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Politecnico  
di Torino

Department of Control and  
Computer Engineering



# CARACAS: vehiCular ArchitectuRe for detAiled CAN Attacks Simulation

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# VEHICLES IN THE 21ST CENTURY

## Changes in the automotive ecosystem

### Transition towards electric vehicles:

Shift in drivers of innovation: Battery Electric Vehicles

### Massive use of electronics components

ECUs oversee various key operations

### Increased communication and automation

E.g., ACC, CACC, V2V

Affecting the attack surface of the vehicles



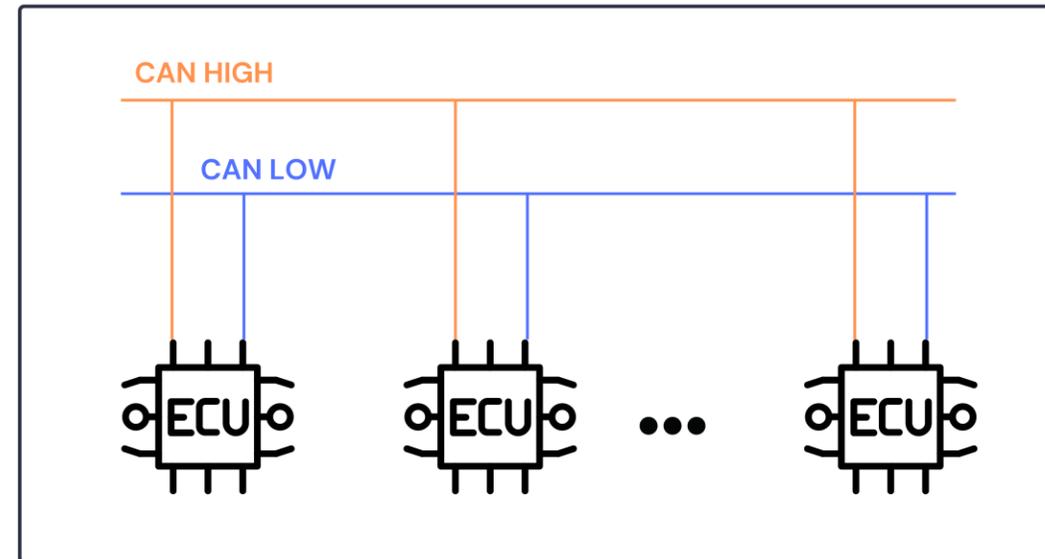
# CAN NETWORK AND SECURITY ISSUES

## Controller Area Network (CAN): backbone

- ▶ Enable message transmission among various components  
E.g., ECUs, sensors and intelligent actuators;

## But... CAN bus external accessibility

- ▶ allows attackers with multiple **exploitation opportunities**
- ▶ an adversary may critically manipulate the vehicle behavior by **injecting malicious packets**



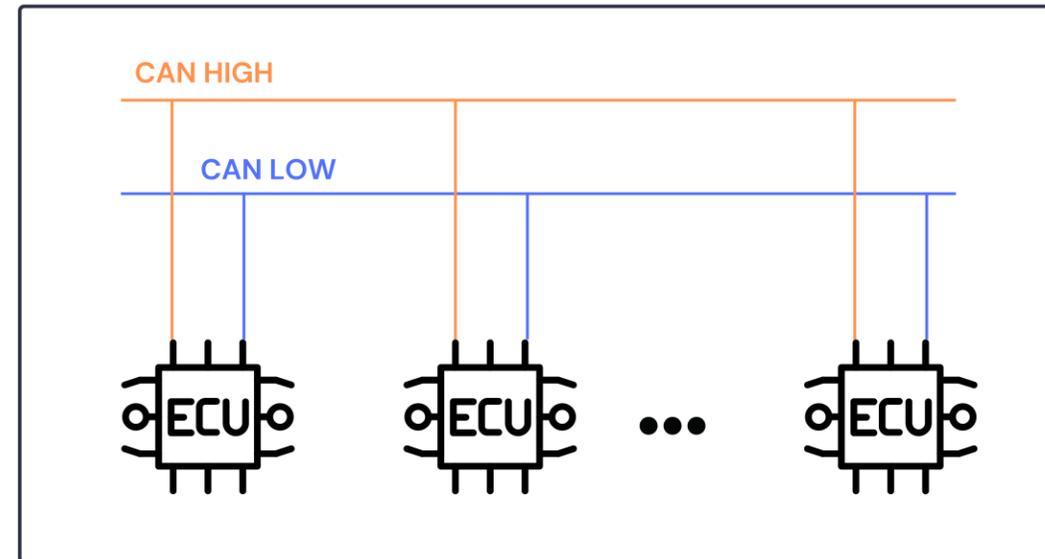
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## Attacks examples

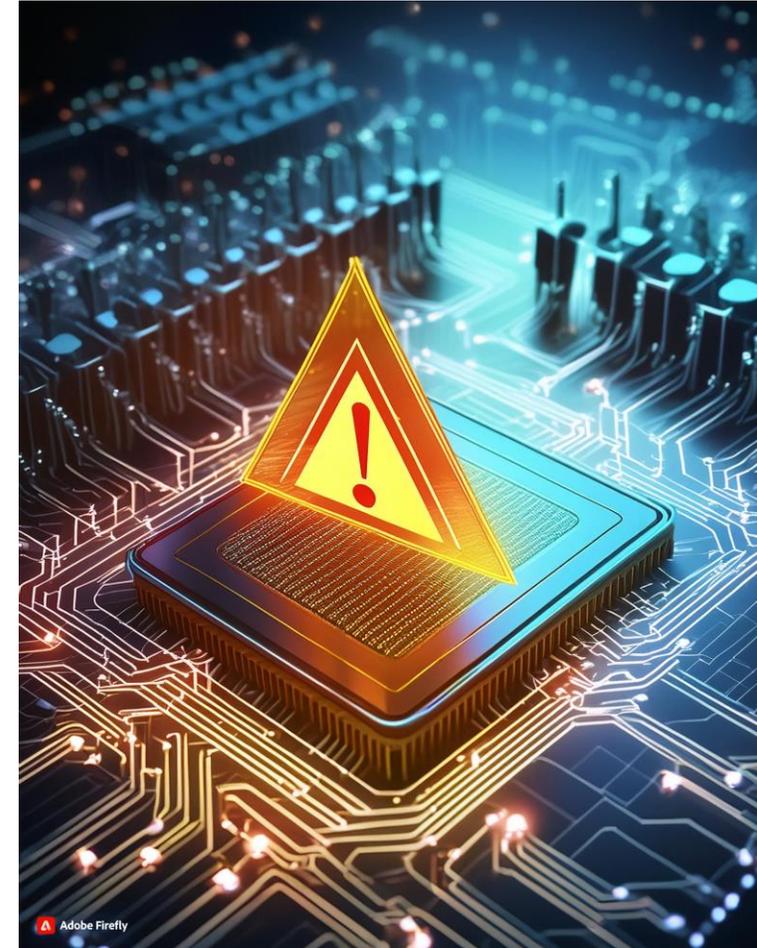
- ▶ Shut off the engine
- ▶ Turn off the immobilizer
- ▶ Engine torque modification

# IDS: A PROMISING SOLUTION

**Intrusion Detection Systems** are countermeasures of great interests for CAN security:

- ▶ Often powered by AI
- ▶ Simple and efficient
- ▶ Monitoring of network or device activity;
- ▶ Raising alarms when unexpected events occurs;

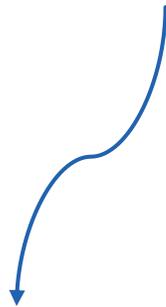
**Multiple studies** have presented promising results in *Automotive applications*



Adobe Firefly

# THE NEED FOR DATA

On the other hand, CAN IDSs research presents challenges in **replicating and comparing** methodologies due to difficulties in the experiment set up



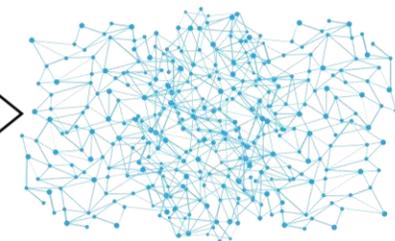
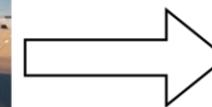
Over time, effort to generate **datasets** to provide researchers with CAN data for testing

## *Real world dataset*

Large collection of accurate CAN data while driving

Data collection problem:

- ▶ Time consuming and expensive
- ▶ Limited number of vehicles and the range of attacks



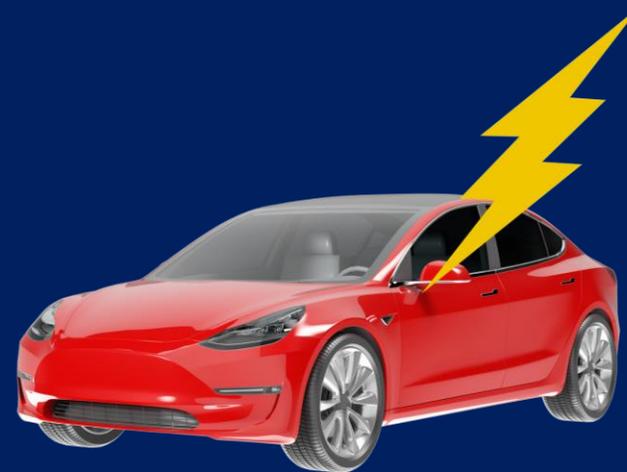
# SIMULATION APPROACH

## *Synthetic dataset*

- ▶ Simulate:
  - ▶ CAN bus environment
  - ▶ Regular and malicious signals traffic
- ▶ Pros:
  - ▶ Reduce time and cost of CAN data acquisition
  - ▶ Easy to generate large amount of data to train ML based IDSs

# PROBLEM

- ▶ Lack of verification of physical effects of attacks
- ▶ Doubts about on the consequences of the attacks



# CARACAS: vehiCular ArchitectuRe for detailed CAN Attacks Simulation

## Components

- ▶ Vehicle dynamics
- ▶ Integrated CAN bus model
- ▶ CAN injection module

## Capabilities

- ▶ Generation of regular CAN traffic and malicious CAN messages
- ▶ Simulation of effect of attacks vehicle's operational condition

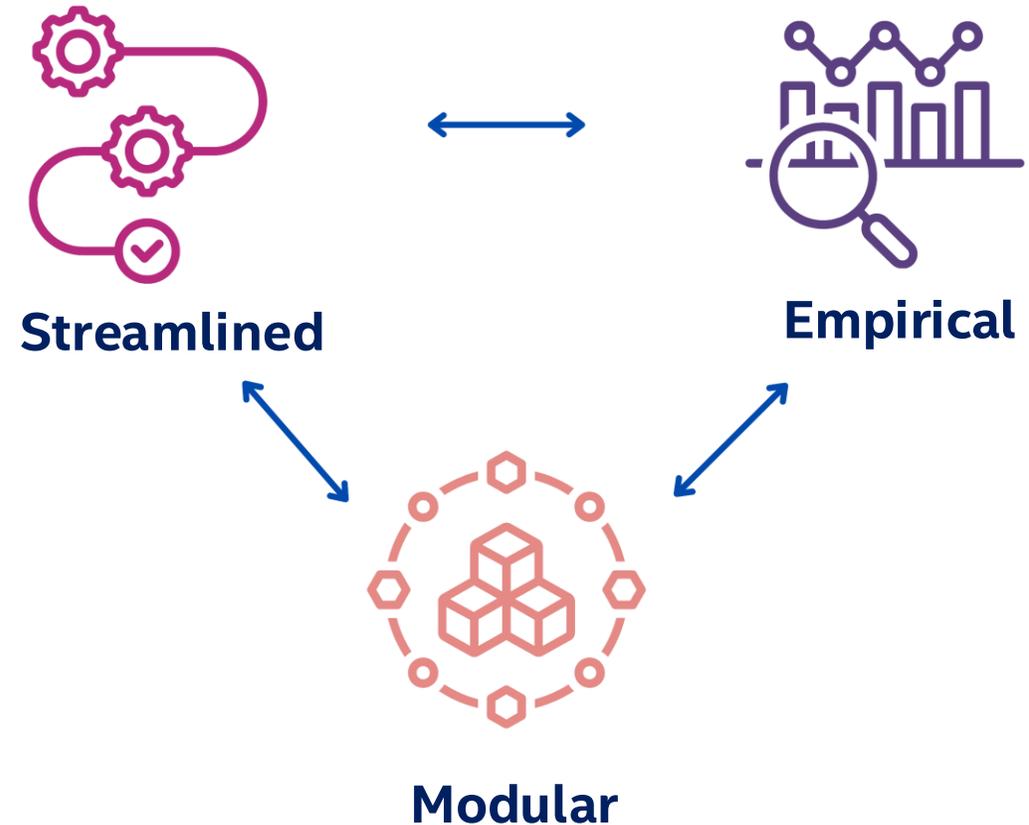
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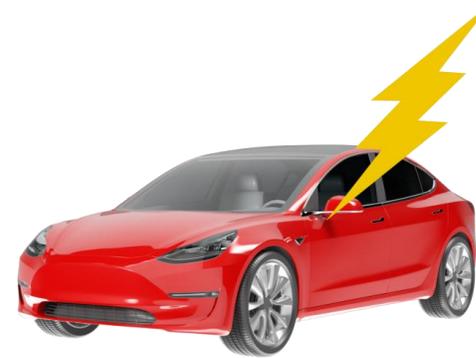
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# BEYOND THE ARCHITECTURE: A REAL USE CASE

## Implemented

BEVs vehicle dynamics of **Tesla Model 3**



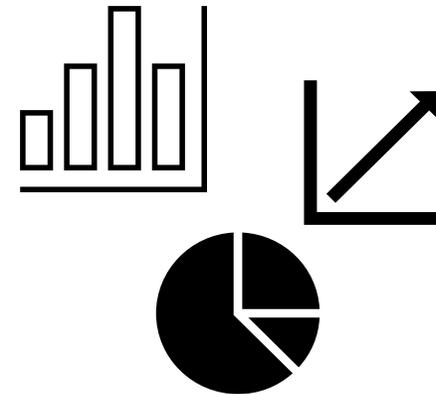
## Tested

Injecting malicious **torque messages**

## Analyzed

The performance on two driving scenarios:

- ▶ **Extra Urban Driving Cycle**
- ▶ **Cruise Mode**



# BEVS DYNAMIC MODEL



Integrate essential vehicle's components:

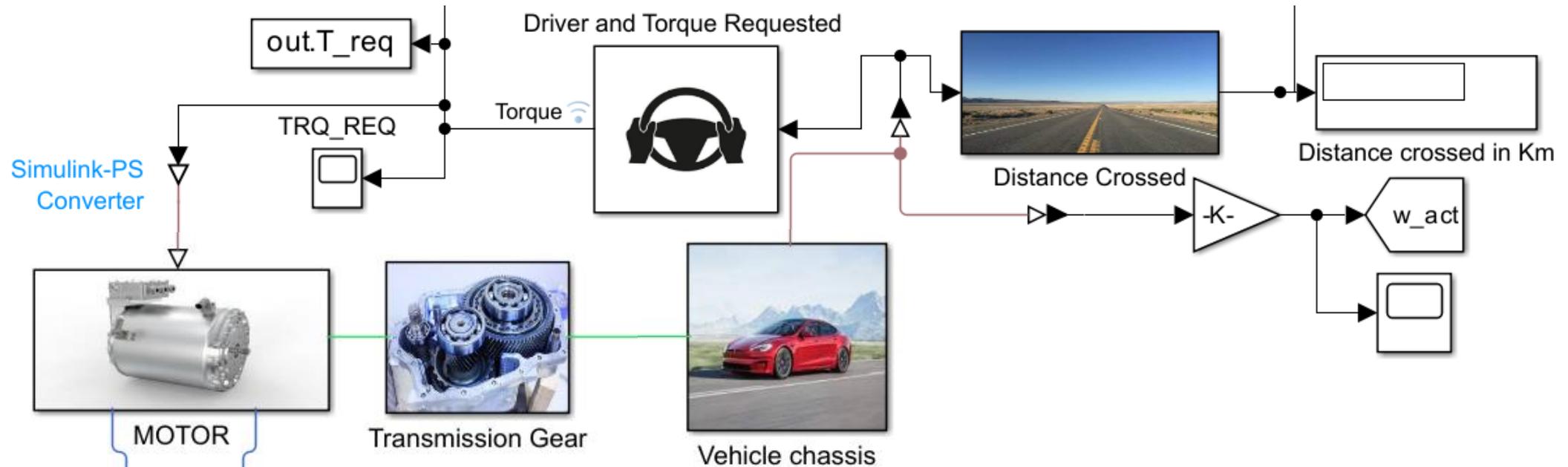
- ▶ Chassis: structural backbone, physical attributes
- ▶ Electric motor and transmission gear focused on performance and interaction with vehicle powertrain



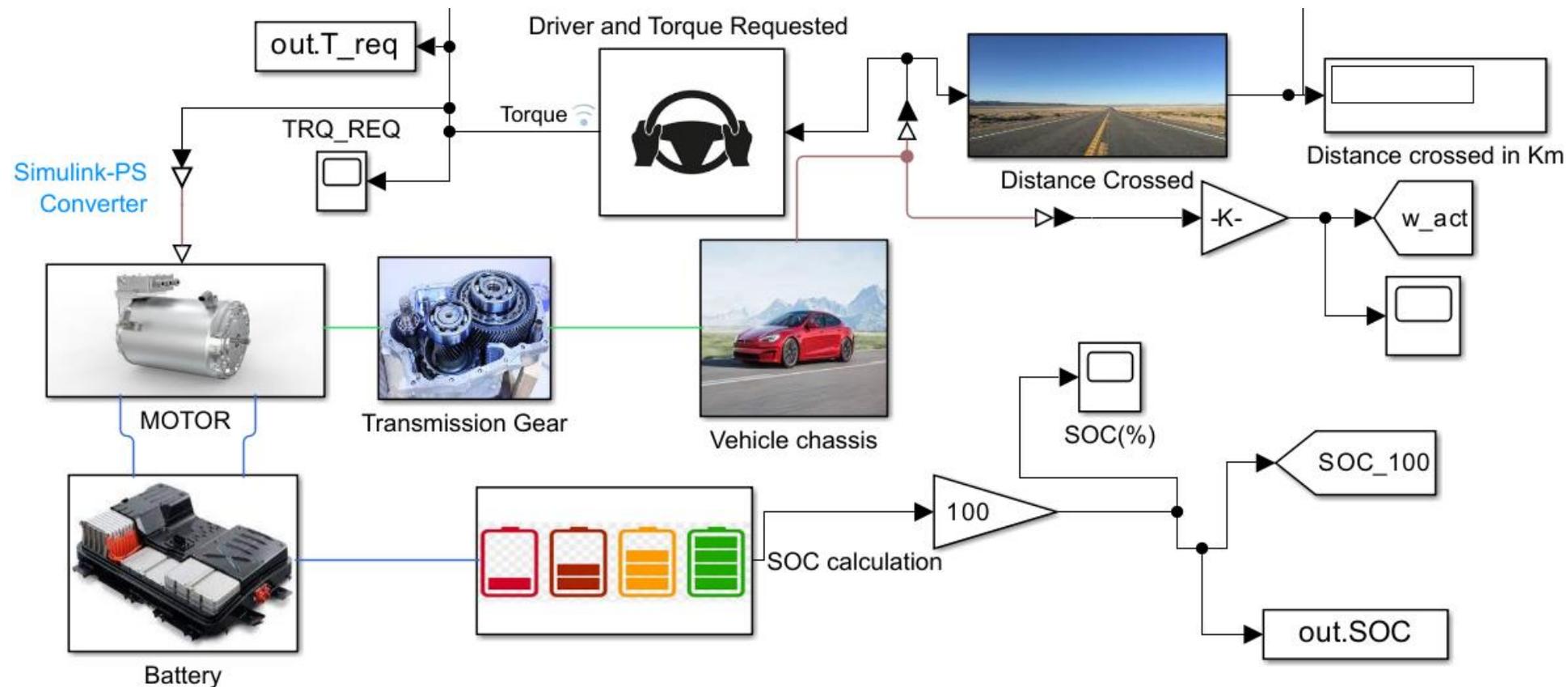
# BEVS DYNAMIC MODEL

Vital parameter of the motor: **Torque**  
*Amount of rotational force the motor develop*

Responsible for *breaking*  
 and *accelerating*



# BEVS DYNAMIC MODEL

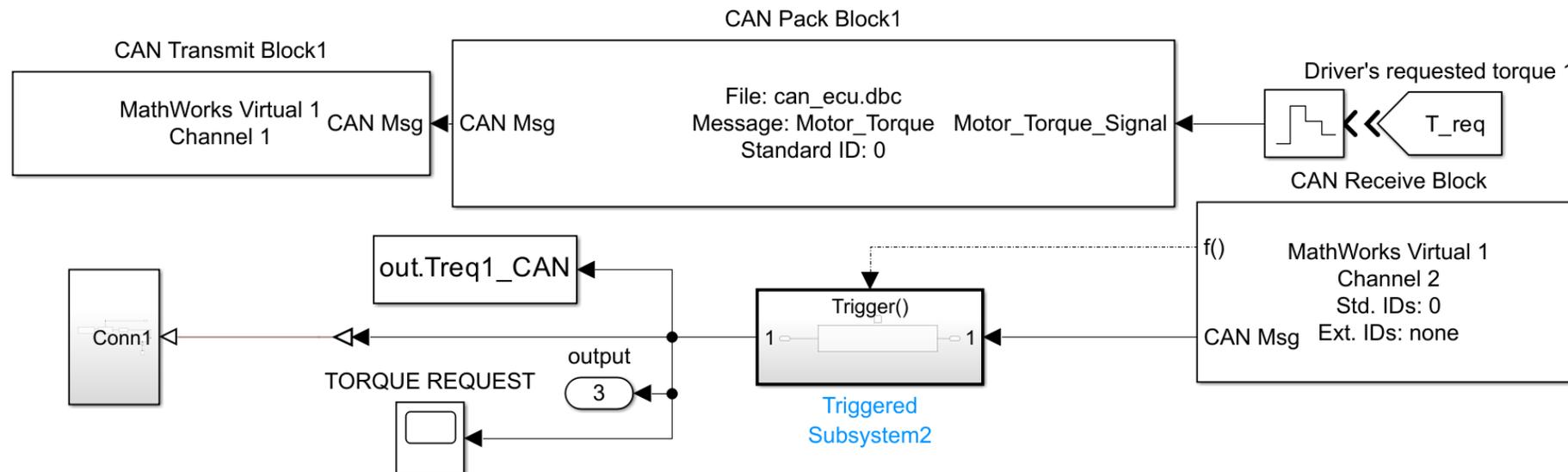


# INTEGRATED CAN BUS MODEL



CANdb++ Editor essential for designing and editing CAN databases

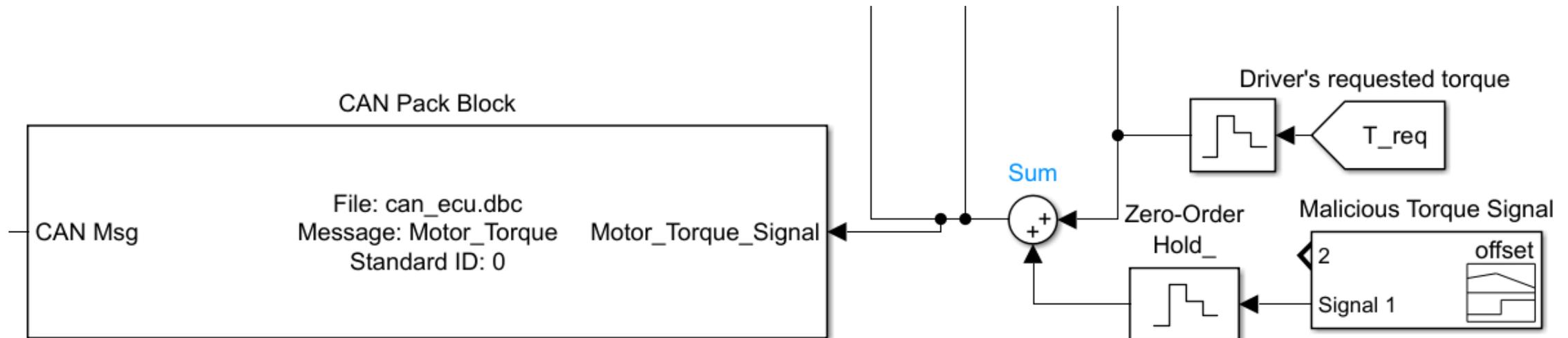
- ▶ Simulate regular and malicious network behaviors
- ▶ Generate CAN DataBase (DBC) file



# CAN BUS INJECTOR MODULE

## Simulink signal builder block:

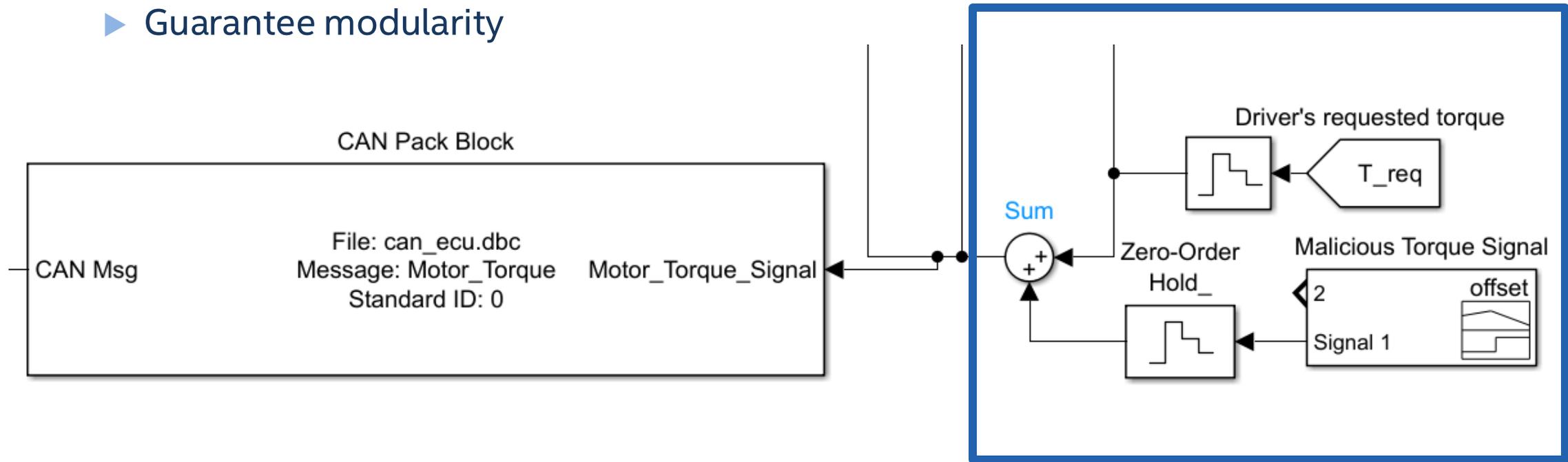
- ▶ Build various attack signals
- ▶ Simulate multiple attack scenarios



# CAN BUS INJECTOR MODULE

## Summing block

- ▶ Can be programmed separately
- ▶ Leaving the original model unaltered
- ▶ Guarantee modularity



# EXPERIMENTAL SET UP



**Body type:** Sedan  
**Doors:** 4, **Seats:** 5  
**Length:** 184.8 in / 4694 mm  
**Width:** 72.8 in / 1849 mm  
**Height:** 56.8 in / 1443 mm  
**Curb weight:** 3551.65 lb / 1611 kg  
**Electric motor:** 239 kW @ 5525 rpm, 420 Nm @ 325 - 5200 rpm, **Location:** Rear  
**Top speed:** 139.8 mph / 225.0 km/h  
**Acceleration 0-60 mph:** 5.30 s  
**Acceleration 0-100 km/h:** 5.60 s  
**Drivetrain:** Rear-wheel drive (RWD)  
**Battery:** 52.4 kWh, **Voltage:** 360 V

 Add to compare

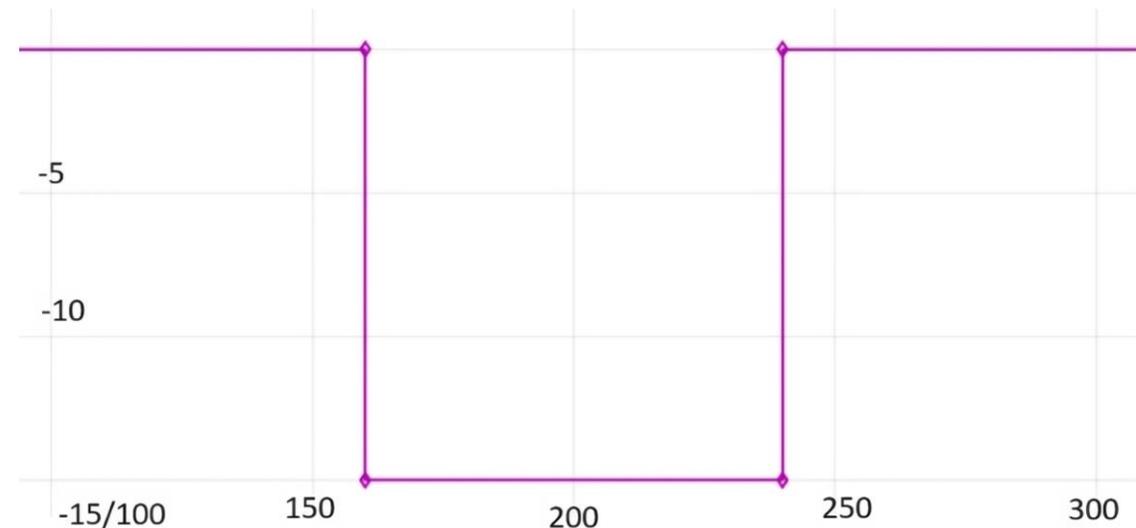
 Suggest an edit

- ▶ Tesla model 3
- ▶ 2 scenarios:
  - ▶ Extra Urban Driving Cycle
  - ▶ Cruise mode

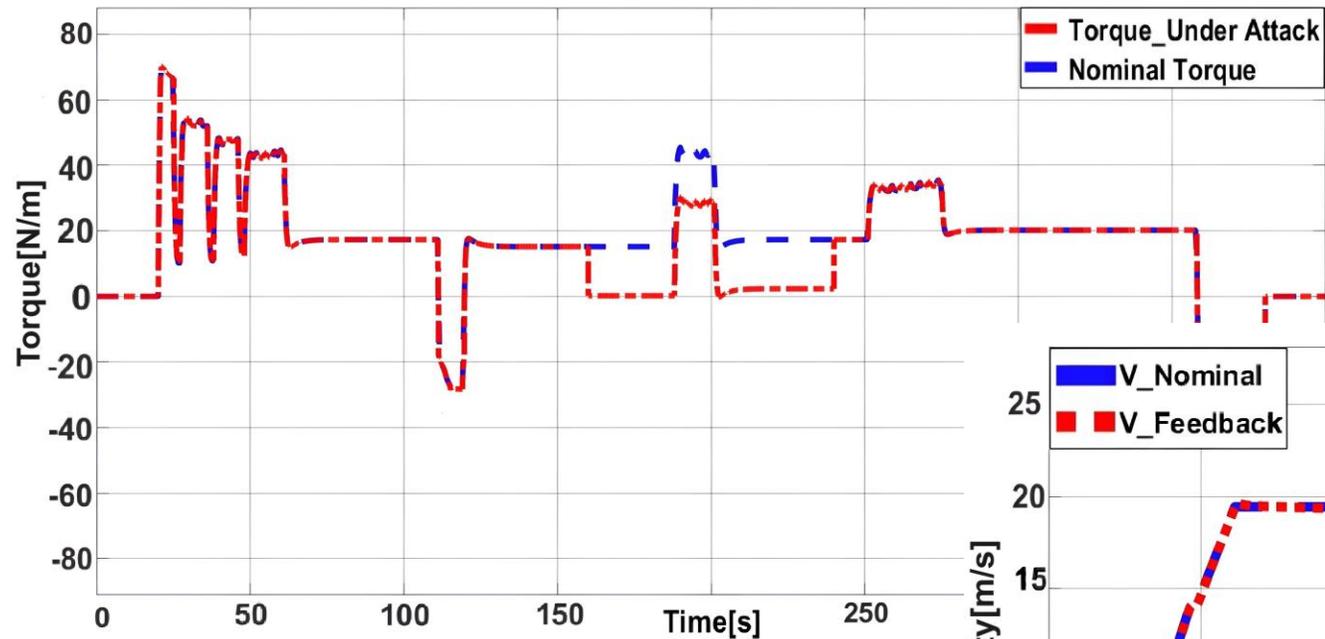
Injected torque signal:

- ▶ Step signal amplitude =  $-15\text{Nm}$
- ▶ Between  $t = 160\text{s}$  and  $t = 240\text{s}$
- ▶ Altering velocity

*Does the model react correctly?*

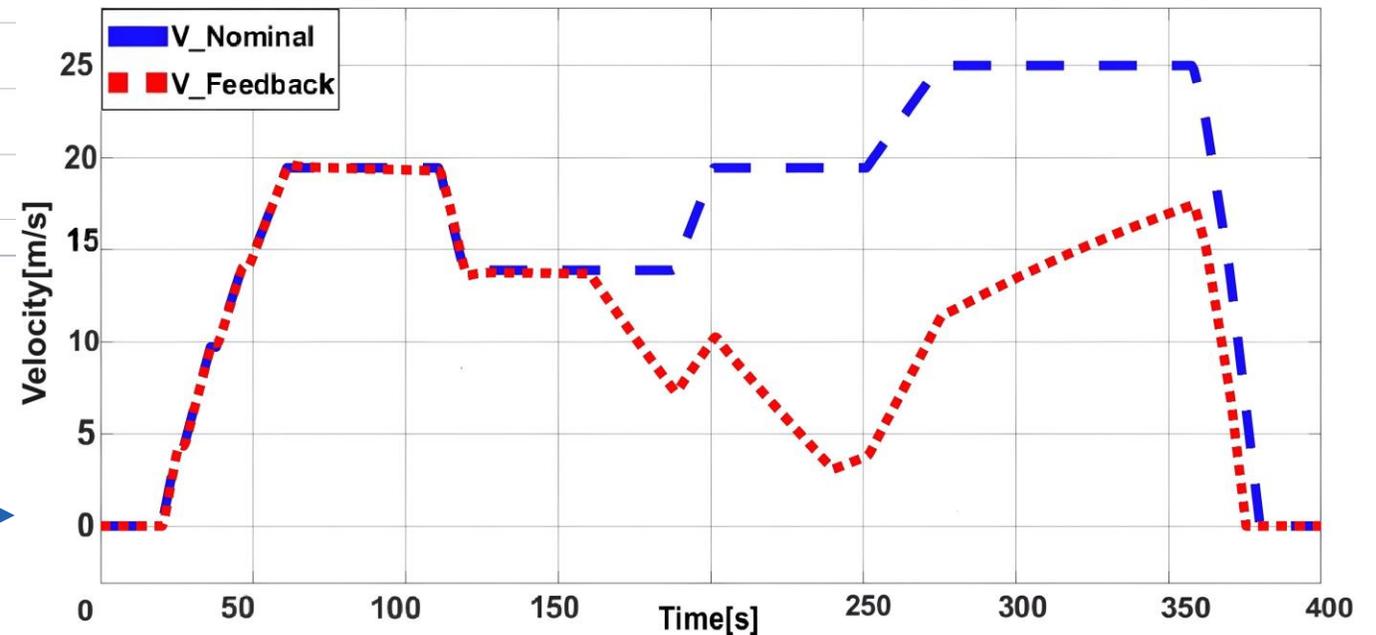


# EXTRA URBAN DRIVING CYCLE



Torque plot

Velocity plot



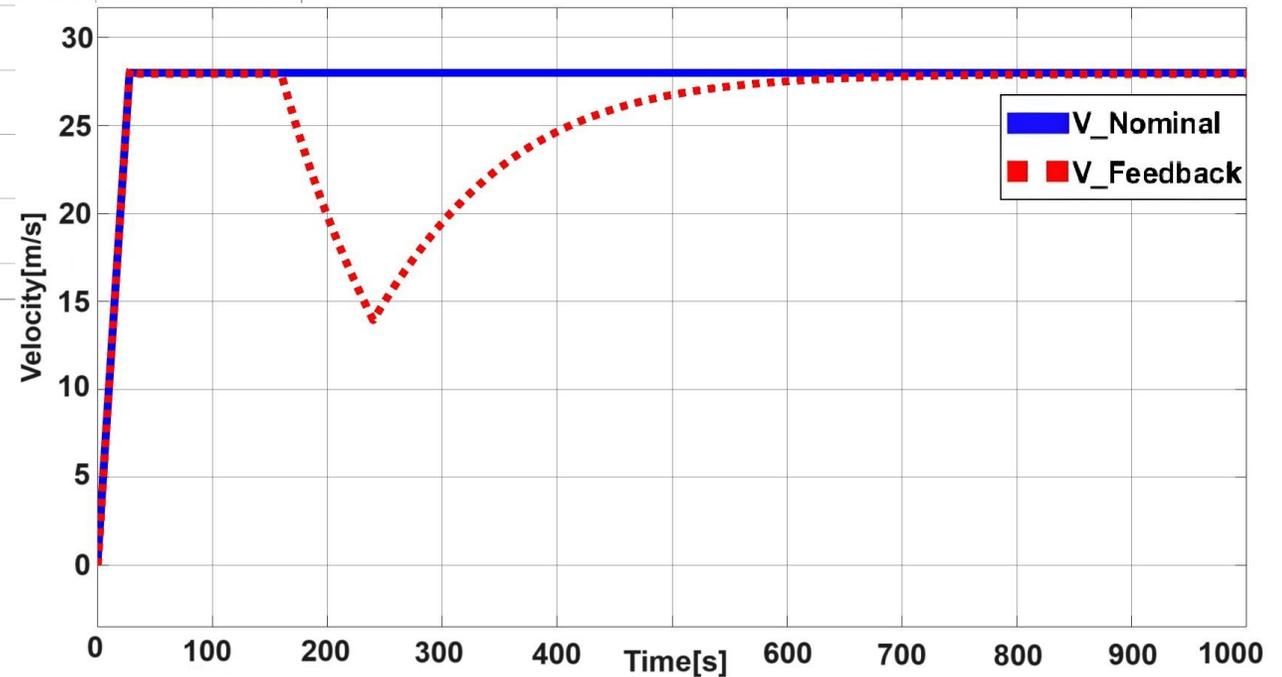
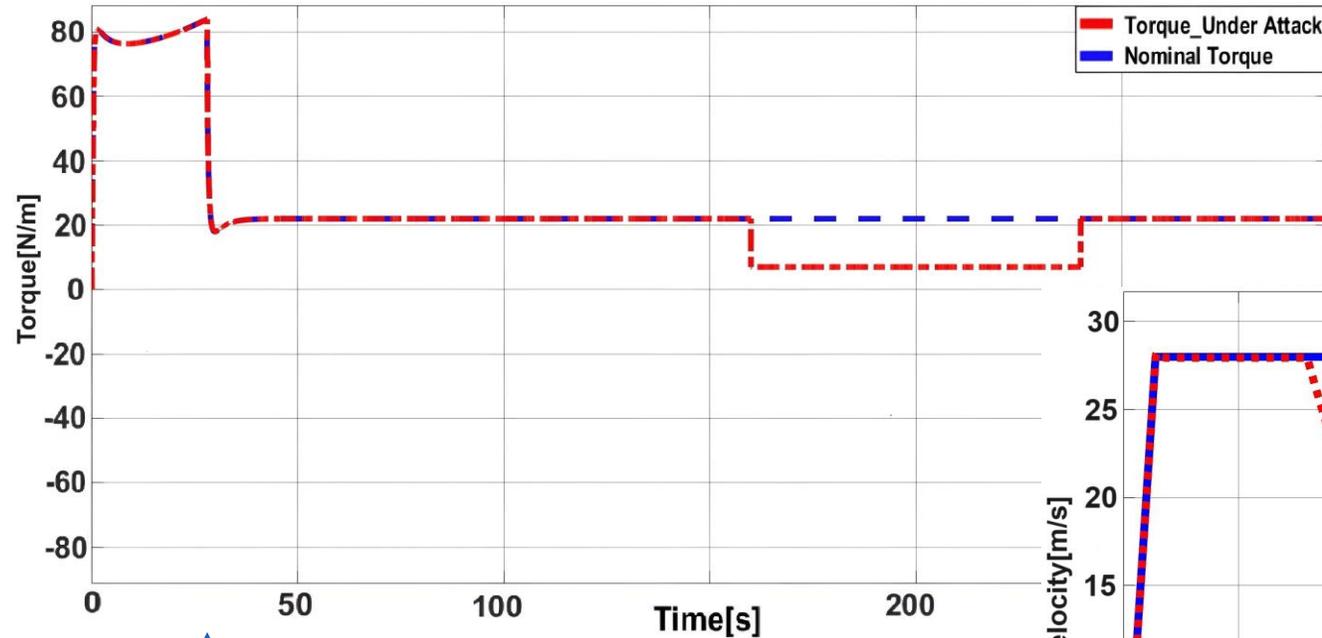
## Timeline

- ▶ 80s long torque attack
- ▶ Starting at 160s
- ▶ Finishing at 240s

# CRUISE MODE

## Timeline

- ▶ 80s long torque attack
- ▶ Starting at 160s
- ▶ Finishing at 240s



Torque plot

Velocity plot

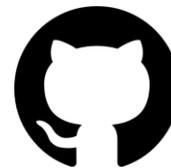
# CONCLUSION AND FUTURE WORK

## Contributions:

- ▶ 3-component modular architecture
- ▶ Easy to collect CAN data changing vehicles and attacks
- ▶ Analyze the effect on the vehicle dynamics
- ▶ Use case: Tesla model 3, torque attack, 2 driving scenarios

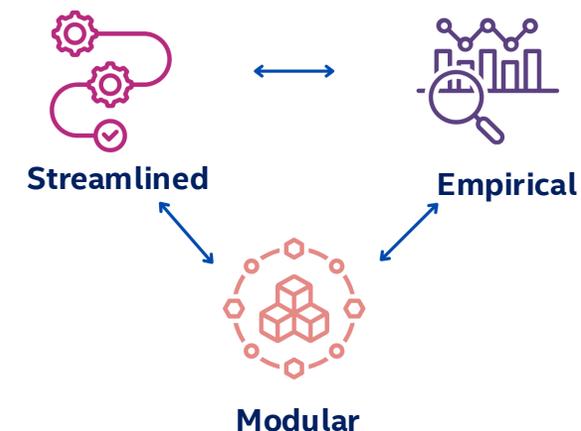
The implementation has been released on GitHub

<https://github.com/smilies-polito/CARACAS>



## Future work

- ▶ Validate the system comparing the generated data with real world data
- ▶ Design and collect a dataset of attacks using this framework
- ▶ Exploit the dataset to train IDSs





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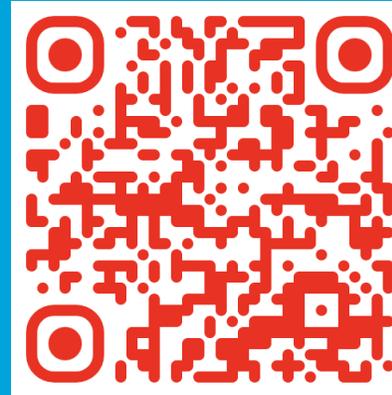
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# Thanks for your kind attention!

Any questions?



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