

# Decoding HDMI Emissions with Deep Learning: Enhancing TEMPEST Eavesdropping on Digital Displays

November 2024

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INGENIERÍA



UNIVERSIDAD  
DE LA REPÚBLICA  
URUGUAY

# Acknowledgements

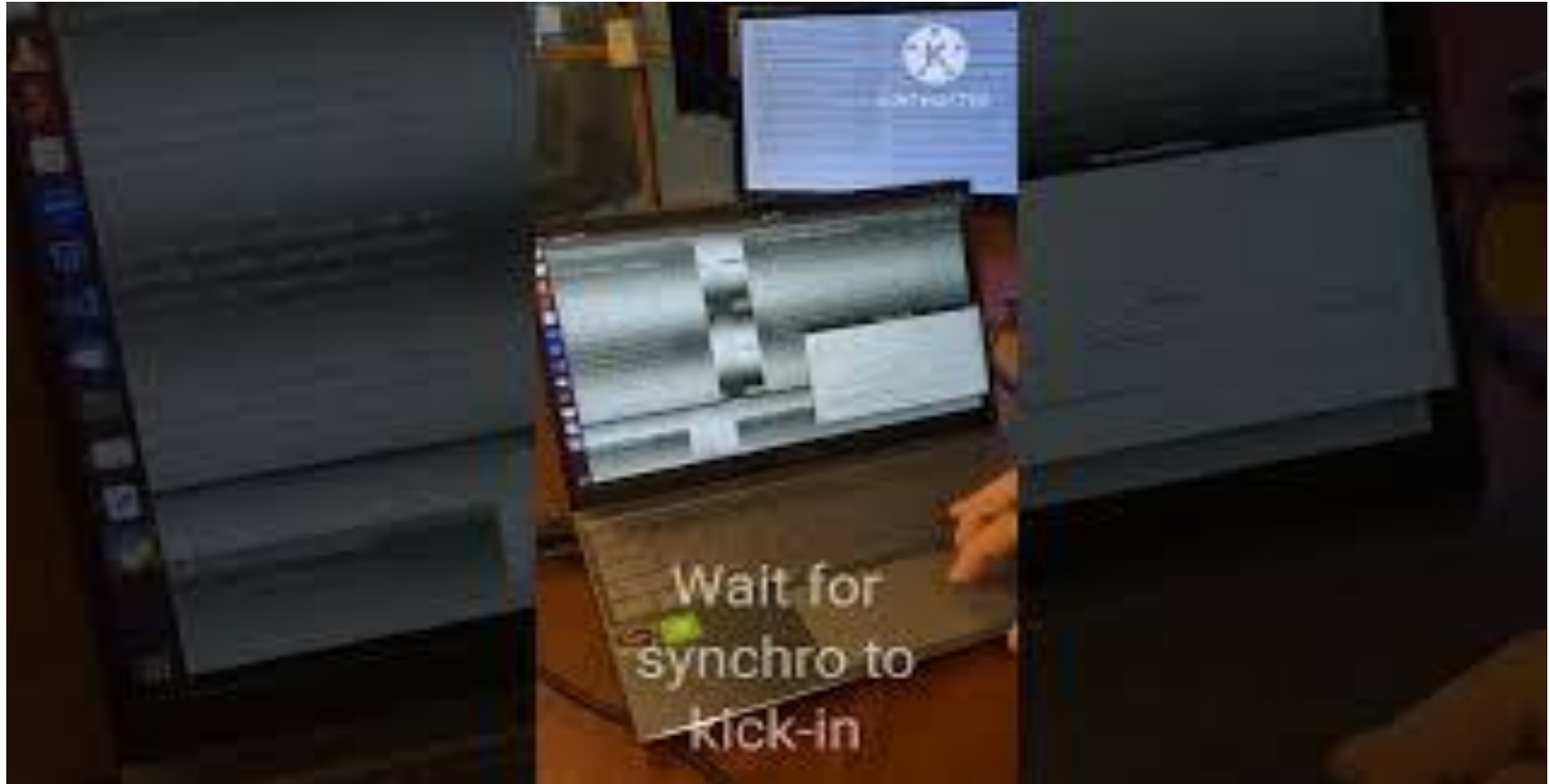
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This is a long-standing research line, and I've had the pleasure of collaborating with several colleagues:

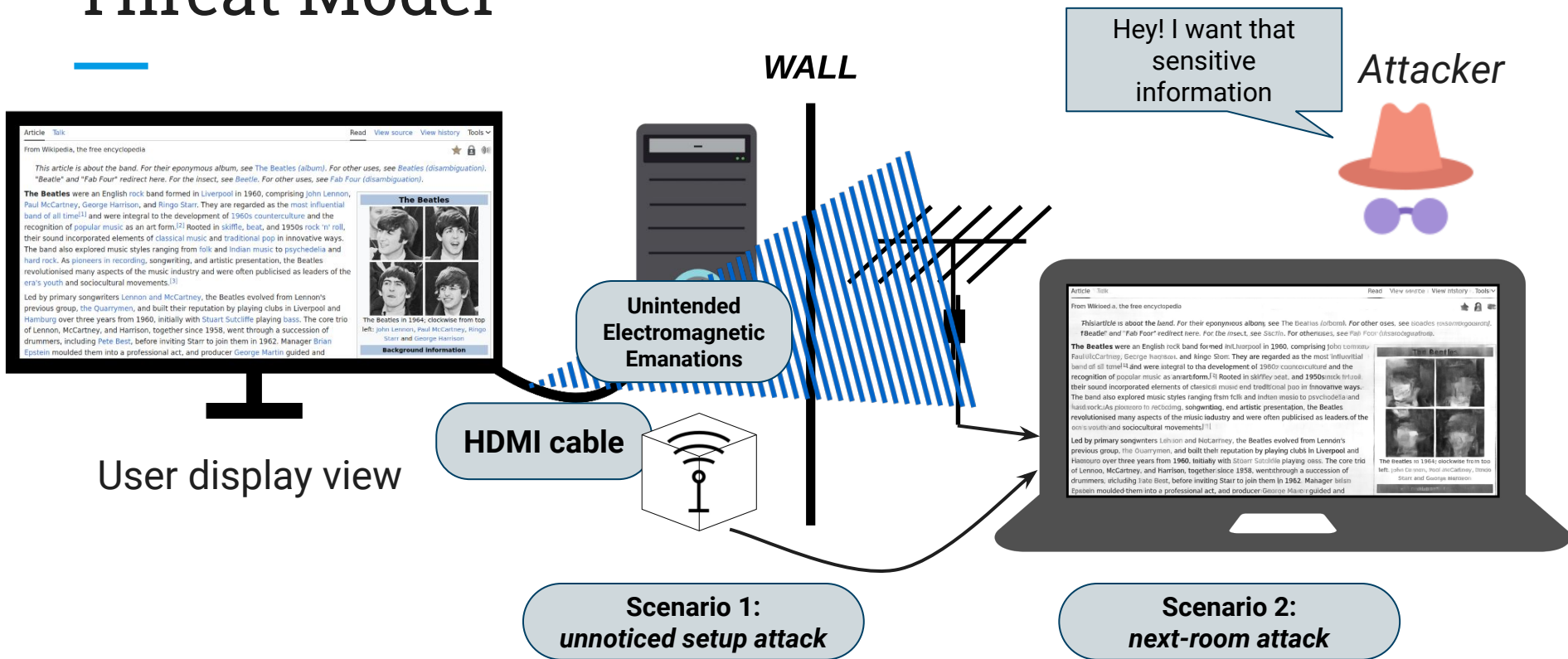
- Pablo Menoni
- Pablo Bertrand, Felipe Carrau and Victoria Severi
- Emilio Martínez, Santiago Fernández and Gabriel Varela
- Pablo Musé

What is ***TEMPEST***? Why ***Deep***?

Demo Video:



# Threat Model





# But wait... is this even a thing?

Bloomberg the Company & Its Products | Bloomberg Terminal Demo Request | Bloomberg Anywhere Remote Login | Bloomberg Customer Support

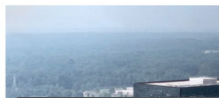
**Bloomberg**

Live TV Markets Economics Industries Tech Politics Business

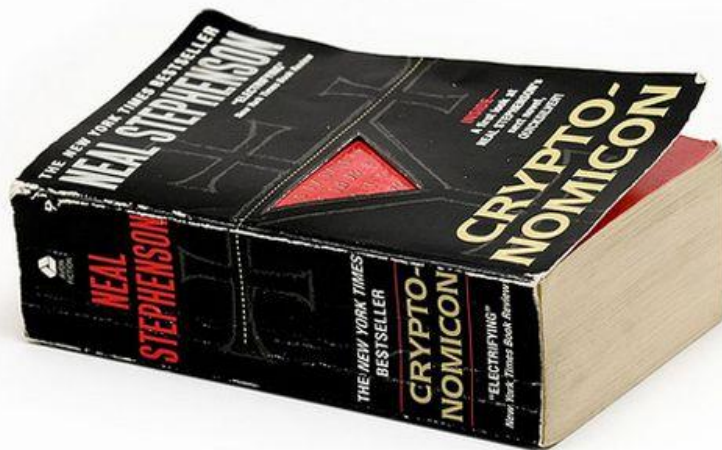
CityLab  
Design

## The Dark Arch Security

How the built environment of the age.



DOCID: 4009885



ORC  
ORC

Another Man's Treasure!

by Thomas M. Donahue, T44

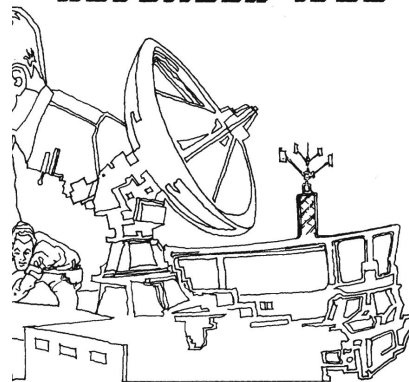


DOCID: 4009885

~~SECRET~~

NATIONAL SECURITY AGENCY  
FORT GEORGE G. MEADE, MARYLAND

## CRYPTOLOG NOVEMBER 1982



P.L. 86-36

### STATIC MAGIC:

|                                                  |                        |    |
|--------------------------------------------------|------------------------|----|
| THE WONDERFUL WORLD OF TEMPEST (U).....          | Thomas M. Donahue..... | 1  |
| TEMPEST FOR EVERY OFFICE (U).....                | .....                  | 3  |
| I REMEMBER JFK (U).....                          | H.G.R.....             | 5  |
| MBTI: THE MANAGEMENT TOOL OF THE FUTURE (U)..... | .....                  | 8  |
| ACRONYMANIA (U).....                             | .....                  | 11 |
| THE WHITE HOUSE IS SINGING OUR SONG (U).....     | Albert I. Murphy.....  | 13 |
| THE LITERARY BENDS (U).....                      | Albert I. Murphy.....  | 14 |
| CIRCA 1949 (U).....                              | .....                  | 19 |
| 5-4-3 PUZZLE.....                                | Watt Zizname.....      | 20 |

# TEMPEST / Van Eck Phreaking

## World War 2

Unintended emanations from teleprinter signals

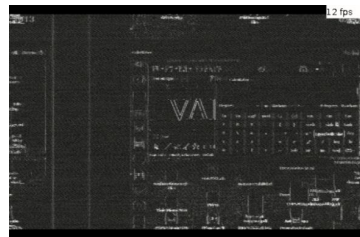


1985

1939-1945

Wim Van Eck  
Cathode Ray Tubes  
attack experiments

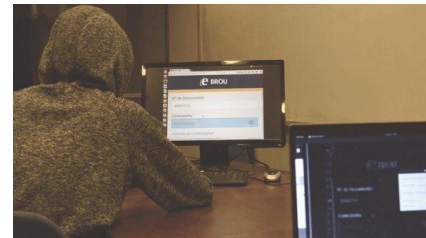
Markus Kuhn  
VGA, DVI and HDMI  
wideband receiver



2015

Pablo Menoni  
Experiments with *TempestSDR*  
Analytical formulations

2020



Source: *gr-tempest 2.0*

2021

2024

**deep-tempest**

## TEMPEST: A Signal Problem

The story of the discovery  
of various compromising radiations  
from communications and Comsec equipment.

Approved for Release by NS  
09-27-2007, FOIA Case # 5

2003  
Martin Marinov  
*TempestSDR*  
Java-based framework



UNIVERSITY OF  
CAMBRIDGE

2018  
Federico Larroca  
*gr-tempest*  
GNU Radio  
framework  
for Tempest



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DE LA REPÚBLICA  
URUGUAY

2021  
Bertrand P, Carrau F, Severi V.  
*gr-tempest 2.0*  
Improving functionalities  
of *gr-tempest*

# Why are we doing this?

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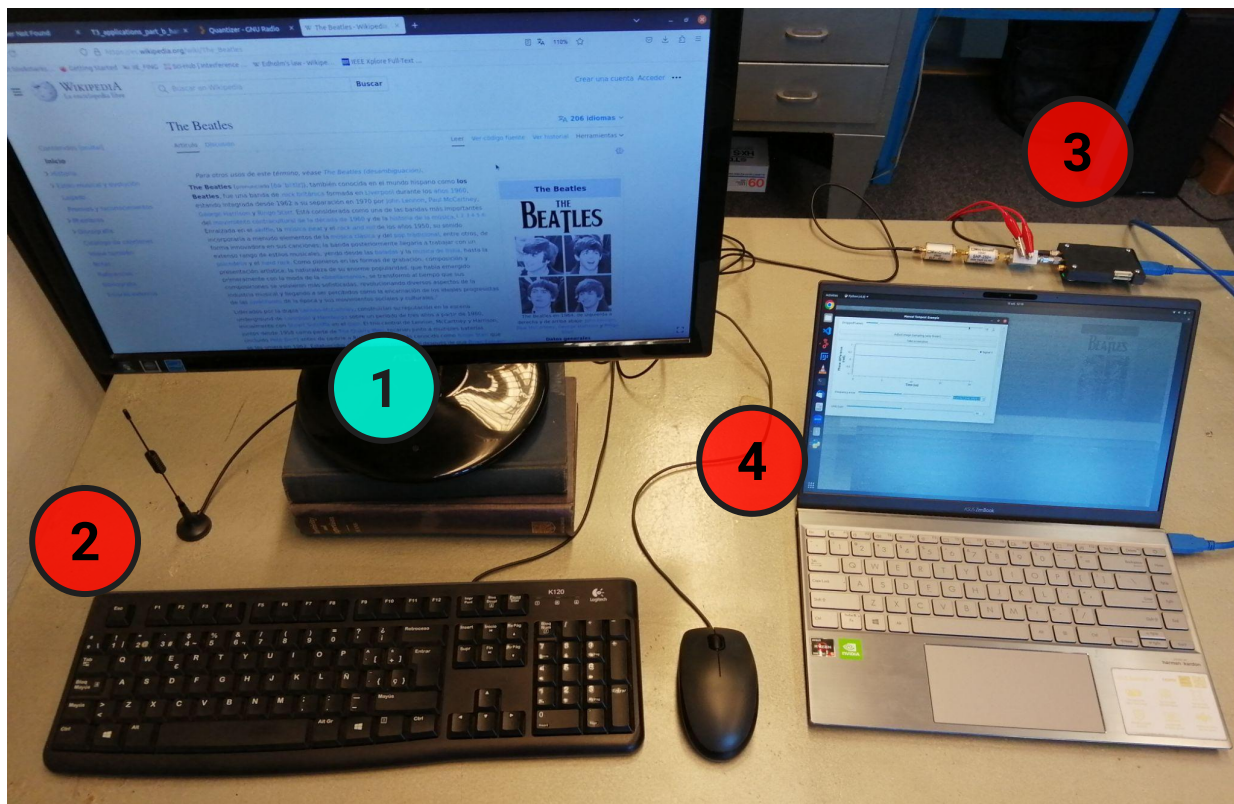
- **Improve results** from **previous works** of colleagues for HDMI cables, using **deep learning**.
- Test **robustness** and find **countermeasures**.
- Because, as we can, ***others could too...***

**RAISE  
AWARENESS**

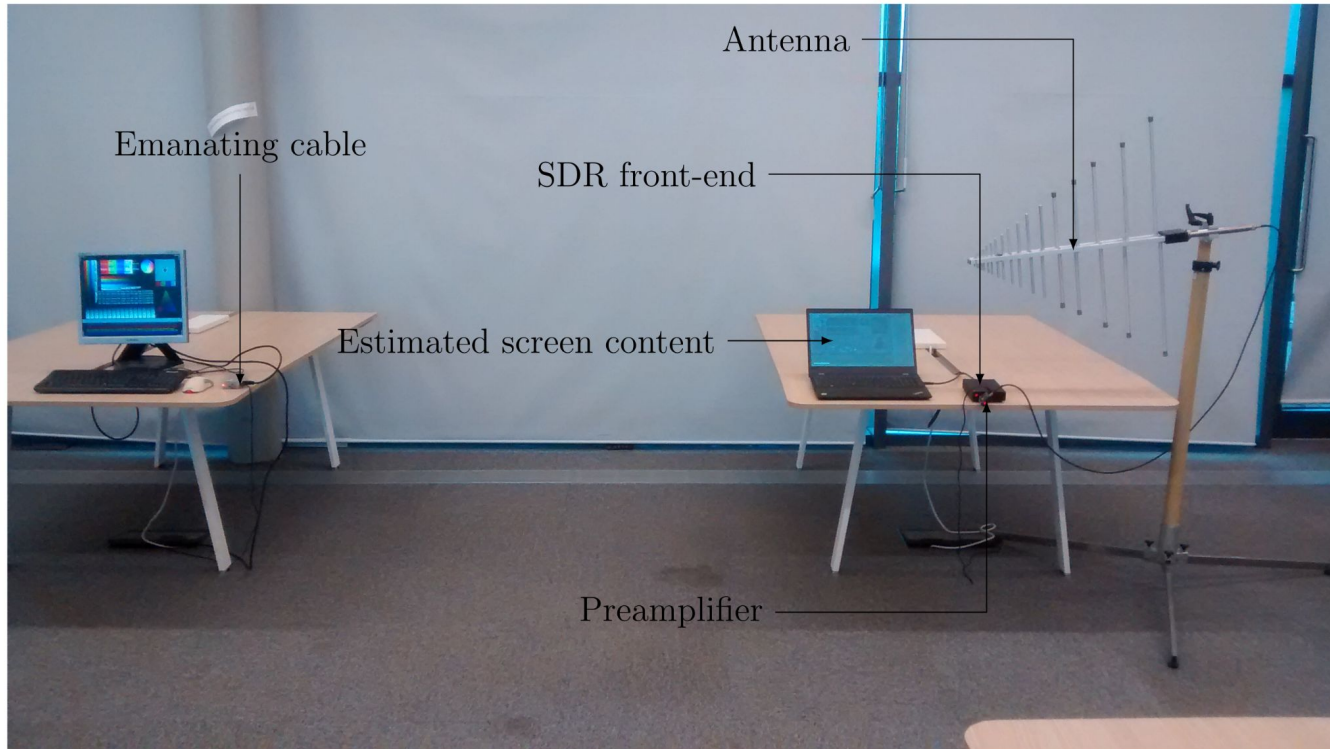
# Our setup

- 1) Display with HDMI to spy on (1600x900@60 fps)
- 2) Antenna
- 3) SDR and RF filters
- 4) Spying PC, running *deep-tempest*

green → users PC    red → attacker



# Other setups





Page 10 of 10



(e)



## Notebook

## Mains

 $\sim$ 

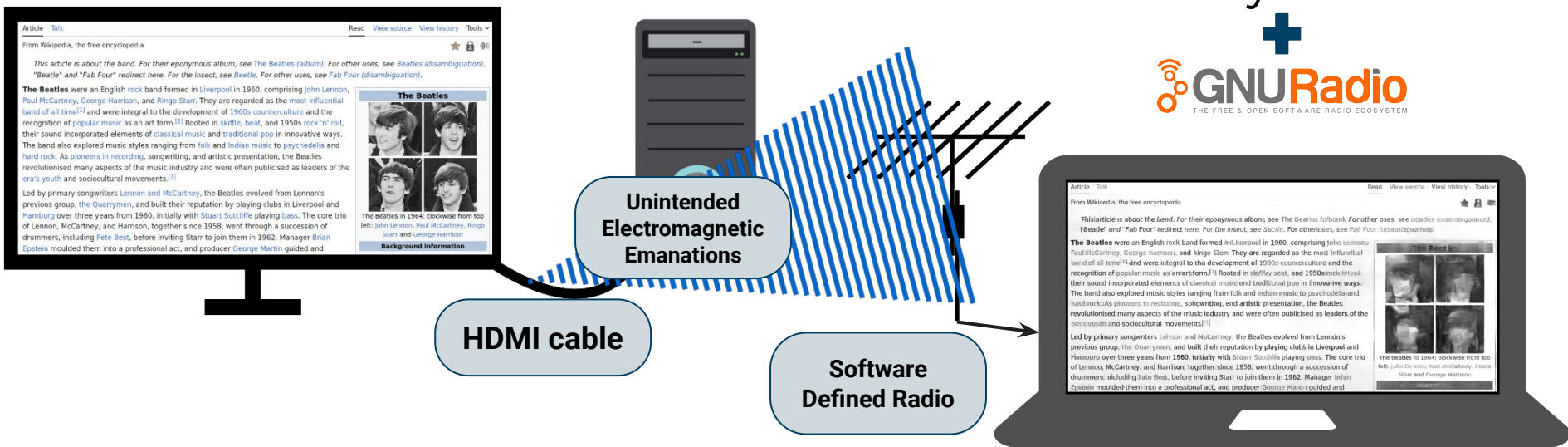
Be aware of eavesdroppers  
Be aware of eavesdroppers  
Be aware of eavesdroppers  
Be aware of eavesdroppers  
Be aware of eavesdroppers  
Be aware of eavesdroppers



# Image recovery roadmap: electromagnetics

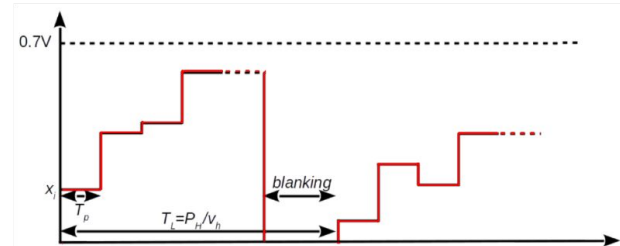
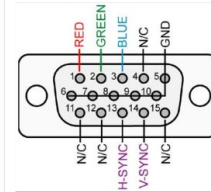
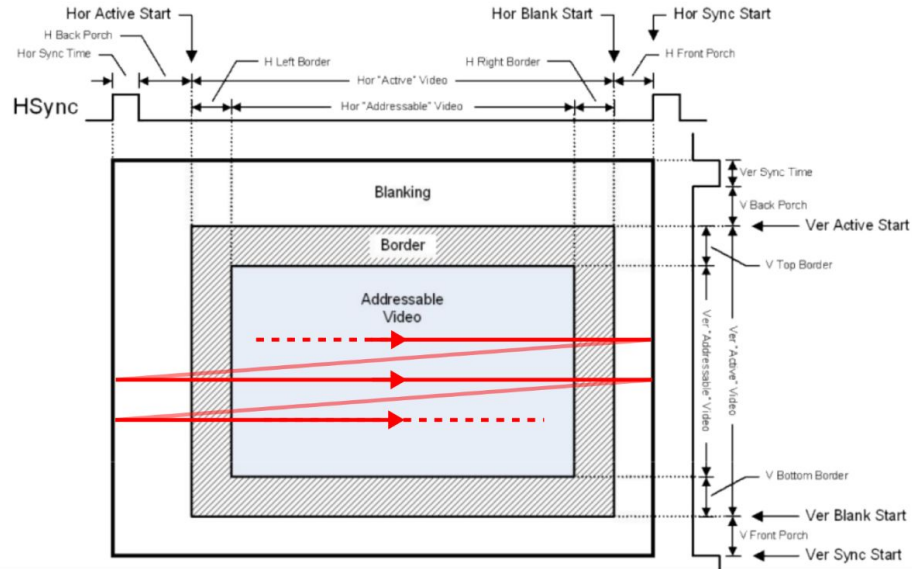
PyTorch

GNU Radio  
THE FREE & OPEN SOFTWARE RADIO ECOSYSTEM



# Simpler case: VGA ("analog")

VGA signal: PAM with rectangular pulses (basically a Zero-Order Hold DAC)





# Simpler case: VGA (“analog”)

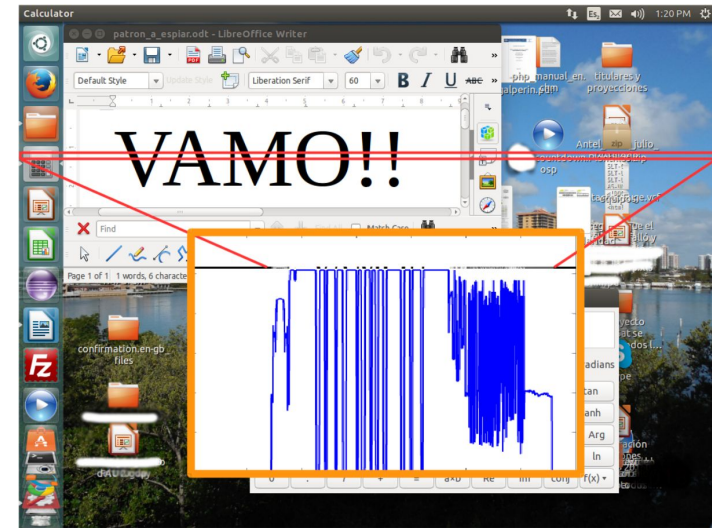
What’s the spectrum? A little math:

$$x(t) = \sum_i x_i p(t - iT_p)$$

$$\Rightarrow X(f) = \sum_i x_i P(f) e^{-j2\pi f T_p}$$

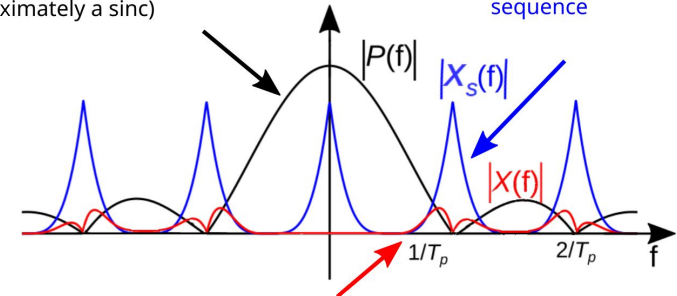
$$\Rightarrow X(f) = P(f) \sum_i x_i e^{-j2\pi f T_p}$$

$$\Rightarrow \textcolor{red}{X}(f) = P(f) \textcolor{blue}{X}_s(f)$$



Fourier Transform of the pulse  
(approximately a sinc)

Discrete Time Fourier  
Transform of the pixels'  
sequence



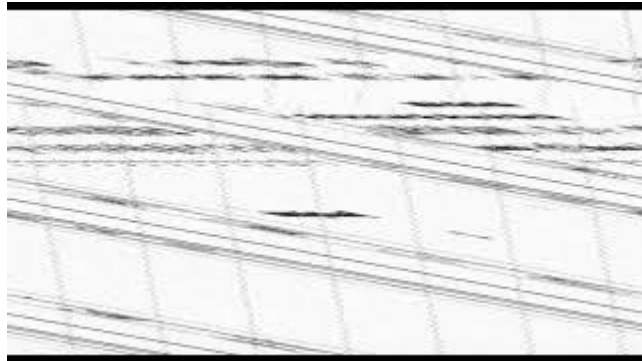
Resulting (and emitted) spectrum

# “Demodulating” a VGA signal

## Recipe:

1. Point antenna to VGA connectors,
2. Demodulate at a carrier of  $f_c = 1/T_p$ 
  - Ex.  $1024 \times 768 @ 60\text{Hz} \Rightarrow 1/T_p \approx 65\text{ MHz}$
3. Take the samples' magnitude to avoid frequency synchronization issues

What do I get?



# “Demodulating” a VGA signal

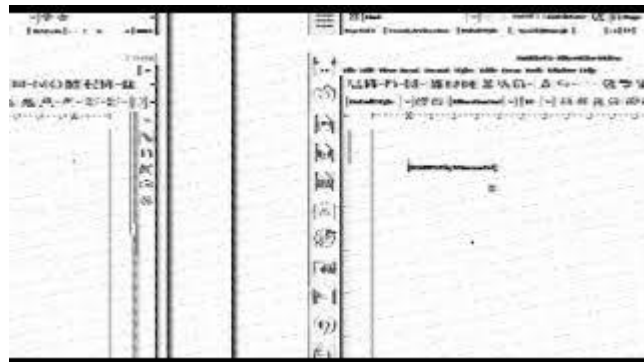
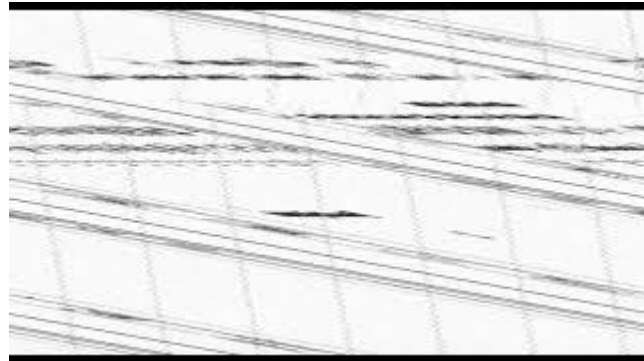
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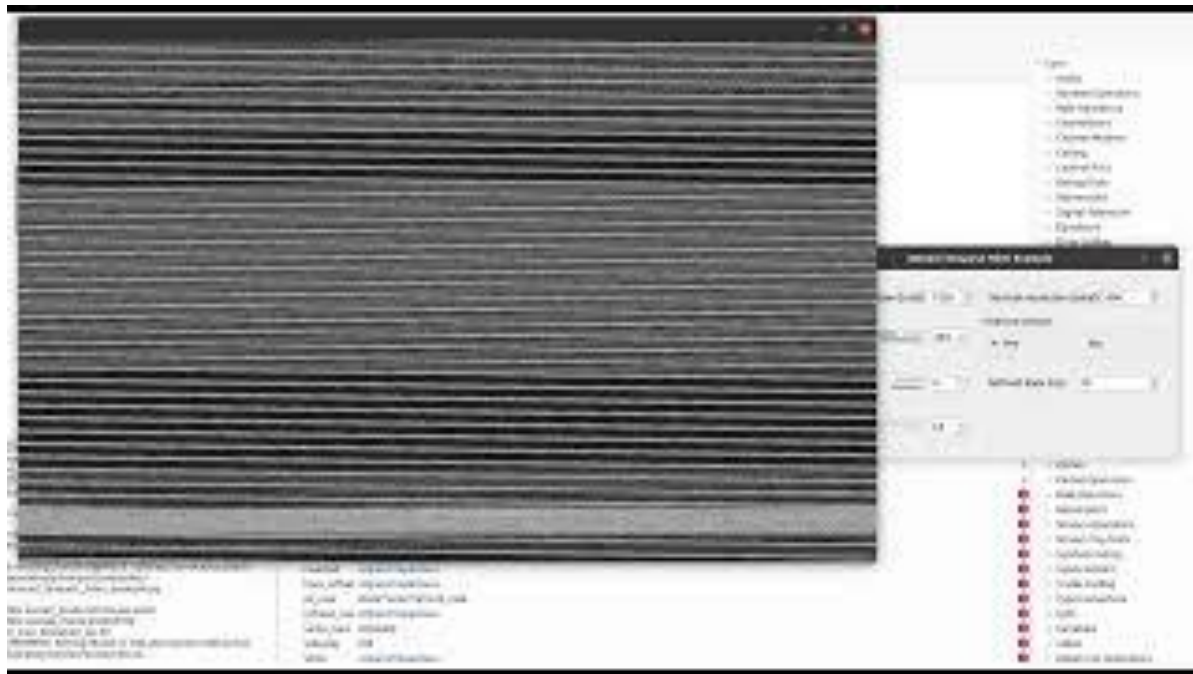
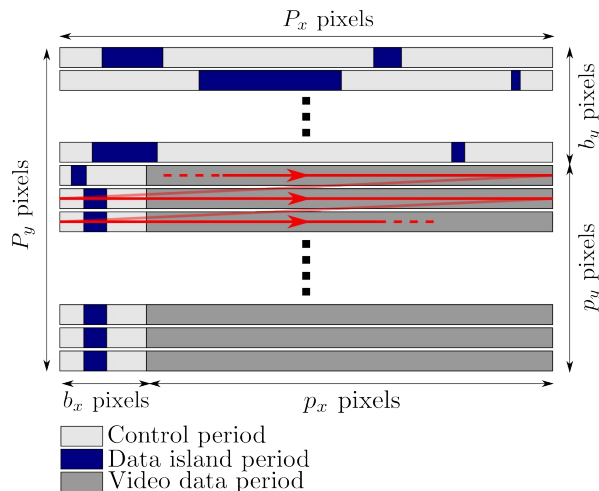
## Challenge:

- Time synchronization (all video interfaces have a specific pin for this)
- Repetition is our friend here:
  - One line is similar to the next (coarse)
  - One frame is similar to the next (fine-grained)



# Spying on HDMI

Great! What about HDMI? Digital encoding **complicates** the problem



# HDMI Digital signal

## Transition Minimized Differential Signaling

Each color intensity (0-255) represented with 8 bits

→ Mapped to a 10 bit word (non-linear and with memory)

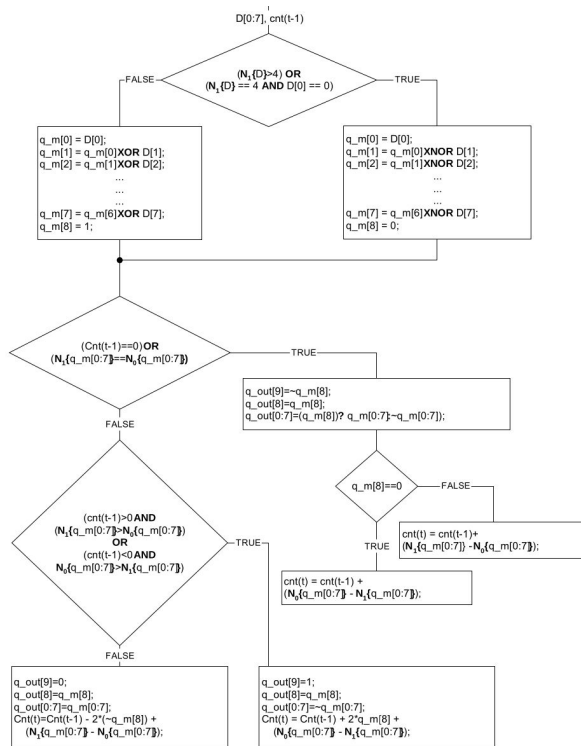
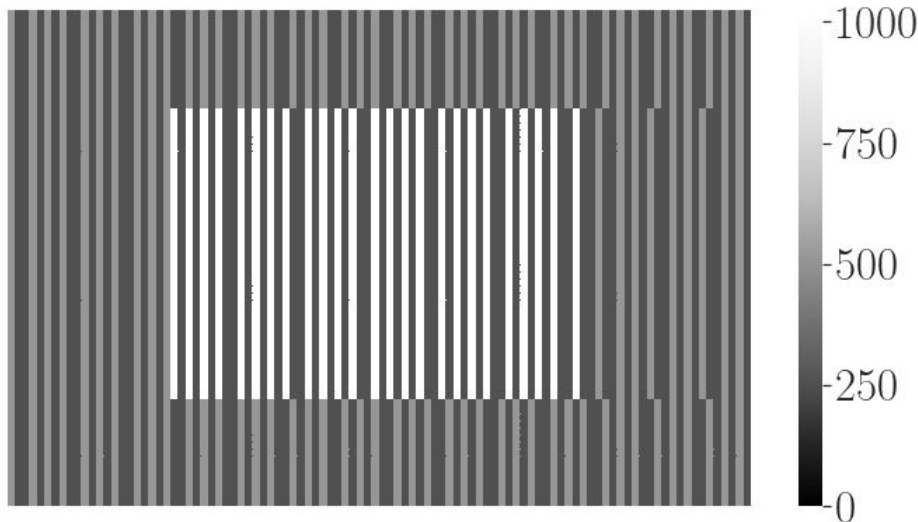


Figure 5-7 TMDS Video Data Encode Algorithm

# HDMI Digital signal Transition Minimized Differential Signaling

Each color intensity (0-255) represented with 8 bits

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1. The features were visualized using t-SNE [43] for presentation. The proposed approach has three characteristics. It is hierarchical, recurrent and cyclical. The hierarchical nature of the proposed approach lies in the abstraction of the incoming video frames into features of lower variability that is conducive to prediction. The proposed model is also recurrent. The predicted features are highly dependent on the current and previous states of the network. Finally, the model is highly cyclical. Predictions are compared continuously to observed features and are used to guide future predictions. These characteristics are common working assumptions in many different theories of perception [26], neuro-physiology [11, 7], language processing [34] and event perception[14].

**Contributions:** The contributions of our proposed approach are three-fold. (1) We are, to the best of our knowledge, the first to tackle the problem of self-supervised, temporal segmentation of videos. (2) We introduce the notion of self-supervised predictive learning for active event segmentation. (3) We show that understanding the spatial-temporal dynamics of events enable the model to learn the visual structure of events for better activity recognition.

## 2. Related Work

**Fully supervised approaches** treat event segmentation as a supervised learning problem and assign the semantic to the video in terms of labels and try to construct the

model the temporal transitions using RNNs, they still rely on enforcing semantics for segmenting actions and hence require some supervision for learning and inference.

**Unsupervised learning** has not been explored to the same extent as supervised approaches, primarily because label semantics, if available, aid in segmentation. The primary approach is to use clustering as the unsupervised approach using discriminant features[4, 30]. The models incorporate a temporal consistency into the segmentation approach by using either LSTMs [4] or generalized mallows model [30]. Garcia *et al.* [12] explore the use of a generative LSTM network to segment sequences like we do, however, they handle only coarse temporal resolution in life-log images sampled as far apart as 30 seconds. Consecutive images when events change have more variability making for easier discrimination. Besides, they require an iterative training process, which we do not.

## 3. Perceptual Prediction Framework

In this section, we introduce the proposed framework. We begin with a discussion on the perceptual processing unit, including encoding, prediction and feature reconstruction. We continue with an explanation of the self-supervised approach for training the model, followed by a discussion on boundary detection and adaptive learning. We conclude with implementation details of the proposed approach. It is to be noted that [25] also propose a similar approach based

TMDS

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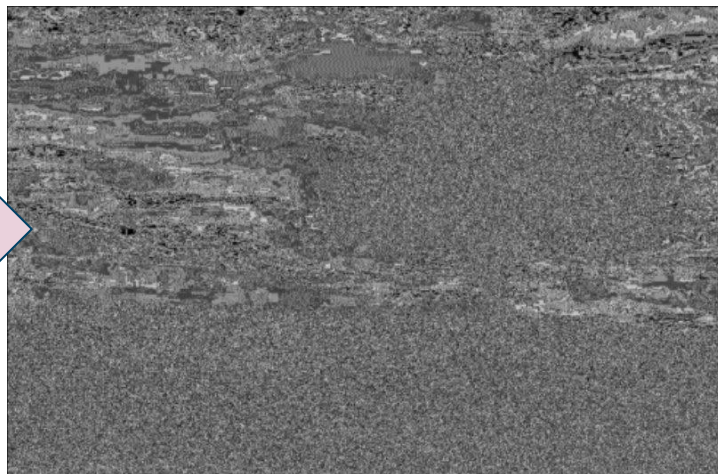
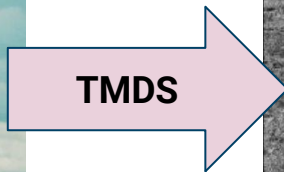


# HDMI Digital signal Transition Minimized Differential Signaling

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Each color intensity (0-255) represented with 8 bits

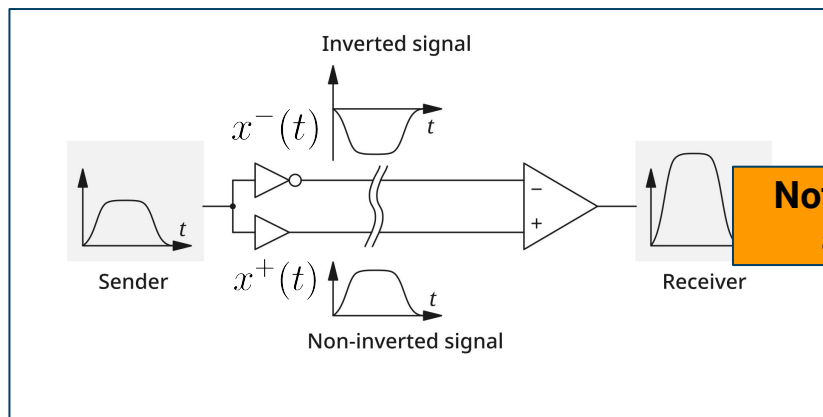
→ Mapped to a 10 bit word (non-linear and with memory)



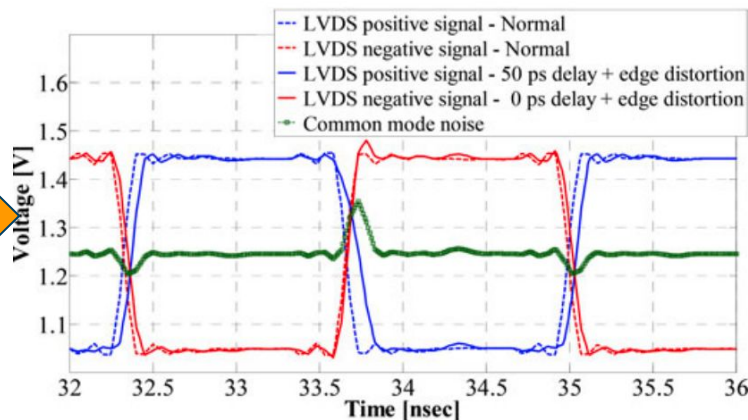
# HDMI Electrical signal

## Transition Minimized Differential Signaling

Each bit is transmitted as a differential pair:



**Not perfectly aligned**



$$\begin{aligned}
 x^+(t) &= V_{cc} + \sum_k x_b[k]p(t - kT_b) \\
 x^-(t) &= V_{cc} - \sum_k x_b[k]p(t - kT_b)
 \end{aligned}
 \Rightarrow x(t) = x^+(t) + x^-(t) = 2V_{cc}$$

$$x(t) = 2V_{cc} + \sum_k x_b[k]q(t - kT_b)$$

with  $q(t) = p(t) - p(t - \epsilon T_b)$

# HDMI Electromagnetic signal

Expression of the signal “seen outside” the HDMI cable (**still a PAM**):

$$x(t) = 2V_{cc} + \sum_k x_b[k]q(t - kT_b)$$

What's the power spectrum? (ignore the offset)

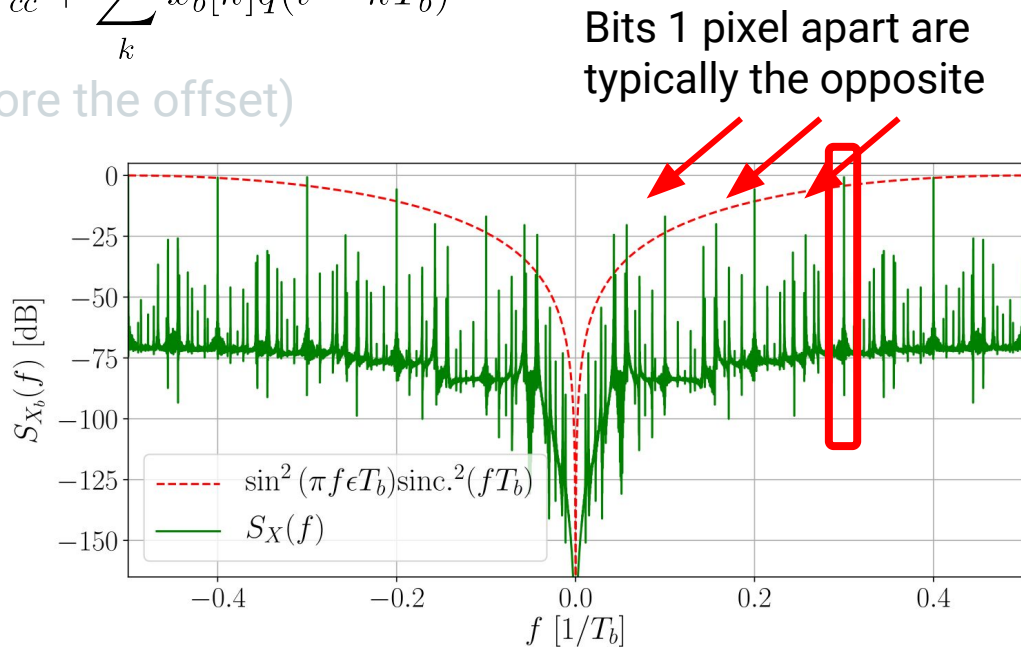
$$S_X(f) = \frac{|Q(f)|^2}{T_b} S_{X_b}(f)$$

PSD of the encoded bits?  
Let's look at a simulation...

What about  $Q(f)$ ?

$$S_{X_b}(f) = \sum_l R_{X_b}[l] e^{-j2\pi f l T_b}$$

$$R_{X_b}[l] = \mathbb{E}\{x_b[k]x_b[k+l]\}$$



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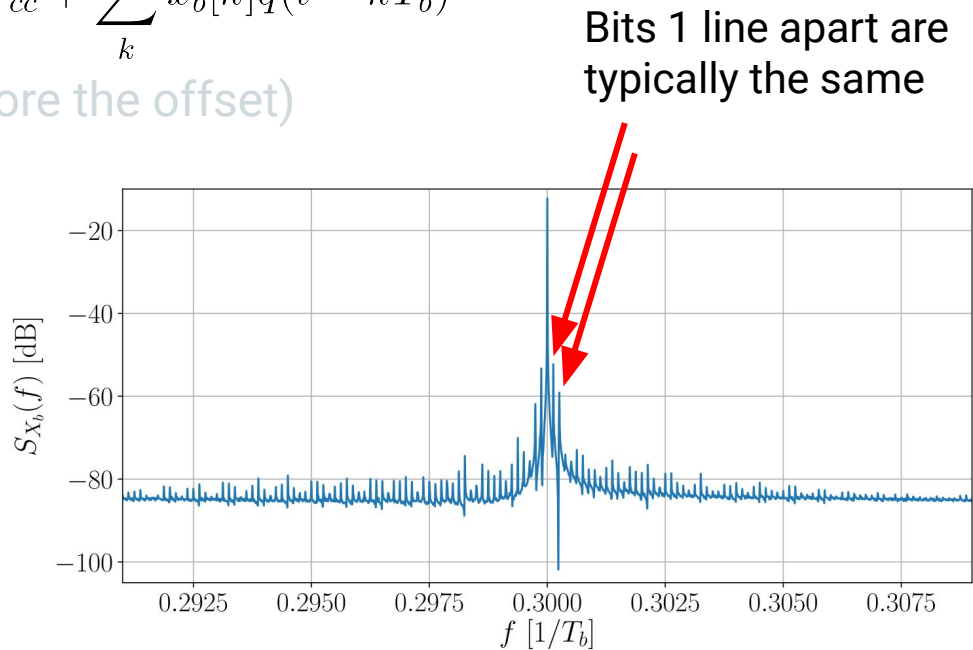
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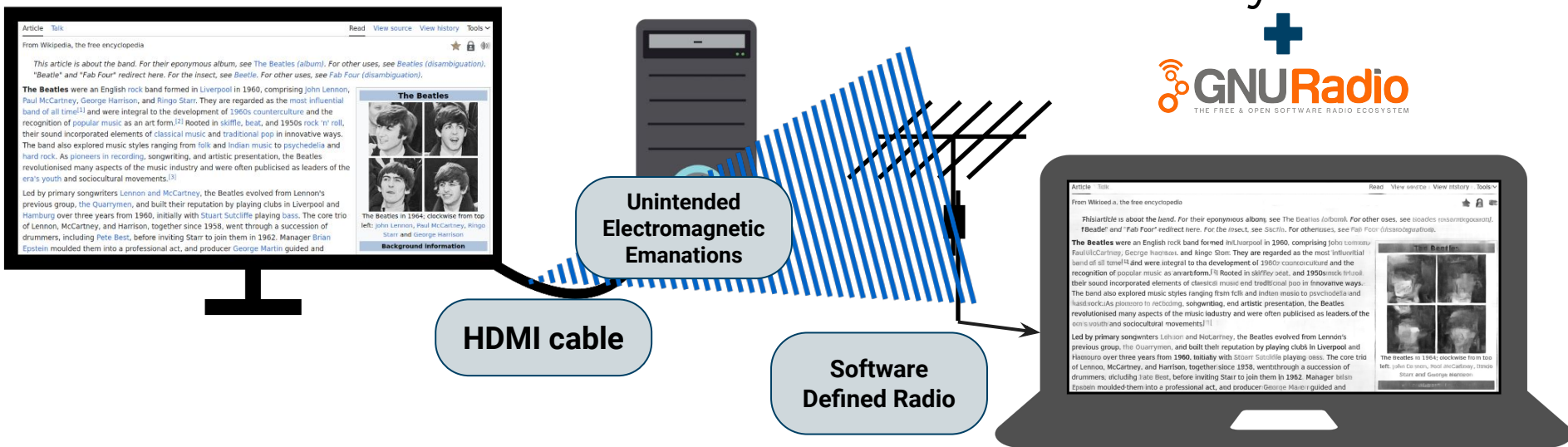
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$$R_{X_b}[l] = \mathbb{E}\{x_b[k]x_b[k+l]\}$$



# Image recovery roadmap: SDR



# Receiving the signal: Software Defined Radio

- Generic hardware <-> Software processing

- Spectrum analyzer
- Signal reverse engineering
- Satellite imagery
- Digital TV transceiver
- Custom signal processing chain through

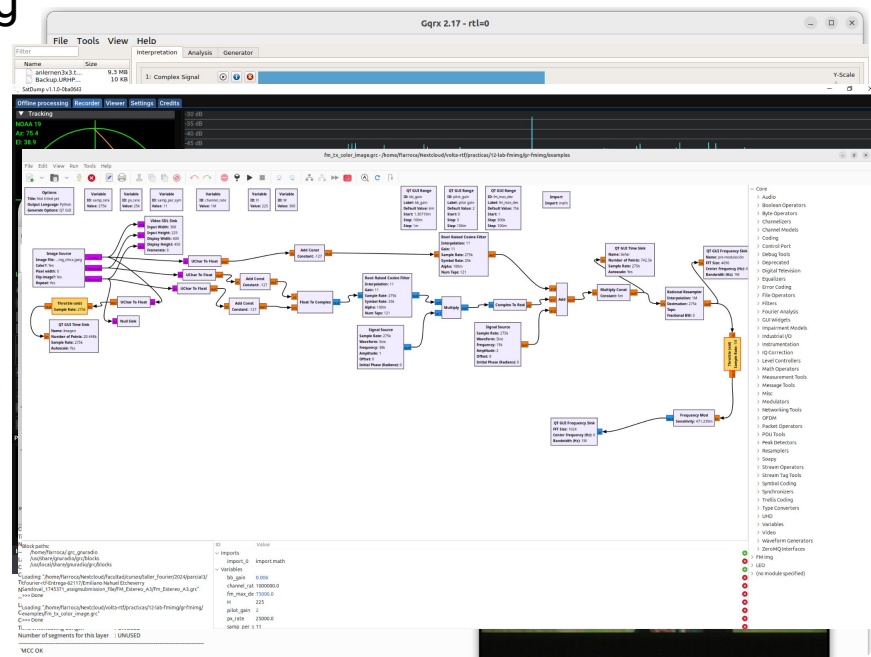


GQRX - <https://www.gqrx.dk/>

Universal Radio Hacker - <https://github.com/jopohl/urh>

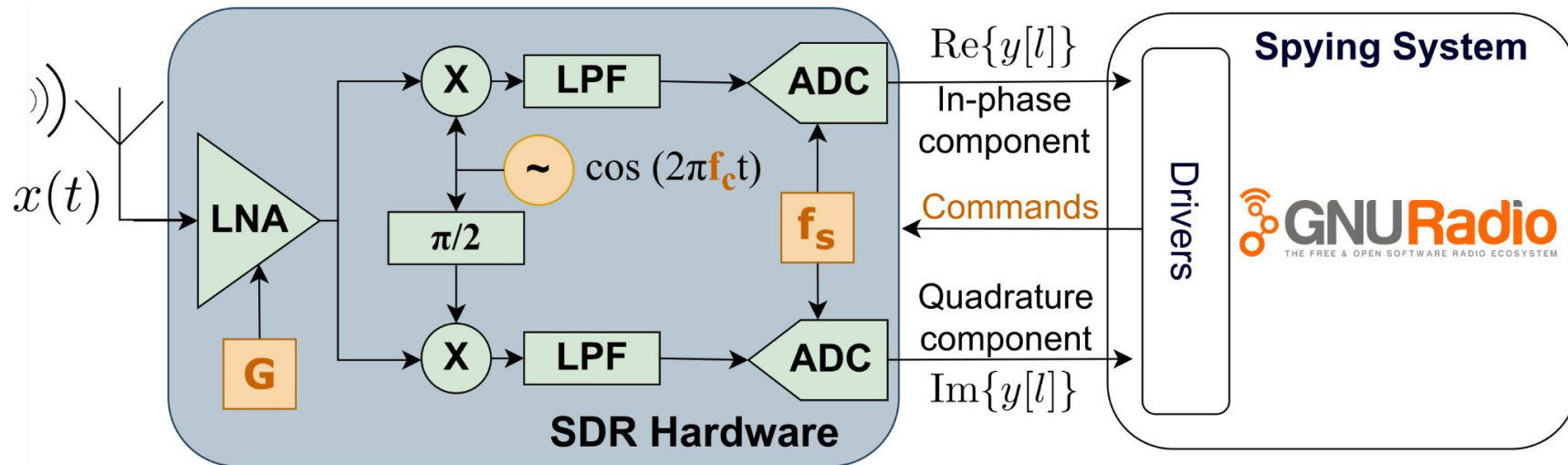
SatDump - <https://www.satdump.org/>

gr-isdbt - <https://github.com/git-artes/gr-isdbt>



# Receiving the signal: Software Defined Radio

How do we receive the signal?

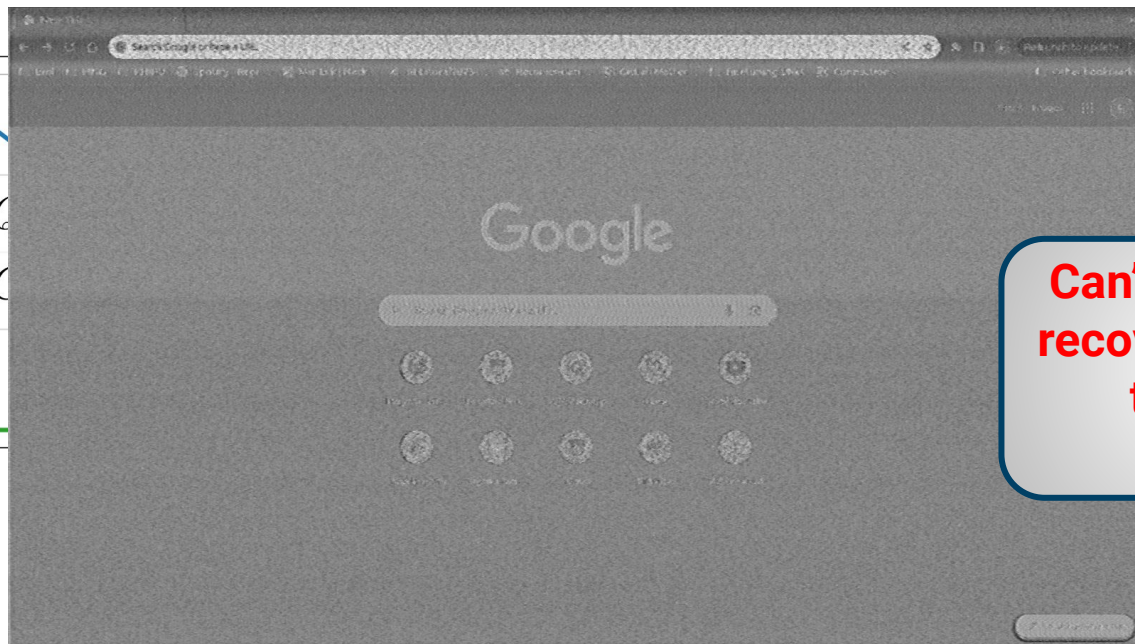
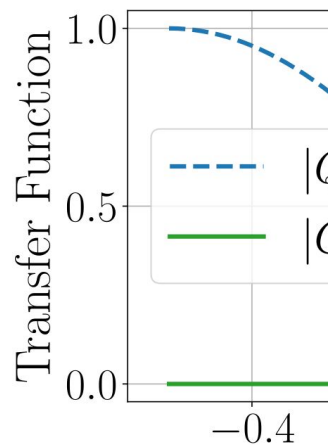


$$x(t) = 2V_{cc} + \sum_k x_b[k]q(t - kT_b)$$



# Receiving the signal: Software Defined Radio

**Problem:** sampling rate  $f_s$  is much smaller than bit rate



**Can't have better  
recovering quality  
than this.  
Can we?**

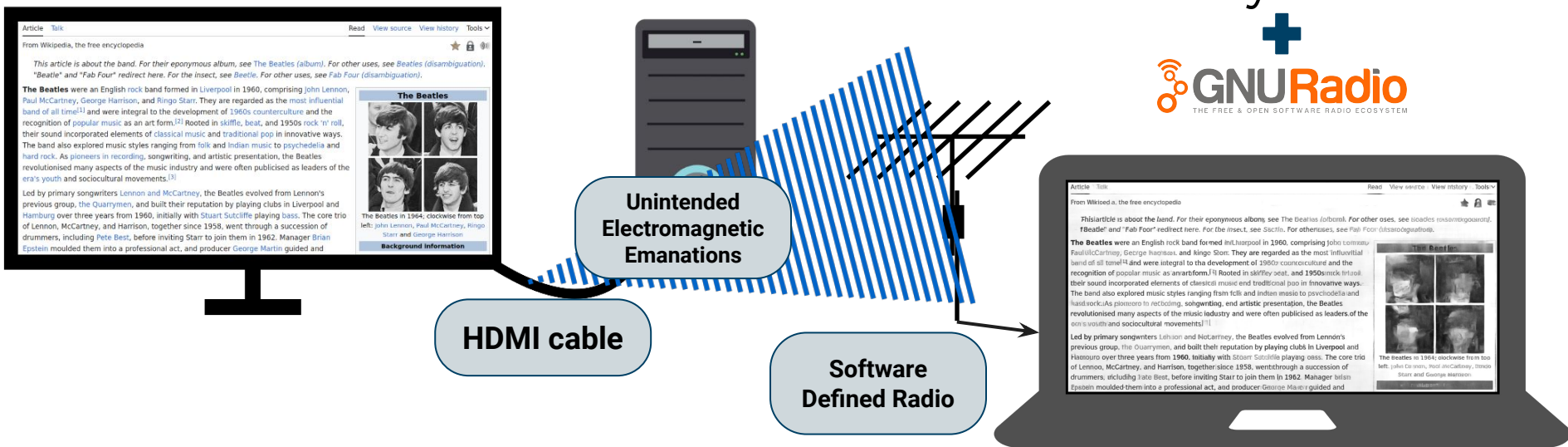
$$\sum_k x_b[k]q(t - kT_b)$$

# Image recovery roadmap: deep learning

PyTorch



GNU Radio  
THE FREE & OPEN SOFTWARE RADIO ECOSYSTEM

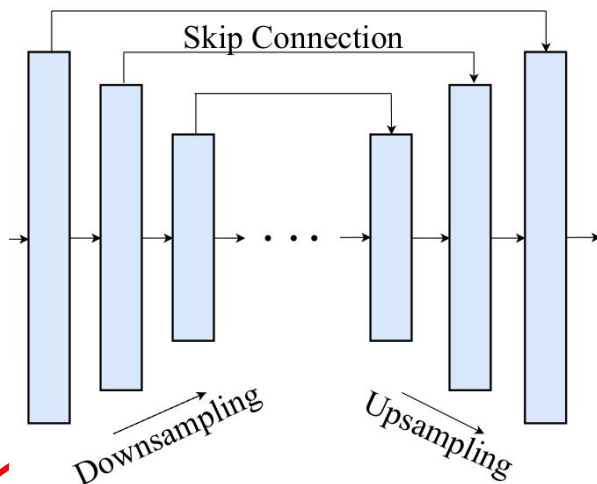


# Inverse problem

Given an observation:  $Y$

where  $\alpha > 0$  is the step size and  $\Pi_{S(x, \delta)}$  denotes the projection of the attack to the valid space  $S(x, \delta)$ . Observe that the adversarial objective in Eq. (4) cannot be directly used as  $J(x)$  to update  $x$  as the length of the sequence is not a differentiable objective function. This hinders the direct application of PGD to output-lengthening attacks. Furthermore, when the input space  $S$  is discrete, gradient descent cannot be directly be used because it is only applicable to continuous input spaces.

In the following, we show our extensions of the PGD attack algorithm to handle these challenges.



Find the **most likely** original image:  $\hat{X}$

where  $\alpha > 0$  is the step size and  $\Pi_{S(x, \delta)}$  denotes the projection of the attack to the valid space  $S(x, \delta)$ . Observe that the adversarial objective in Eq. (4) cannot be directly used as  $J(x)$  to update  $x$  as the length of the sequence is not a differentiable objective function. This hinders the direct application of PGD to output-lengthening attacks. Furthermore, when the input space  $S$  is discrete, gradient descent cannot be directly be used because it is only applicable to continuous input spaces.

In the following, we show our extensions of the PGD attack algorithm to handle these challenges.

**Complex samples aligned by vanilla gr-tempest**

**DRUNet: deep CNN architecture**

**Model:**

$$\text{observation } Y = \mathcal{T}(X) + N, \text{ noise}$$

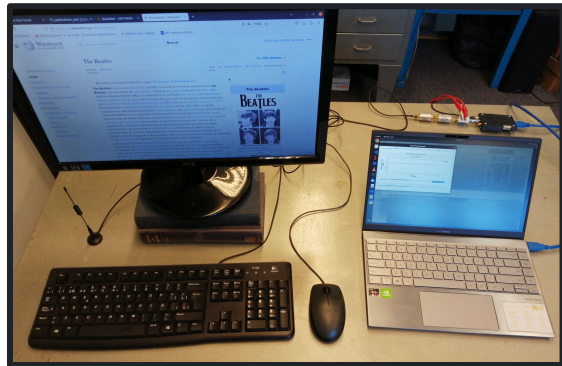
forward operator (TMDS, SDR, etc.)

original image

# Dataset construction $\{\mathbf{X}_i, \mathbf{Y}_i\}_N$

---

- **Python + GNU Radio** scripts for synthetic data (2189 images)
  - “Free” to produce at any computer/server
  - No need of experimental setup
  - ***Low-cost generation***
- ***Real-life*** image observations! (1302 images)
  - **Protocol** with experimental setup (necessary for ***supervised learning*** approach)
  - Took around **65 hs** to acquire
  - ***High-cost generation and time consuming***
- A total of **N=3491** images pairs for *training/validation/test*



# Results!

Original

~~Veripattentest~~

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## Bienvenidos a Wikipedia,

la enciclopedia de contenido libre  
que [todos pueden editar](#).

[Contacto](#) [Ayuda](#) [Primeros pasos](#)

Artículo destacado

Love Don't Live Here Anymore

«**Love Don't Live Here Anymore**» es una canción compuesta por Miles Gregory y grabada originalmente en 1978 por la banda estadounidense [Rose Royce](#). Seis años después, la cantante [Madonna](#) interpretó una



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# Evaluation metric (*text readability*)

## Original

the cross loss with an adaptive regularization parameter. We call this regularization parameter, the *focal regularization parameter*. This parameter prevents the transfer of negative knowledge. In other words, it makes sure that the knowledge is transferred from more accurate modality networks to less accurate networks and not the other way. Once the networks are trained, during inference, each network has learned to recognize the hand gestures from its dedicated modality, but also has gained the knowledge transferred from the other modalities that assists in providing the better performance.

In summary, this paper makes the following contributions. First, we propose a new framework for single modality networks in dynamic hand gesture recognition task to learn from multiple modalities. This framework results in a *Multimodal Training / Unimodal Testing (MTUT)* scheme. Second, we introduce the SSA loss to share the knowledge of single modality networks. Third, we develop the *focal regularization parameter* for avoiding negative transfer. In our experiments, we show that learning with our method improves the test time performance of unimodal networks.

### 2. Related Work

**Dynamic Hand Gesture Recognition:** Dynamic hand-gesture recognition methods can be categorized on the basis of the video analysis approaches they use. Many hand-gesture methods have been developed based on extracting

temporal and channel dimensions.

**Transfer Learning:** In transfer learning, first, an agent is independently trained on a source task, then another agent uses the knowledge of the source agent by repositing the learned features or transferring them to improve its learning on a target task [32, 43]. This technique has been shown to be successful in many different types of applications [5, 30, 19, 17, 49, 34]. While our method is closely related to transfer learning, our learning agents (i.e. modality networks) are trained simultaneously, and the transfer occurs both ways among the networks. Thus, it is better categorized as a multi-task learning framework [10, 31], where each network has three tasks of providing the knowledge to the other networks, receiving the knowledge from them, and finally classifying based on their dedicated input streams.

**Multimodal Fusion:** In multimodal fusion, the model explicitly receives the data from multiple modalities and learns to fuse them [28, 3, 33]. The fusion can be achieved at feature level (i.e. early fusion), decision level (i.e. late fusion) or intermediately [35, 2]. Once the model is trained, during testing, it receives the data from multiple modalities for classification [35, 28]. While our method is related to multimodal fusion, it is not a fusion method. We do not explicitly fuse the representations from different modalities. Instead, we improve the representation learning of our individual modality networks by leveraging the knowledge from different modalities. During inference, we do not necessarily need multiple modalities; but rather each individual

OCR

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CER=14.5%

**Character  
Error  
Rate**

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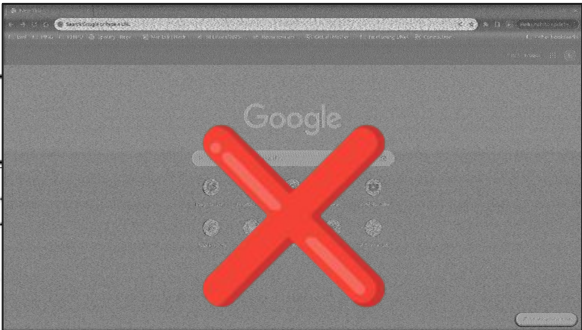
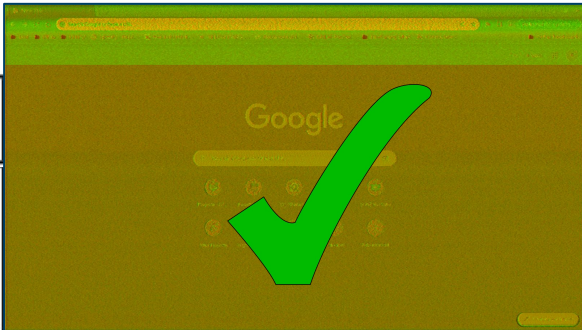
**Dynamic Hand Gesture Recognition:** Dynamic hand-gesture recognition methods can be categorized on the basis of the video analysis approaches they use. Many hand-

Reconstruction

# Experiments:

- Training with real-life data only (*pure model*):

Complex valued  
samples: crucial for  
image recovery

| Model                       |  |       |  |  |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|
| Raw image mag<br>(gr-tempes |                                                                                    |       |                                                                                     |  |
| Pure (w/ complex values)    | 15.2                                                                               | 0.787 | 35.3                                                                                |  |
| Pure (w/ magnitude only)    | 14.2                                                                               | 0.754 | 43.6                                                                                |  |

Evaluation with real-life testset



# Experiments:

- Train with low-cost synthetic data (*base model*) and finetune with a fraction of real-life dataset:

| Fraction | F1 | CER (%) |
|----------|----|---------|
| 5%       | 6  | 39.0    |
| 10%      | 1  | 35.0    |
| 20%      | 7  | 33.3    |
| 50%      | 8  | 31.4    |
| 100%     | 6  | 29.8    |

**Synthetic data trained model is a good starting point**

**Better performance by including more real-life data**

Evaluation with real-life testset

# Robustness

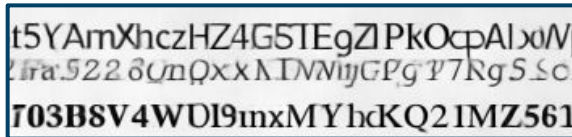
Capacity for non-trained conditions

- For *never-seen* fonts
  - Generated images with *random text fonts* and its observations
  - Using our best model → **CER = 48%** for test images 😞
  - Training 10 epochs → drops to **CER = 30%** (same test images) 😊

A rectangular image containing three lines of text in a random, stylized font. The text is: "t5YAmXhczHZ4GSTEgZlPkQcpAlxW", "?Ww5ZZ8QnQxkX5WNqGVgT7Rg5ie", and "703B8V4WUl9mxMYIxKQ2IMZ561".

t5YAmXhczHZ4GSTEgZlPkQcpAlxW  
?Ww5ZZ8QnQxkX5WNqGVgT7Rg5ie  
703B8V4WUl9mxMYIxKQ2IMZ561

Original

A rectangular image showing the model's prediction for the original text. The text is: "t5YAmXhczHZ4G5TEgZlPkOcpAlxoW", "?lfa.522δQnQxxNINNijGPgT7Rg5Sc", and "703B8V4WUl9mxMYhcKQ2IMZ561".

t5YAmXhczHZ4G5TEgZlPkOcpAlxoW  
?lfa.522δQnQxxNINNijGPgT7Rg5Sc  
703B8V4WUl9mxMYhcKQ2IMZ561

Best model

A rectangular image showing the prediction from a model fine-tuned on the original text. The text is: "t5YAmXhczHZ4GSTEgZlPkOcpAlxW", "?Ww5ZZ8QnQxkX5lWNqGVgT7Rg5ie", and "703B8V4WUl9mxMYIxKQ2IMZ561".

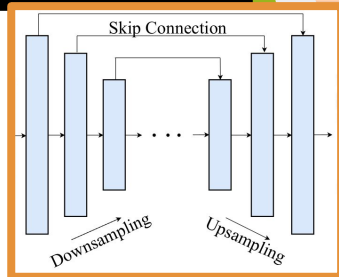
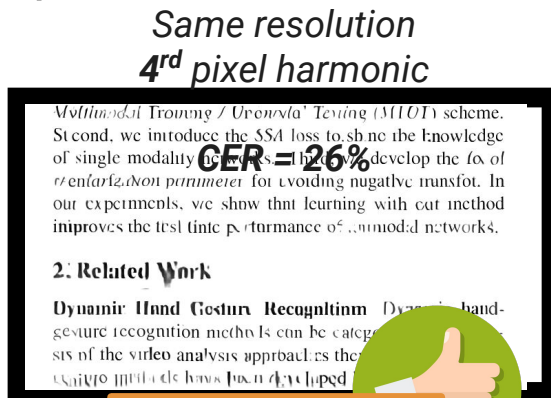
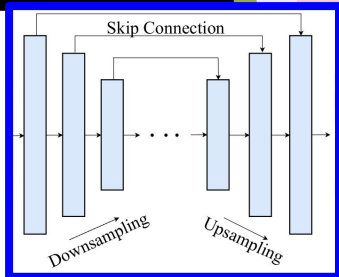
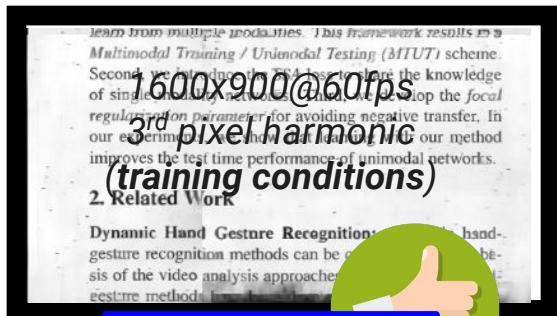
t5YAmXhczHZ4GSTEgZlPkOcpAlxW  
?Ww5ZZ8QnQxkX5lWNqGVgT7Rg5ie  
703B8V4WUl9mxMYIxKQ2IMZ561

Fine tuned  
best model

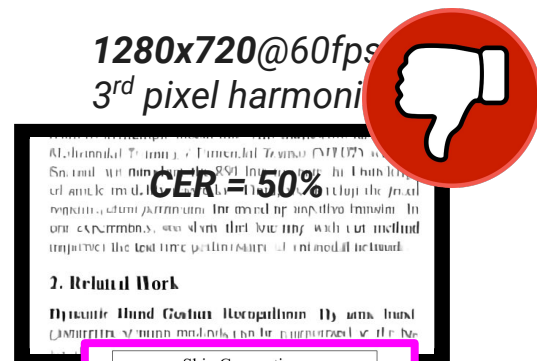
# Robustness

Capacity for non-trained conditions (*cont.*)

- Changing *PC* user setup

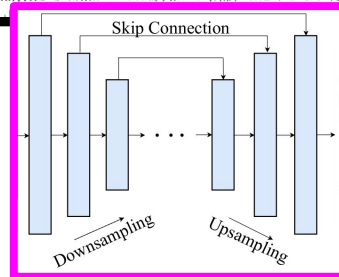


**Synthetic data generator!**  
**One base model per resolution & harmonic configuration**



1280x720@60fps  
3<sup>rd</sup> pixel harmonic

**CER = 50%**



# Countermeasures

Imperceptible changes at pixel values  $\rightarrow$  high observation variance

- Add low level noise to frames of display monitor

### 3. Generative Adversarial Density Estimator

#### 3.1. Adversarial Formulation

We consider the problem of estimating the density for an observation sample  $x$ .

$$p(x|w) = \exp$$
$$A(w) =$$

Here,  $\phi(w, x)$  is the embedding function and the parameter function. We use a neural network to model this function, i.e.

**“Adversarial attack”  
acting as potential  
weakness for spying  
system**

### 3. Generative Adversarial Density Estimator

#### 3.1. Adversarial Formulation

We consider the problem of estimating the density for an observation sample  $x$  to be a random variable defined by

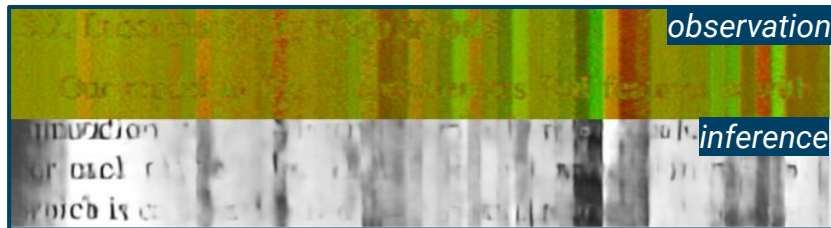
$$p(x|w)$$

link function for the Bhattacharyya distance. We fully specify the density estimator network with parameters  $w$  and  $x$ .

- Color gradient background

## 3.2. Incorporating (whiter $\rightarrow$ darker)

Our model in Fig. 2 concatenates RoI features  $z$  with annotation map  $s$ . We now describe how we create  $s$ . First, for each region  $i$  we create a positive annotation map  $S_i$  which is of the same size  $W \times H$  as the image. We choose



# Available Resources

---

- Code for synthesis of image observation for involuntary electromagnetic emanations for HDMI cables.
- A total of 1302 real-life samples for train/test.
- *deep-tempest* GNU-Radio framework (*gr-tempest2.0* + trained model).

All available (*open-source*) at [github.com/emidan19/deep-tempest](https://github.com/emidan19/deep-tempest)



# Awareness

## We are on the news

### NewScientist

#### Technology

## AI can reveal what's via signals leaking fr

Electromagnetic radiation leaking from the cab  
can be intercepted and decoded by AI to reveal

By Ma

2



Projects ▾

Channels ▾

News

## Deep-TEMPEST Reveals All

Deep-TEMPEST is an exploit that leverages an SDR receiver and deep learning to wirelessly reveal what is being displayed on an HDMI monitor.



It's TOO Easy to Accidentally Do Illegal Stuff with This

## RTL-SDR.COM

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

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SOFTWARE ▾

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FORUM

RTL-SDR STORE

JULY 24, 2024

## DEEP-TEMPEST: EAVESDROPPING ON HDMI VIA SDR AND DEEP

are-defined radio. TEMPEST aka (Van  
d are able to recover information from  
at allows you to view images from a

### PCWorld

NEWS ▾

BEST PICKS ▾

REVIEWS ▾

HOW-TO ▾

DEALS

#### NEWS

## Hackers can wirelessly watch your display via HDMI radiation

A newly discovered technique combines wireless EM monitoring and AI algorithms to "read" text on a victim's screen via HDMI radiation, and it's already being used in the wild.



# Conclusions

## What we've done?

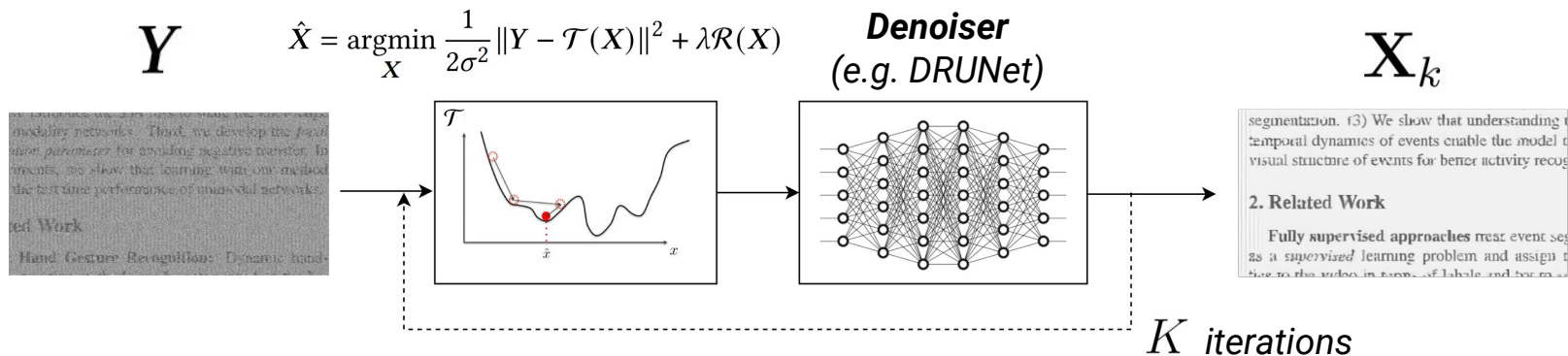
---

- **Open-source** implementation of mapping operator from a HDMI electromagnetic signal emission observation to its original image.
- **Mathematical formulation** and open-source code for forward operator.
- **Significantly better results** than previous implementations.
- Found **countermeasures** for our system.

# Conclusions

## What's next?

- **Plug & Play** methods, **exploit analytical expression** of forward operator **instead of retrain one model per user configuration**.



- Use **time redundancy of video frames** for better infer quality.

# Thank you!



Questions?

backup  
slides

# For hardware geeks

---

RF:

- Monopole antenna
- Mini-Circuits: ZJL-6G+ amplifier, SLP-450+ LPF and SHP-250+ HPF
- Ettus Research USRP 200-mini

Spying PC:

- AMD Ryzen 5000
- 8 GB RAM

Training PC:

- Intel Core i7-10700F
- 64 GB RAM
- NVIDIA GeForce RTX 3090 24 GB of VRAM

# For machine learning geeks

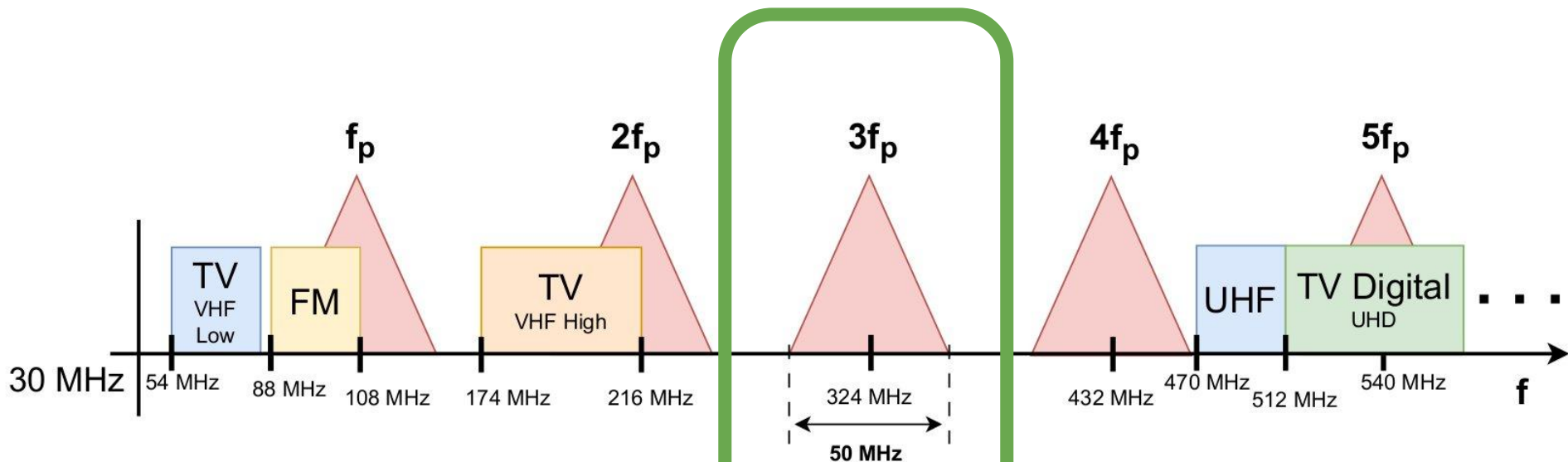
---



- Pytorch (*of course*)
- Patch size of 256 x 256 pixels
- Batch size of 48 patches
- Adam optimizer
- Learning rate of  $1.56 \times 10^{-5}$
- TV regularization weight  $2.2 \times 10^{-13}$
- Hyperparameters search with Optuna
- He's Normal weights initialization
- 32.638.656 learnable parameters (as default as DRUNet's repo)



# Pixel harmonic frequency choice



Display specs: 1600x900@60fps  
With blanking: 1800x1000@60fps  
Pixel rate: 108 MHz

We tune at this  
pixel harmonic

# More results

---

Monitor  
display view

where  $\tau$  is the Gumbel-softmax sampling temperature that controls the discreteness of  $\tilde{x}$ . With this relaxation, we perform PGD attack on the distribution  $\pi$  at each iteration.

Vanilla tempest  
results

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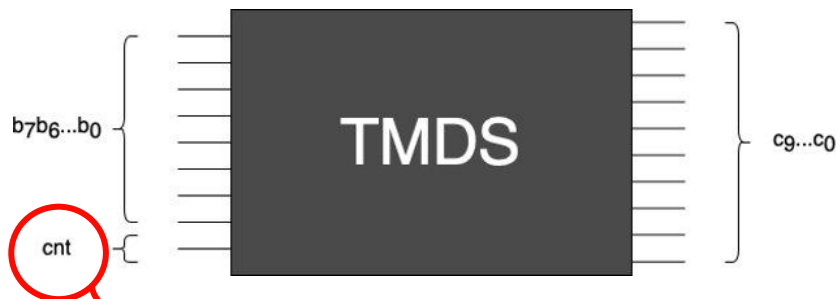
Deep-tempest  
results

where  $\tau$  is the Gumbel-softmax sampling temperature that controls the discreteness of  $\tilde{x}$ . With this relaxation, we perform PGD attack on the distribution  $\pi$  at each iteration.

# How do we get the signal? (forward operator 1)

HDMI uses *Transition Minimized Differential Signaling* (**TMDS**) encoding:

1. 8 bit pixel  $\rightarrow$  10 bit word (**non linear**)



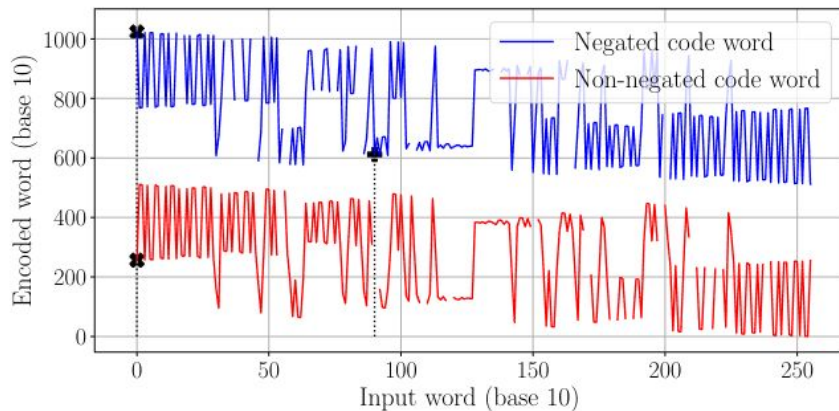
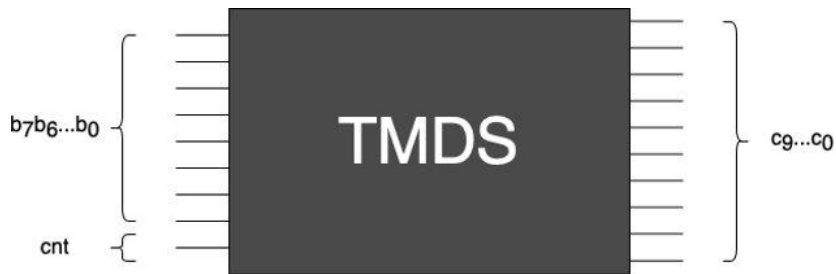
| Value $l$ of pixel<br>amplitude | TMDS coding          |                       |
|---------------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|
|                                 | First 10-bit<br>word | Second 10-bit<br>word |
| 0                               | 0100000000           | 1111111111            |
| 150                             | 0011011000           | 1000100111            |
| 251                             | 0000000011           | 1011111100            |
| 255                             | 0011111111           | 1000000000            |



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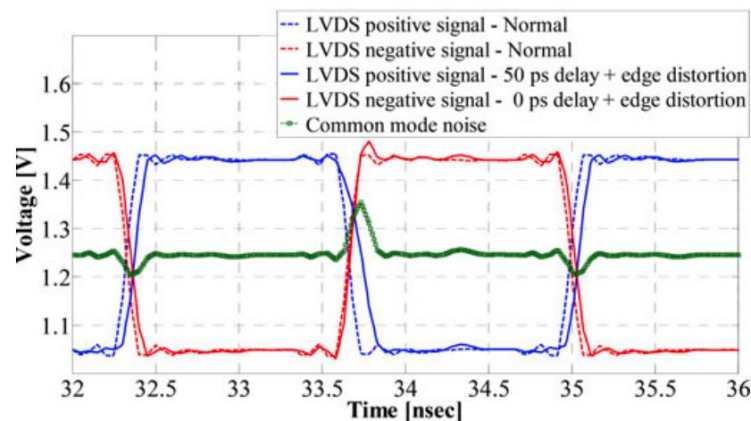
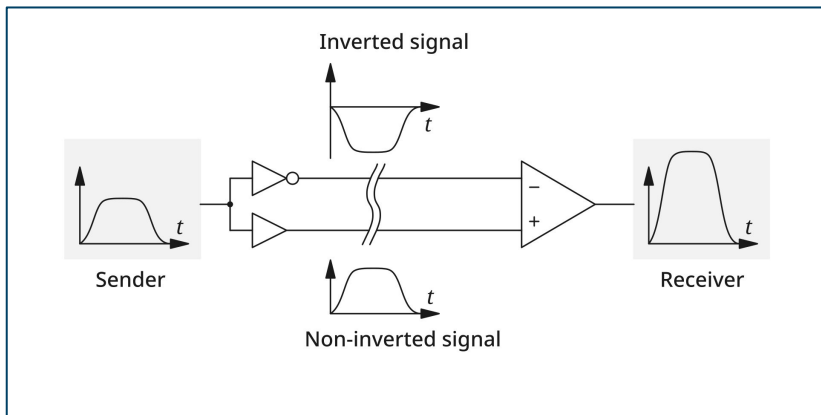


# How do we get the signal? (forward operator 2)

1. Expression of the signal “seen outside” the HDMI cable (**PAM**)

$$x(t) = x^+(t) + x^-(t) = 2V_{cc} + \sum_k x_b[k] q(t - kT_b),$$

where  $q(t) = p(t) - p(t - \epsilon T_b)$   
 $\epsilon = 0.1$  (really small)



# How do we get the signal? (forward operator 2)

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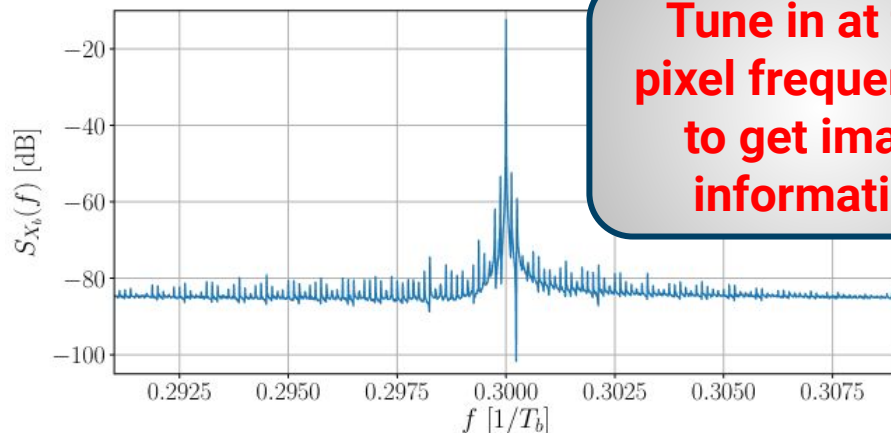
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where  $q(t) = p(t) - p(t - \epsilon T_b)$ .

$$\epsilon = 0.1$$

2. Spectrum of  $x_b[k]$  contains information of signal

**Spectrum centered  
at  $0.3 f_b = 3 f_p$   
(3<sup>rd</sup> pixel harmonic)**



**Tune in at this  
pixel frequencies  
to get image  
information**

# How do we get the signal? (*forward operator 2*)

- Expression of what we get:

$$y[l] = \sum_k x_b[k] g(l/f_s - kT_b).$$

- $g()$  composed by:

- i.  $q()$  (**TMDS**)
- ii. baseband demod (**SDR**)
- iii. LPF (**SDR**)

complex valued  
(signal baseband representation  
at some pixel harmonic)

whole system characterization

SDR's sample rate

- Challenges:

- $f_s \ll 1/T_b = f_b$  ( $f_b \sim 20 f_s$ )  
→ SDR gets "avg" of samples  
(**one pixel per sample**)
- Sampling errors → "twisted" image recovery
- Frequency errors at pixel harmonic (sinusoidal patterns)





# How to reconstruct the image (*inverse operator*)

- Given the forward formulation

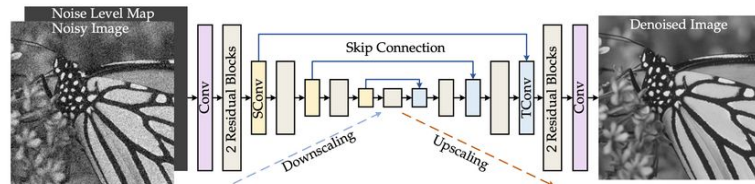
$$Y = \mathcal{T}(X) + N,$$

observation      forward operator      original image      noise

- Find the image that satisfies:

$$\hat{X} = \operatorname{argmin}_X \underbrace{\frac{1}{2\sigma^2} \|Y - \mathcal{T}(X)\|^2}_{\text{data term}} + \underbrace{\lambda \mathcal{R}(X)}_{\text{regularization term (total variation)}}$$

- DRUNet** [Zhang21] for data term:



Source: "Plug-and-Play Image Restoration with Deep Denoiser Prior"

$$\min_{\Theta} \sum_{i=1}^N \mathcal{L}(f(Y_i, \Theta), X_i).$$

$L^2$  norm      net (inverse operator)      net learnable parameters

# TEMPEST / Van Eck Phreaking

- W. Van Eck [Eck85] (CRTs)
- M. Kuhn [Ku03] (VGA, DVI, HDMI)
- M. Marinov [Mar14] (**TempestSDR**)



Source: [hackaday.com](http://hackaday.com)

- P. Menoni [Men19] (M.Sc. degree)
- F. Larroca [Lar22], 2020 (**gr-tempest**)
- P. Bertrand et. al [Bert21], 2021 (**gr-tempest2.0**)



Source: [gr-tempest2.0](https://github.com/gr-tempest2.0)



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