



# CycleGuard: A Smartphone-based Assistive Tool for Cyclist Safety Using Acoustic Ranging

*Wenqiang Jin<sup>1\*</sup>, Srinivasan Murali<sup>1\*</sup>, Youngtak Cho<sup>1</sup>, Huadi Zhu<sup>1</sup>,  
Tianhao Li<sup>1</sup>, Rachael Thompson Panik<sup>2</sup>, Anika Rimu<sup>1</sup>, Shuchisnigdha  
Deb<sup>1</sup>, Kari Watkins<sup>2</sup>, Xu Yuan<sup>3</sup>, and Ming Li<sup>1</sup>*

\* The first two authors contributed equally to this work

<sup>1</sup> The University of Texas at Arlington

<sup>2</sup> Georgia Institute of Technology

<sup>3</sup> University of Louisiana at Lafayette

# Motivation

LOCAL NEWS >

## Arlington bicyclist killed in fatal hit-and-run

CBS NEWS  
DFW

BY ALEX KE  
AUGUST 25

## Bicyclist killed in Bronx hit and run; driver fled in another car with baby

By Eyewitness News via   
Monday, July 4, 2022

SAN JOSE

## Cyclist Dies After Crash With Vehicle on Capitol Expressway in San Jose

COBB COUNTY

By [NBC Bay Area staff](#) • Published May 2, 2022 • Updated on May 2, 2022

## Man riding his bicycle hit and killed by car in Smyrna



By **WSBTV.com News Staff**

December 31, 2021 at 4:49 am EST

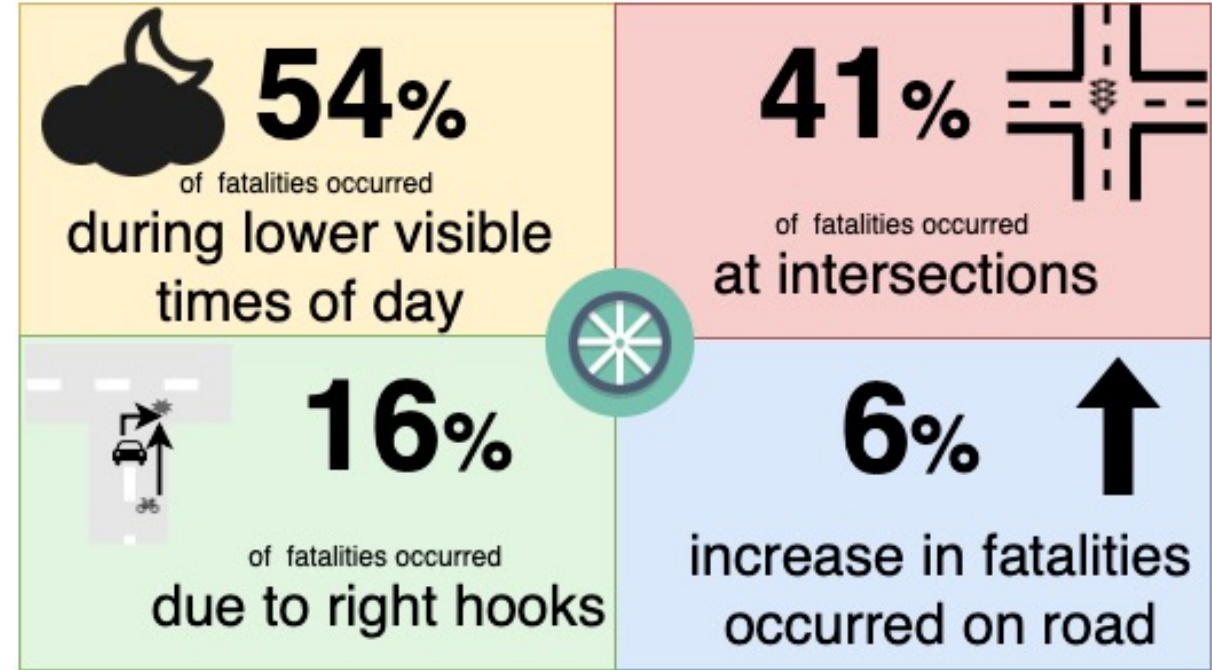
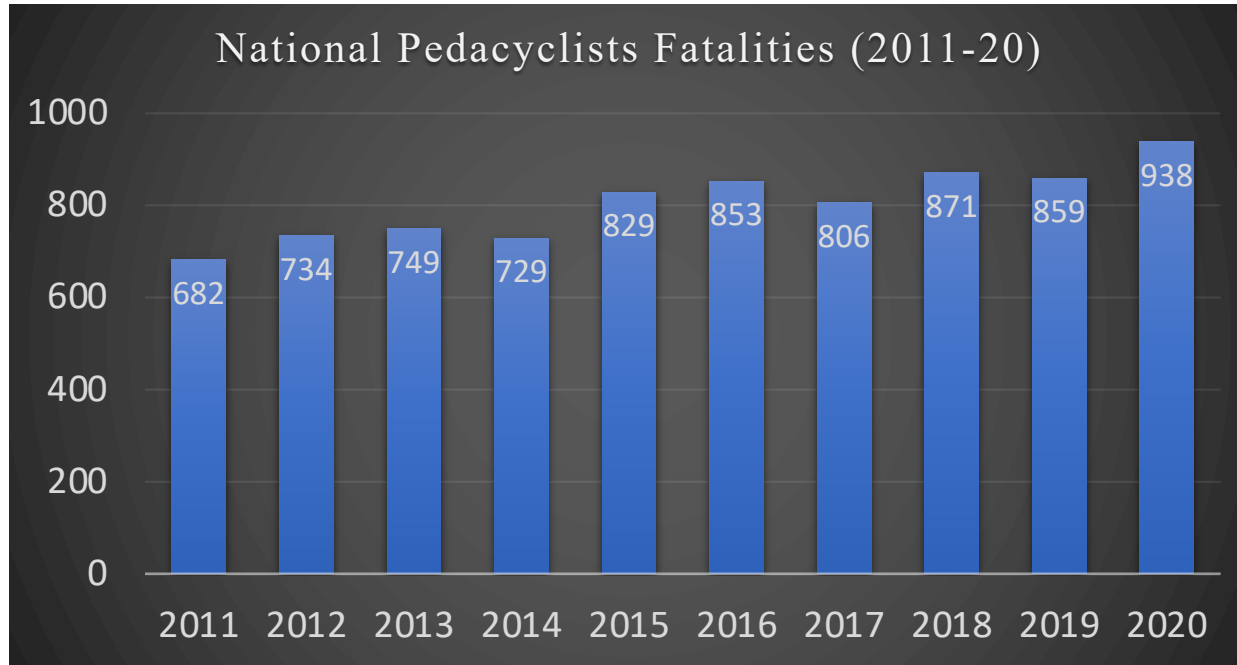
<sup>1</sup> CBS News, DFW

<sup>2</sup> ABC News, NYC

<sup>3</sup> NBC Bay Area

<sup>4</sup> WSBTV, GA

# Motivation



*Source: National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA)*

# The Right-Hook

- A motorist makes a right turn directly in front of the bicyclist abruptly



*\*Washington Area Bicyclist Association and The District Department of Transportation*

# The Right-Hook

- A motorist makes a right turn directly in front of the bicyclist abruptly
  - Not within bicyclist Field-of-view
  - Uncontrolled/partially controlled intersections
    - Worse in lower light scenarios

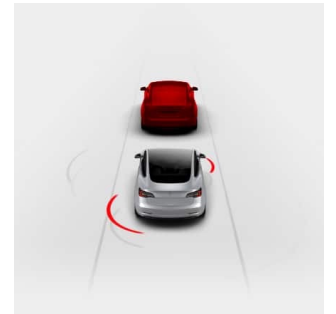


*\*Washington Area Bicyclist Association and The District Department of Transportation*

# Related Work

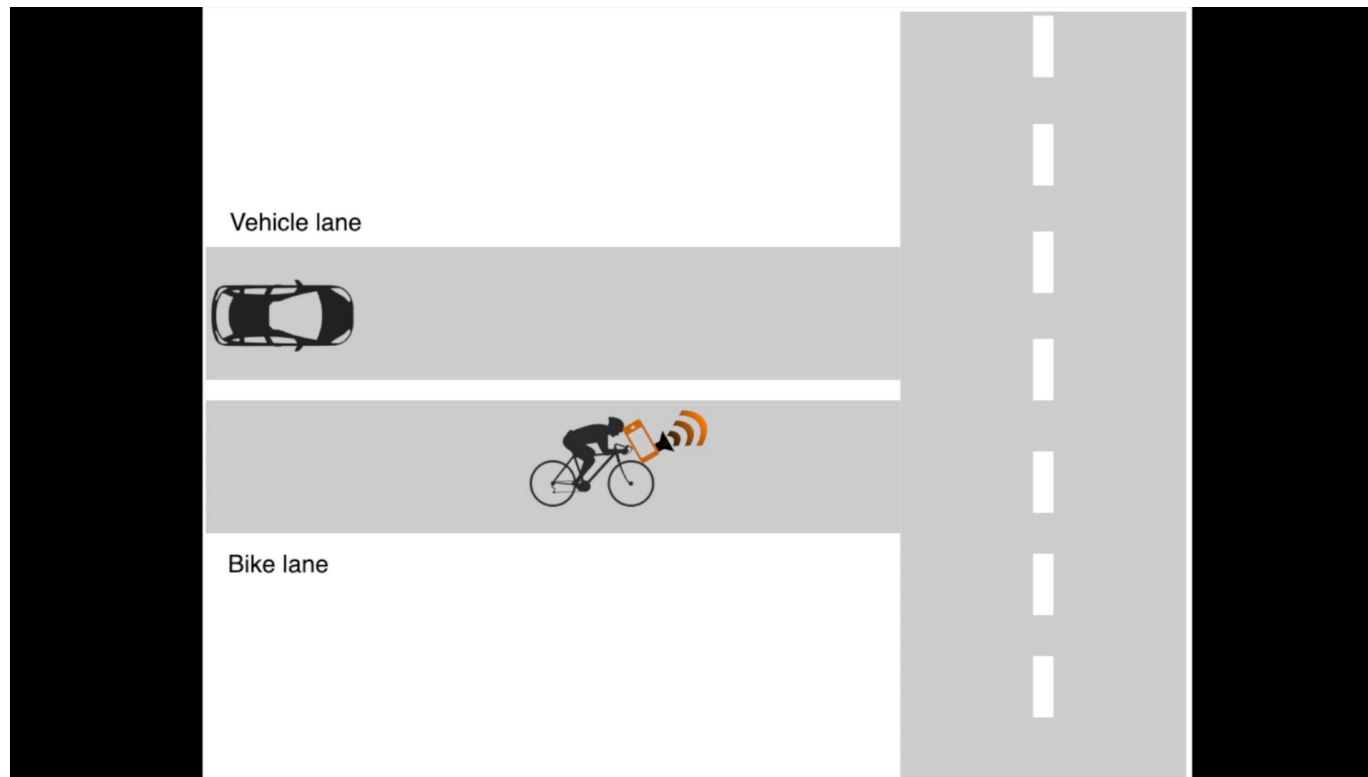
- Cyclist safety Techniques
  - Sophisticated sensors, sensitive to light
  - Expensive
- Collision avoidance
  - Focused to
- Industrial sensors
  - Sole purpose
  - Full functionality requires expensive add-ons

A portable, cost-efficient system is needed to enhance the safety of cyclists.



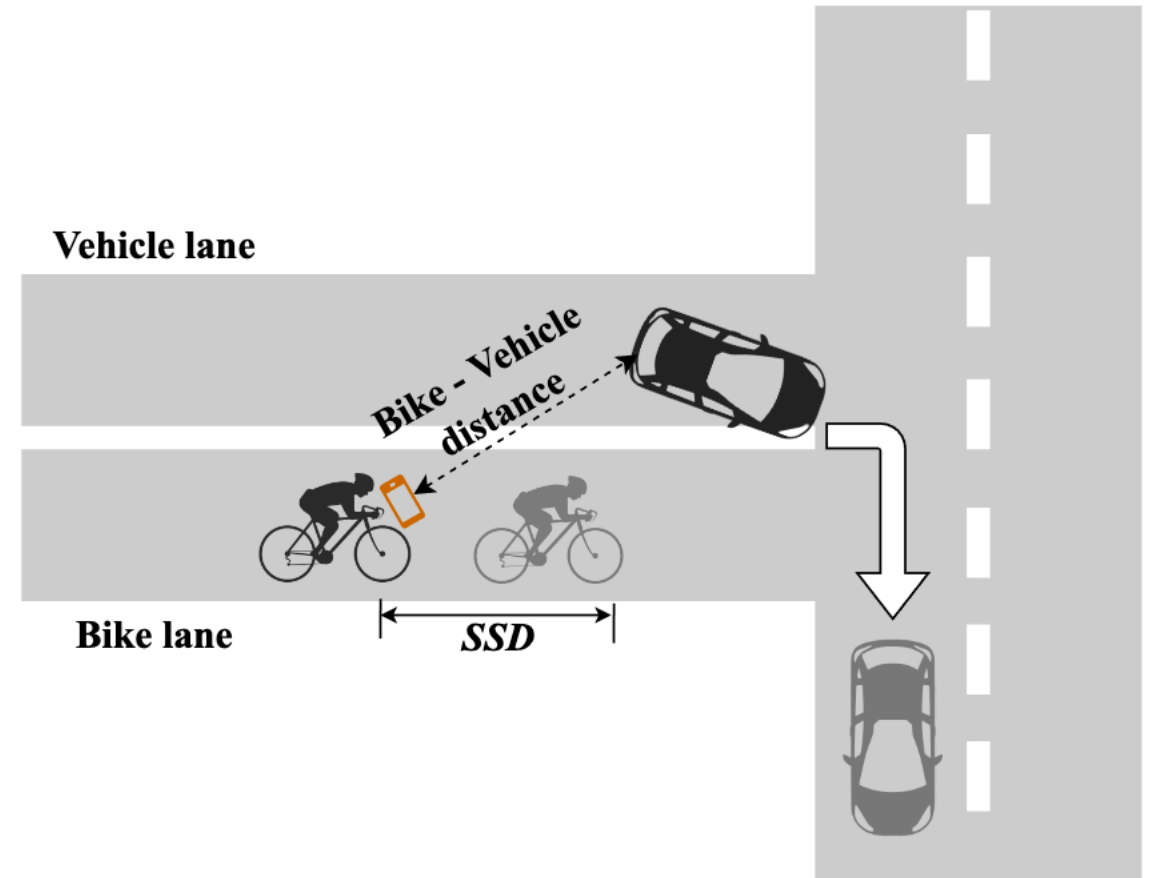
# Design Rationale

- Key Idea:
  - Alert the cyclist if the car is making a right-turn too close



# Design Rationale

- Collision detection criteria:
  - Bike-Vehicle Distance  $\leq SSD$
  - Vehicle making a right turn
- SSD: Stopping-sight distance
  - Near **worst-case distance** the cyclist needs to be able **to see, react, and brake** to have room **to stop before colliding** with the vehicle.



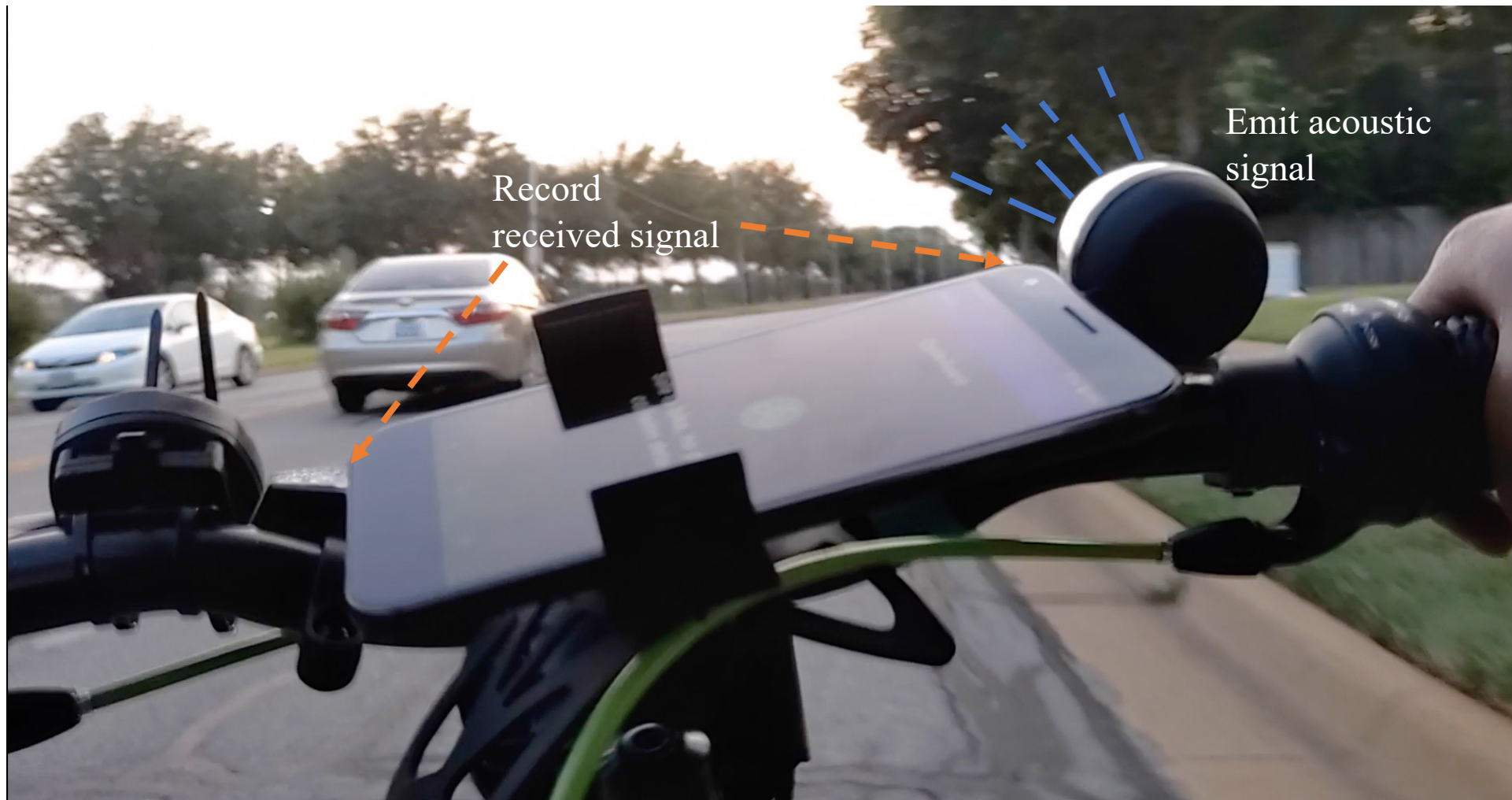
# System setup

- Smartphone, installed with application
- External speaker





# System setup



# Practical challenges

- Interference from cyclist's surrounding objects



# Practical challenges

- Interference from cyclist's surrounding objects
- Estimate position correctly



# Practical challenges

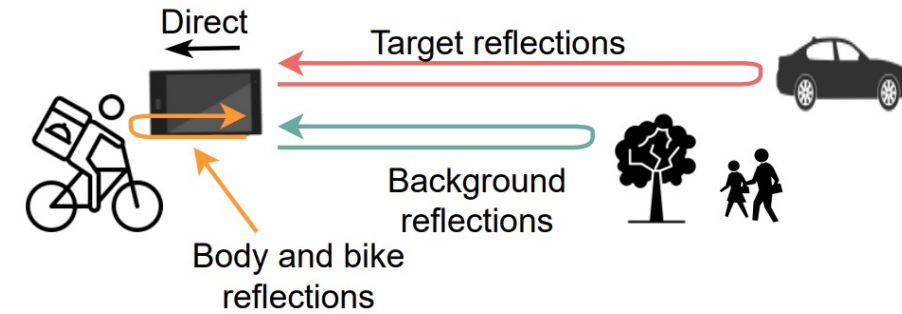
- Interference from cyclist's surrounding objects
- Estimate position correctly
- Identify right-turn vehicle from other static and non-static objects



# Challenge 1: Interference from cyclist's surrounding objects

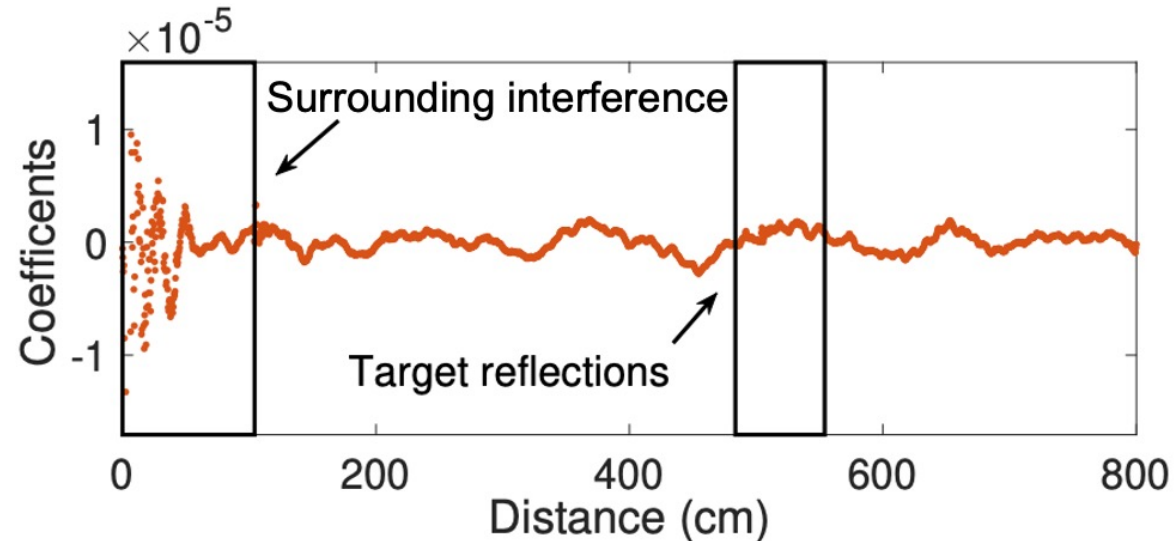
- Received signal:

- $R(t) = \sum_{i \in U_1} h_i S_C(t - \tau_i) + \sum_{i \in U_2} h_i S_C(t - \tau_i)$



- Cleaning of Signal:

- $min_{h_i} = \sum_t [R(t) - \sum_{i \in U_1 \cup U_2} h_i S_C(t - \tau_i)]$



## Challenge 2: Position estimation



*Step 1:* Bike-  
Vehicle Distance  
estimation

## Challenge 2: Position estimation



*Step 1:* Bike-  
Vehicle Distance  
estimation

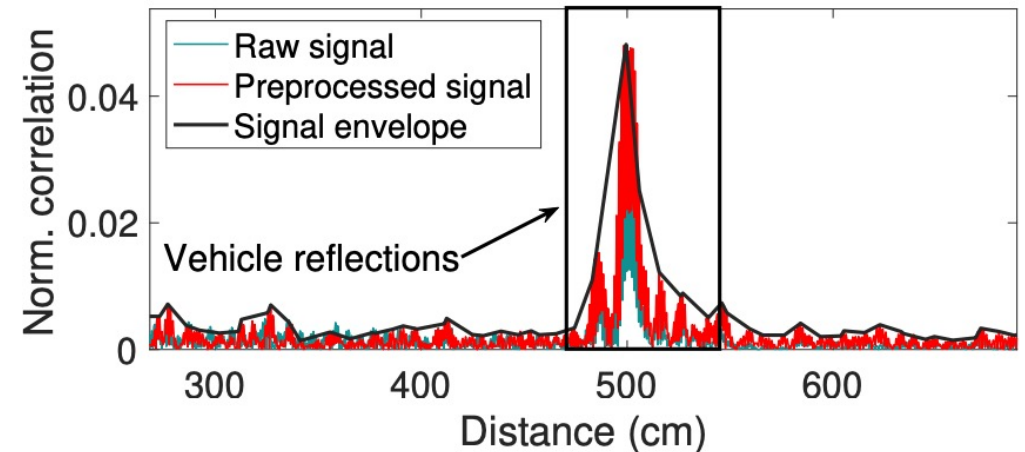
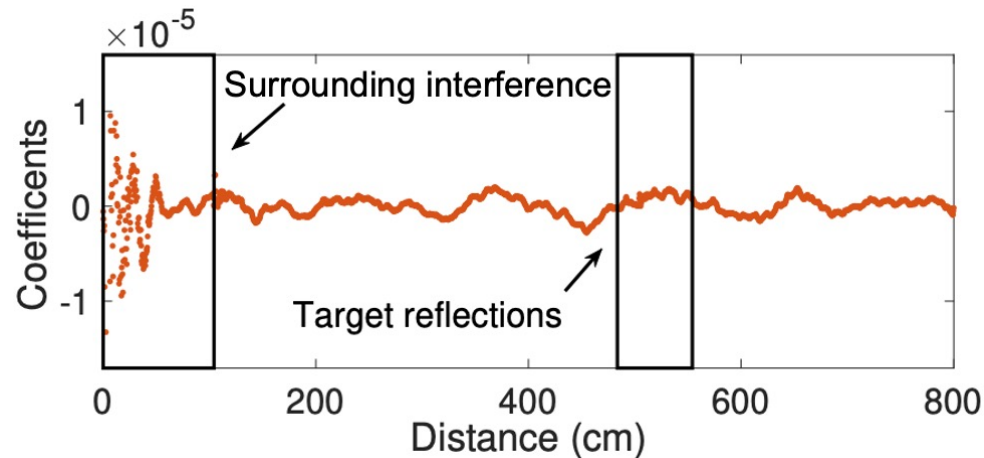


*Step 2:* Bike-  
Vehicle Angle  
estimation

# Challenge 2: Position estimation

- Estimation of Bike-Vehicle Distance:

- $C(t) = \int_{\tau=-\infty}^{+\infty} S_c(t) R(t - \tau) d\tau$



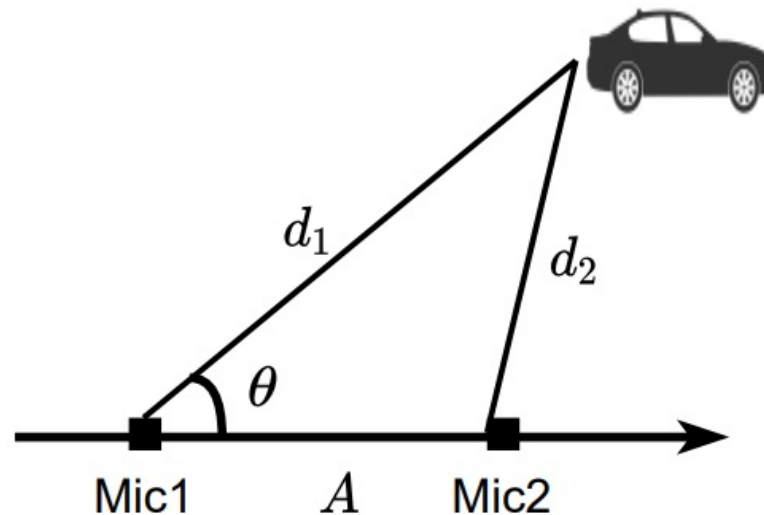
# Challenge 2: Position estimation

- Estimation of Bike-Vehicle Distance:

- $C(t) = \int_{\tau=-\infty}^{+\infty} S_c(t)R(t - \tau)d\tau$

- Estimation of Bike-Vehicle Angle:

- $\theta = \arccos\left(\frac{d_1^2 + A^2 + d_2^2}{2 \times d_1 \times A}\right)$



# Challenge 3: Identify right-turn vehicle



*Step 1:* Remove  
static objects

# Challenge 3: Identify right-turn vehicle



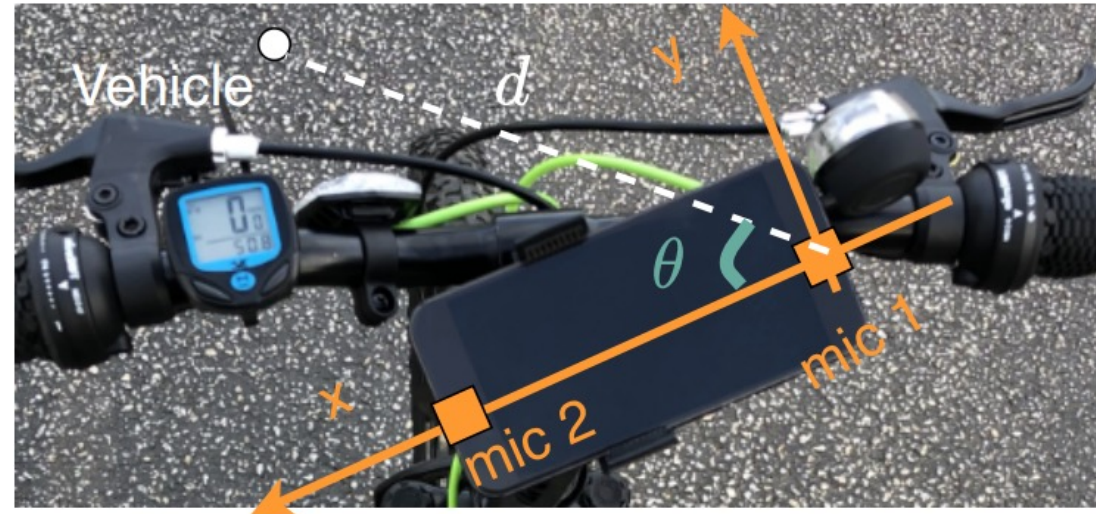
*Step 1:* Remove  
static objects



*Step 2:* Isolate  
right turn vehicle  
from other  
vehicles

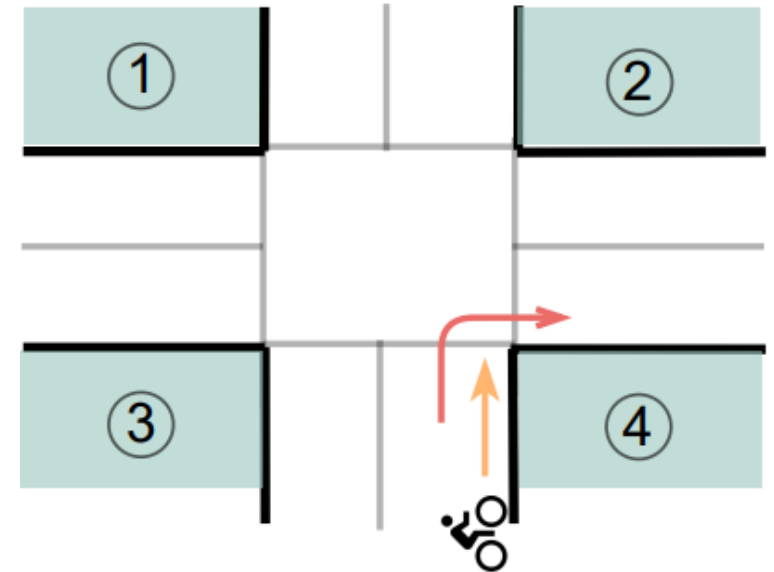
# Challenge 3: Identify right-turn vehicle

- Consider smartphone coordinate system on the road



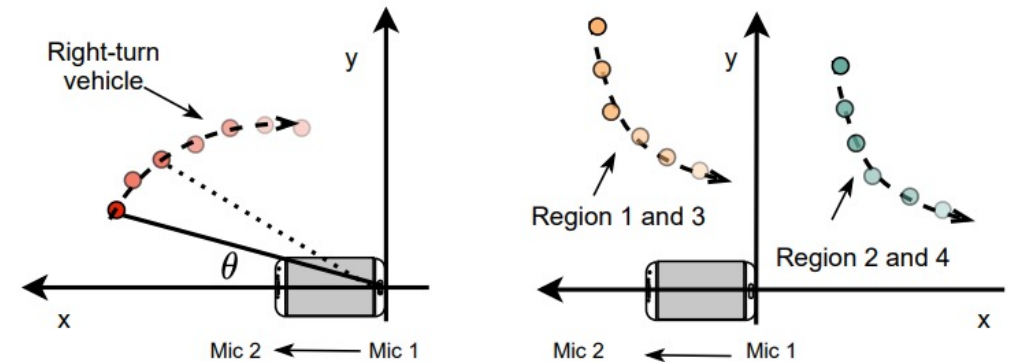
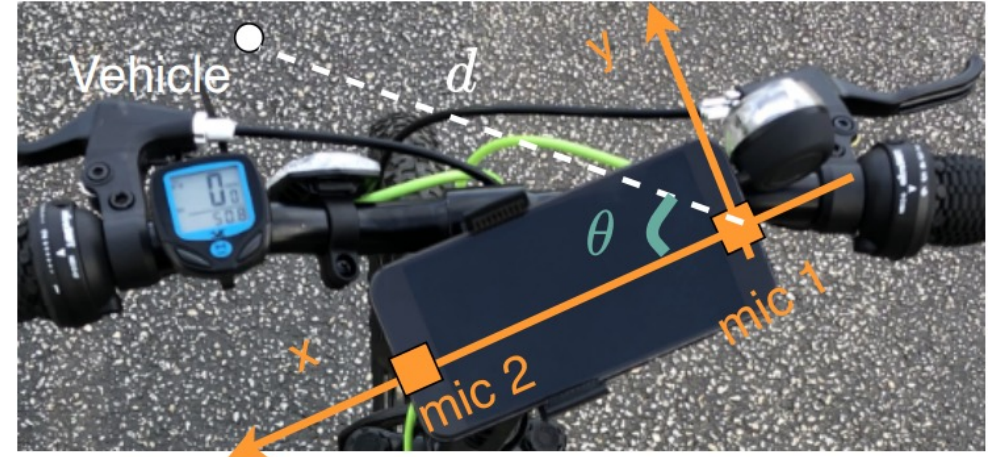
# Challenge 3: Identify right-turn vehicle

- Consider smartphone coordinate system on the road
- Divide intersection into 4 regions



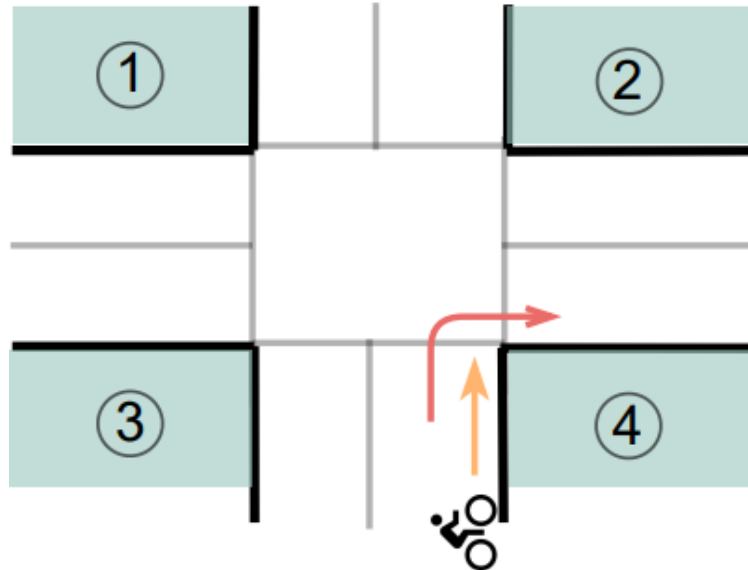
# Challenge 3: Identify right-turn vehicle

- Consider smartphone coordinate system on the road
- Divide intersection into 4 regions
- Construct position curves for objects
  - Series of distances and angles



# Challenge 3: Identify right-turn vehicle

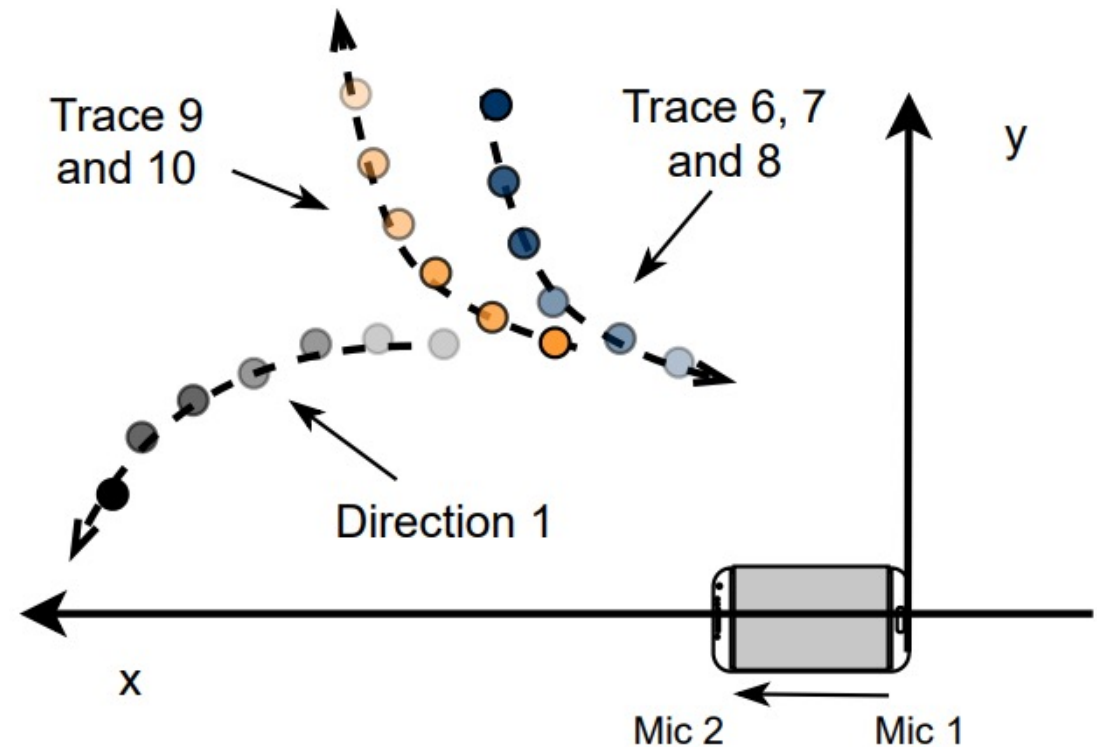
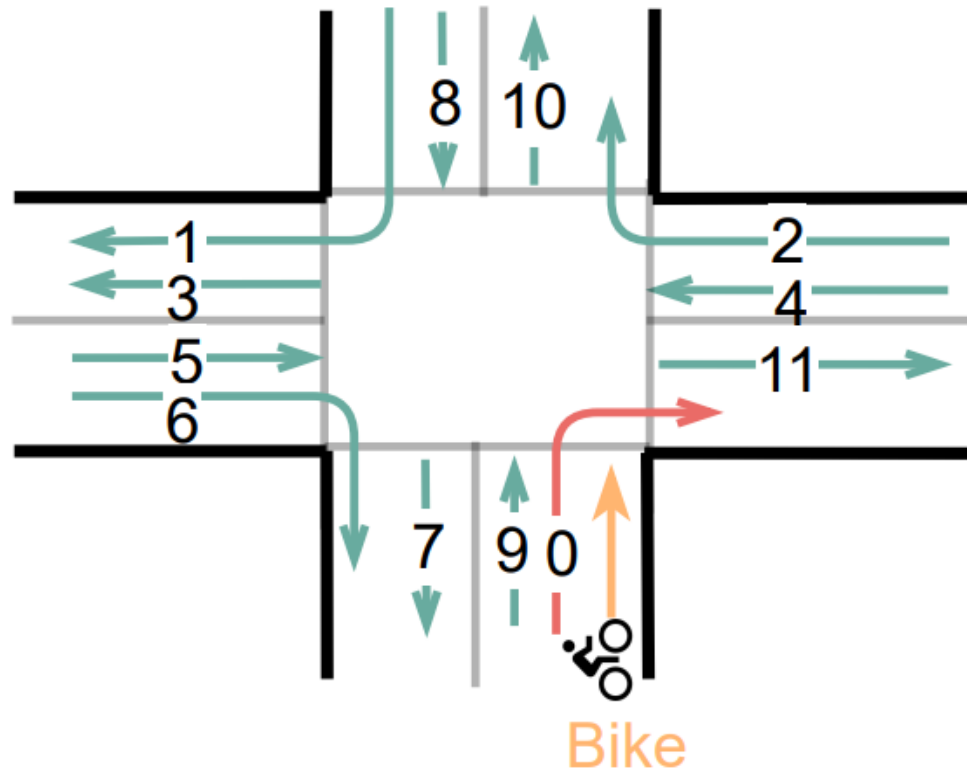
- Right-turn vehicles' curves confined within  $[0, \pi/2]$



|                    | $\theta$ | $d$ | Range of $\theta$ |
|--------------------|----------|-----|-------------------|
| Region 1           | ↓        | ↓   | $[0, \pi/2]$      |
| Region 2           | ↑        | ↓   | $[\pi/2, \pi]$    |
| Region 3           | ↓        | ↓   | $[0, \pi/2]$      |
| Region 4           | ↑        | ↓   | $[\pi/2, \pi]$    |
| Right-turn vehicle | ↑        | ↓   | $[0, \pi/2]$      |

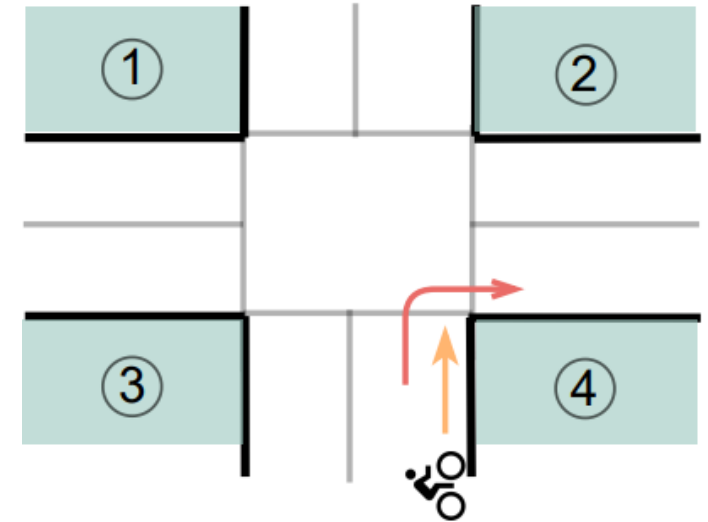
# Challenge 3: Identify right-turn vehicle

- Construct moving trajectory for **all possible vehicle directions**



# Challenge 3: Identify right-turn vehicle

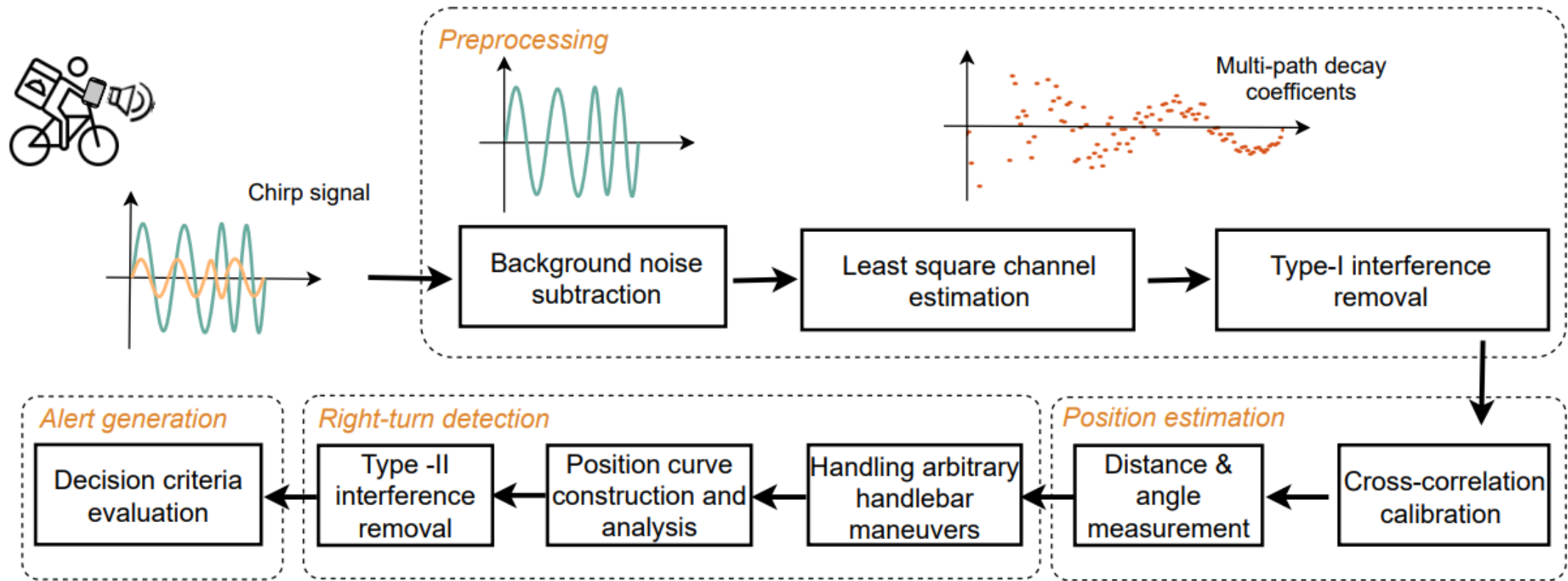
- Right-turn vehicles' curves confined within  $[0, \pi/2]$ 
  - Constantly increasing angle
  - Constantly decreasing distance



| Trace          | 1  | 2  | 3  | 4  | 5  | 6  | 7  | 8  | 9  | 10 | 11 | Right-turn vehicle (0) |
|----------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|------------------------|
| $\theta$       | ↓  | ↓  | ↓  | ↓  | ↓  | ↑↓ | ↓  | ↓  | ↑  | ↑  | ↑  | ↑                      |
| $d$            | ↓↑ | ↓↑ | ↑  | ↓  | ↓  | ↓  | ↓  | ↓  | ↑  | ↑  | ↑  | ↓                      |
| $\theta$ range | Q1 | Q2 | Q1 | Q2 | Q1 | Q1 | Q1 | Q1 | Q1 | Q1 | Q2 | Q1                     |

Q1:  $\theta \in [0, \pi/2]$ , Q2:  $\theta \in [\pi/2, \pi]$

# Piecing all together



# Evaluation

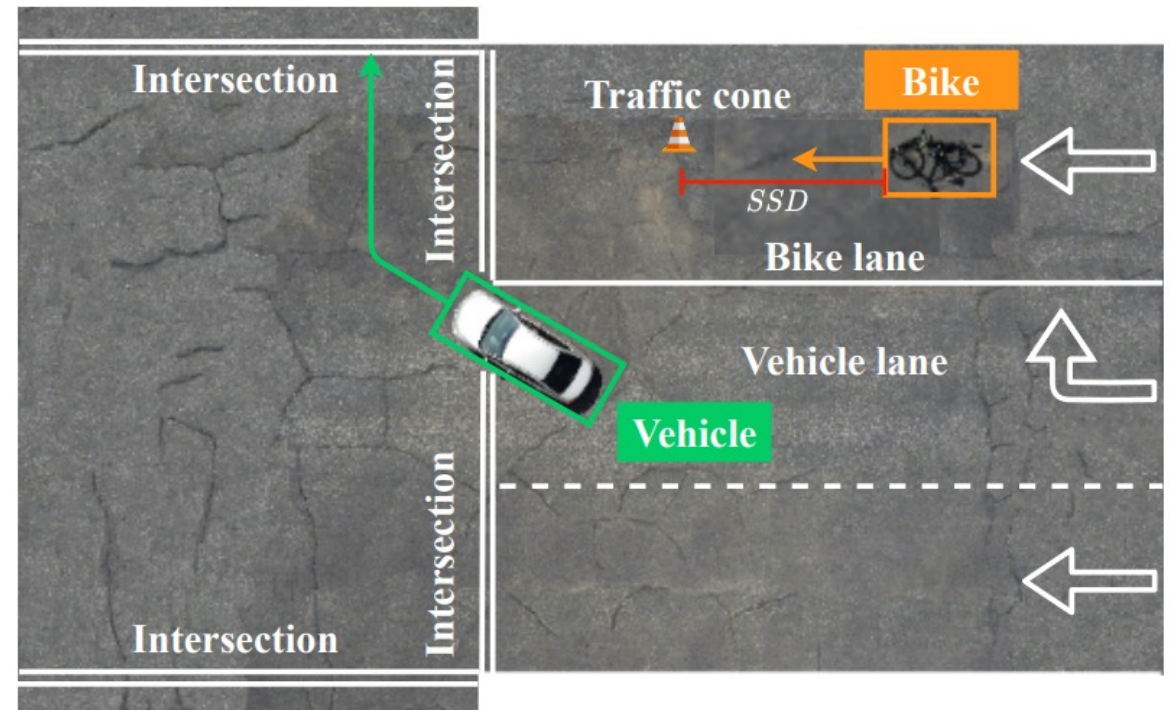
## Overview

- System benchmarks
  - Detection in presence of multiple vehicles
  - Impact of on-road obstacles
- Real-world testing (on-road)
  - Different environments
  - Different times of the day
- Micro benchmarks
  - Computation time
  - Energy consumption
  - Device diversity

# Evaluation

## Testing Scenario

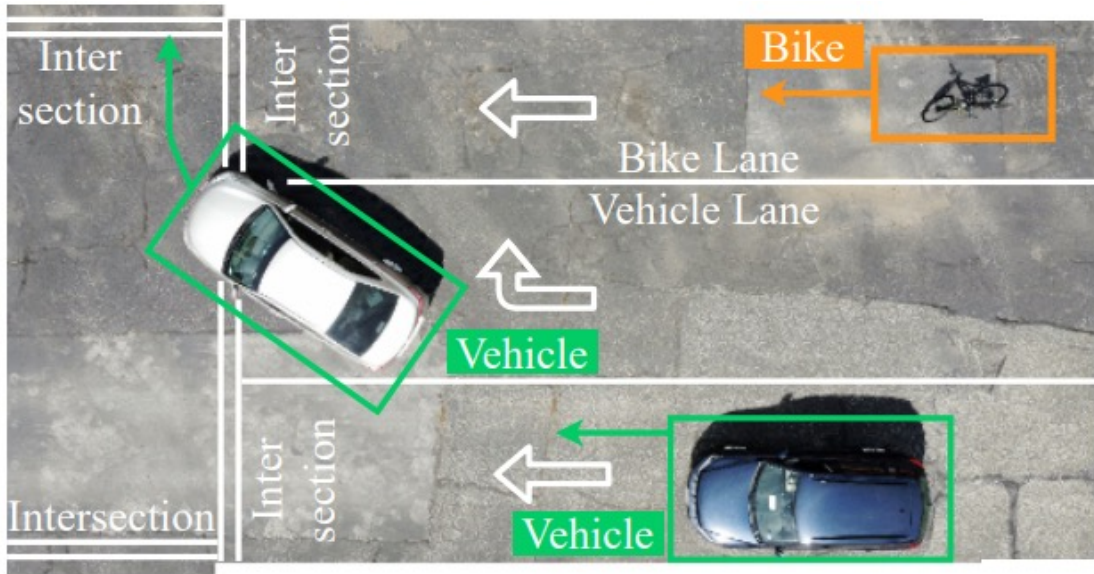
- Evaluation metrics:
  - True Positive Rate (TPR):
    - System successfully detects target vehicle before collision
  - True Negative Rate (TNR):
    - No false alarms in the absence of target vehicles



# Evaluation

System benchmarks

- Impact of Multi-vehicles
  - Bike riding speed

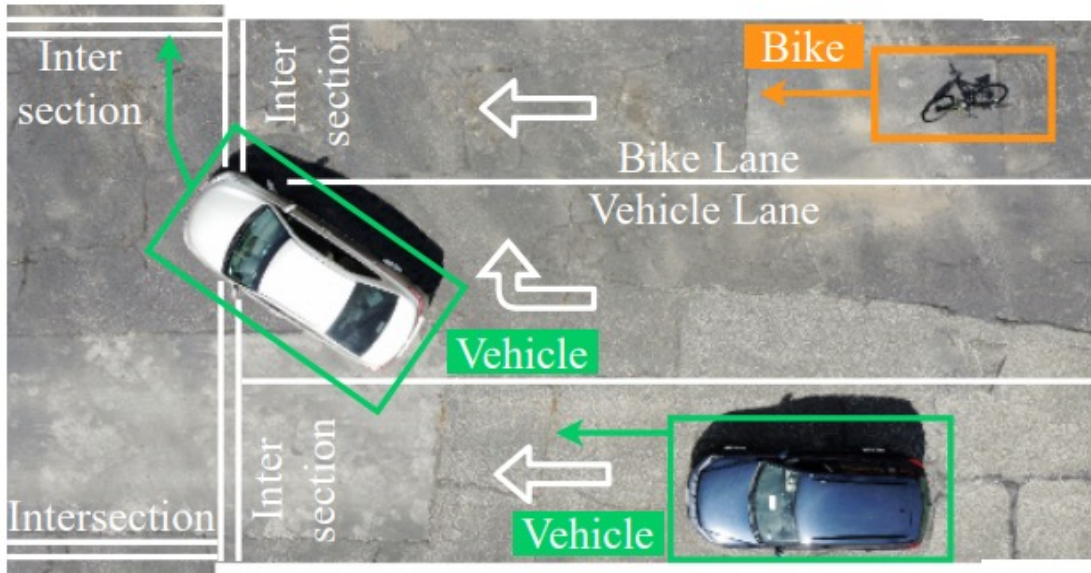


| Metric | Bike riding speed (m/s) |       |     |       |        | Vehicle speed (mph) |       |     |       |     |
|--------|-------------------------|-------|-----|-------|--------|---------------------|-------|-----|-------|-----|
|        | 2                       | 3     | 4   | 5     | 6      | 5                   | 7     | 10  | 12    | 15  |
| TPR    | 98%                     | 98%   | 96% | 94%   | 93%    | 98%                 | 98%   | 94% | 92%   | 92% |
| TNR    | 90%                     | 88.8% | 88% | 87.5% | 86.95% | 90%                 | 88.8% | 87% | 86.6% | 85% |

# Evaluation

System benchmarks

- Impact of Multi-vehicles
  - Bike riding speed
  - Vehicle speed



| Metric | Bike riding speed (m/s) |       |     |       |        | Vehicle speed (mph) |       |     |       |     |
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Successfully detect the correct vehicle 92% of the time

# Evaluation

System benchmarks

- Impact of maneuver changes
  - Bike riding speed

| Metric | Bike riding speed (m/s) |       |        |        |       | Relative b-v distances (m) |       |        |       |       |
|--------|-------------------------|-------|--------|--------|-------|----------------------------|-------|--------|-------|-------|
|        | 2                       | 3     | 4      | 5      | 6     | 10                         | 15    | 20     | 25    | 30    |
| TPR    | 98%                     | 96.8% | 95.83% | 93.75% | 92.3% | 96.6%                      | 96%   | 94.73% | 93.9% | 93.1% |
| TNR    | 90%                     | 89.2% | 88.57% | 87.5%  | 87.5% | 90.9%                      | 88.4% | 88%    | 86.9% | 86.2% |



# Evaluation

System benchmarks

- Impact of maneuver changes
  - Bike riding speed
  - Relative distances between bike and vehicle

CycleGuard achieves a  
minimum of 92.3% TPR and  
86.2% TNR

| Metric | Bike riding speed (m/s) |       |        |        |       | Relative b-v distances (m) |       |        |       |       |
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| TNR    | 90%                     | 89.2% | 88.57% | 87.5%  | 87.5% | 90.9%                      | 88.4% | 88%    | 86.9% | 86.2% |



# Evaluation

Real-world testing

- Real-world environment:
  - Parking lot



| Metric/Setting | Parking lot                |       |     | Campus areas               |        |        | Residential areas          |        |        |
|----------------|----------------------------|-------|-----|----------------------------|--------|--------|----------------------------|--------|--------|
|                | Relative b-v distances (m) |       |     | Relative b-v distances (m) |        |        | Relative b-v distances (m) |        |        |
|                | 10                         | 20    | 30  | 10                         | 20     | 30     | 10                         | 20     | 30     |
| TPR            | 98%                        | 96%   | 92% | 96.15%                     | 93.9%  | 92.3%  | 95.45%                     | 93.54% | 91.83% |
| TNR            | 92%                        | 89.7% | 88% | 91.66%                     | 85.71% | 80.55% | 90.32%                     | 84.31% | 78.84% |

# Evaluation

- Real-world environment:
  - Parking lot
  - Campus areas



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  - Residential areas



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# Evaluation

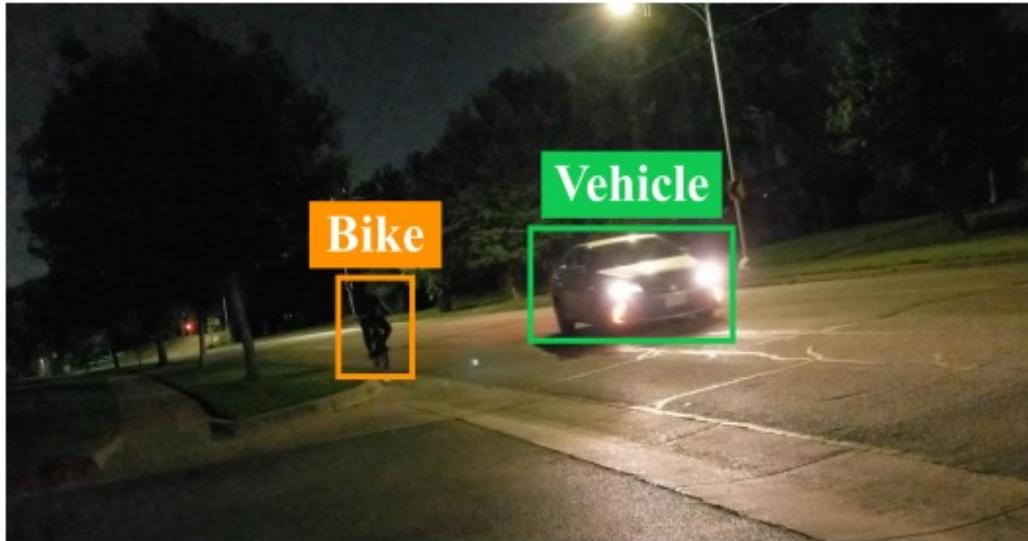
- Real-world environment:
  - Parking lot
  - Campus areas
  - Residential areas

Acceptable real-world  
performance

| Metric/Setting | Parking lot                |       |     | Campus areas               |        |        | Residential areas          |        |        |
|----------------|----------------------------|-------|-----|----------------------------|--------|--------|----------------------------|--------|--------|
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# Evaluation

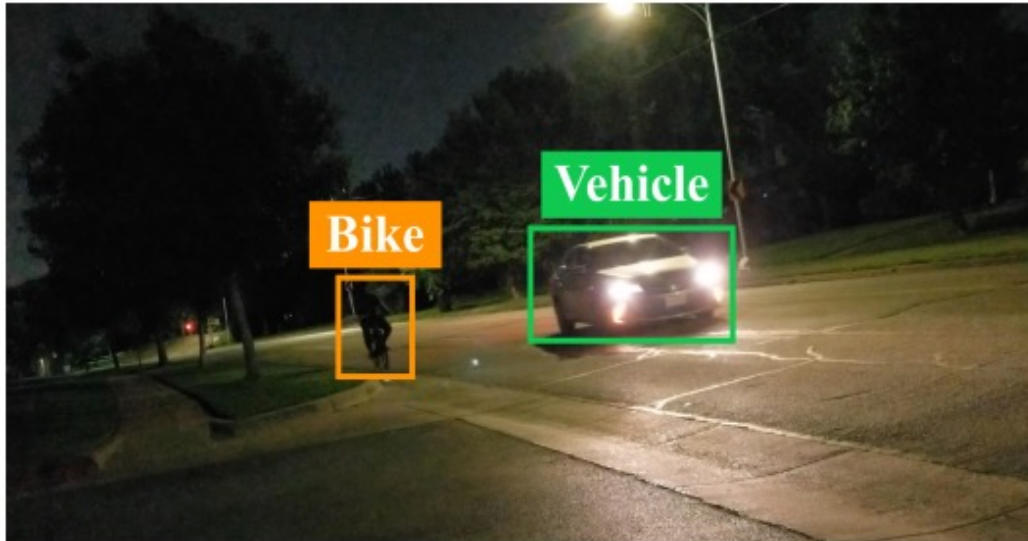
- Testing during night-time:
  - Parking lot



| Metric/Setting | Parking lot                |        |       | Campus roads               |        |        |
|----------------|----------------------------|--------|-------|----------------------------|--------|--------|
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| TNR            | 93.9%                      | 91.66% | 90.9% | 91.89%                     | 86.36% | 81.48% |

# Evaluation

- Testing during night-time:
  - Parking lot
  - Campus roads



| Metric/Setting | Parking lot                |        |       | Campus roads               |        |        |
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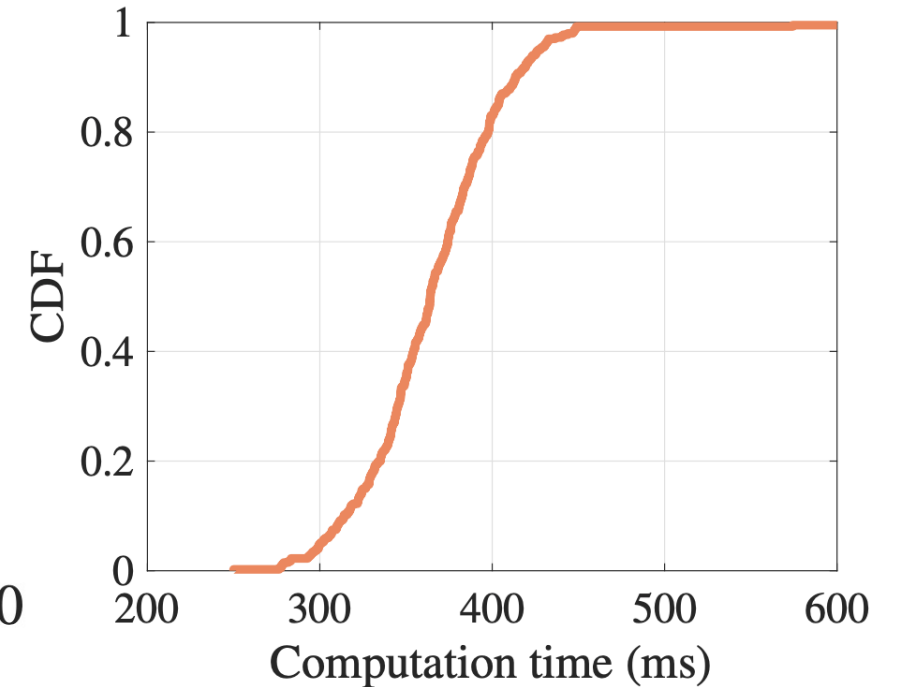
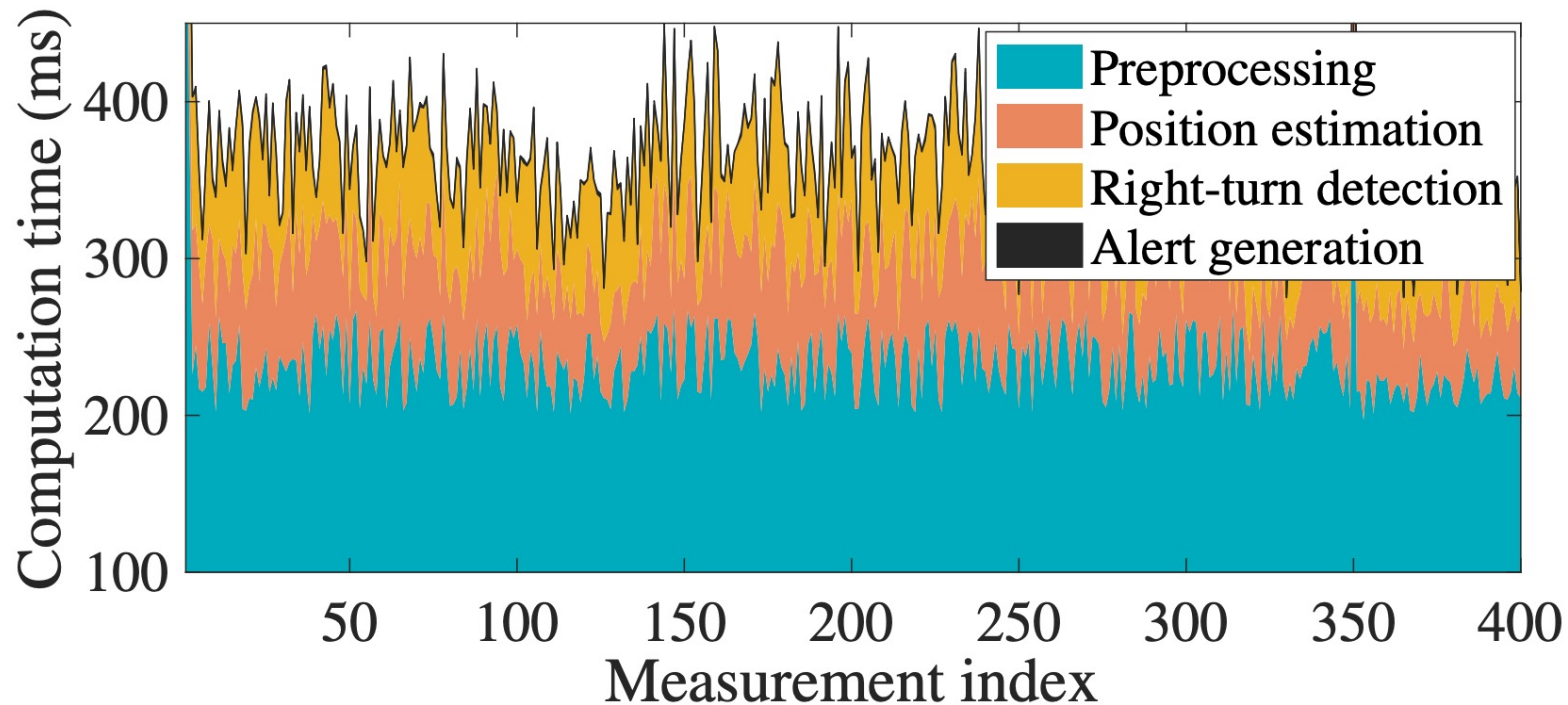
Acceptable real world  
performance at night

# Evaluation

- Micro benchmarks
  - Computation time

Acceptable time consumption:

- Average : 365ms
- 90% measurements  $\leq 414$ ms



# Evaluation

- Micro benchmarks
  - Computation time
  - Energy consumption

Acceptable power consumption:  
- 30-min usage: 242mAh

| Application        | CycleGuard | Video calling | Video streaming | Web browsing |
|--------------------|------------|---------------|-----------------|--------------|
| Energy consumption | 242 mAh    | 563 mAh       | 422 mAh         | 242 mAh      |
| Percentage         | 7%         | 16%           | 12%             | 7%           |

# Evaluation

- Micro benchmarks
  - Computation time
  - Energy consumption
  - Different devices

Portable to other devices

| Phone     | Battery capacity | Energy consumption | Percentage |
|-----------|------------------|--------------------|------------|
| Pixel XL  | 3450 mAh         | 242 mAh            | 7%         |
| Galaxy S8 | 3000 mAh         | 270 mAh            | 9%         |

# Conclusion

- We presented a **low-cost, accurate, portable** system to continuously detect potential right-hook collisions
- Our solution relies on **emitting ultrasonic signals** via a **cheap external speaker** to analyze the vehicular reflections, which **cannot affect human hearing**, but can be **captured by standard smartphone hardware**
- We conduct extensive **experiments in both controlled parking lots and on real-roads** in low-light conditions
- Our system achieves up to **95% real-world accuracy** and is **energy friendly**

# Thanks for your attention!

For more details, please refer to our paper

For Demo video: <https://bit.ly/3BbsPRE>