Security of Cyber-Physical Systems: Challenges and Approaches

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Cyber-Physical Systems

We are heading towards (living in?) a sensor-driven world



need control systems capable of operating in malicious environments

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administration and code-named Olympic Games - even after an alament of the program assidentall

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REPRINTS	



- Siberian pipeline: June 1982:

- Soviets stole control software from Canadian company.
- US influence Canadian company to alter code such that pipeline pressures would build up.

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explosion could be seen from space.





- Stuxnet: 2009:
 - Attack on Iranian nuclear facility
 - Used 4 undiscovered exploits targeting control





– US Drone captured: 2011:

- Iran captured predator drone that landed in the wrong area.
- GPS spoofing
- "System" worked perfectly
 - sensor measurements where wrong



cyber-physical attacks: a growing invisible threat: George Loukas, 2015.



- IoT DDoS : October 21, 2016

- thousands of devices overtaken using default passwords
- organized into botnet to flood DNS provider
- took down many major websites
 - \$17 Billion cost to economy (0.1% of GDP)



cyber-physical attacks: a growing invisible threat: George Loukas, 2015.



cyber-physical attacks: a growing invisible threat: George Loukas, 2015.

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1988 1989 1990 1991 1992 1993 1994 1995 1996 1997 1998 1999 2000 2001 2002 2003 2004 2005 2006 2007 2008 2009 2010 2011 2012

25-years of vulnerabilities, 9988-2012. Yves Younan.

Typical CPS Architecture





What is CPS Security?

- A CPS attack whose goal is to (negatively) affect the interaction between a CPS and the physical world
 - Originates through any attack surface
 - cyber, physical, or any combination of cyber/physical
- CPS security concerns the development of technologies for defending against CPS attacks
 - e.g., discovering new vulnerabilities, techniques for detection/mitigation/recovery, …



CPS Attack Surfaces

- Cyber attack surfaces
 - e.g., communication, networks, computers, databases, ...
- Physical attack surfaces
 e.g., locks, casings, cables, ...
- Environmental attack surfaces
 - e.g., GPS signal, electromagnetic interference, battery draining/cycling/heating, ...
- Human attack surfaces
 - e.g., phishing, bribing, blackmail, etc.





CPS Security Challenges

- Foundational Challenges
 - How to build an ideal resilient CPS?
 - Quantifying CPS attacks effectiveness
 - wide variability in metrics for CPS security
 - concerns depend on the CPS mission
 - System evolution
 - operate in many different physical environments
 - adapt to physical surroundings
 - Operating scenarios restrict defensive capabilities
 - patching and frequent updates, are not well suited for control systems
 - real-time availability provides a stricter operational environment than most traditional IT systems.
 - legacy systems may not be updated
- Social and Legal Challenges
 - What solutions will be accepted by practitioners?
 - Who/what is liable when such a system fails due to security and privacy attacks?



Improving CPS security

- Apply suitable best (cyber) security practices
- CPS can provide additional information
 - CPS architecture / physical-world interface
 - e.g., multiple sensors, actuators, controllers
 - Environmental context
 - e.g., operating conditions (rain/snow), geographic location
 - Physical constraints and guarantees
 - e.g., laws of physics, bounds on power, CPU speed, network bandwidth
- How to leverage additional information to improve CPS security?



Attacks on Control Systems

- 1. Sensor attacks
 - The attacker can arbitrarily change sensor measurements.
- 2. Actuator attacks
 - The attacker can arbitrarily change actuator values.
- 3. Communication attacks
 - The attacker can change messages sensors->controllers, and controllers->actuators.
- 4. Controller attacks
 - The attacker can change the controllers' parameters (e.g., execution model) or even the controllers' code.





Platform-Aware CPS Design Framework



- Control-level techniques
 - Attack detection and identification using redundant sensing and model of the system's dynamics
 - Attack-resilient control architectures
- Code-level techniques
 - Ensure that the control code is correctly implemented and integrated

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• Preventing malicious code injection into the controller

Goal: Ensure that a CPS maintain a degree of control even when the system is under *cyber* and/or *physical* attack

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Security-Aware Control Design

- Physical world abides by the laws of physics!
- Physical interfaces introduce new attack vectors!
- How can we exploit *limited* knowledge of laws of physics (system model) for control and attack detection/identification
- Approach
 - Analyze the difference between observed measurements and `expected' system behavior over a time window for different attack models

PRFCISF



Attack-Detection and Identification (ADI)

- Problem: How can we *detect* and *identify* which system sensors have been compromised
- Approach: Exploit spatial and temporal redundancy
 - sensor fusion
 - resilient state estimator





The rest of the talk

- Dealing with sensor attacks
 - Sensor fusion based on abstract sensor models
 - Attacks vs. transient faults
 - Resilient state estimator
- Security-aware CPS architecture
 - Human-in-the-loop
 - Checkpointing and recovery



DEALING WITH SENSOR ATTACKS





Motivation

- Modern CPS are equipped with multiple sensors (e.g., GPS, encoder, camera, IMU)
 - Can separately estimate the same physical variable (e.g., velocity)
 - This redundancy can be used to improve system performance
- Some sensors may be vulnerable to sensor attacks (e.g., GPS spoofing)
- Low-precision sensors can be used to improve attack detection and identification (e.g., ambient FM signals)
- How can redundancy improve system resilience?









Abstract Sensor Model

- Most sensor models assume probabilistic noise
 - Used to argue about expected operation
 - Not applicable to analyzing rare events (e.g., attacks)
- Interval containing all points that may be the true value

21

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- No assumption on noise distribution
- The size of the interval reflects the accuracy of the sensor
- Well-suited for worst-case analysis



Fusion Algorithm

- Based on algorithm developed by Marzullo*
- Input are n real intervals and a number f
- At most *f* sensors under attack $(f < \lceil \frac{n}{2} \rceil)$
- Output is a "fusion interval"
 - Smallest to largest point contained in n f intervals



* Marzullo, K., "Tolerating Failures Of Continuous-Valued Sensors." ACM Transactions on Computer Systems, vol. 8, (no. 4), pp. 284-304, Nov. 1990

22

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Sensor Fusion under Attack over Time

- Our approach
 - Extend Marzullo's work to attacks and over time
 - Use a dynamic system

 $\mathbf{x}(t+1) = \mathbf{A}\mathbf{x}(t) + w$

- where w is a disturbance, and
- we know A with some uncertainty
- Using time will help us isolate malicious sensors
 - Attacker no longer able to give unreasonable measurements





Our Results

• Identified a mapping method: is this optimal?



- Identified an "optimal" attack strategy for attacker
- In addition:
 - Analyze this optimal attack policy with the above mapping
 - App to Integrate sensor measurements from smartphones with On-Board Diagnostic (OBD) system (for American Built Car)



Measurement History



Results

- **Theorem**: *pairwise_intersect* is the best of all five methods*
- Simulations estimate velocity/position •
 - Camera, GPS and two encoders
 - One sensor always under attack
 - Red: Volume of fusion polyhedron with no history
 - Blue: Volume of fusion polyhedron with *pairwise_intersect*





20

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*Assuming the transition matrix A is full rank.



Attack Detection

- Sensor fusion
 - produce a better measurement \rightarrow improve performance
- Attack detection
 - identify and discard attacked sensors \rightarrow improve resilience



Attacks vs. Faults

- The sensor-fusion approach is too conservative in that they treat faults and attacks in the same way
- Types of sensor measurements and faults
 - Noise vs. faulty measurement
 - Transient faults: occur shortly and disappear
 - Non-transient (permanent) faults: persist for a longer period of time
 - This work: focus on attacks that manifest as permanent faults



Transient Fault Model (ε, e, w)

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- Error bound ε signifies the worst case noise threshold
- Transient threshold (e, w)
 - allows at most e faulty measurements within window size w
 - If exceeded, fault is non-transient
- Not conforming to transient fault model → considered as attacked



Two Problem Statements

• Problem 1 (Transient Fault Modeling)

 Develop a transient fault model for each sensor from training data

- Problem 2 (Detection and Identification)
 - Given transient fault model (ε,e,w) for each sensor, develop an algorithm to detect and identify sensor attacks





Problem 1: Transient Fault Modeling

- Sometimes provided by manufacturer
 - E.g., Bosch
- Otherwise, have to choose them based on data
- e : the number of faults within time window size of w
- ε: error bound (the worst case noise bound)
 - Choose ε small enough: observe faulty measurements
 - Choose ε big enough: do not treat noise as faults



Problem 2: Attack Detection and Identification



- Pairwise inconsistency of sensor measurements
 - unknown true value \rightarrow unknown whether faulty or not
- Weak inconsistency
 - Two sensors are too far from each other at a certain time
- Strong inconsistency
 - Two sensors are frequently inconsistent over a time window





Attack Detection: Weak Inconsistency

- Two sensors s_i and s_j are weakly inconsistent at time t
 - iff one of them provides a faulty measurement
 - That is, $WI(i, j, t) \equiv F(i, t) \lor F(j, t)$ where F(i,t) signifies that s_i provides a faulty measurement at t
- Cannot decide in general true value not known
 - Sufficient condition exists: if the two sensors' intervals do not overlap. That is:

$$|y_i^{(t)} - y_j^{(t)}| > \epsilon_i + \epsilon_j \implies WI(i, j, t)$$





33



Attack Detection: Strong Inconsistency

- Two sensors s_i and s_j are strongly inconsistent
 - iff one of them is non-transiently faulty
 - That is, $SI(i, j, t) \equiv NTF(i, t) \lor NTF(j, t)$ where *NTF(i,t*) signifies that s_i is non-transiently faulty at time t
- Again, cannot decide in general
 - Sufficient condition exists: the sensors are weakly inconsistent frequently. That is,

$$\sum_{t-\min(w_i,w_j)+1}^t WI_1(i,j,t') > e_i + e_j \implies SI(i,j,t)$$



Attack Identification

- For identification, it is necessary to assume that there exist at most 'a' attacked sensors (where a < n-1).
- If sensor *s_i* is strongly inconsistent with '*a*' other sensors, then *s_i* is attacked, i.e., given i,

$$\deg(i) > a \implies A(i)$$







Example



- The attack is detected at time 3
- The attacked sensors s₃ and s₄ are identified at time 6

	(ϵ_i, e_i, w_i)
s1	(1,1,6)
s2	(1,2,5)
s3	(1,1,4)
s4	(1,2,6)
s5	(1,1,5)

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n = 5

a = 2
Case Study: Experiment Setup

- Driving an unmanned ground vehicle (called LandShark) in a straight line
- Gathering velocity measurements
 - Separately from left wheel encoder, right wheel encoder and GPS unit
 - At a rate of 10 Hz





Transient Fault Model Parameter Selection







Detection Performance

• Detection rate vs. elapsed time







Detection Performance (cont.)

 Detection rate vs. false alarm rate when error bounds are varied







Summary

- Sensor fusion based on abstract sensors using spatial and temporal redundancy and dynamics
- Attack detection in the presence of transient faults
 - Transient fault model / modeling
 - Detection algorithms based on pairwise inconsistencies (PI)
- Case study with an unmanned ground vehicle
 - PI-based detectors outperform SF-based detector
 - PI-based detector with a bigger window size
 - pros: higher detection rate, lower false alarm rate, more robust
 - cons: slightly slower to detect







Extensions

- Can this be adapted to dynamically changing environment?
 - Adjusting parameters (ε, e, w) based on context information; e.g., vehicle speed
- Learning transient fault models (ε, e, w) at run-time



RESILIENT STATE ESTIMATOR





Attacks on Control Systems: Attack Space

- 1. Sensor attacks
 - The attacker can arbitrarily change sensor measurements

 $e_{s}^{i}(t)$ - the value injected by the attacker in sensor *i*

If no attack is injected $e_s^{i}(t)=0$





Sensor Attacks

Goal: Design a decoder $x_{t-N+1} = D_N(y_{t-N+1}, ..., y_t, u_{t-N+1}, ..., u_{t-1})$

Approach: Formulate the problem as an optimization problem

$$\begin{split} \min_{x} &= \left\| \widetilde{Y}_{N} - \Phi_{N} x \right\|_{l_{0}} & \text{Sensor and actuator history} \\ \Phi_{N} x &= \begin{bmatrix} Cx | CAx | ... CA^{N-1} x \end{bmatrix} & \text{System} \\ \text{dynamics} \\ \min_{x} &= \left\| \widetilde{Y}_{N} - \Phi_{N} x \right\|_{l_{1}/l_{r}} & \text{The history of attacks e(t-1), e(t-2)...} \\ \widetilde{Y}_{N} - \Phi_{N} x^{*} &= \begin{bmatrix} e_{t-N+1} + v_{t-N+1} | ... e_{t-1} + v_{t-1} \end{bmatrix} & \text{Identify attacked sensors} \\ \text{for low-level measurement noise} \\ \end{split}$$

Intrusion Detection for Sensor and Actuator Attacks

 Intrusion Detection for actuator attacks can be handled in a similar manner!

How many attacked sensors and actuators that can be tolerated?

- p number of sensors, q number of attacked sensors and actuators
- In the best case, we can deal with $\lceil p/2 1 \rceil$ attacked sensors

$$q \ge \frac{p}{2} \implies$$
 impossible to detect an attack!

 $q < \frac{p}{2} \implies$ detection depends on the system dynamics (i.e., matrices A, B and C)



Case Study

- Constant-speed cruise control for LandShark
 - Ensure that the vehicle can maintain speed when some of the sensors are under attacked







Attack-Resilient Cruise Control Demo



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Attack-Resilient Cruise Control Demo



Challenge Problem – Cruise Control

• Case studies under analysis



• Goal: Maintaining a driver set speed of the vehicle



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Attack-resilient State Estimator

- State estimation from sensor measurement history
- Requires accurate model



 In practice, we have process and measurement noise, and modeling errors (including jitter, latencies, etc)

Problems

- Can we still use the same detector?
- Can the attacker exploit the noise to destabilize the system?
- Can we bound the error of the state estimation?

M. Pajic, J. Weimer, N. Bezzo, P. Tabuada, O. Sokolsky, J. Lee, and G. J. Pappas, "Robustness of Attack-resilient State Estimators", ICCPS 2014. (Best Paper Award)

Robustness of the Attack-resilient State Estimator

$$P_0(\mathbf{Y}): \min_{\mathbf{x}\in\mathbb{R}^n} ||\mathbf{E}||_{\boldsymbol{l}_0}$$
$$\mathbf{Y} - \mathbf{\Phi}\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{E}$$

$$(\mathbf{x}_0, \mathbf{E}) = \operatorname{argmin} P_0(\mathbf{Y})$$

$$P_{0,\Delta}(\mathbf{Y}): \min_{\mathbf{x}\in\mathbb{R}^n} ||\mathbf{E}||_{l_0}$$
$$-\mathbf{A} \leq \mathbf{Y} - \mathbf{\Phi}\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{E} \leq \mathbf{A}$$

 $(\mathbf{x}_{0,\Delta}, \mathbf{E}) = \operatorname{argmin} P_{0,\Delta}(\mathbf{Y})$

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If the state-feedback controller utilizes the state estimate for input control

• Then the closed-loop system will remain stable when at most q_{max} sensors have been compromised.

We have derived a design-time procedure to calculate an upper bound of the estimation error

 $\|\mathbf{x}_{0,\Delta} - \mathbf{x}_0\|_2$

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y(t)

Attack-resilient state estimator for American Built Car

- CarSim Simulation to obtain the model
- In-Car Implementation

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Attack-resilient state estimator for American Built Car









Extensions to Resilient State Estimators

- Challenges:
 - non-linear dynamics
 - realistic fault models
 - Impact of execution platform (computation & communication) on attack-resilient control
- Improve ADI when different types of sensors are used (continuous & discrete-events sensors) → sensor fusion with context
- Develop data-driven methods to handle non-linear dynamics and to derive better fault models
- Develop a framework for cross-layer analysis of platform effects on our resilient algorithms
 - Timing/scheduling effects
 - Resource constraints
 - Adaptation of attack-resilient control





SECURITY-AWARE CPS ARCHITECTURE





Attack-Resilient Architecture

- Goal: develop an architecture that
 - Leverages multiple security techniques to provide stronger guarantees
 - Enables adjusting the level of resilience to match the changing environment
 - Applicable to both legacy and clean-slate CPS
- Approach
 - Combine high-performance low-resilience techniques with high-resilience lower-performance techniques
 - Switch between techniques using attack detectors
 - Capture assumptions and guarantees of each technique to enable architecture-level analysis of system security
 - Human-on-the-loop, exploit the role of supervisors
- Challenge: how to balance
 - available systems resources
 - desired control performance
 - resiliency guarantees





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Human-on-the Loop

- Autonomous CPS system
 - Read sensors
 - Process data (making decisions)
 - Command actuators
- Human-on-the-loop
 - Setting/Updating objectives
 - Intermittent monitoring
 - Active (vs. passive) monitoring
 - Complementing the autonomy where it fails:
 Uncertainty
- Challenges

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- Increase system resiliency, without information overload
- Ensuring system objectives are met





CPS Checkpointing and Recovery

- Detection algorithms and control architecture provide detection guarentees
 - time-to-detection
 - detection rate
- Cyber-Physical Checkpointing
 - Checkpoint generation: when/where/what to log
 - Use property of controller software and physical process to reduce amount of logged data
 - Secure logger: tamper-proof logging
- Safe Recovery of Controllers
 - When attack is detected, the control system may need to be reset to a safe state with respect to the control physical process
 - Develop (formal) techniques to guarantee safety of recovery process





Checkpoint Generation Issues

- Single-loop control scenario
 - log subset inputs/outputs
 - exploit physical dynamics to reduce amount of logging necessary
- Distributed control scenario
 - conservative logging of all inputs and outputs is impractical
 - find minimal sets of data and when to store them
 - exploit concepts from distributed control system monitoring
- Logging always happens, but recovery is rare
 - balance tradeoff between recovery and logging costs/requirements
 - require secure logging capability



Safe Recovery of Controllers

- Problem: After an attack is detected, how can we perform controller recovery while guaranteeing system safety
- Goal: How to ensure consistency between the control mode and state of the physical plant?
- Challenges
 - Safe recovery
 - Ensure system recovery to a correct state
 - Guarantee real-time recovery w/o loss of control functionality
 - Bounded recovery time







Some Problems in CPS Recovery

- Developing the right notion of consistent global state in CPS
- Determining when to roll-back and how far to roll-back
- Developing strategies for roll-forward







• A system with checkpointing discovers an error ...







Classical checkpointing rolls back the entire system to a logically consistent state







- In CPS, it may not be possible to roll back all states
 - e.g., physical states such as "position"
- Rolling back only a subset of the states may not be consistent/safe





- In CPS, it may not be possible to roll back all states
 - e.g., physical states such as "position"
- Rolling back only a subset of the states may not be consistent/safe
- Challenge: how to checkpoint states that can be rolled back to ensure "safe rollback"
 - "safe" but may have reduced operational capabilities



CPS Recovery



Challenge: How to ensure recovery to a safe state

 Guarantee real-time recovery to ensure robust
 system operation





CPS Recovery



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CPS Recovery



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 system operation





Platform-Aware CPS Design Framework



- Control-level techniques
 - Attack detection and identification using redundant sensing and model of the system's dynamics
 - Attack-resilient control architectures
- Code-level techniques
 - Ensure that the control code is correctly implemented and integrated

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• Preventing malicious code injection into the controller

Goal: Ensure that a CPS maintain a degree of control even when the system is under *cyber* and/or *physical* attack

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Additional CPS Security Challenges

- Data-driven CPS
 - Attacks on training data
- How to retrofit legacy systems to be resilient to newly discovered attacks
- Human-in-the-loop CPS
- Privacy
- Assurance cases for security (and safety)
- Which solutions will be accepted by practitioners?
- Who/what is liable when such a system fails due to security and privacy attacks?



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