

Trustworthy Inter-connected Cyber-Physical Systems

Chris Hankin

Imperial College London and Director of RITICS

September 2020

Imperial College
London

- Context – RITICS and KIOS
- Some Contributions
 - Monitoring
 - Measuring
 - Diversifying
 - Defending
- The Broader Network

Key Questions / Challenges for RITICS Phase 1 (2014-2018)

Do we understand the harm threats pose to our ICS systems and business?



Can we confidently articulate these threats as business risk?

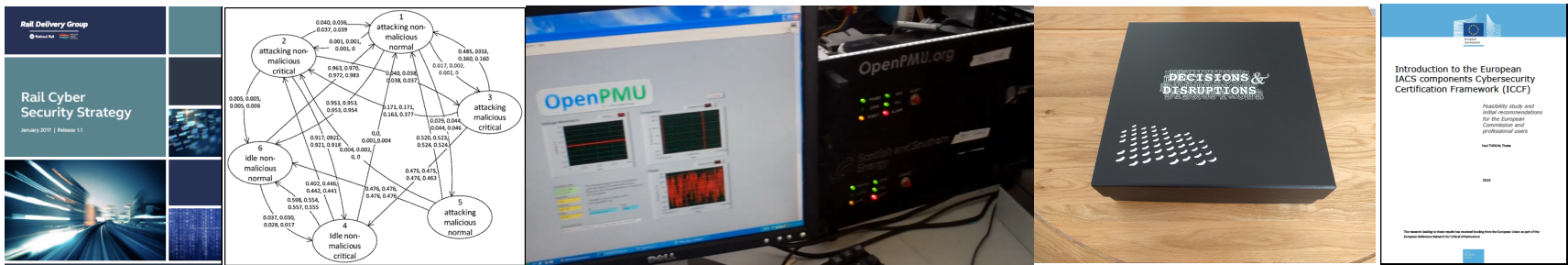


What could be novel effective and efficient interventions?

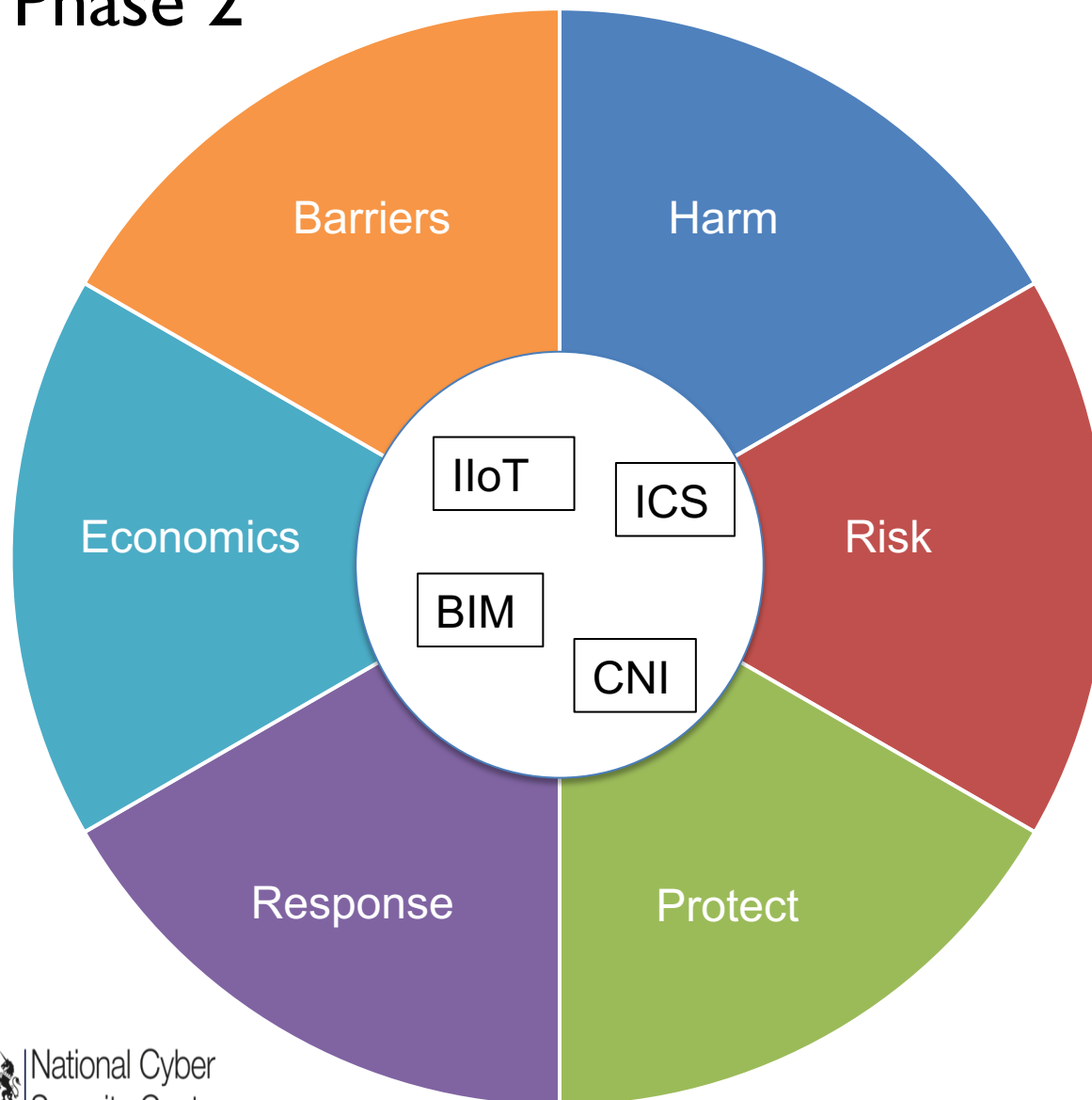
- RITICS (Hankin, Chana, Imperial College London)
- MUMBA (Rashid, Lancaster/Bristol)
- CEDRICS (Bloomfield, Popov, City)
- SCEPTICS (Easton, Chothia, Birmingham)
- CAPRICA (Sezer, Queen's University Belfast)

Impact of Phase 1

- ❖ Creation of a new research community
- ❖ Contribution to new Cyber Security Strategy for UK railways.
- ❖ Tools for building models of complex cyber physical systems.
- ❖ Testbeds.
- ❖ A serious game for studying security decisions.
- ❖ Secure implementation of gateway module compatible with IEC and IEEE standards.
- ❖ Contribution to European work on certification of ICS components.



RITICS Phase 2



Teaming with the University of Cyprus

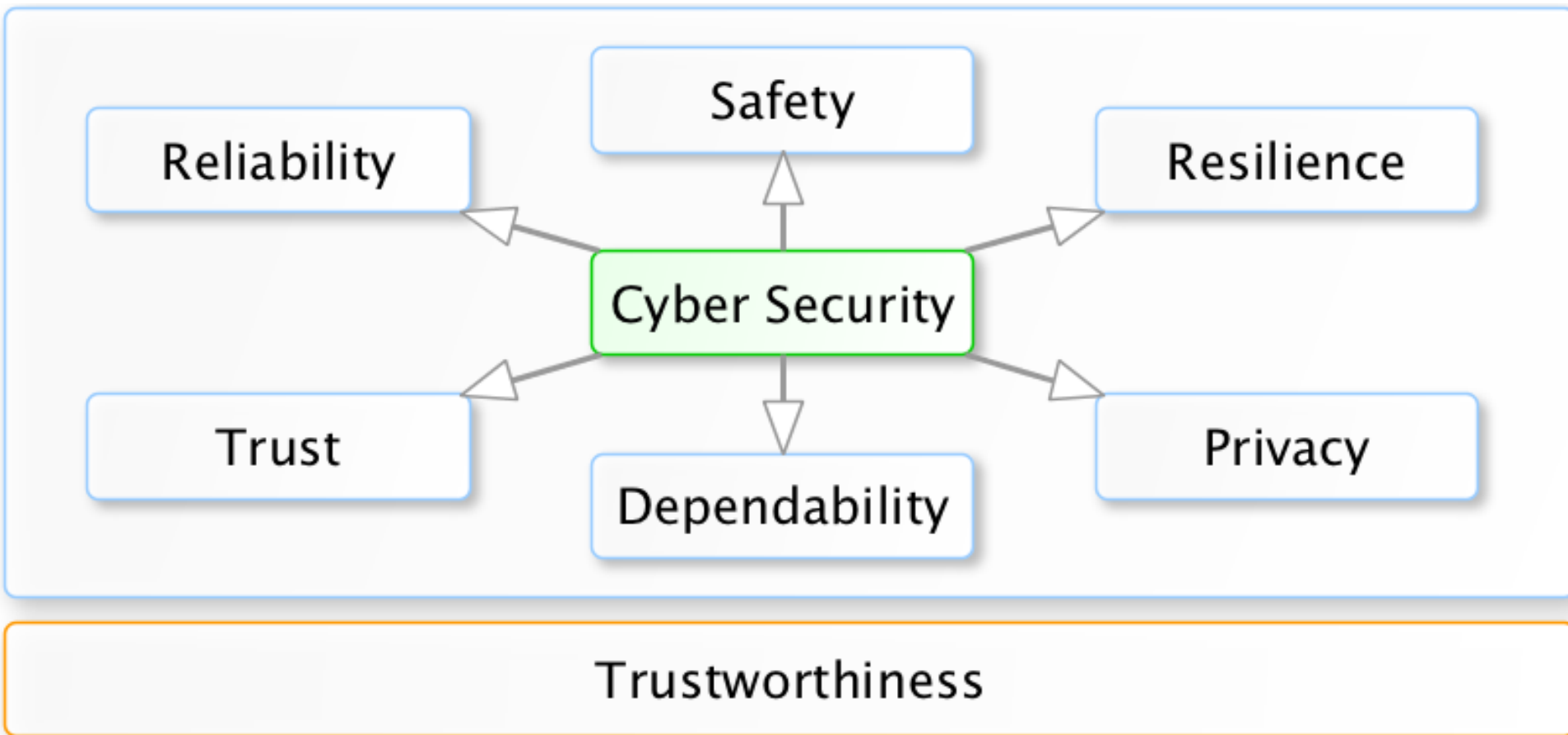


**Imperial College
London**

Official Launch Event
University of Cyprus, Nicosia
16th March 2017

Formal Addresses

- | | |
|--------------|---|
| 10.00 | The Rector of the University of Cyprus
Professor Constantinos Christofides |
| 10.10 | H.E. the President of the Republic of Cyprus
Mr Nicos Anastasiades |
| 10.20 | Director-General, Research & Innovation, European Commission
Mr Robert-Jan Smits |



- Cyber Security and Computer Science Education
- Inter-connectedness and inter-dependencies
- Digitalisation and homogeneity
- Reliance on AI/ML

Emerging Topics in ICS Security

- Bring Your Own Device (BYOD)
- Virtual Machine Technologies
- Security Monitoring in an ICS environment
- ICS Intrusion Detection and Prevention Systems
- Security Information and Event Management (SIEM) technologies
- ICS Supply Chain Management
- Managed Services and Outsourcing
- Leveraging Cloud Services in ICS

ICS Attack Methods

- Exploiting Weak Authentication
- Network Scanning/Probing
- Removable Media
- Brute Force Intrusion
- Abuse of Access Authority
- Spear Phishing
- SQL Injection



CISA ASSESSMENTS: FISCAL YEAR 2019 MOST PREVALENT IT AND OT WEAKNESSES AND RISKS



Boundary Protection



RISK
Undetected unauthorized activity in critical systems



RISK
Weaker boundaries between ICS and enterprise systems



Principle of Least Functionality



RISK
Increased vectors for malicious party access to critical systems



RISK
Opportunity for rogue internal access to be established



Identification and Authentication



RISK
Lack of accountability and traceability for user actions if an account is compromised



RISK
Increased difficulty in securing accounts as personnel leave the organization, especially sensitive for users with administrator access



Physical Access Control



RISK
Unauthorized physical access to field equipment provides increased opportunity to:

- Maliciously modify, delete, or copy device programs and firmware
- Access the ICS network
- Steal or vandalize cyber assets
- Add rogue devices to capture and retransmit network traffic



Account Management



RISK
Increased opportunity for unapproved system access from shared or system accounts

Four contributions:

- Real-time CPS Monitoring
- Measuring Cyber-physical security
- Software Diversity
- AI and Intrusion Detection

- Proof-of-concept real-time monitoring tool.
- Focus on security research
- Monitored elements publish status/data via in-memory database
- CPS-MT subscribes to data base
- Deployment in water treatment study

Monitored elements (e.g. sensor readings, actuators, devices)



Publish readings/values
(Redis channels)



Redis (In-memory database)

Subscribe
(Unix sockets or TCP/IP)

Monitors
(Redis subscribers)

Configure and
deploy

WebSockets
(socket.io)

Real-time
updates

Express.js
(Web app framework)

JSON configuration file
- Redis servers and
channels to be monitored
- Charting options
- General parameters

Templating

EJS
(View engine)

Server side (Node.js)

Push data from
monitors (no polling)

Standard HTTP
requests (pages)

Render
Web pages

D3.js-based
real-time charts

Displays

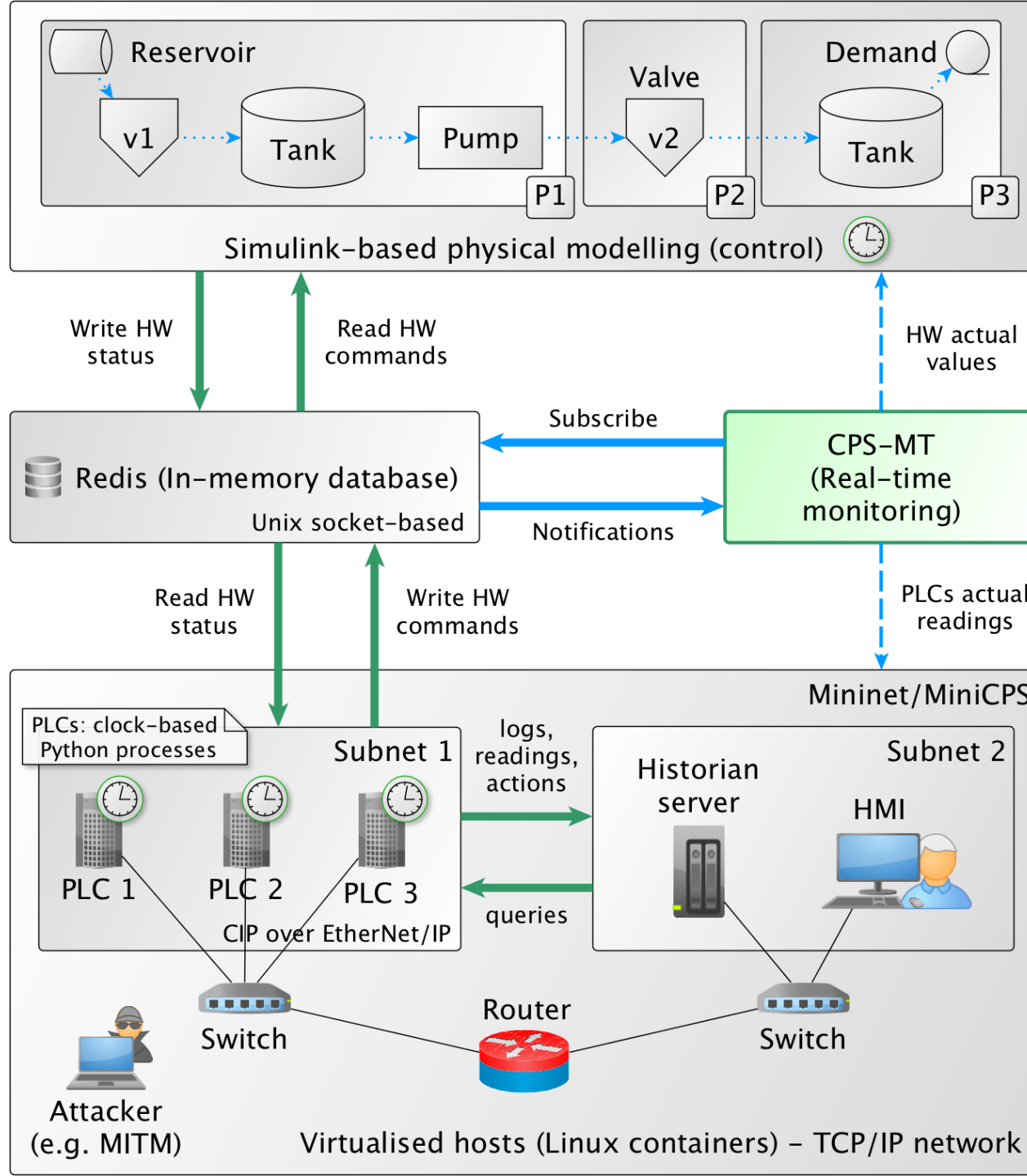
Web Browser

Displays

Plotly/NVD3 chart-
based statistics

Client side (Browser)

CPS-MT



Monitors

Capture

Download

Status: Stopped

Clear

Events captured: 196

Show 10 entries

Search:

Id	Name	Stream server	Channel	Display
_s1_plc1_get_lit101	Tank 1 level (LIT101 read by PLC1)	192.168.59.10:6379	plc1:get:LIT101	yes
_s1_plc1_get_mv101	Mechanical valve 1 (MV101 read by PLC1)	192.168.59.10:6379	plc1:get:MV101	yes
_s1_plc2_get_fit201	Flow level pipe 2 (FIT201 read by PLC2)	192.168.59.10:6379	plc2:get:FIT201	yes

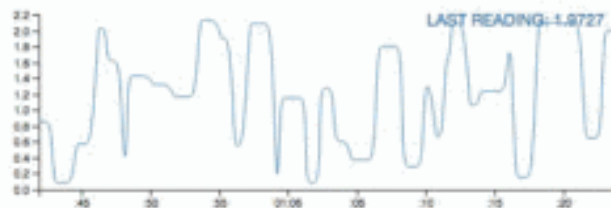
Showing 1 to 3 of 3 entries

Previous

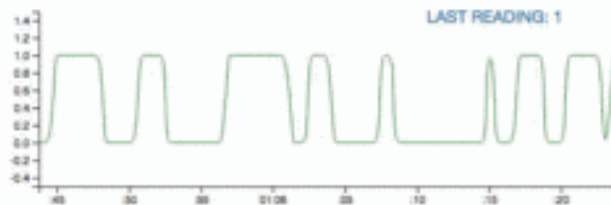
1

Next

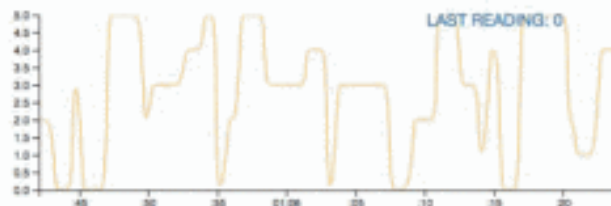
• Tank 1 level (LIT101 read by PLC1) - Channel: s1:plc1:get:LIT101



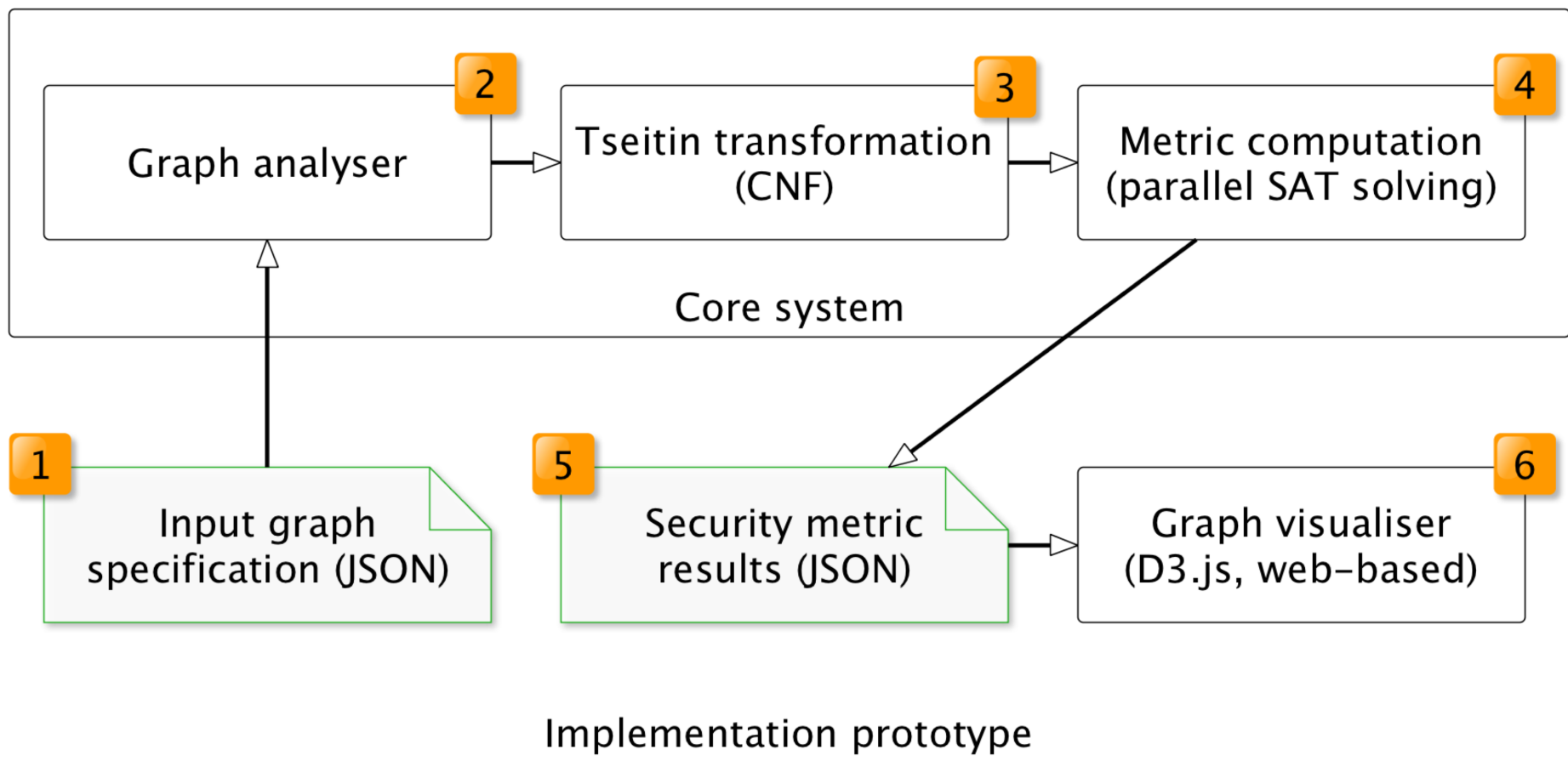
• Mechanical valve 1 (MV101 read by PLC1) - Channel: s1:plc1:get:MV101

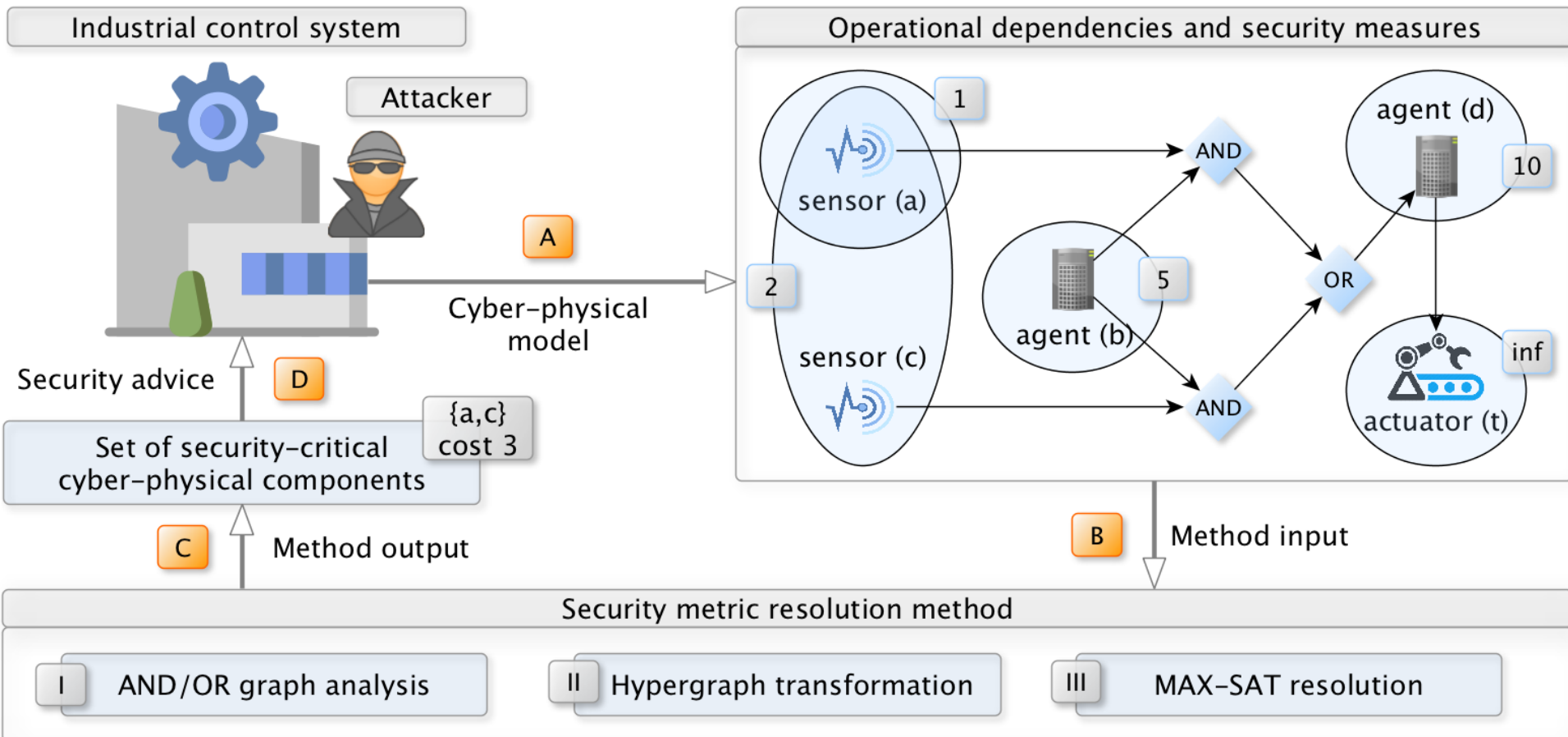


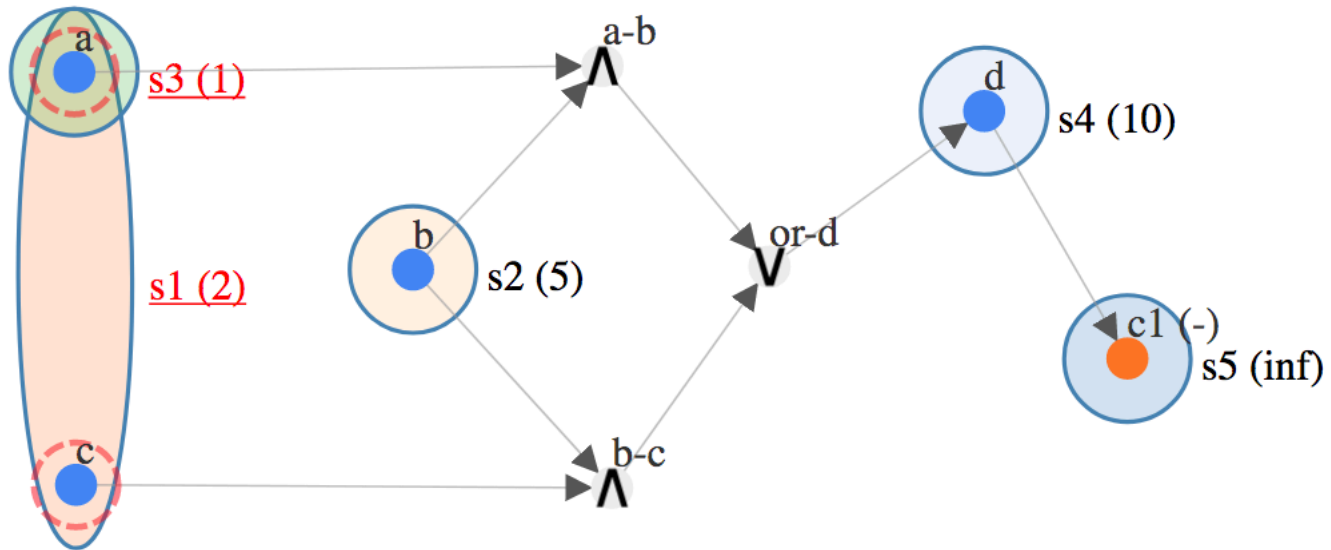
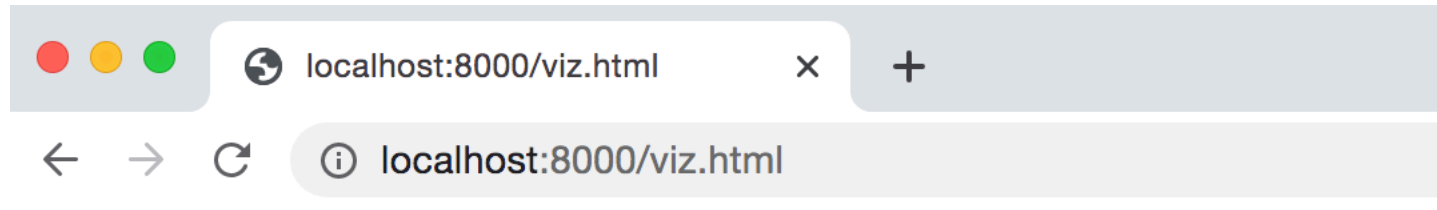
• Flow level pipe 2 (FIT201 read by PLC2) - Channel: s1:plc2:get:FIT201



- Proof-of-concept tool to identify critical cyber-physical components.
- AND/OR (hyper-)graph of dependencies.
- MAX-SAT solvers used in calculating critical components.
- Models physical protections as well as cyber aspects.





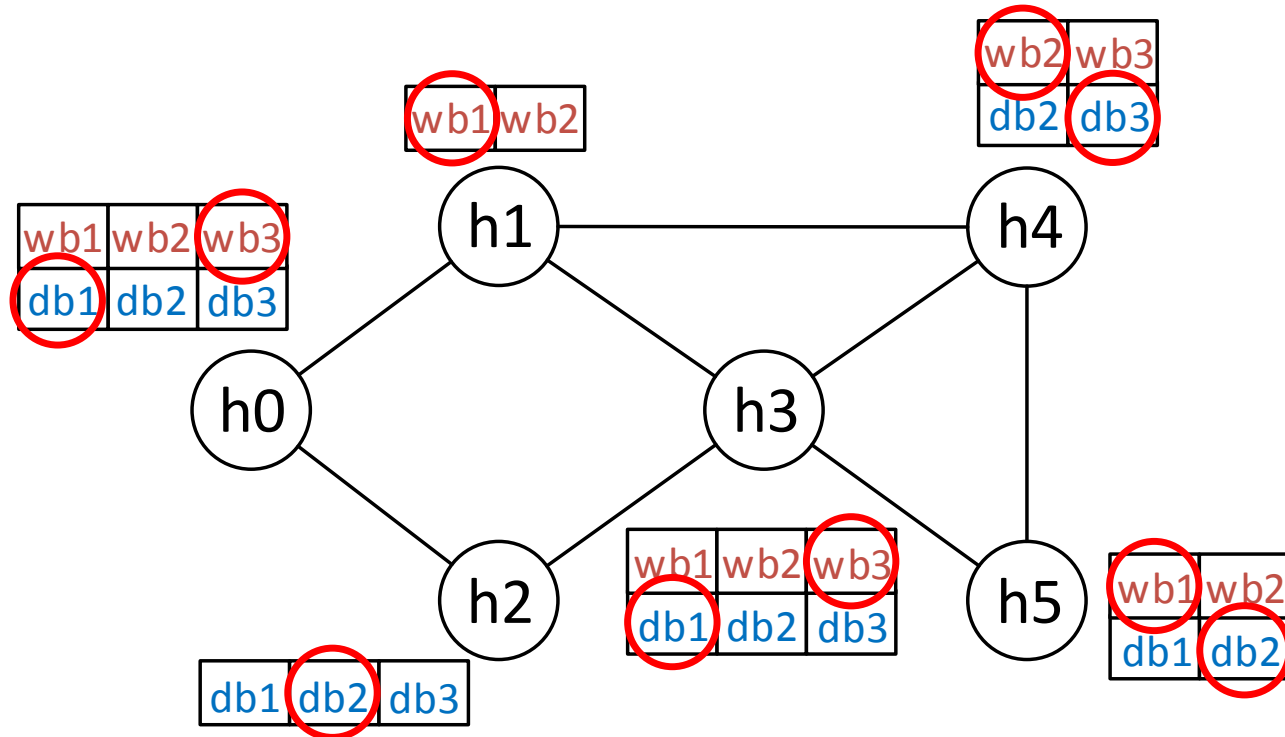


- Software diversity in networks as graph colouring problem
- Similar products facilitate spread of malware
- Optimal allocation across multiple products (respecting constraints) to slow spread

Approach

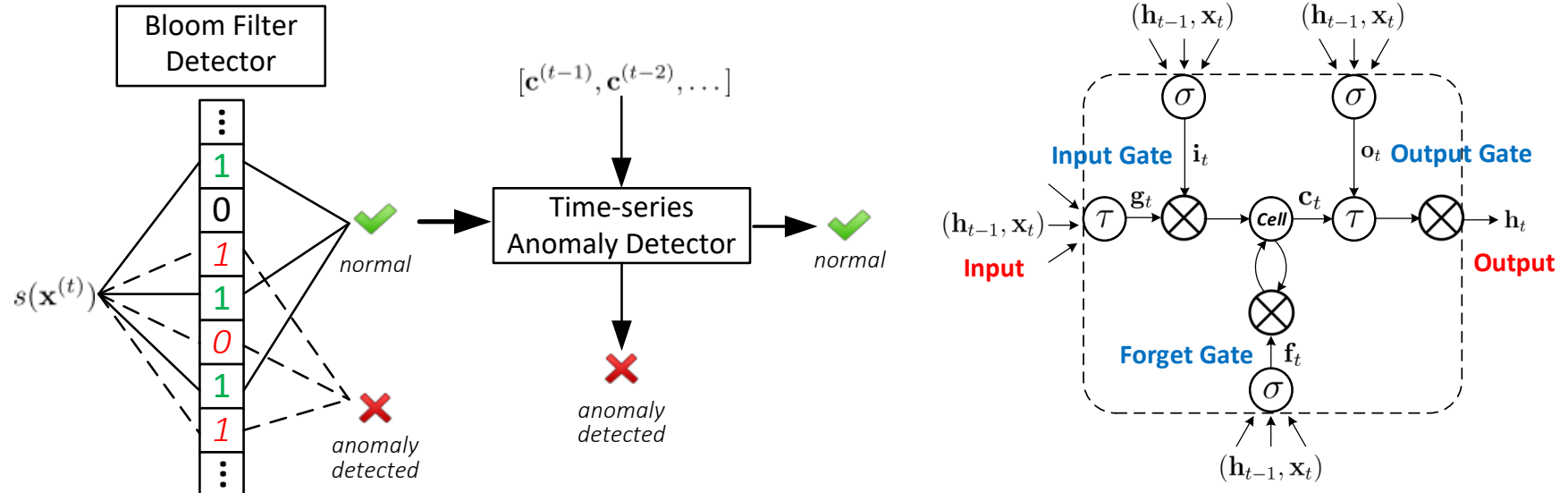
- Metric *vulnerability similarity of products* computed from a statistical study of *CVE/NVD*.
- Model the multi-labelled network by a discrete *Markov Random Field (MRF)*.
- Optimal assignment of products by the *sequential tree-reweighted message passing (TRW-S)* algorithm – assign products to reduce similarity between neighbouring nodes whilst obeying any constraints.
- The result evaluated in a *NetLogo simulation* in terms of Mean Time To Compromise.
- Scalability analysis of our optimisation method against
 - Large-scale networks with *up to 10,000 hosts*.
 - High-density networks with *up to 50 degrees* (# edges) *per host*.
 - High-complexity networks with *up to 30 products/services* *per host*.
 - Most heavy cases converged from a couple of seconds to ~3 minutes.

Example: Web and database diversity



- Deep learning to spot anomalous network traffic
- Evasion attacks
- Defence against adversaries

Anomaly Detection



Model	Precision	Recall	Accuracy	F-score
Our model	0.94	0.78	0.92	0.85
BF	0.97	0.59	0.87	0.73
BN	0.97	0.59	0.87	0.73
SVDD	0.95	0.21	0.76	0.34
IF	0.51	0.13	0.70	0.20
GMM	0.79	0.44	0.45	0.59
PCA-SVD	0.65	0.28	0.17	0.27

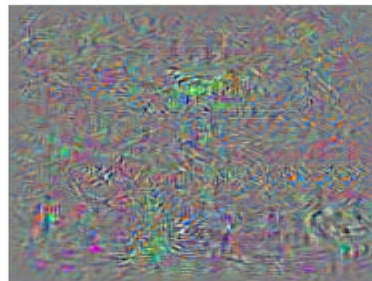
Evasion Attacks

Originally discovered by researchers when trying to better interpret neural networks.



Schoolbus

+



Perturbation

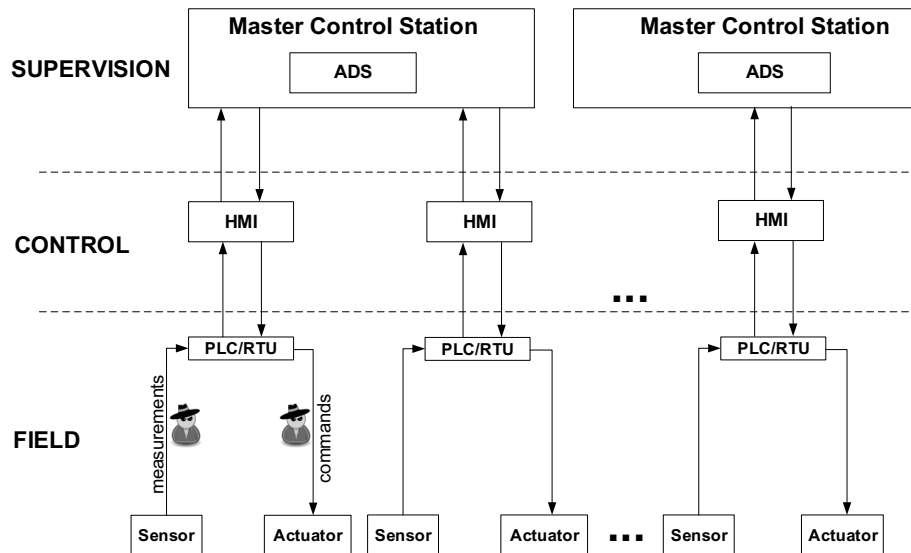
=



Ostrich

Szegedy, Christian, et al. "Intriguing properties of neural networks." (2013).

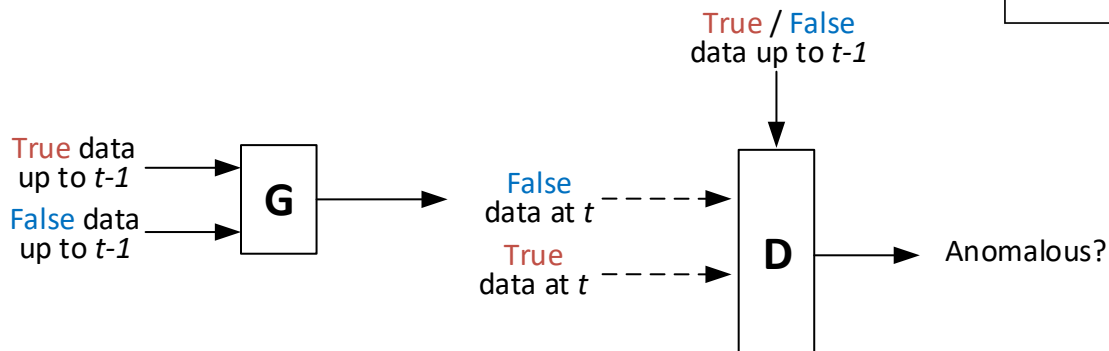
Adversarial ML



Monitoring signals

Attack Scenario	Ratio of goal achieved	Detected ratio	
		by residual error	by CUSUM
1	88.1%	2.6%	0.2%
2	86.0%	2.4%	0.1%
3	85.9%	1.1%	0.01%
4	90.5%	1.2%	0.01%

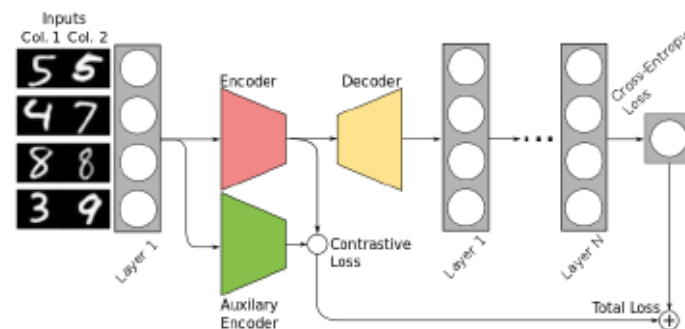
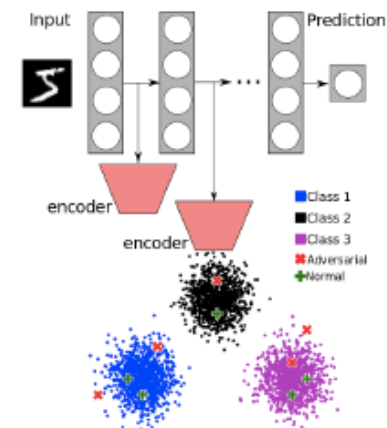
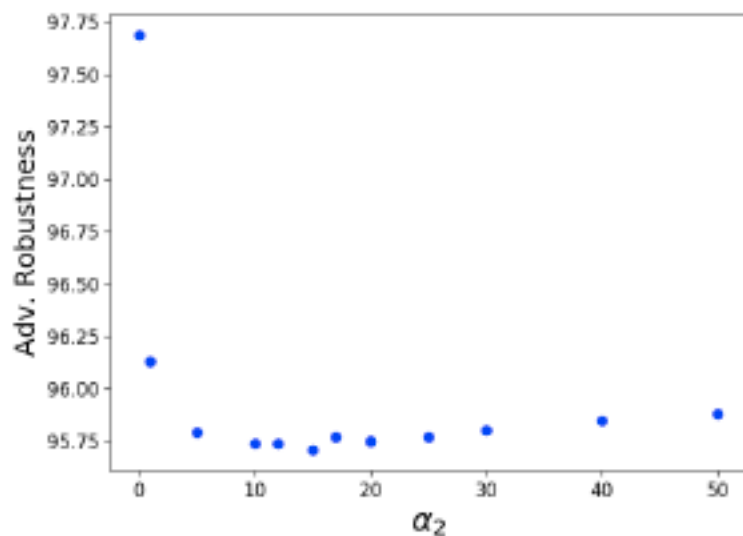
Compromised Channels	Successful Ratio	
	by residual error	by CUSUM
Only PLC-AIT202, PLC-AIT203	90.1%	93.8%
all channels	92.4%	94.6%



- Many defences proposed, no clear silver bullet:
 - Adversarial Training
 - Defensive Distillation – use information from training points to make the classifier model more robust to perturbations
 - Feature Squeezing – reduce degrees of freedom in feature input spaces
 - Neural Network Uncertainty – confidence and uncertainty for inputs
 - And many more...

Deep Latent Defence

- Feed-forward Nets
- Lower dimensional latent space created by encoder.
- Classes clustered.
- K-nn algorithm to compare training data embeddings to test-time samples.
- Combined with adversarial training



The RITICS Programme



NIS Directive –
baseline,
barriers, impact

Safety and
Security

Autonomous
Systems

Incident
Response and
Forensics

Cyber Controls

Interconnected
Systems

Supply Chain



How many shades of NIS: Understanding Organisational Cybersecurity and Sectoral Differences - Bristol



Effective Solutions for the NIS Directive: Supply Chain Requirements for Third Party Devices - Birmingham



Establishing a Scientific Baseline for Measuring the Impact of the NIS Directive on Supply Chain Resilience - Glasgow

AIR4ICS: Agile Incident Response For Industrial Control Systems – DMU

Cloud-enabled Operation, Security Monitoring, and Forensics (COSMIC) – QUB

Developing Pedagogy to Optimise Forensic Training in Safety-Related Industrial Control Systems (ICS) – Glasgow

Interconnected safe and secure systems (IS³) - City

Thank you

ritics.org

c.hankin@imperial.ac.uk

