

Cybersecure GNSS for Autonomous Mobility

ESA NAVISP-EL2-109 CECIL



Final Presentation
09/10/2025

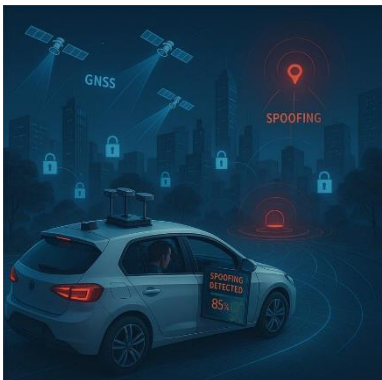
Dr. Bertalan Eged, CEO

Sagax Communications, Ltd.



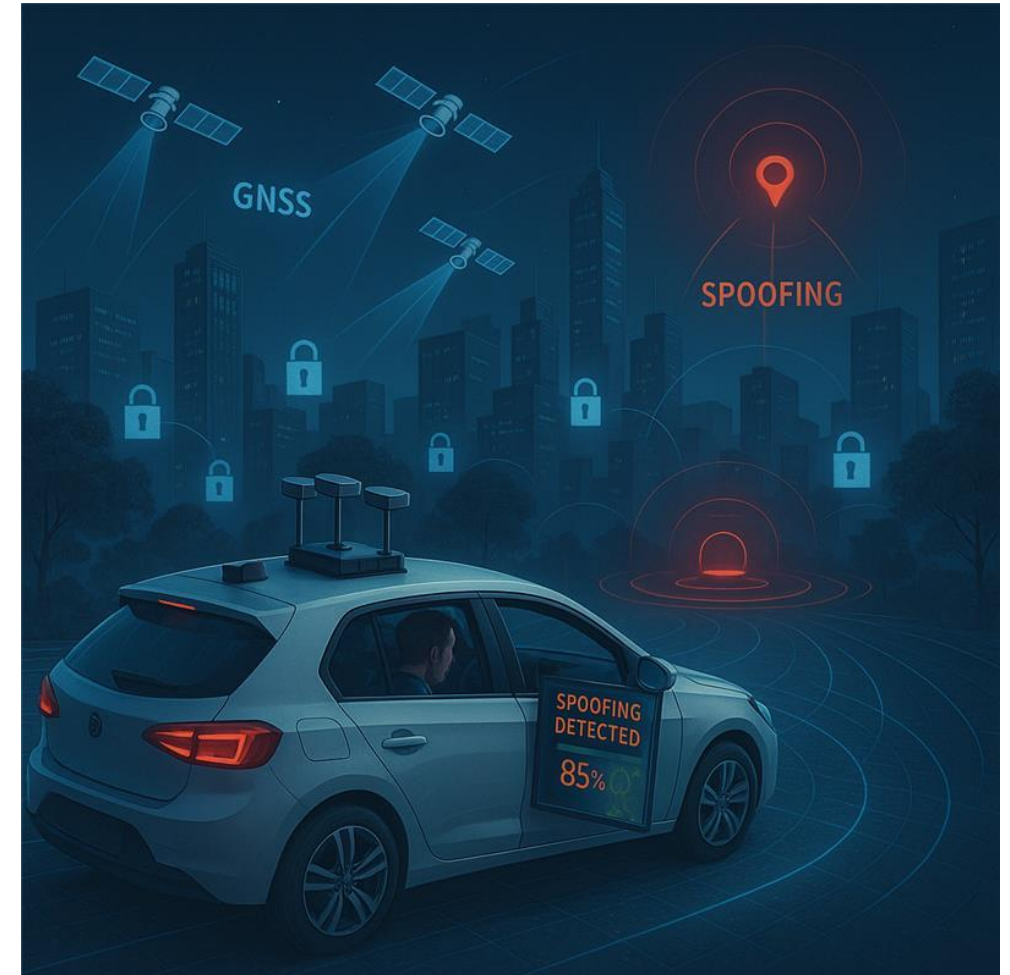
www.sagaxcommunications.com

www.linkedin.com/company/sagaxcommunications



Agenda

- Company introduction
- Problem statement and mitigation
- System architecture HW and SW
- Project introduction WBS and Timing
- Designed and manufactured components
- Laboratory and field validation and demo (video)
- Summary of experiences
- Future outlook



Company introduction: fields of play

Aerospace and Defense

Test and Measurement

Scientific Research

Signal and
Communications
Intelligence

Spectrum monitoring
systems and radiated
measurements

High channel count
transceivers
and antenna systems

Sagax Communications **deliver** advanced radio electronic **solutions** with mature mainstream commercial technology.

Subject matter expertise:

- Electromagnetic simulation and antenna element and array design
- Analog signal conditioning with high dynamic range multiple source and sink analog connectivity
- Wide-bandwidth and high-frequency multi-channel conversion of analog signals (ADC/DAC)
- High-throughput data acquisition and generation with record and playback (RnP)
- Off-line and real-time digital signal processing with parallel processing resources (GPP, GPU, FPGA)

System integration

Stand-alone operation

Integrated operation

Integrated systems

Receiver and test systems integration
From man-portable receiver to integrated site
With direction finding and record-playback-delay



Portable



Desktop



Connected



Extended



Station



Work-post



Operation-site

Problem statement

- Industry and society have embraced and **depend on** the space/satellite based navigation systems. (GNSS)
- These systems are target of **electromagnetic and cyber-attacks** which are recently proved to be existing threat to our community.
- Jamming and **spoofing of GNSS systems** are real danger and can block lot of mission critical infrastructure and day by day activity



GPS



Glonass



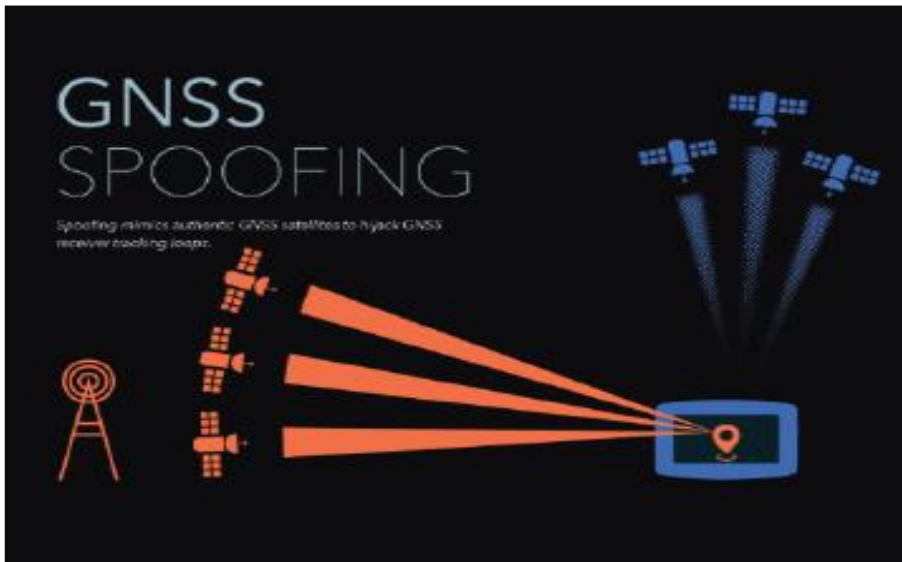
Galileo



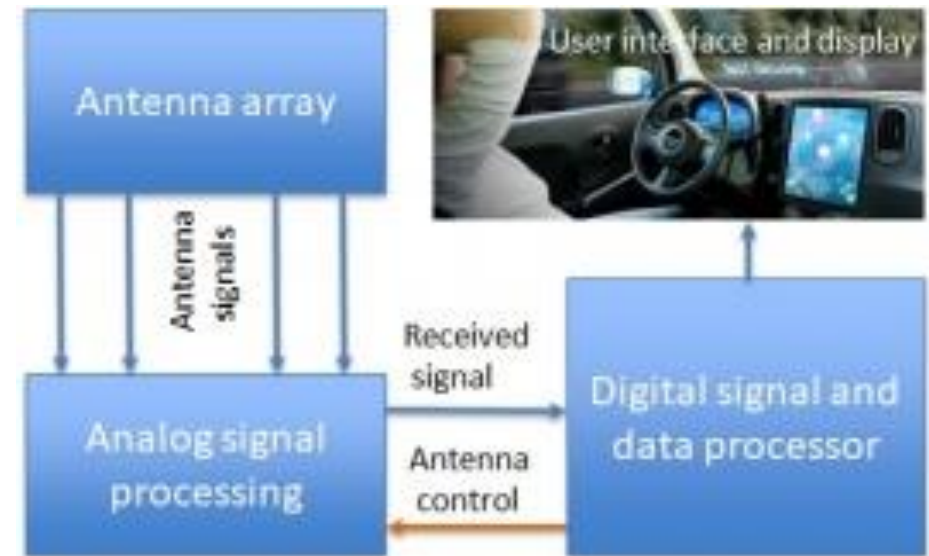
BeiDou

Spoofing mitigation in the antenna domain

The physical source of the signal is different for original and spoofing signal

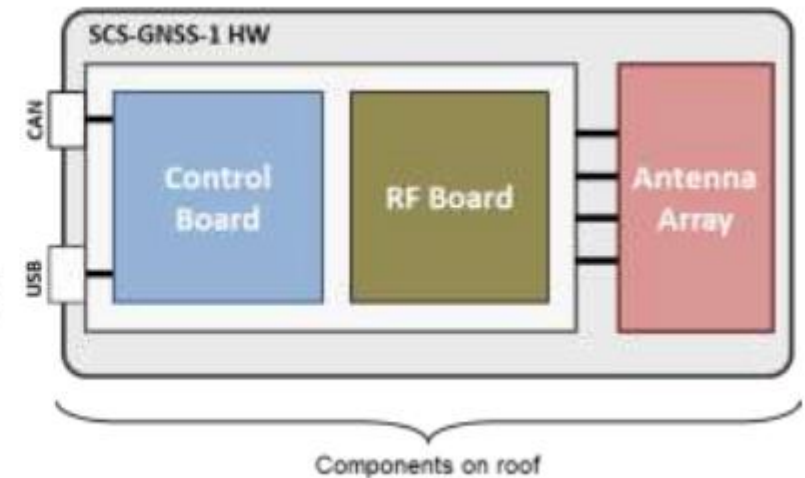
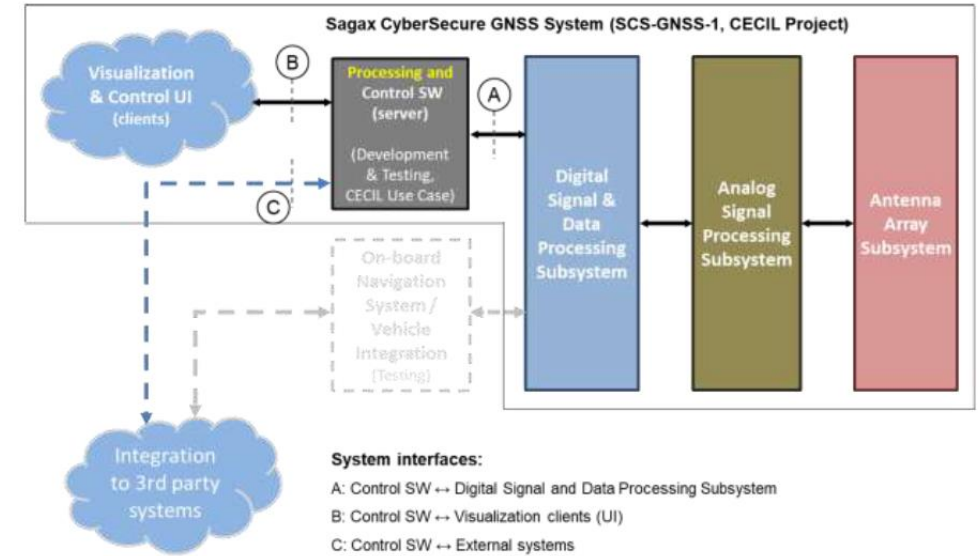
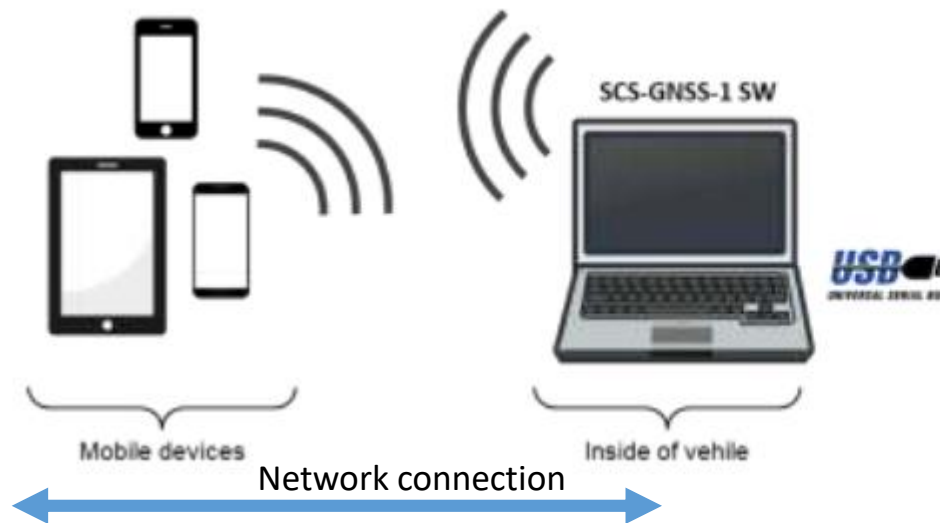
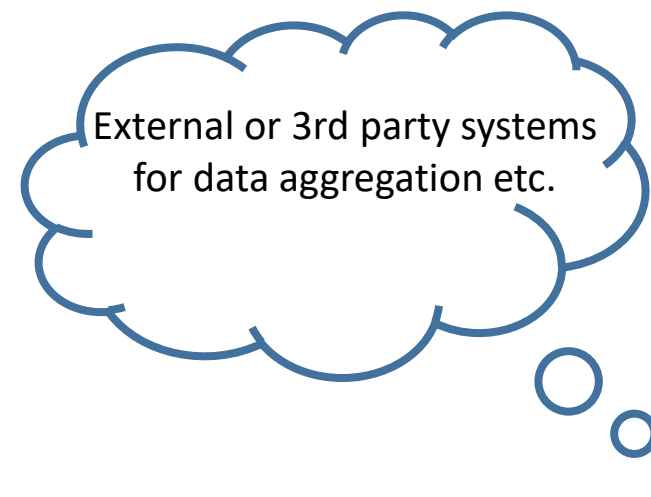


GNSS Spoofing Mitigation technique based on special antenna sensor



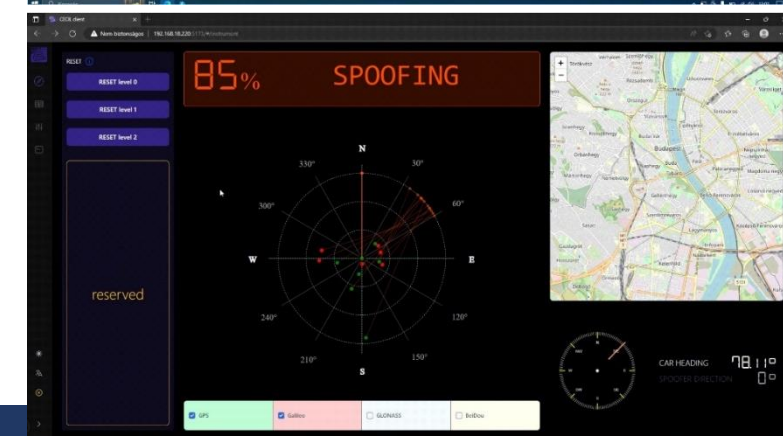
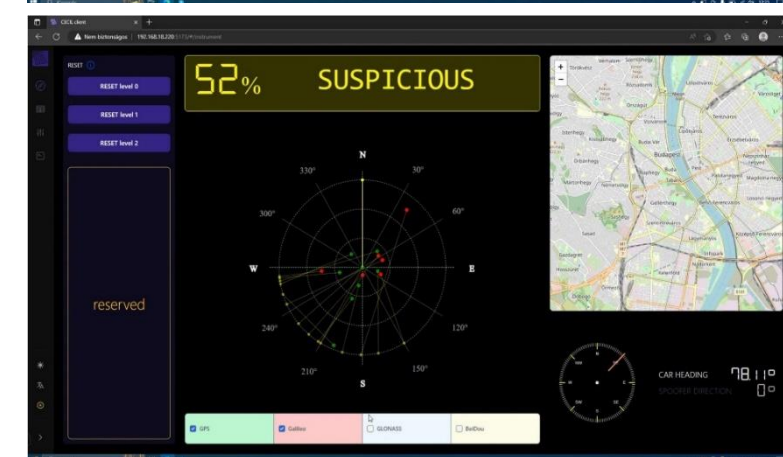
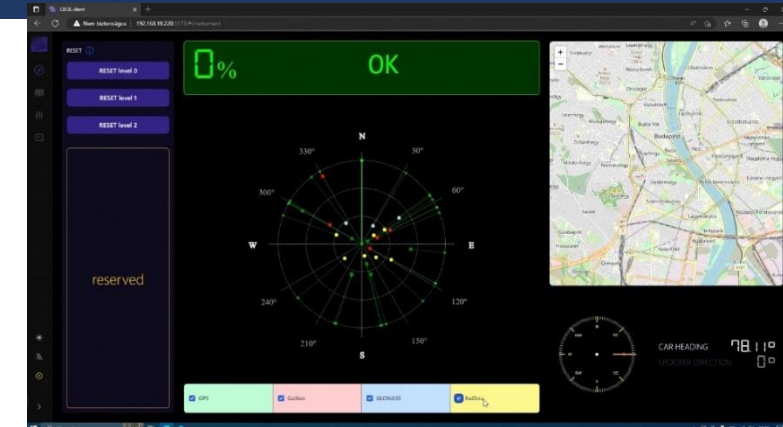
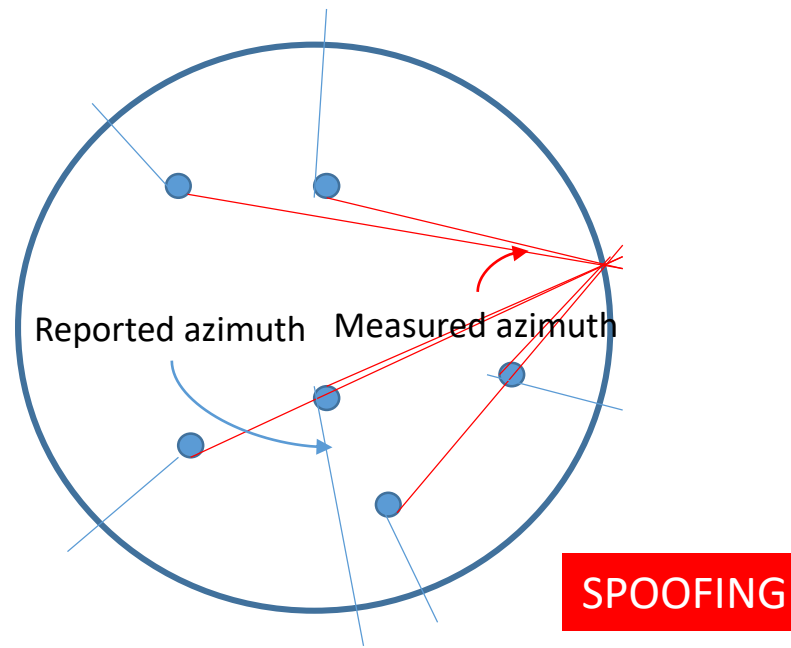
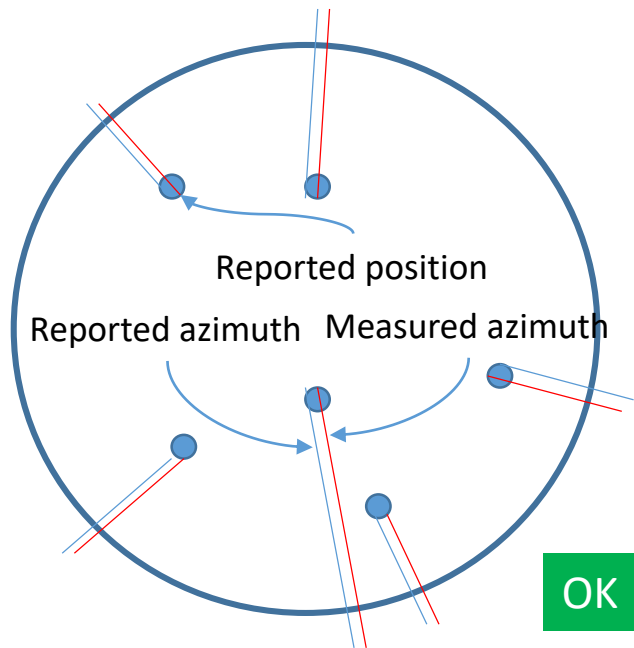
CECIL System Architecture

- CECIL consists of a 4 antenna array and connected analog-to-digital, processing and control board
- The control board is connected to an external computer running the data processing, visualization and external connectivity software

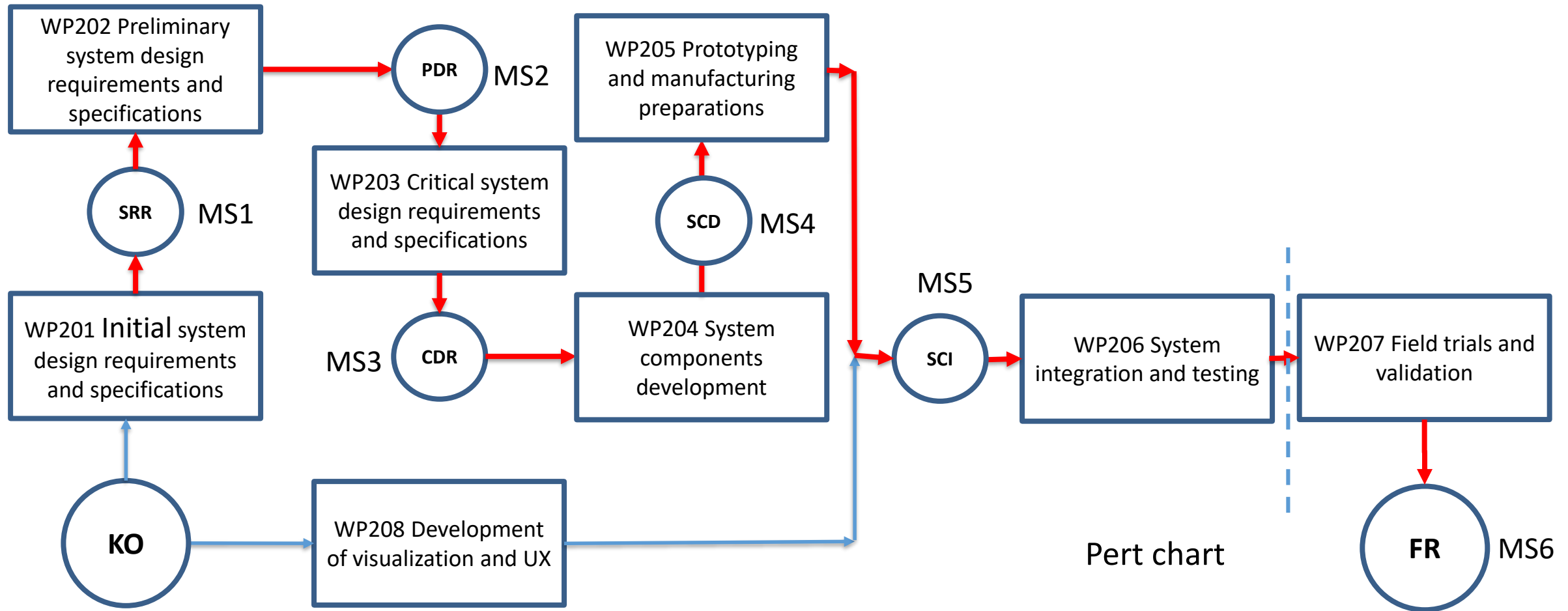


CECIL software functions

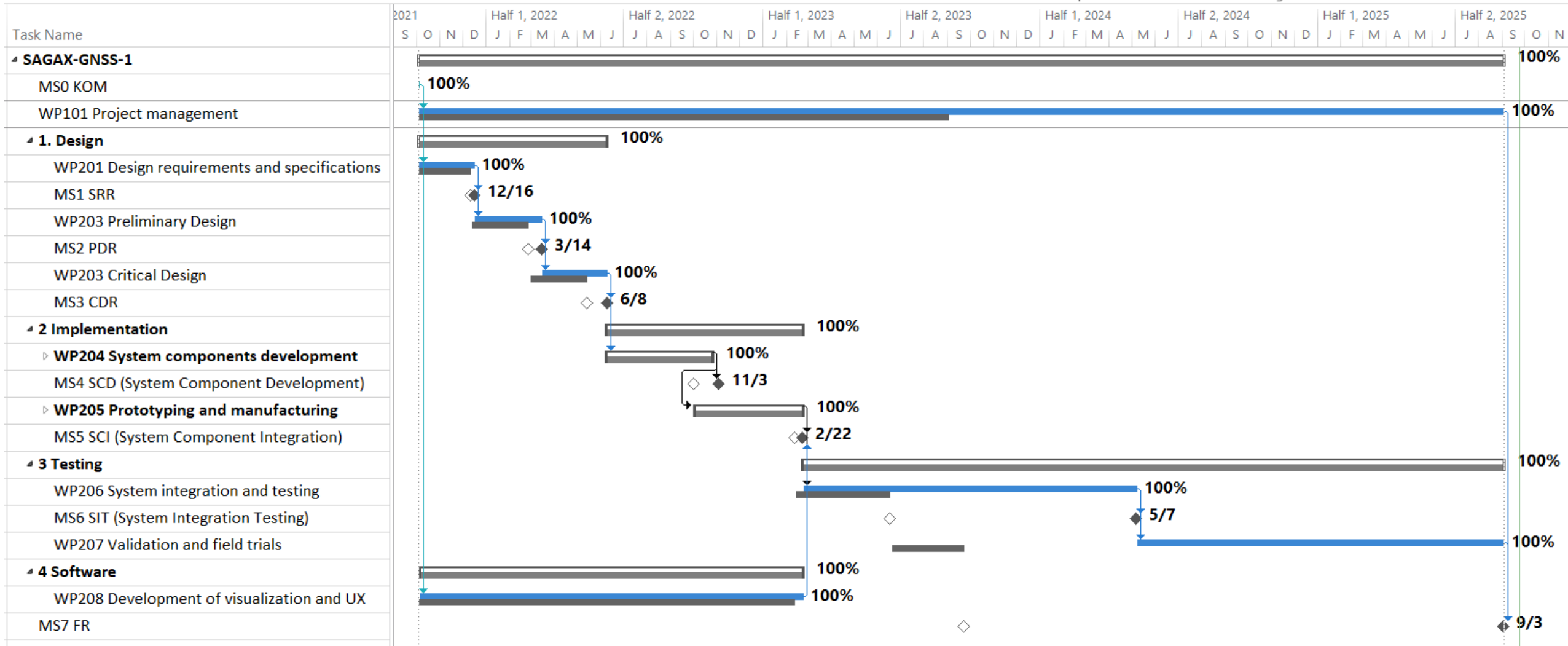
- Calculating the reported azimuth of the reported satellite position
- Compare the reported and measured azimuth by the sensor
- Non-aligned signals where azimuths different are likely spoofed
- Calculate the alignment level and compare the preset thresholds



Project outline: WBS on Pert chart

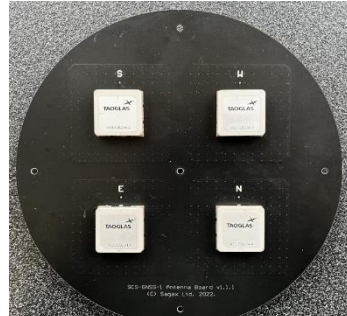
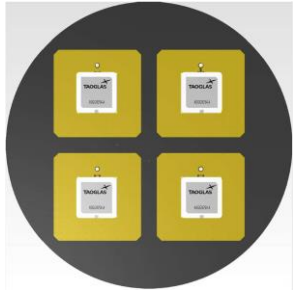


Project outline: tracking-Gantt



Manufacturing and integration

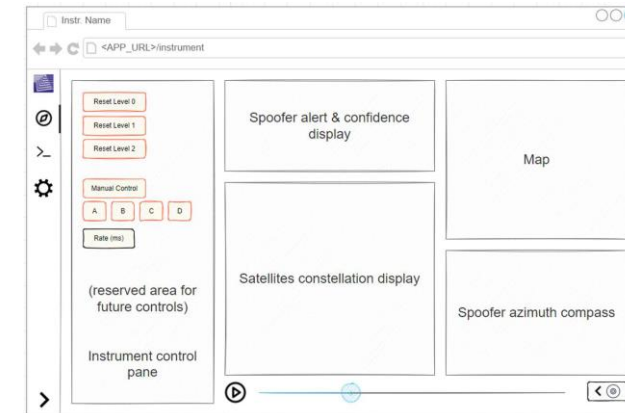
Antenna board



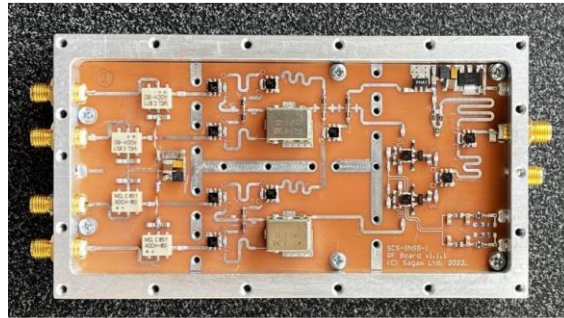
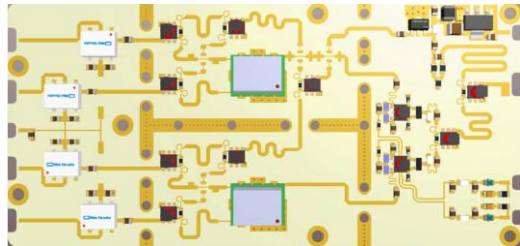
Antenna and sensor assembly



UI software design



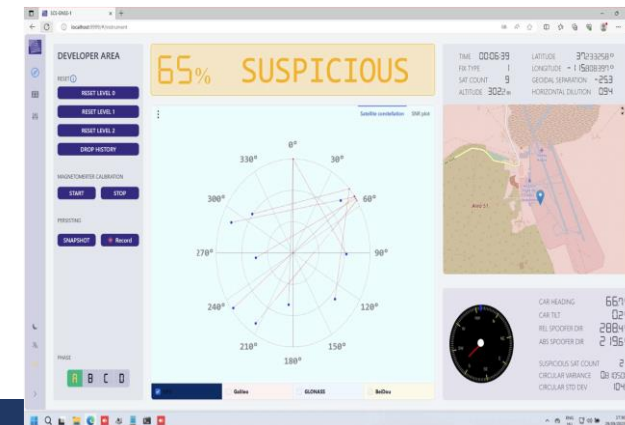
Analog/RF board



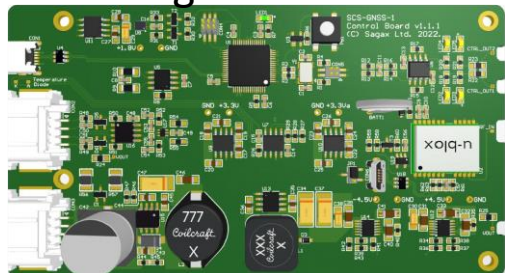
Circuits box



Control and UI software

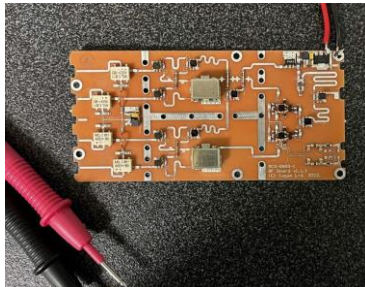
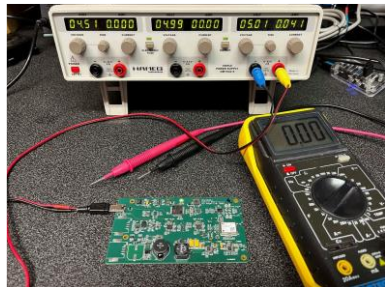


Digital board



Laboratory and field validation

Lab validation



Field validation



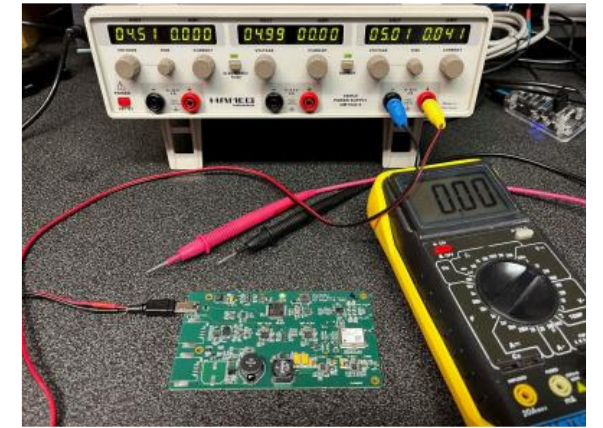
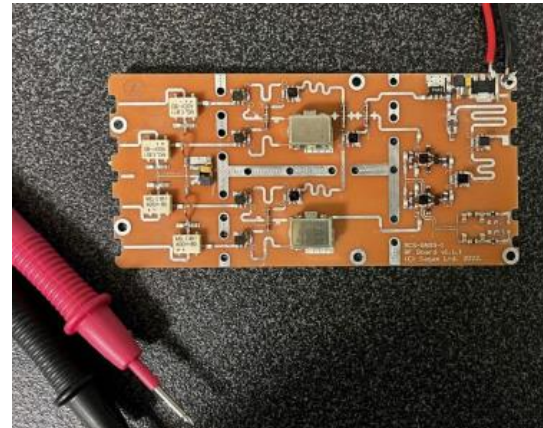
Test drive demos



EMC Lab $\neq$ Antenna Lab

Laboratory test and integration

- Evaluation of the Production of the Components
 - Antenna Boards
 - Analog RF Boards
 - Control Boards
 - Aluminum cages
 - Control and visualization software
- Integrate the overall system ready for field validation and trials

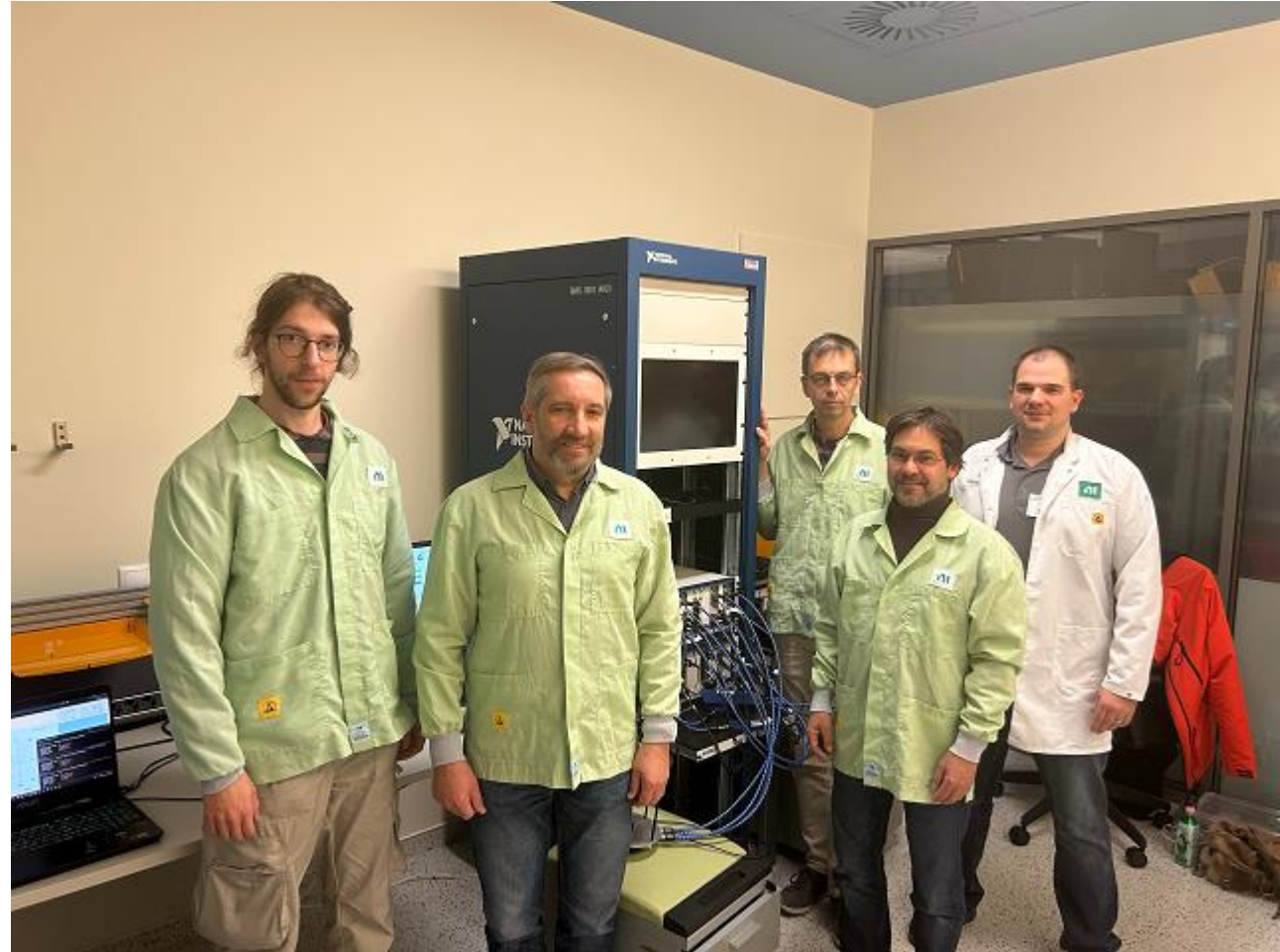


Testing with recorded signals

OPEN INNOVATION LAB NAVISP-EL3-027

<https://navisp.esa.int/project/details/261/show>

- 4ch coherent record and playback system by NI was used
- Recorded signals during the 2024 Jammertest (Norway) with 4 antennas
- Phase coherent playback of the 4 antenna signal connected to the input
- Spoofer well detected 😊



Field validation tests and demonstration

- The scope and criteria
 - To **test and validate the entire prototype system** developed in the SCS-GNSS-1 project in order to ascertain its behavior in a quasi-real life environment
 - Learn about its potential shortcomings in various scenarios.
 - The validation has to show whether if the system fulfils the *User Requirements*
- Types and number of test cases
 - Under ***static conditions*** in order to determine certain operation parameters, like spoofer range, and the required minimum interaction time.
 - Several ***dynamic real-life operating*** environments with *moving vehicle* resulting in *pass/fail results* and/or *likelihoods* on missed detections and false alarms.

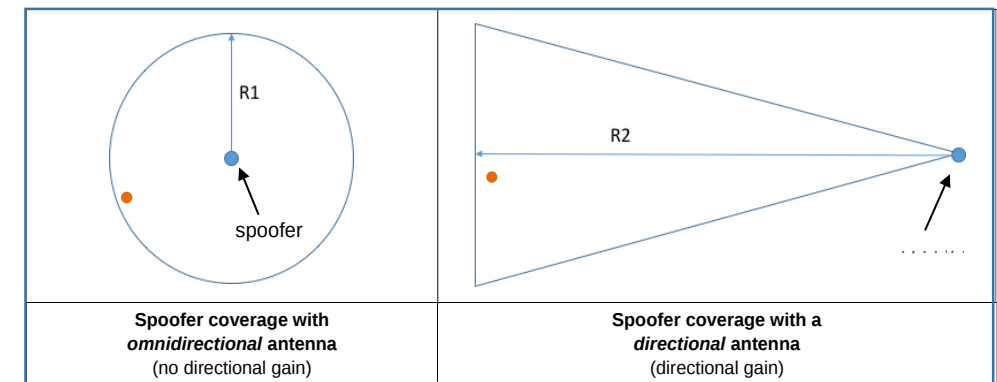
The spoofer device and antennas



HackRF One with Portapack H2 and accessories



Omni- and directional antenna used by the spoofer



Device under test installation



Passenger car used during the test



Antenna array on top of the car



Software on laptop near dashboard

Test drives in different environments



Open



Rural



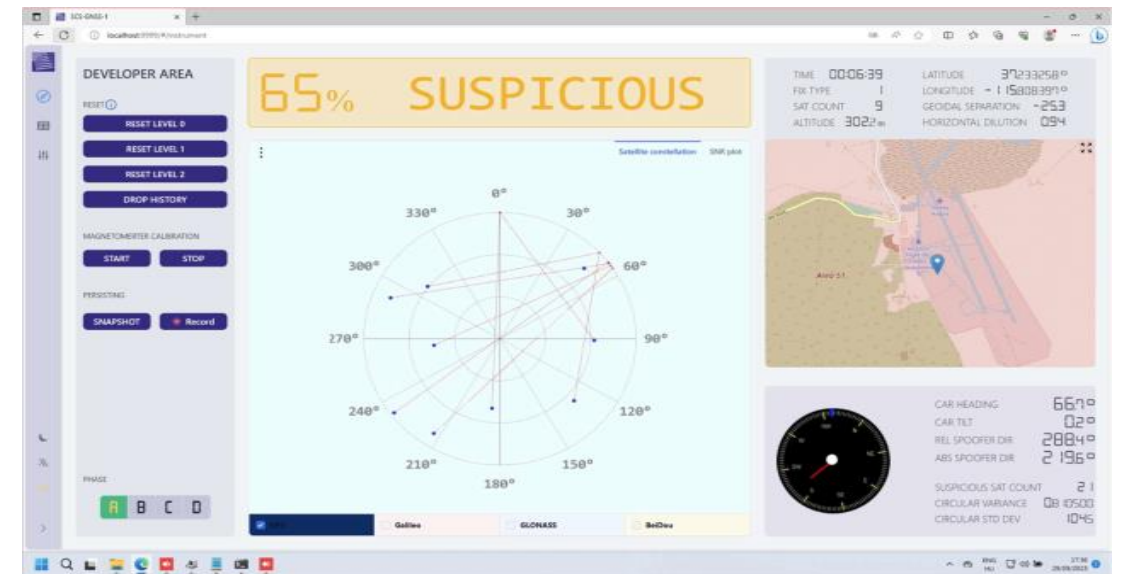
Urban



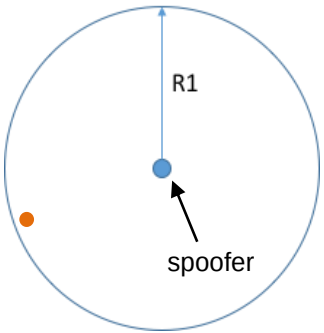
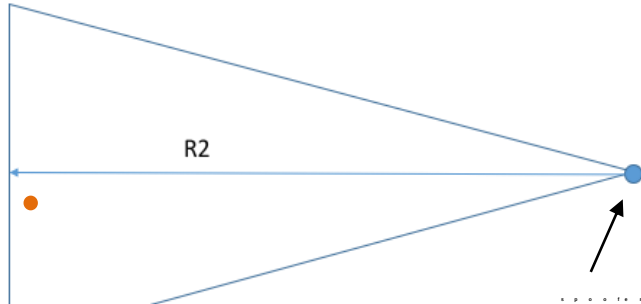
Antenna on top of the car Computer next to dashboard



With control software running

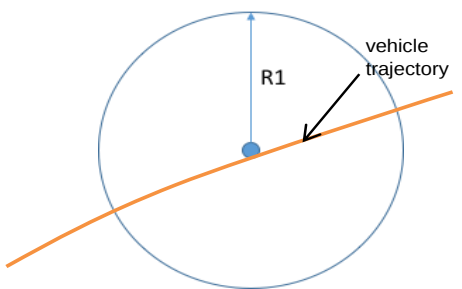
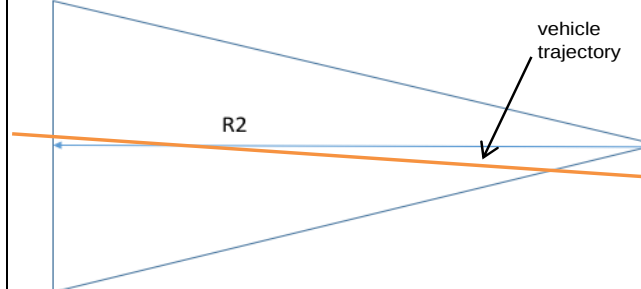


Static test results

	
Spoofers coverage with omnidirectional antenna (no directional gain)	Spoofers coverage with a directional antenna (directional gain)
Expected 'low power' coverage (R1): < 20 m Expected 'high power' coverage (R1): < 80 m	Expected 'low power' coverage(R2): < 60 m Expected 'high power' coverage (R2): < 240 m
Interaction time: ∞ (30 sec, max) (static situation, <i>distance</i> to be tested)	
Environment Planned: "open" (low reflections), "suburb" (mid reflections), and "urban canyon" (high reflections) Tested: "open" (low reflections) only. (See <i>explanation below.</i>)	

The sensitivity and detection speed of our SCS-GNSS1 system in a close-to-the-ideal open field (low reflection) environment					
The can lock to a typical spoofer in a distance less than 200 m. (SR#5) The system detect a typical spoofer and give an initial azimuth angle in not more than 5 sec (SR#5)		Spoofers antenna			
		Omnidirectional		Directed	
Spoofers Power	Low (spoofer power)	Can detect in less than 5 sec:	40 m	Can detect in less than 5 sec:	60 m
		Max detection distance (detection in 30 sec):	120 m	Max detection distance (detection in 30 sec):	180 m
	Boosted with +10 dB	Can detect in less than 5 sec:	100..150 m	Can detect in less than 5 sec:	200..250 m
		Max detection distance (detection in 30 sec):	250 m	Max detection distance (detection in 30 sec):	250..300 m

Dynamic results

	
Spoofers coverage with omnidirectional antenna (no directional gain)	Spoofers coverage with a directional antenna (directional gain)
Originally expected 'low power' coverage (R1): < 20 m Originally expected 'high power' coverage (R1): < 80 m	Originally expected 'low power' coverage (R2): < 60 m Originally expected 'high power' coverage (R2): < 240 m
Interaction time (to be tested) 40 sec, 20 sec, 10 sec, 5 sec, 2 sec (moving, dynamic situation)	
Corresponding speed ranges: (not all are feasible!)	
Low power: ~ 1.8 km/h ... 36 km/h High power: ~ 7.2 km/h ... 144 km/h	Low power: ~ 5.4 km/h ... 108 km/h High power: ~ 21.6 km/h ... 432 km/h
Environment Planned: "open" (low reflections) and "urban canyon" (high reflections) Tested: "open" (low reflections), 'suburb' (mid reflections), and "urban canyon" (high reflections)	

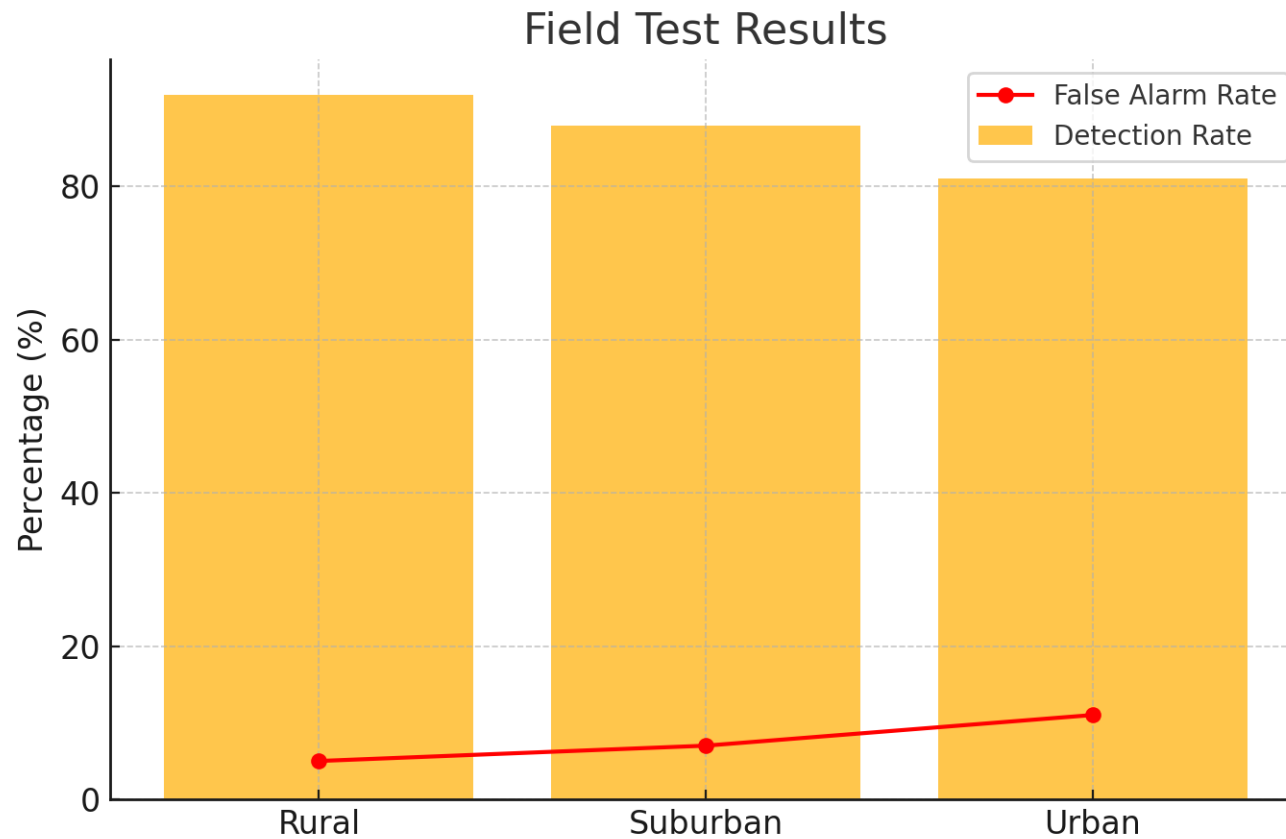
Environment	Spoofers (GPS)	Spoofers location	Driving speed	SCS-GNSS-1 performance		Risk of false alarms	Fine tuning of the algorithm (i.e. modifying the default thresholds)
				Detection rate	False alarm rate		
Rural / Open sky	HackRF One + 30 dB amp. + omnidir. ant	Road margin (Passing by 1..2 m)	Up to 110 km/h	> 95%	< 5 %	Low	Decision sensitivity can be significantly increased by lowering the alert decision threshold
Suburb	HackRF One + 30 dB amp. + omnidir. ant	3..5 m away from the road side. (Garden, balcony or window of a house.)	Up to 45 km/h	80-100%	< 20 %	Low /Mid	Default thresholds
					<10 %		slightly increased
Urban canyon	HackRF One + 30 dB amp. + omnidir. ant	Betw. high buildings, at ground level. (~ 20m from road and buildings)	Up to 40 km/h	~ 80 %	< 20 %	High	slightly increased
					<10 %		increased

DEMO VIDEO:

In vehicle at 110km/h speed
Spoofer detected on the roadside



Field test results in different environment



Summary of experiences

- Environment counts

In urban canyon, the situation is very unpredictable, results are volatile, and hardly repeatable, *blind spots for missing detections* and *hot spots for fake alarms* are challenging phenomena.

- Power counts

A typical low-cost, easily available spoofers (like maker-style SDR based spoofers just as the HackRF one) usually have low power to that makes the detection (but also the spoofing) difficult from a realistic, larger distance. Even relatively simple power amplifiers (e.g. 10..30 dB ones) significantly increase the coverage

- Trade-off between Sensitivity and False Alarms

In all scenarios the fine tuning of the 'sensitivity' (that is, the decision making threshold) have been possible. It can be automatized based on the vehicle speed and location data.

Future outlook

<https://navisp.esa.int/project/details/327/show>

Interference Testbed
NAVISP-EL3-032

navisp
Driving **PNT** Innovation



<https://navisp.esa.int/project/details/261/show>

OPEN LAB
NAVISP-EL3-027



Dual PCBA w/ discret components

CECIL



Multi-chip module

CECIL+



Integrated chip

CECIL++

CPRA Antenna

MIL-grade sensor

Invented, designed and



Increased
European resilience
autonomy
in PNT

Summary

- Problem: GNSS spoofing which might be higher threat than jamming
- Mitigation: physical/antenna domain sensor
- Project: designed, manufactured, tested, validated and field demonstrated
- Further: mobile or static deployment and further developments

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