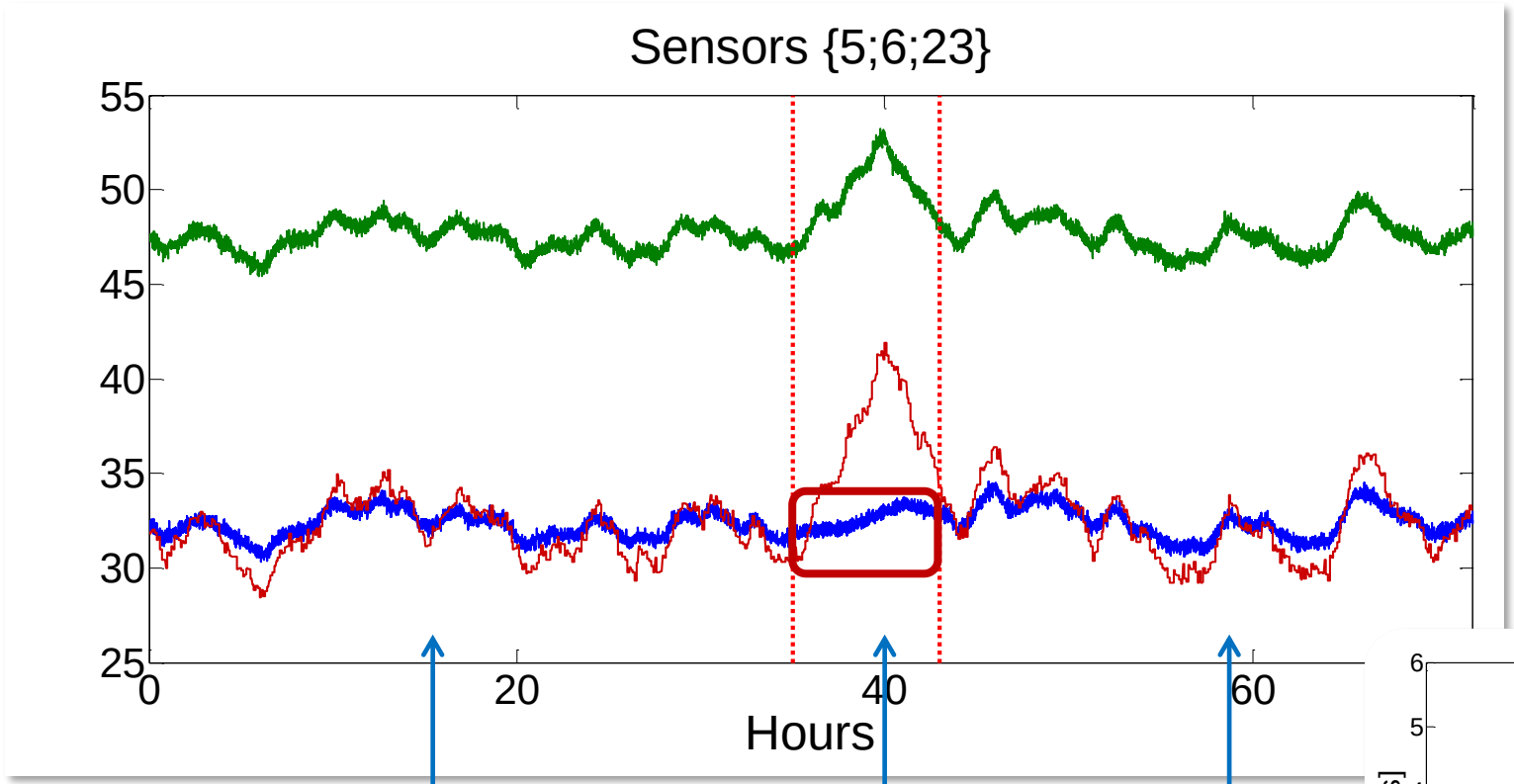
Spoofing sensor signals inside transmitter



- Scatter plot to visualize correlations between signals
- Metis tool kit: Graph partitioning for sensor clustering

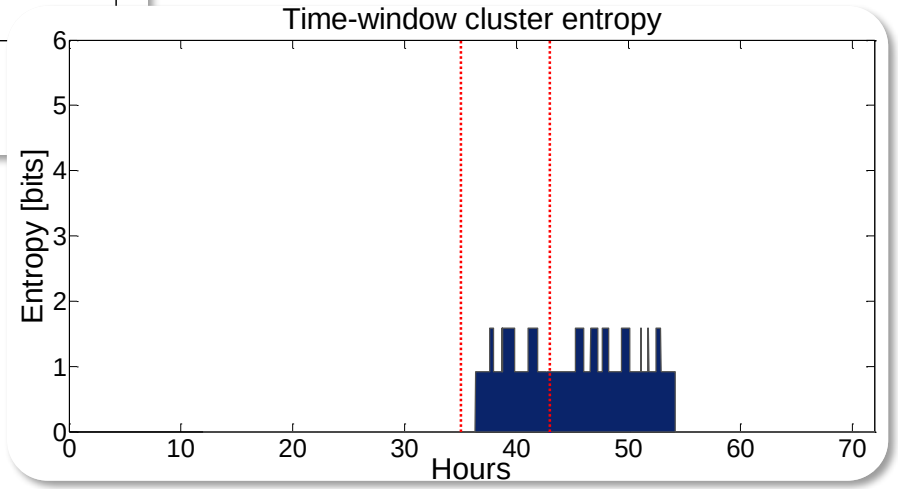


Correlation entropy

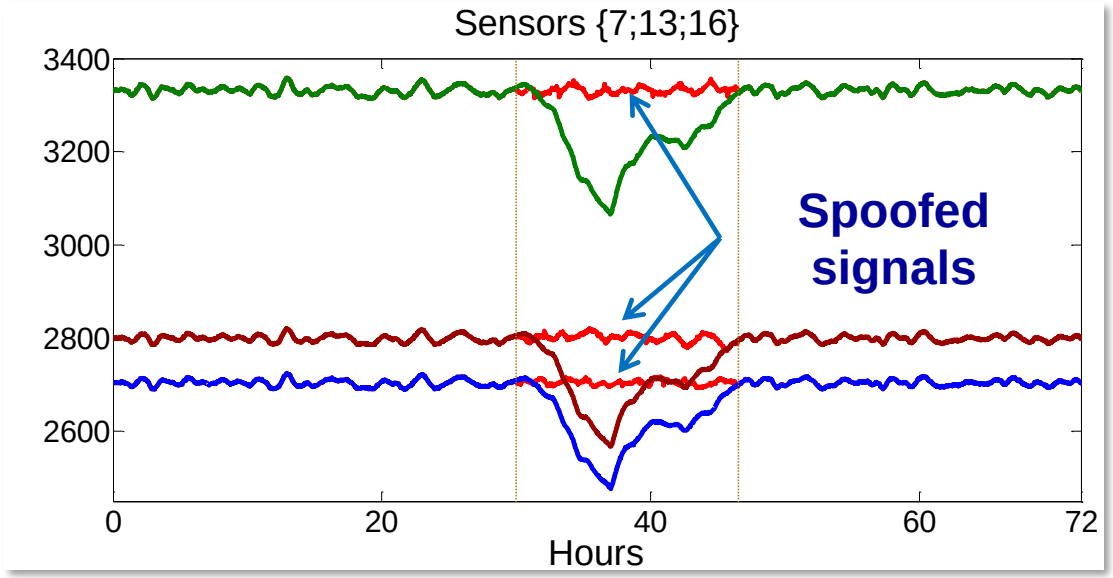


Signals correlation: + − +

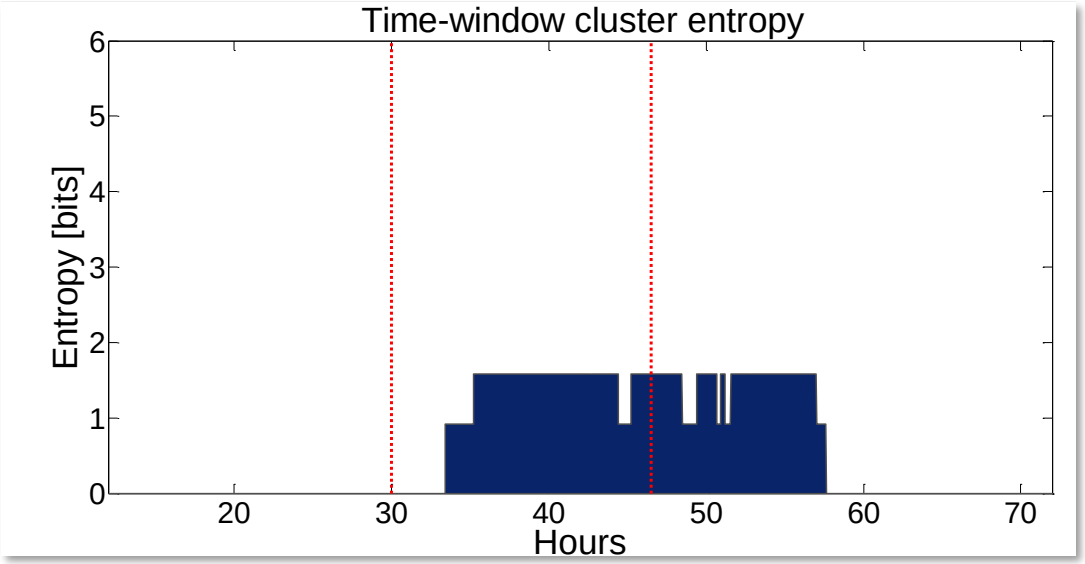
Correlation entropy: LOW HIGH LOW



Powerful attacker



He spoofed them all!!!



Bad luck ;-)

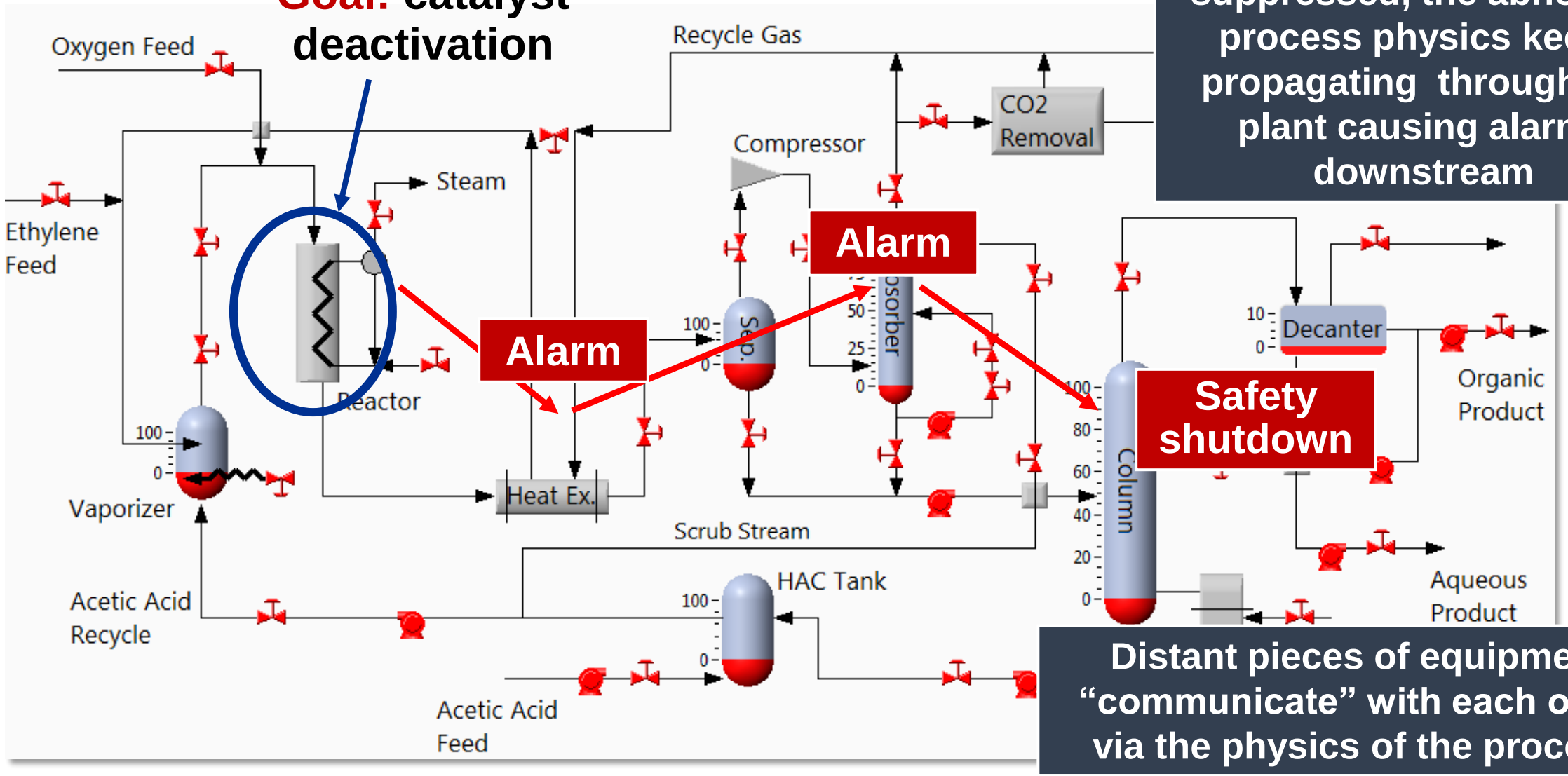
Spoofed signals will all look genuine but won't be correlated

Escaping security boundaries and Evil Bubbles attacks

Reminder: Persistent economic damage

Failed scenario: Alarm and physics propagation

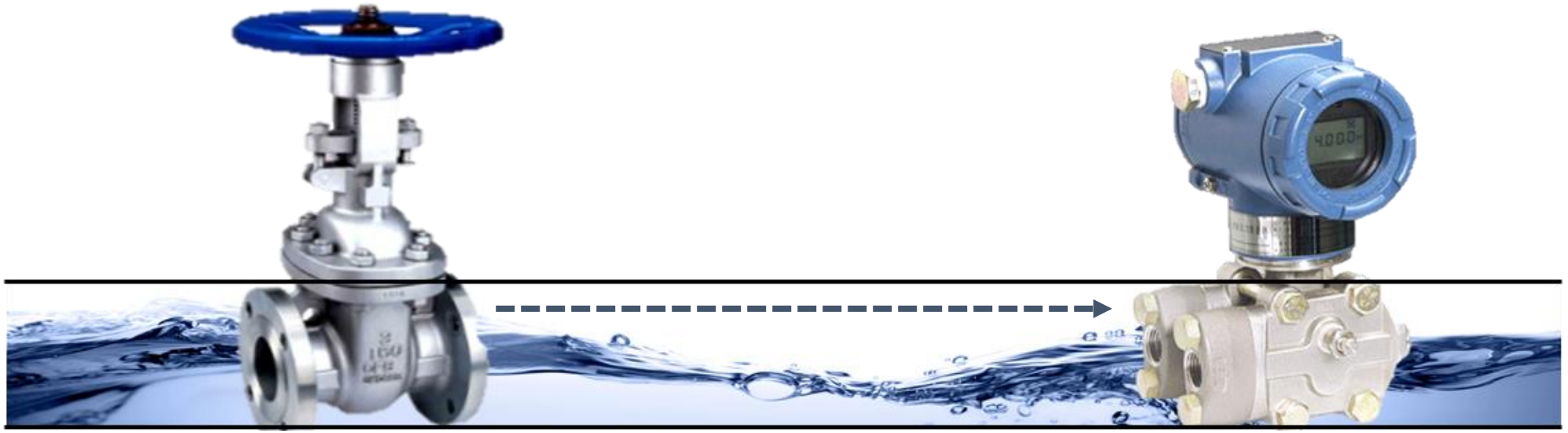
Goal: catalyst deactivation



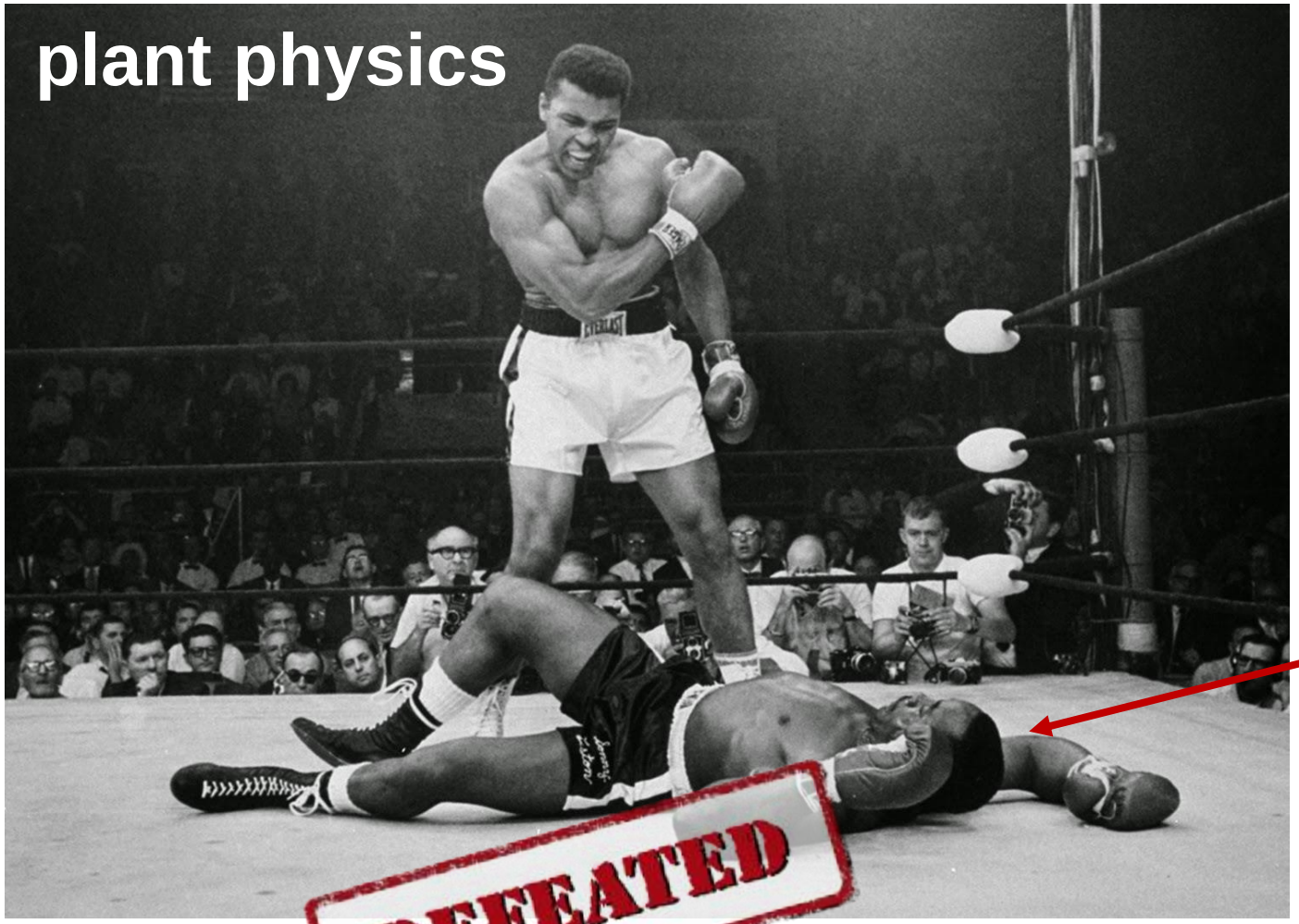
Even if digital alarms are suppressed, the abnormal process physics keeps propagating through the plant causing alarms downstream

Distant pieces of equipment "communicate" with each other via the physics of the process

Physical process is communication media



Process Physics vs. Attacker



http://100photos.time.com

me

I felt very angry

The attacker always wants to win!

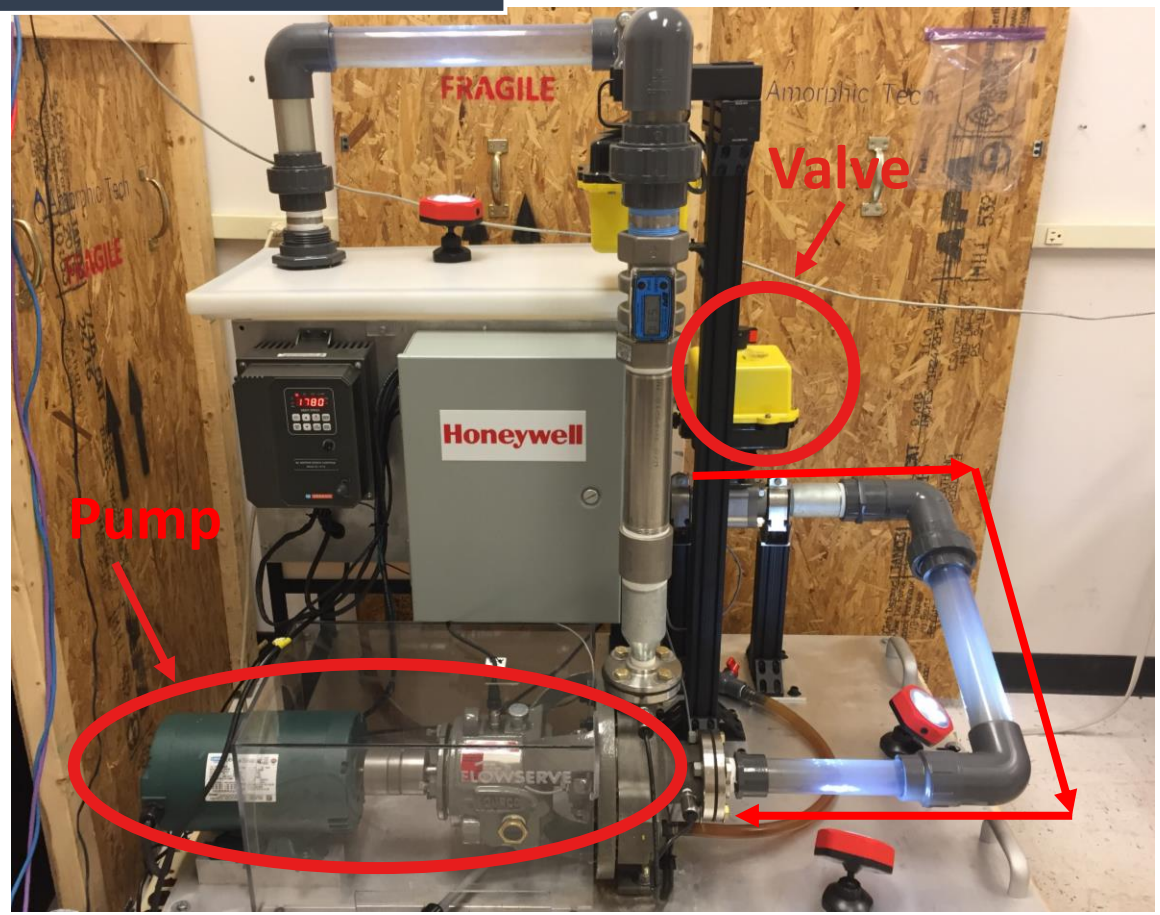
http://100photos.time.com

(wishfully)

Delivery of Attack Payload via Process Physics

Valve and pump do not communicate electronically

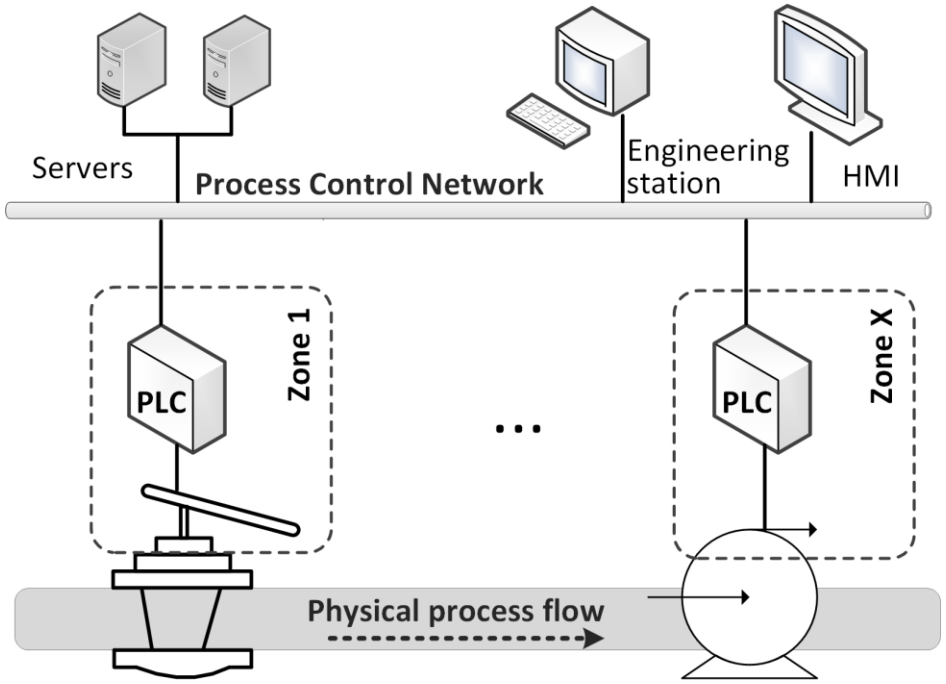
The concept first formulated and described in 2013, practically demonstrated in 2017



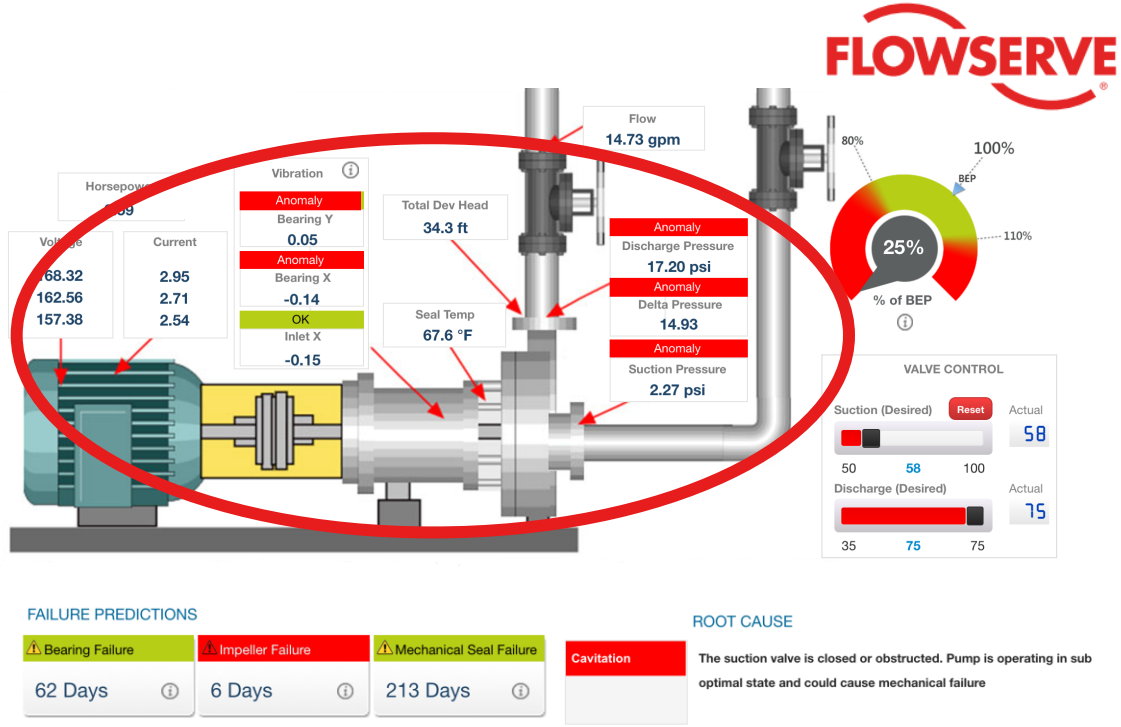
M. Krotofil. Evil Bubbles or How to Deliver Attack Payload via the Physics of the Process, Black Hat USA, 2017

Escaping security boundaries

- Violation of security zones defined based on IEC 62443



- Detection with IIoT predictive maintenance solutions



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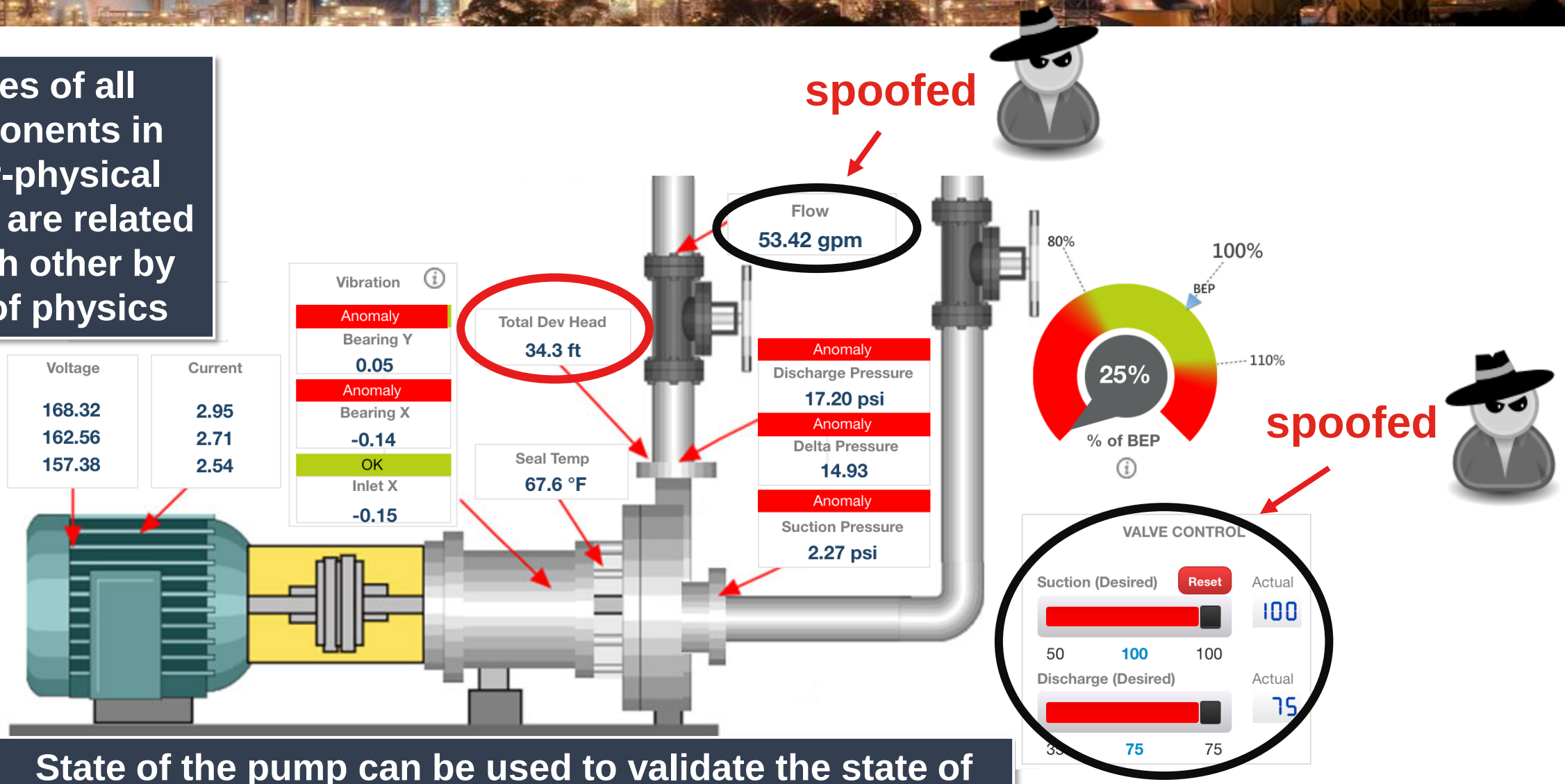
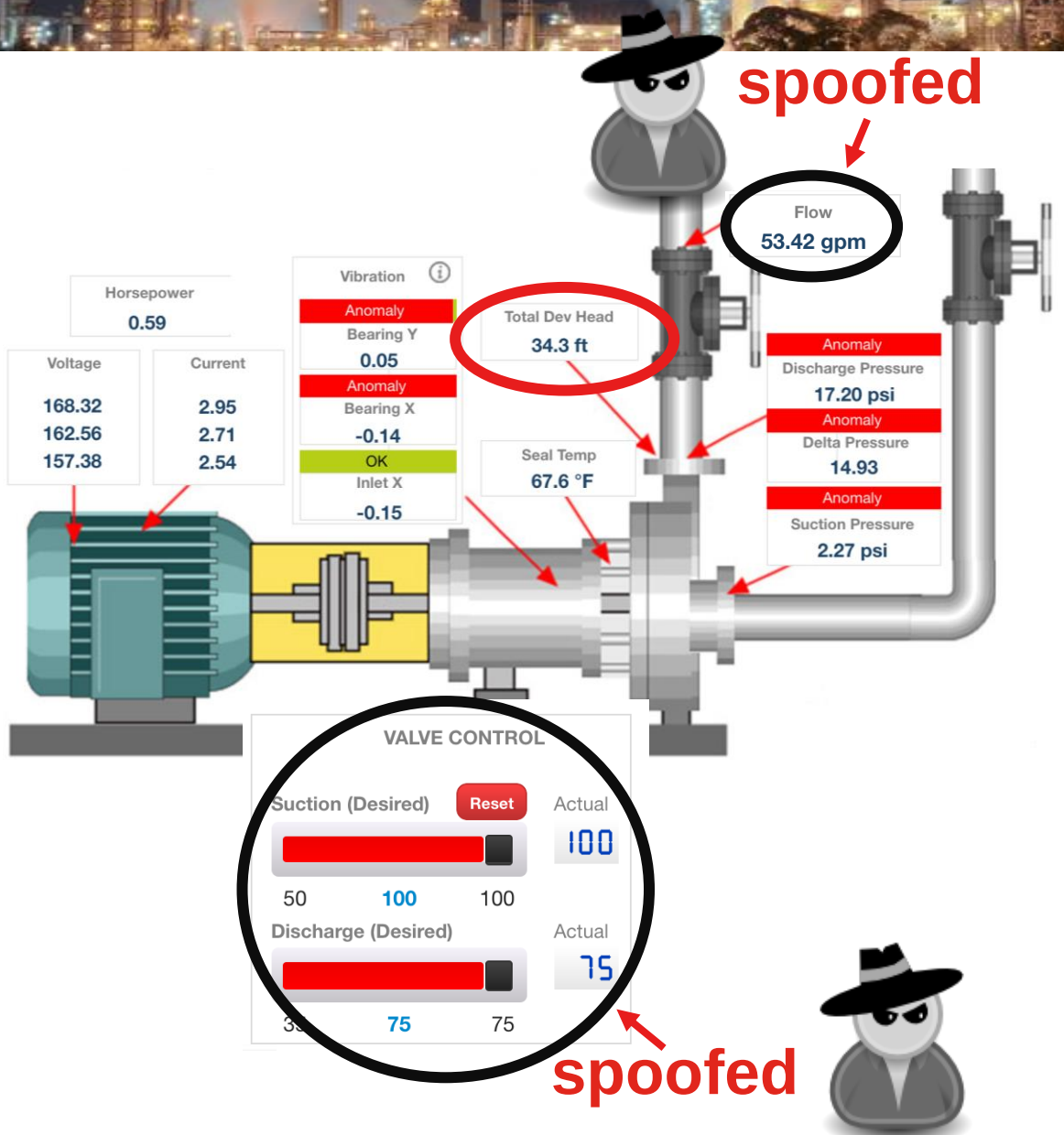
Detection of cyber-physical attack

States of all components in cyber-physical system are related to each other by laws of physics



State of the pump can be used to validate the state of the process and detect spoofed/false process values

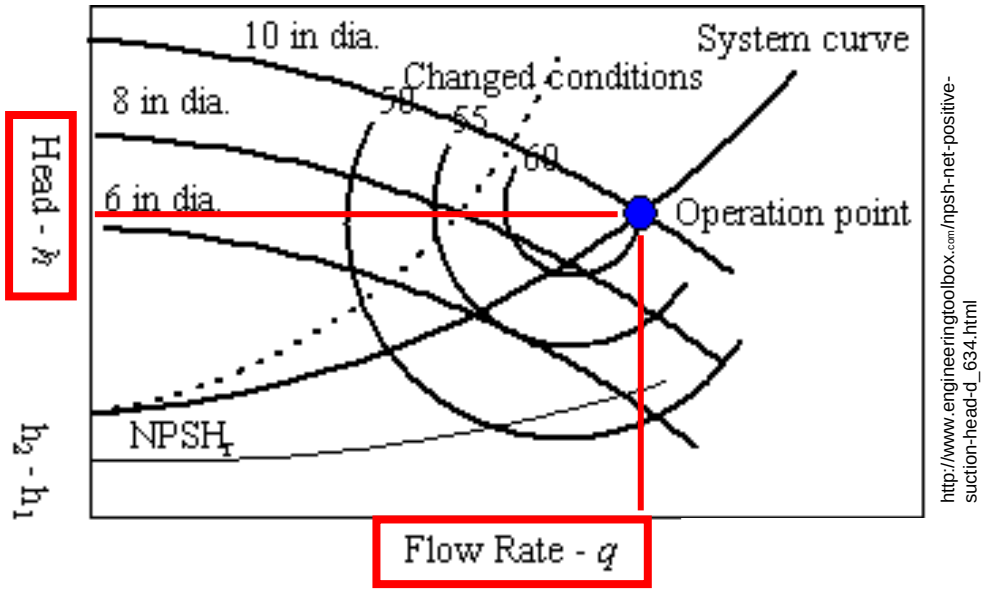
Verification of flow



Pump curve would suggest:

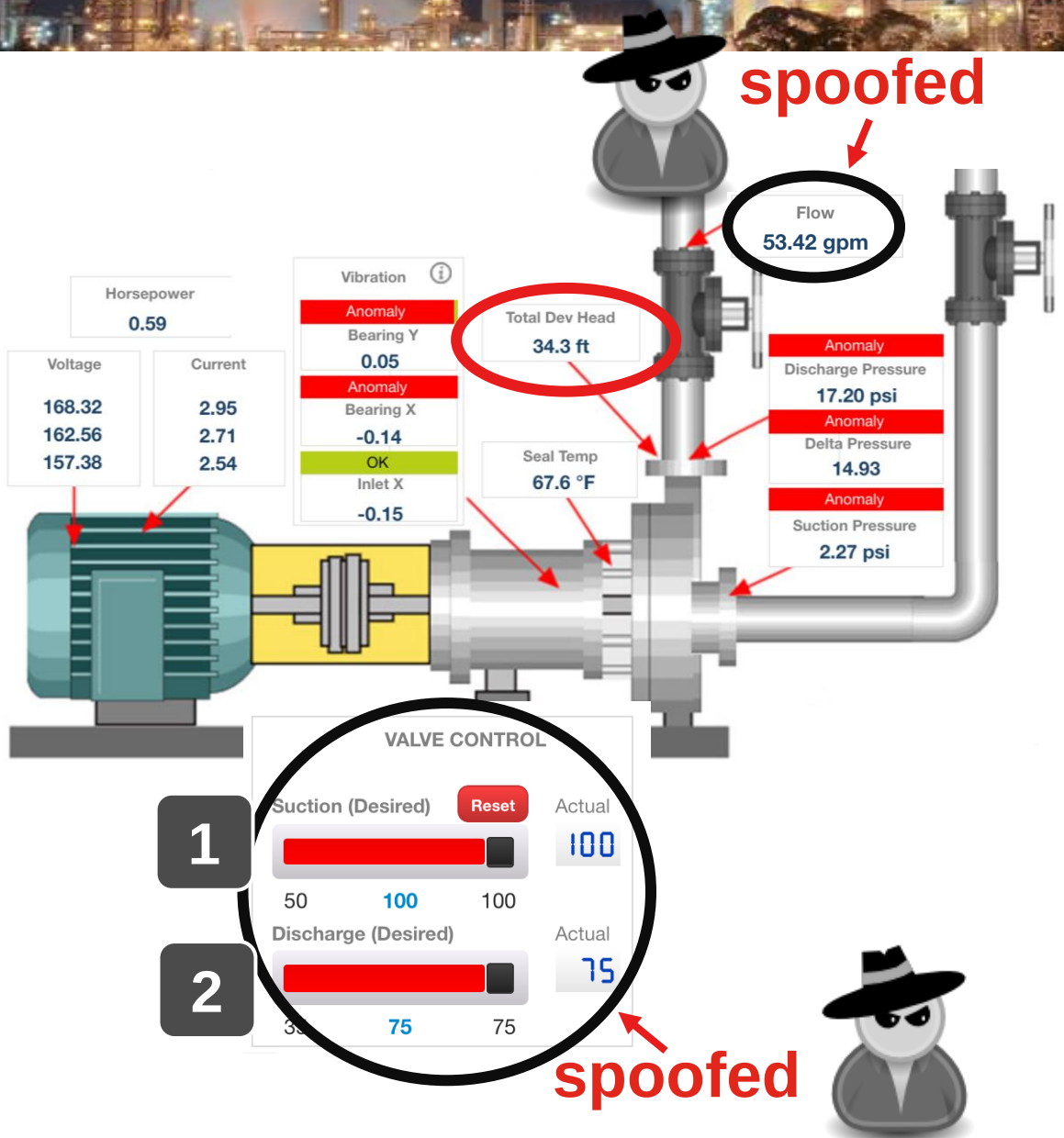
Head 34,3 ft ~ flow 21-22 gpm

Flow reading **53,42 gpm** is <u>implausible</u>



http://www.engineeringtoolbox.com/npsh-net-positive-suction-head-d_634.html

Verification of valve position



1

FAILURE PREDICTIONS

Bearing Failure	Impeller Failure	Mechanical Seal Failure
62 Days	6 Days	213 Days

Impeller stress

ROOT CAUSE

Cavitation	The suction valve is closed or obstructed. Pump is operating in sub optimal state and could cause mechanical failure

Root cause: Cavitation

2

FAILURE PREDICTIONS

Bearing Failure	Impeller Failure	Mechanical Seal Failure
5 Days	313 Days	10 Days

Mechanical stress

ROOT CAUSE

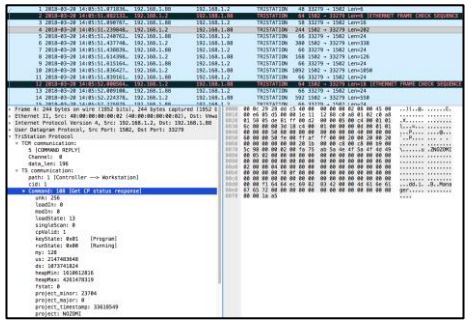
Low Flow	The discharge valve is closed or obstructed. Pump is operating in sub optimal state and could cause mechanical failure

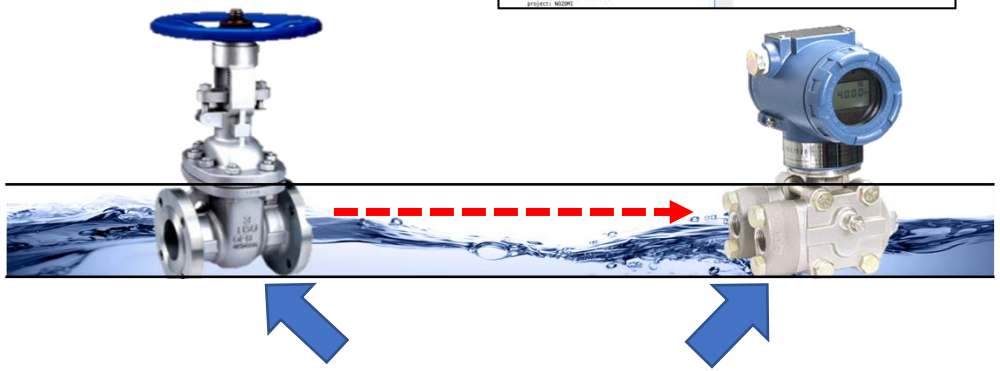
Root cause: Low flow

Another application of the attack vector

- Physical process is natural side-channel

Might not see much electronic chatter after implantation

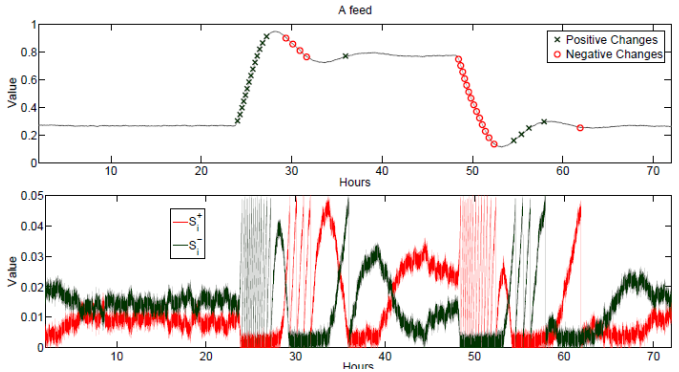




These can be in completely different parts of the process, on different networks

- Process state detection algorithm and its implementation

Observation of state A in component B needs to trigger payloads X, Y, Z



$$S_i^+ = \max(0, |X_{i-1} - X_i| + S_{i-1}^+)$$
$$S_i^- = \max(0, |X_i - X_{i-1}| + S_{i-1}^-)$$

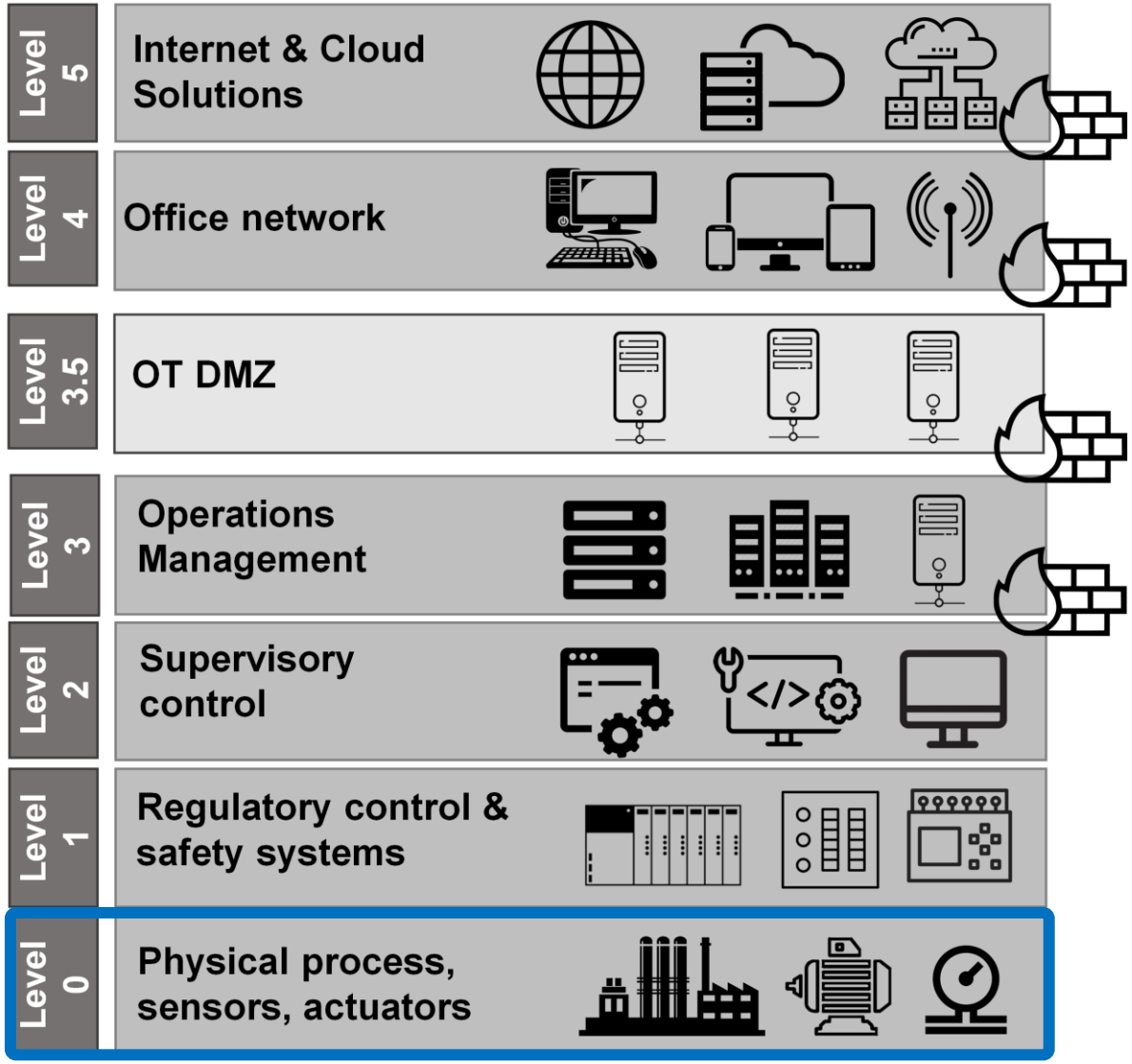
Non-Parametric Cumulative Sum (NCUSUM)

```
check(double):
        stwu 1,-48(1)
        mflr 0
        stw 0,52(1)
        stw 31,44(1)
        mr 31,1
        stfd 1,24(31)
        lfd 1,24(31)
        bl compute_score(double)
        stfd 1,8(31)
        lis 9,m_current_sum@ha
        lfd 12,m_current_sum@l(9)
```

17640 bytes ~= 0.11% of DRAM
(*unoptimized*)

Conclusions

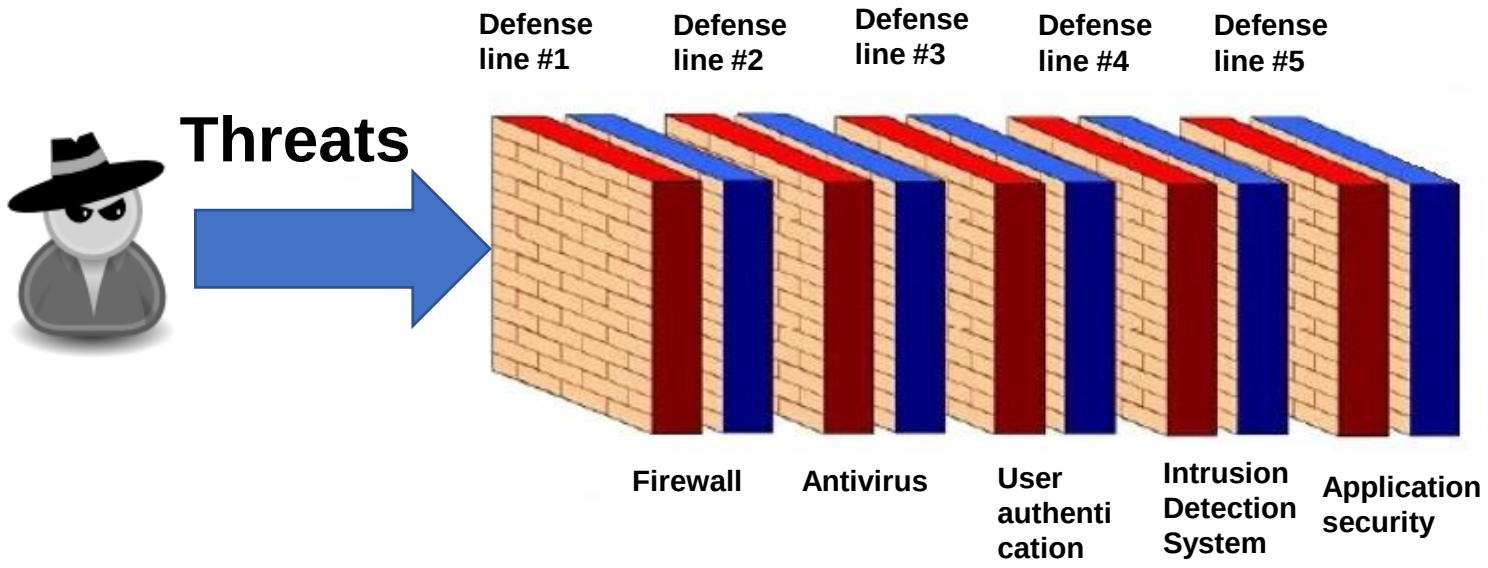
Process data as root of trust



- Process data is **root of trust** in ICS/ cyber-physical security
- If process data is incorrect/invalid, control algorithms, human operator and safety systems may take wrong (harmful) control decisions
- Ensuring **timeliness** and **trustworthiness** of process data is **a crucial task** in cyber-physical security:
  - Methods to detect missing/delayed or implausible readings are needed to ensure reliable and safe process control

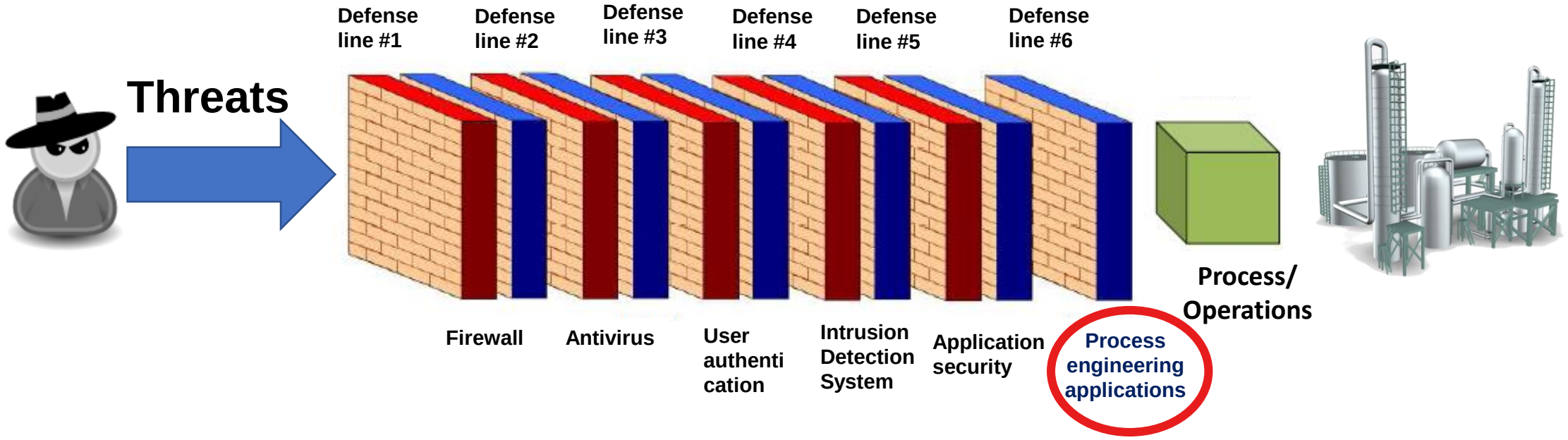
Defence-in-Depth in CPS domain

- *Defense-in-depth* concept suggest multiple layers of security
  - If an attack causes one security mechanism to fail, other mechanisms may still provide the necessary security to protect the system



Defence-in-Depth in CPS domain

- In cases when the attacker manages to bypass all traditional IT security defenses and/or attacker executed a CPS-specific attack not covered by IT security defenses:
  - Engineering security controls should be in place to prevent and detect unwanted/malicious process manipulations



Q & A

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