

# PURE: Payments with UWB RElay-protection

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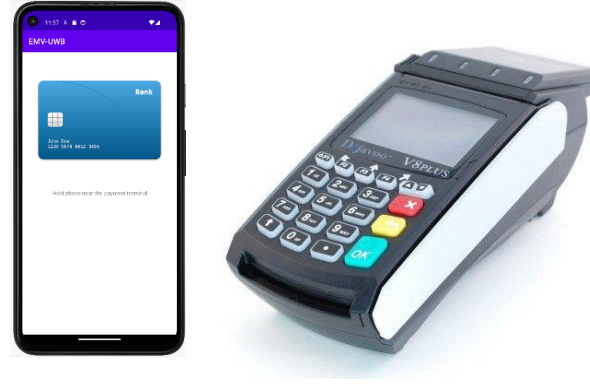
S. Capkun

# Relay Attacks on Contactless Payments

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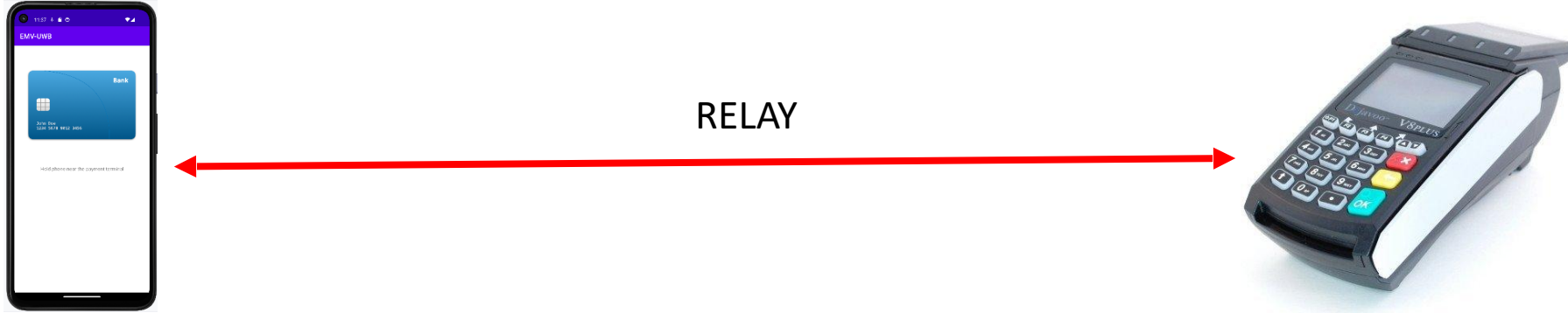




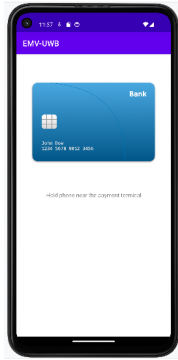
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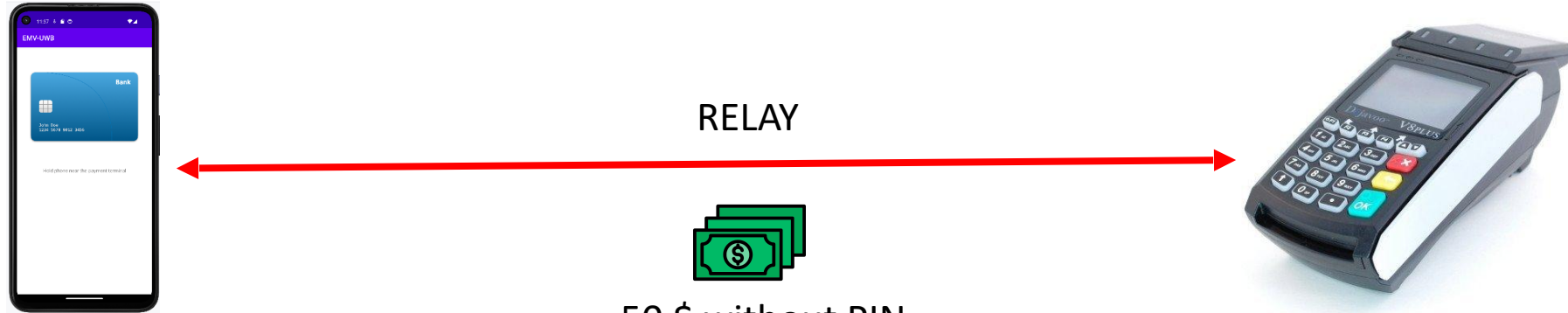
RELAY



~50 \$ without PIN  
Up to card limit with an  
unlocked phone



# Relay Attacks on Contactless Payments

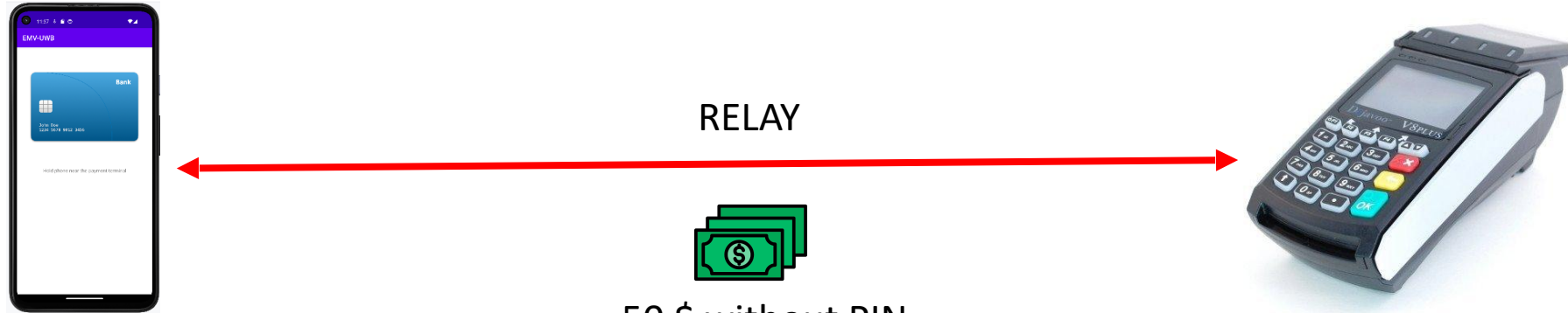


~50 \$ without PIN  
Up to card limit with an  
unlocked phone



Logical layer relays

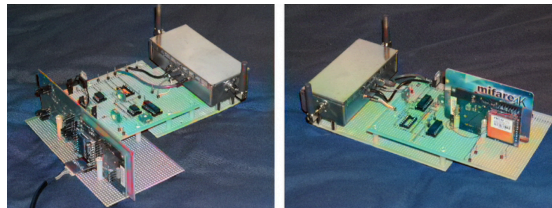
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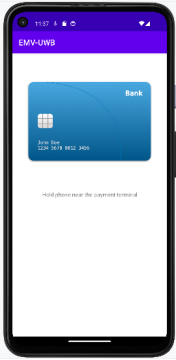
Logical layer relays



\*

Physical layer relays

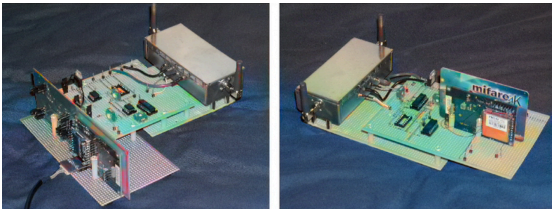
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Logical layer relays

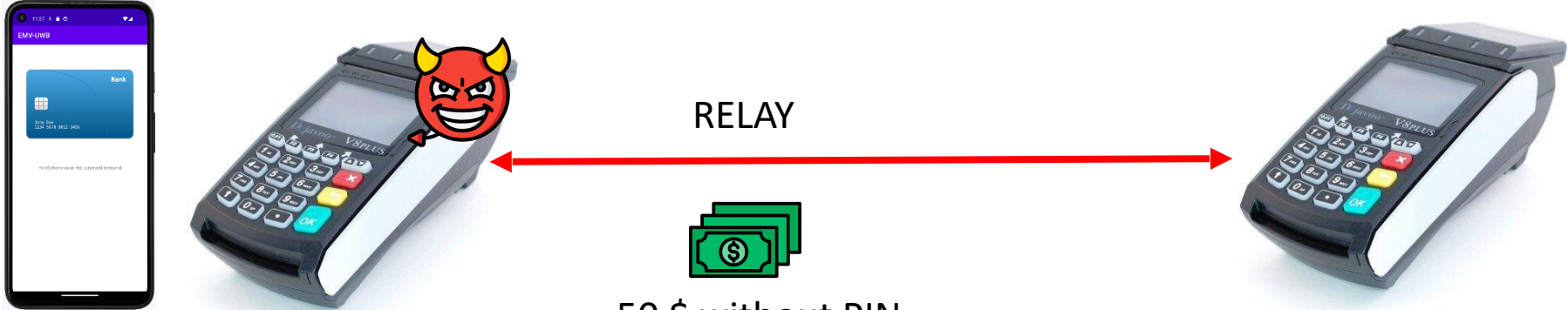


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Physical layer relays

\* A Practical Relay Attack on ISO 14443 Proximity Cards, G.Hancke

# Relay Attacks on Contactless Payments

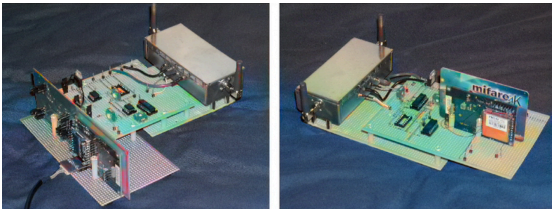


Fake terminal

~50 \$ without PIN  
Up to card limit with an unlocked phone



Logical layer relays

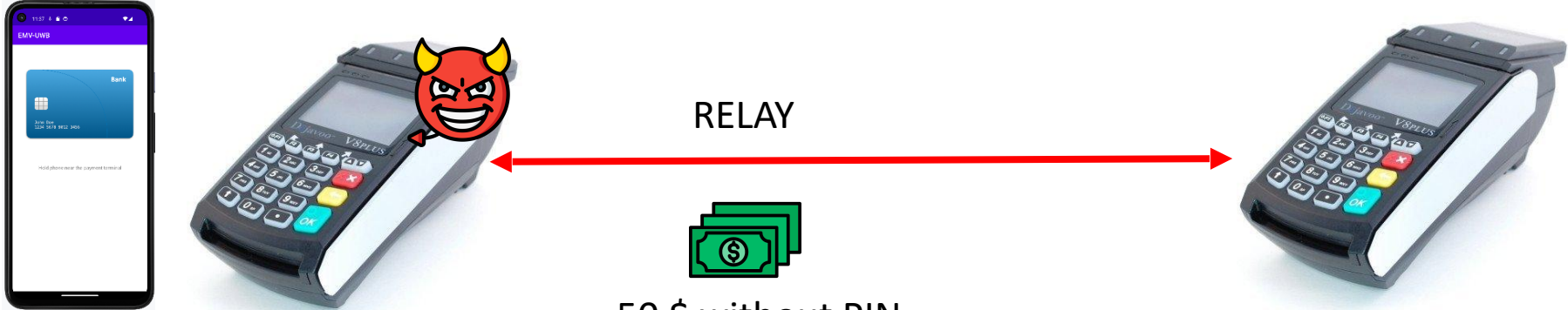


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Physical layer relays

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# Relay Attacks on Contactless Payments



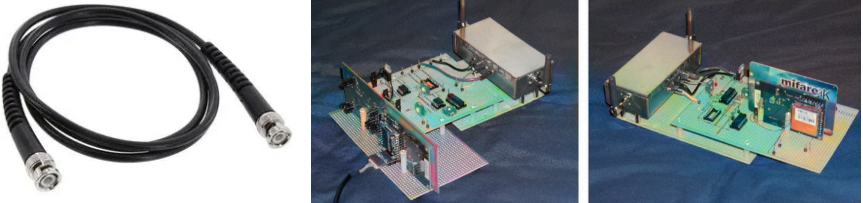
Fake terminal

~50 \$ without PIN  
Up to card limit with an unlocked phone

Existing countermeasures



Logical layer relays



Physical layer relays

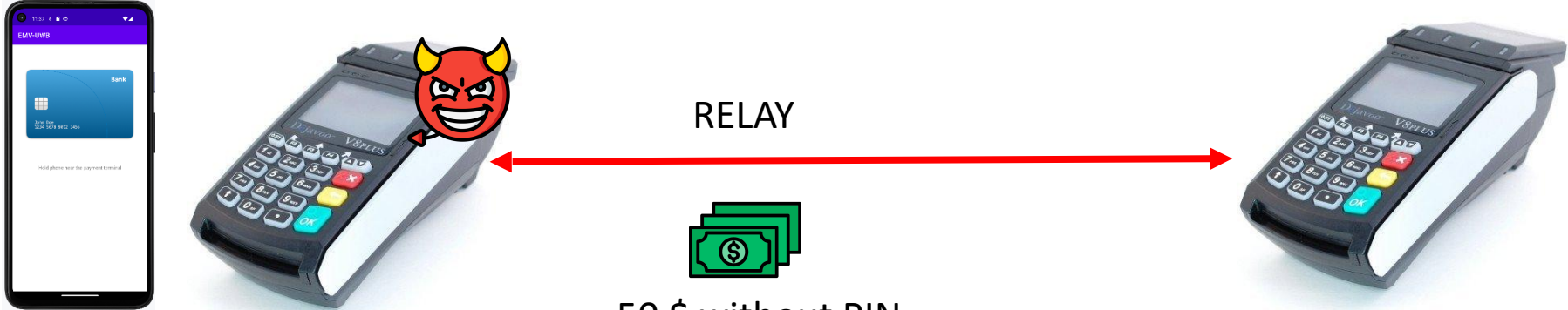


~ km

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# Relay Attacks on Contactless Payments



Fake terminal

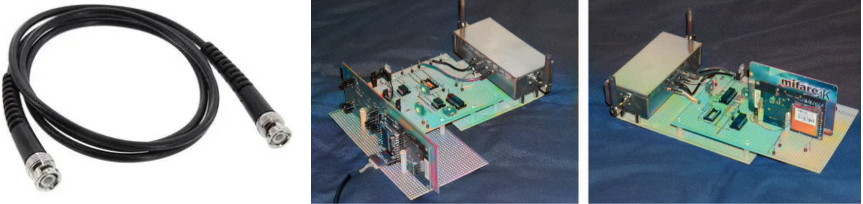
~50 \$ without PIN  
Up to card limit with an unlocked phone

Existing countermeasures

PURE



Logical layer relays



Physical layer relays



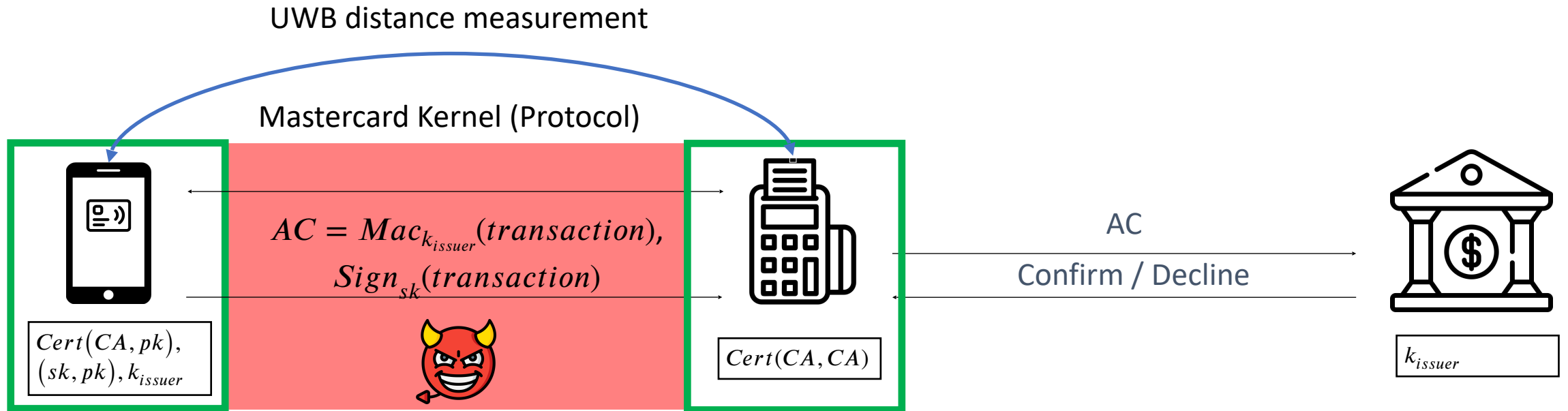
~ km



~ 50 cm

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# PURE in the Payment Ecosystem



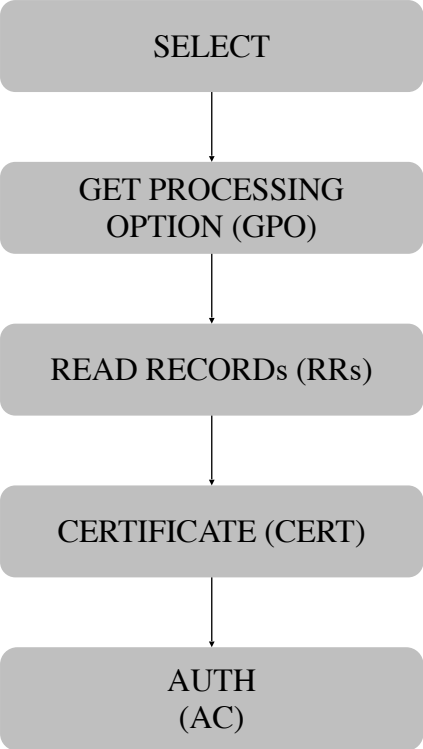
PURE specifically target  
smartphone payments

# PURE Protocol Extension

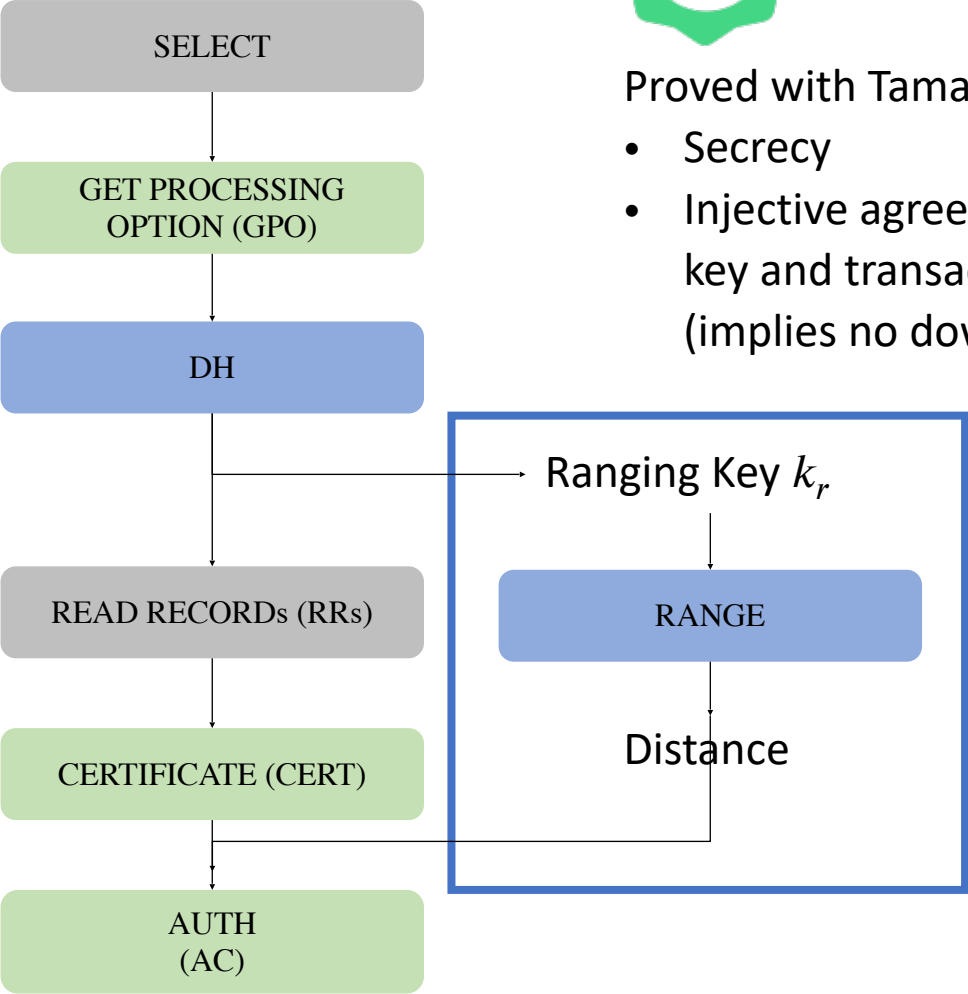


Proved with Tamarin

- Secrecy
- Injective agreement on the ranging key and transaction (implies no downgrade attack)



1. Mastercard Kernel

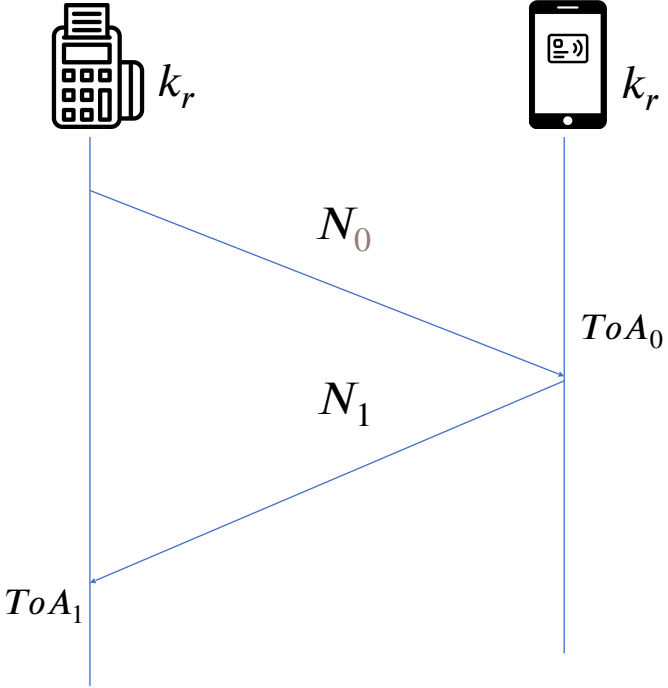


2. Mastercard Kernel + PURE

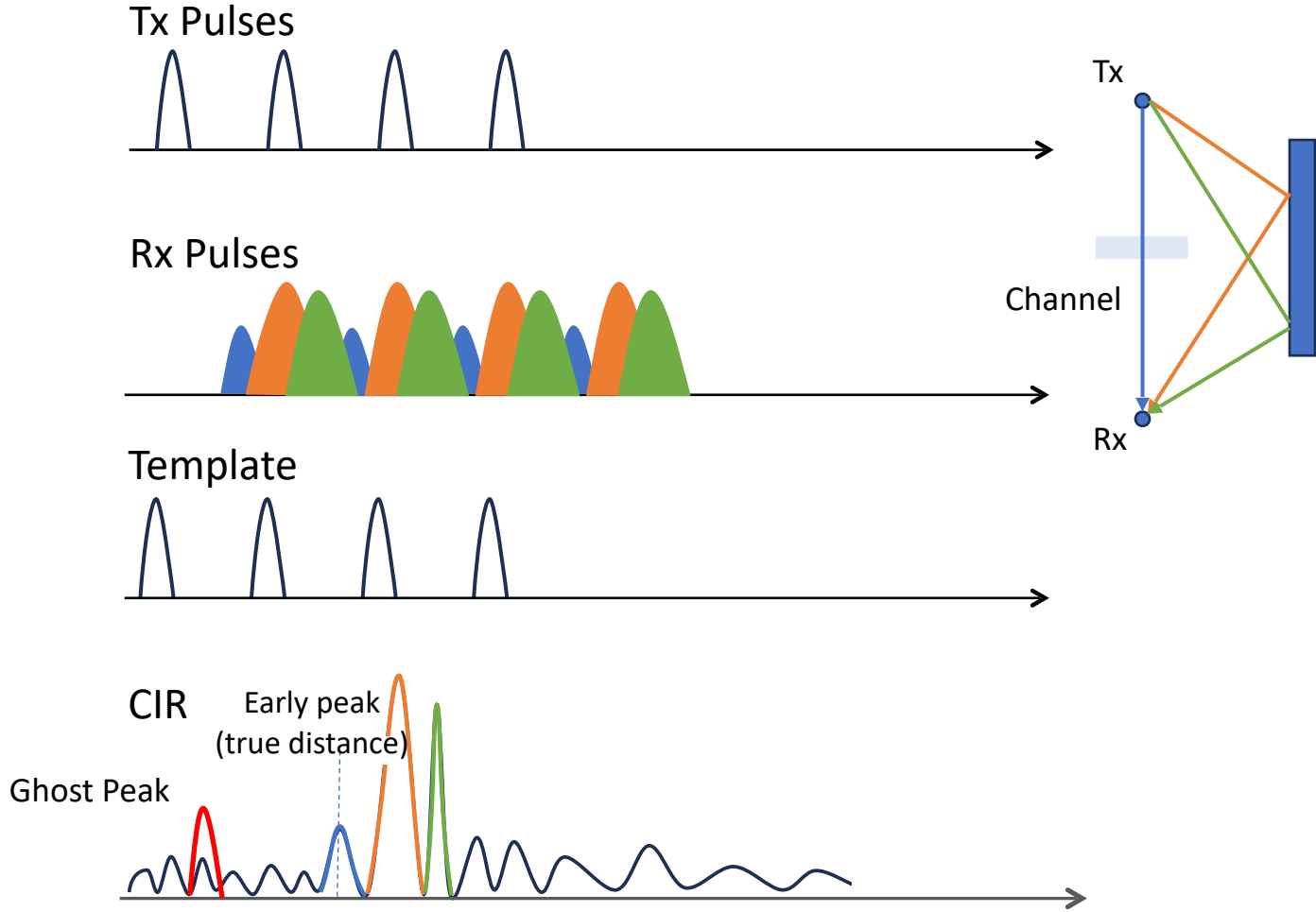
Legend

- Reused (green box)
- Added (blue box)

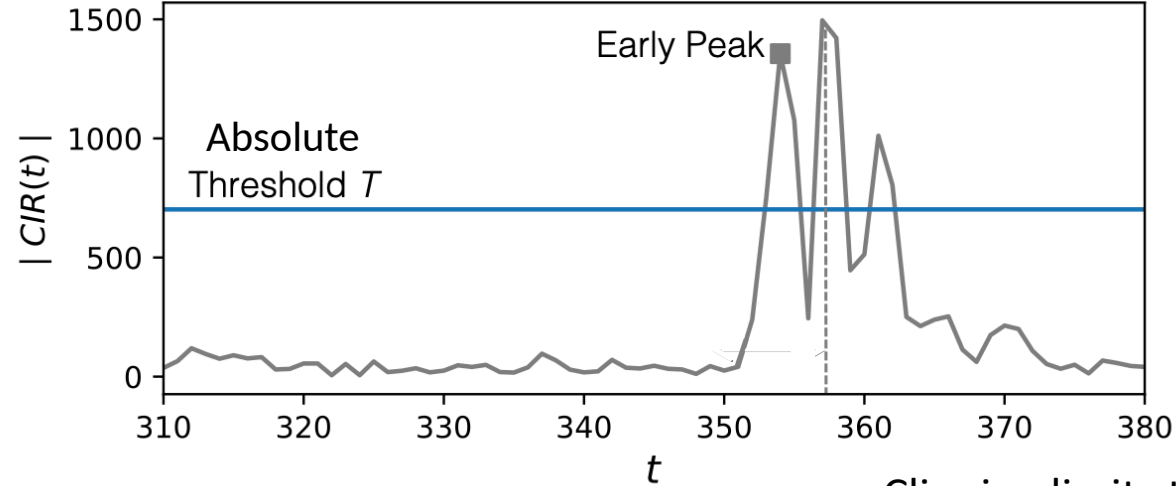
# UWB Ranging



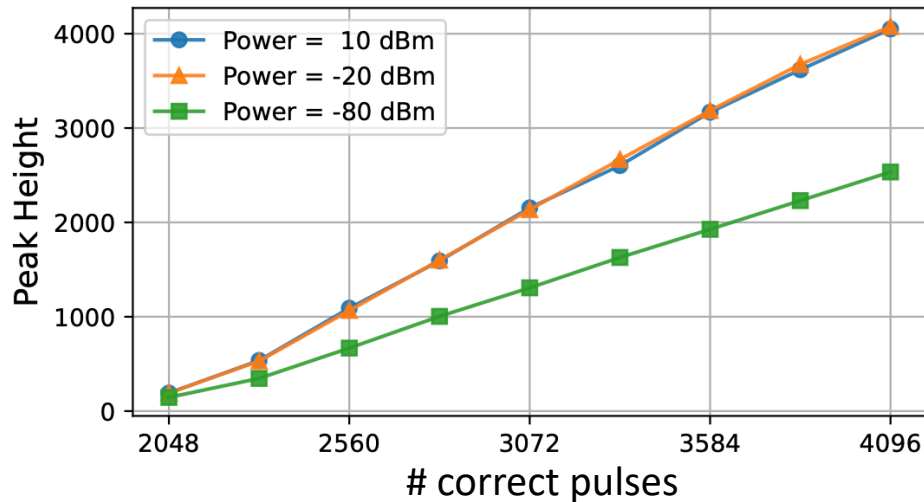
ToF = Time of Flight  
 ToA = Time of Arrival  
 CIR = Channel Impulse Response



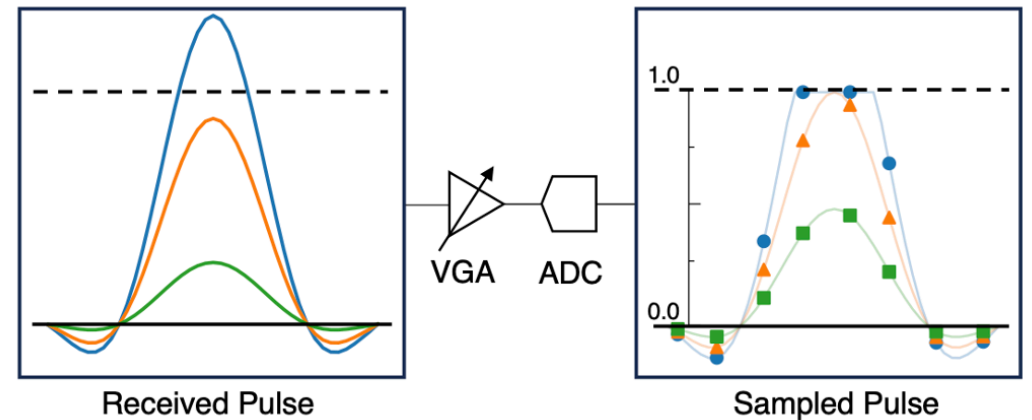
# Security of the Time of Arrival Verification



More power  $\Rightarrow$  Higher peaks



Clipping limits the contribution of each pulse



- A fixed threshold forces the adversary to correctly guess a certain amount of pulses
- We fix out threshold to limit the probability of a Ghost Peak attack to  $2^{-48}$

# Putting it all together

External UWB chip for richer API



PURE terminal

PURE card

FRR	$FRR_{blk}$	$d_{relay}$	$\Delta d^+$	$d_{max}$	$\Delta d_{gorvo}$
0.5%	7.2%	95 cm	70 cm	5 cm	10 cm
1%	7.7%	85 cm	55 cm	5 cm	10 cm
<b>2 %</b>	<b>9.5%</b>	<b>46 cm</b>	<b>21 cm</b>	5 cm	10 cm

	Stand-alone	Integrated
DH (ms)	$46.8 \pm 9.3$	$41.0 \pm 7.5$
CERT (ms)	$44.5 \pm 10.8$	-
AUTH (ms)	$38.6 \pm 6.9$	-
Overhead	-	<b>5-9%</b>

# Conclusion

## Limitations

- PURE is not applicable to physical cards because not equipped with UWB chips
- PURE backward compatibility requires large deployments on terminals



## Main contributions

- PURE protects mobile contactless transactions from relays greater than 50 cm
- The protocol extension was proven secure in Tamarin
- The ToA verification function protects against Ghost Peak attack
- The payment channels characterization shows PURE achieves high reliability (2% FRR)



Artifacts at  
<https://github.com/pure-uwv>