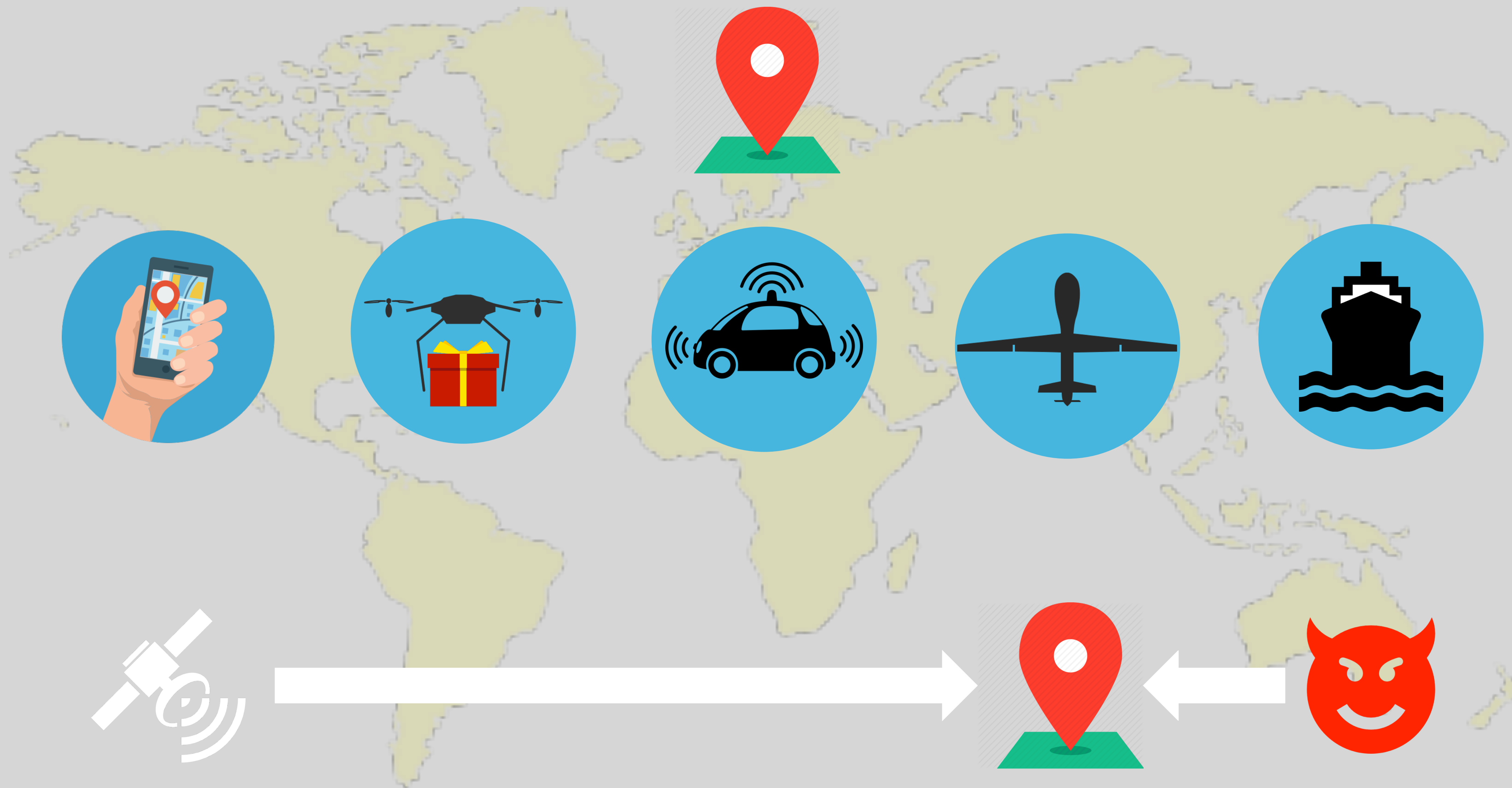


# **Security of GPS/INS based On-road Location Tracking Systems**

**Sashank Narain, Aanjhan Ranganathan, Guevara Noubir**  
**Northeastern University**



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### GPS Spoof Hits Geneva Motor Show

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Mike Wehner—2016-07-26 02:54 pm | Last updated 2017-04-20 03:57 pm

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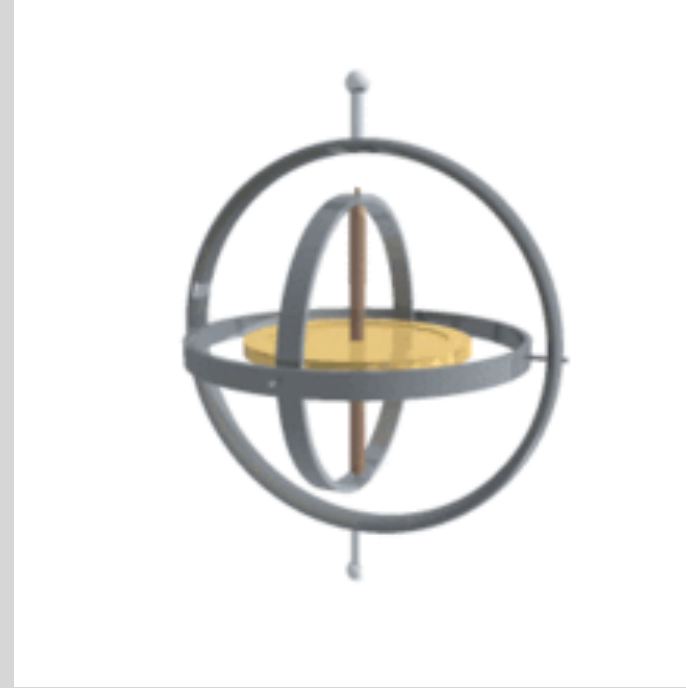
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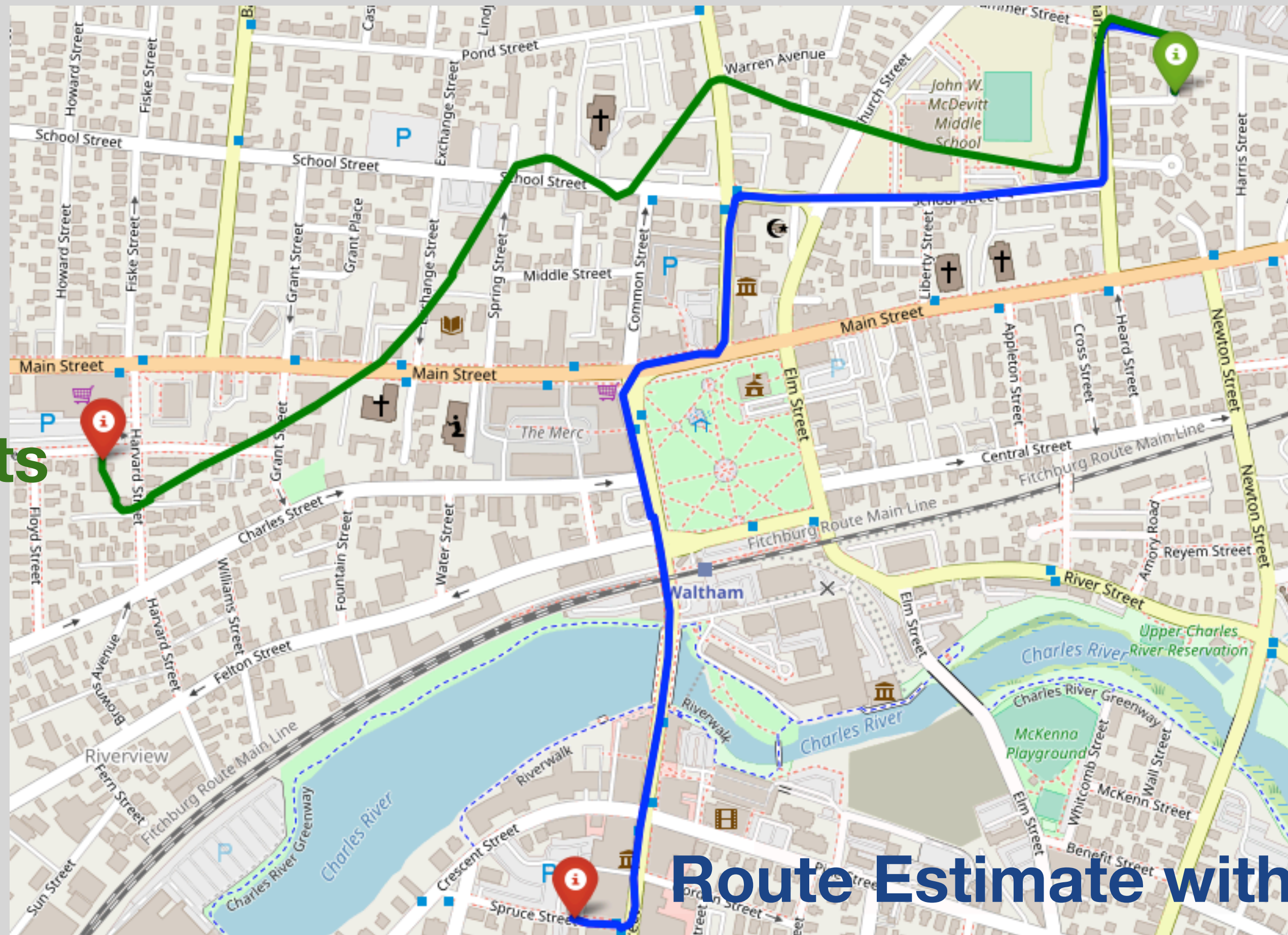
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## Researchers commandeer £50m superyacht with GPS-spoofing





No constraints



Route Estimate with Road Constraints



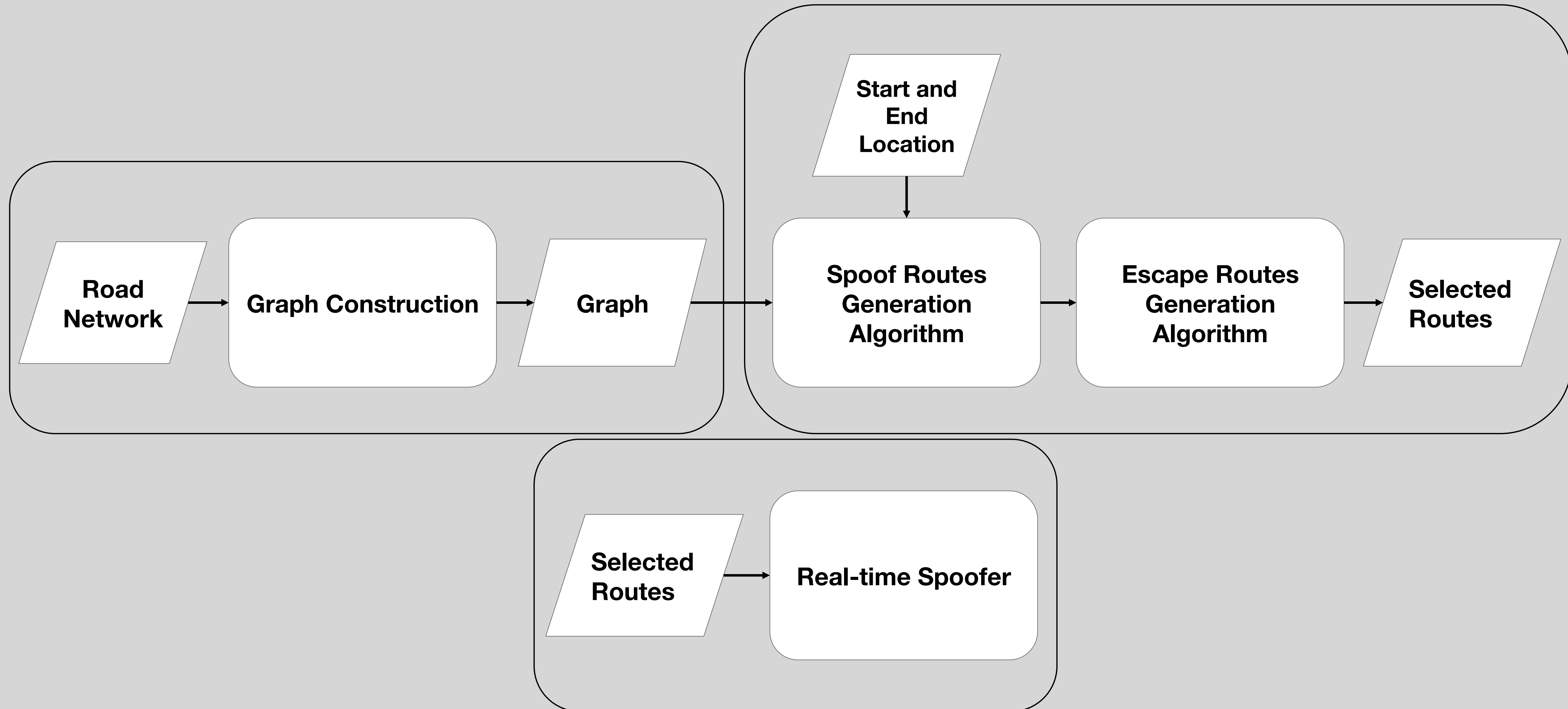
Given a roadmap and  
assuming inertial sensor data is monitored  
(in addition to GPS)

**Is it possible for an attacker to spoof their  
navigation path / final destination?**

# Contributions

- **Developed algorithms that derive potential destinations** reachable without raising an alarm
  - Leveraging regular patterns that exist in urban road networks
  - Rendering any GPS/INS based monitoring system **useless**
- **First real-time integrated GPS/INS spoofer** that accounts for traffic fluidity, lights and stop signs
  - Dynamically generates GPS spoofing signals
  - And it works in the real world!

# High-level Attack Overview

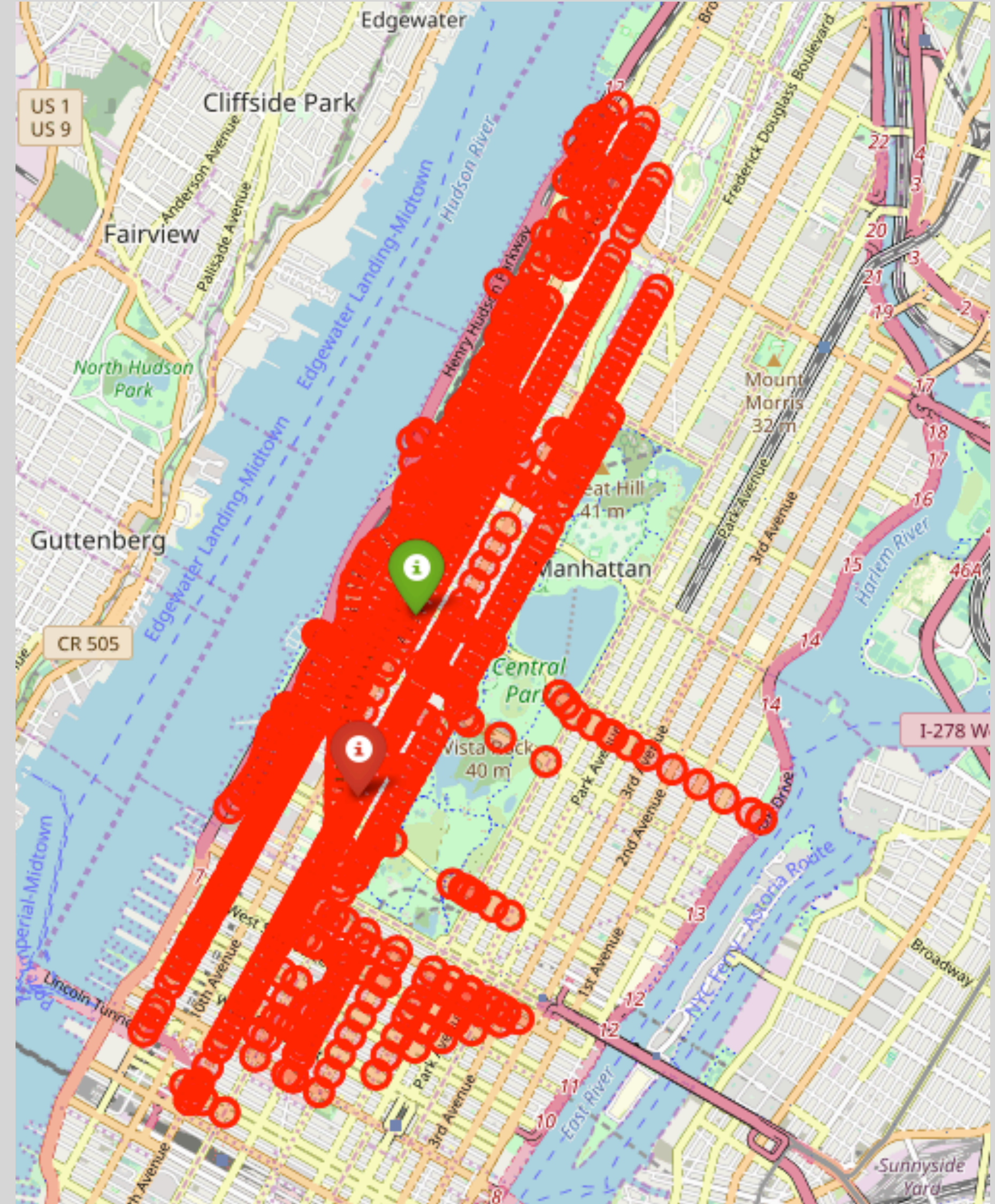




# A Visual Representation



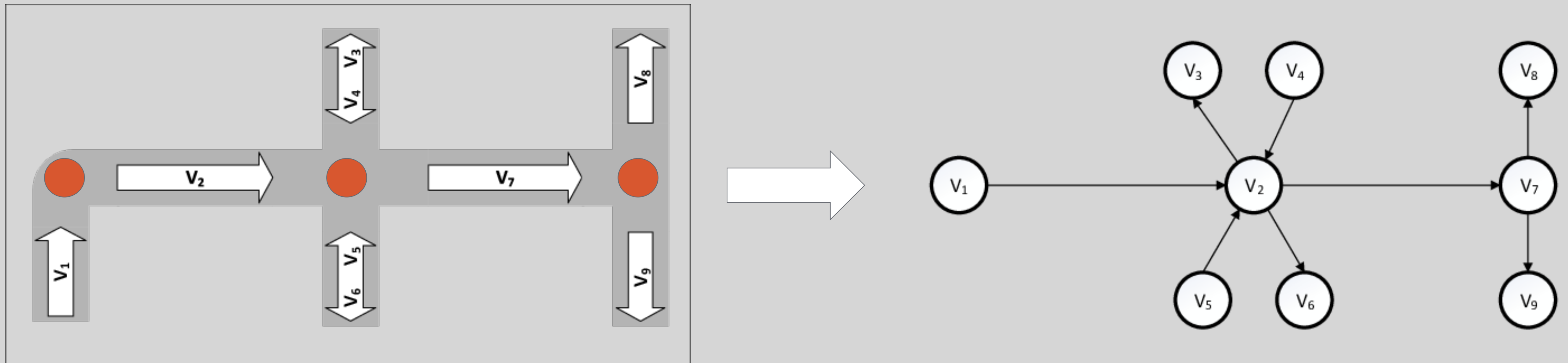
**Attack  
Algorithm**





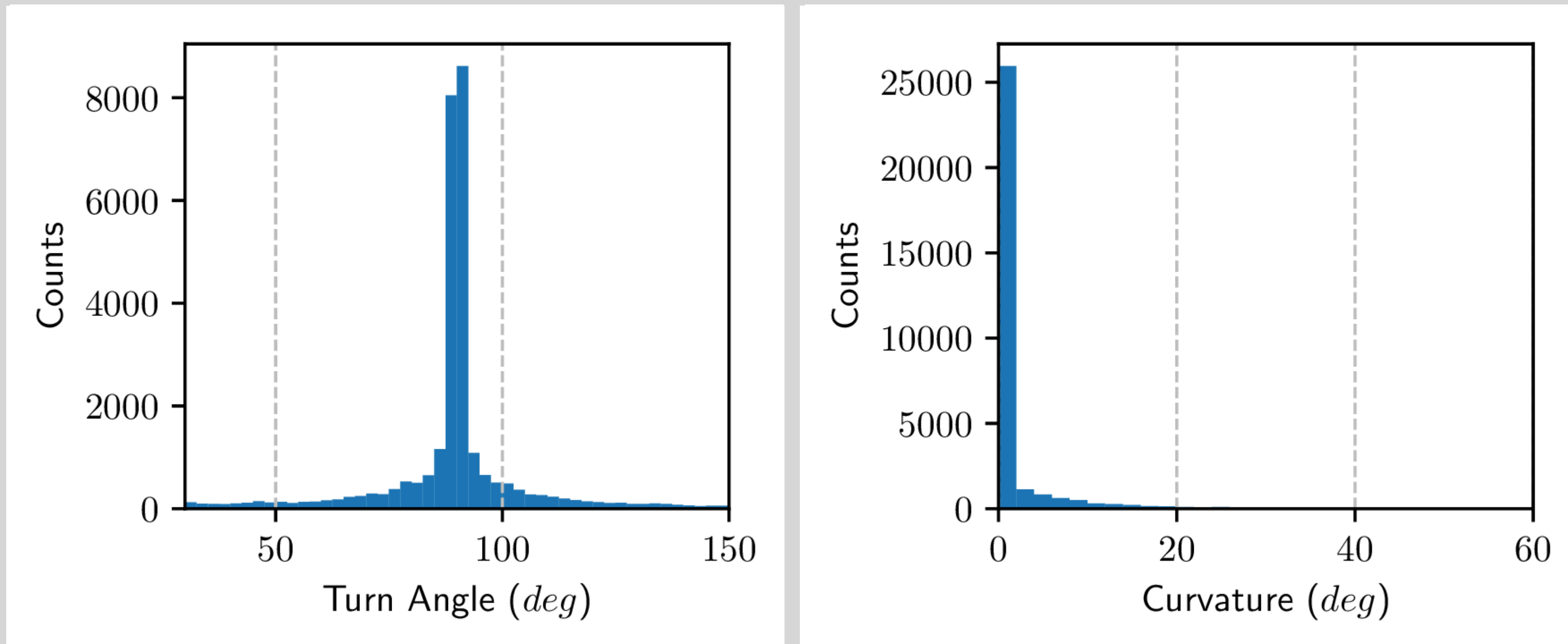
# Graph Construction

- **Edges** → Intersections
  - Contains turn angle
- **Vertices** → Road between Intersections
  - Contains curvature + travel time



# Intuition for Spoof Routes Generation

- **Maximize Probability of Spoofing**
  - Use curves + turns common in the road network



**Distribution for Manhattan**



# Spoof Routes Generation Algorithm

- **Extended Depth First Search**

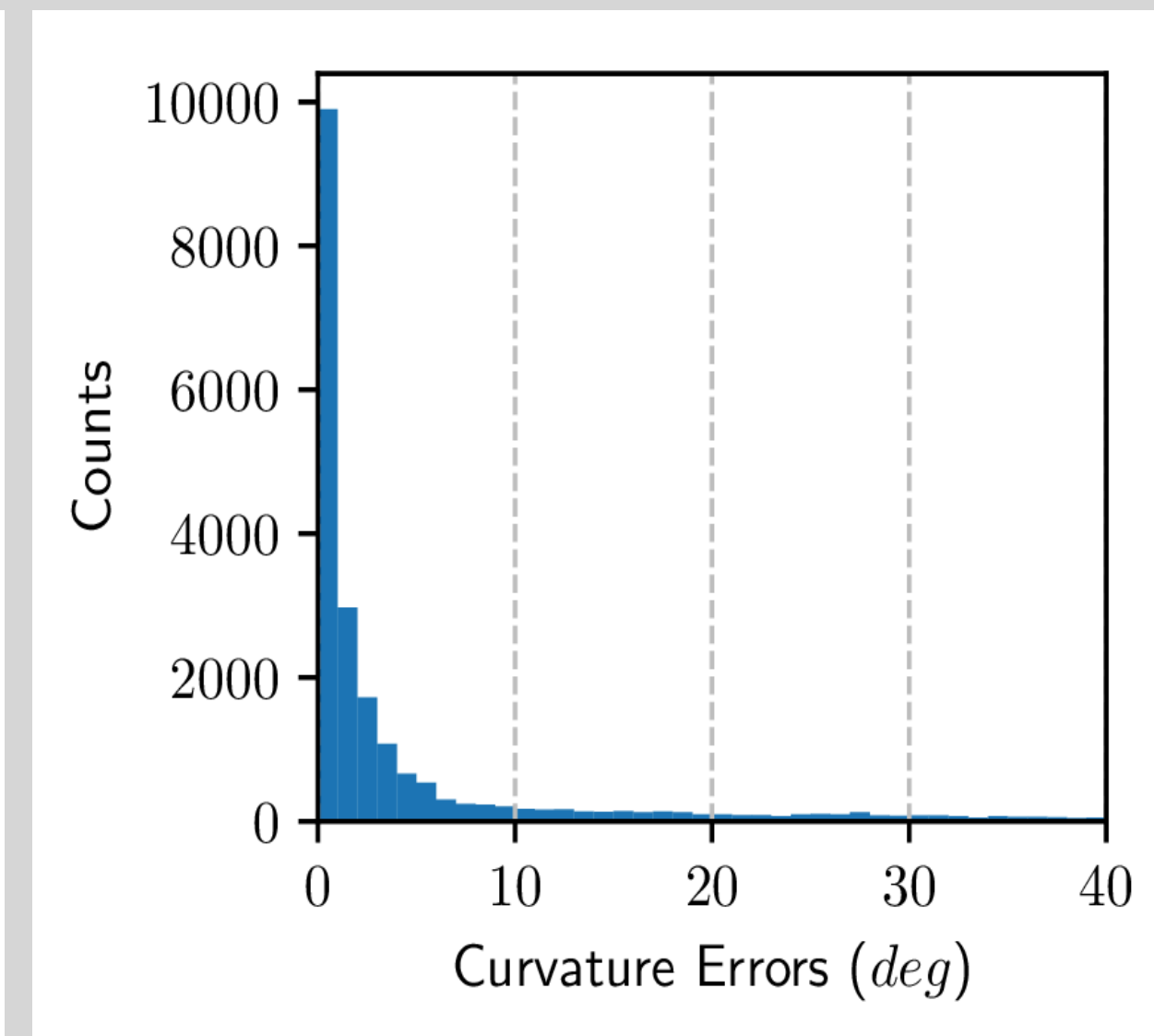
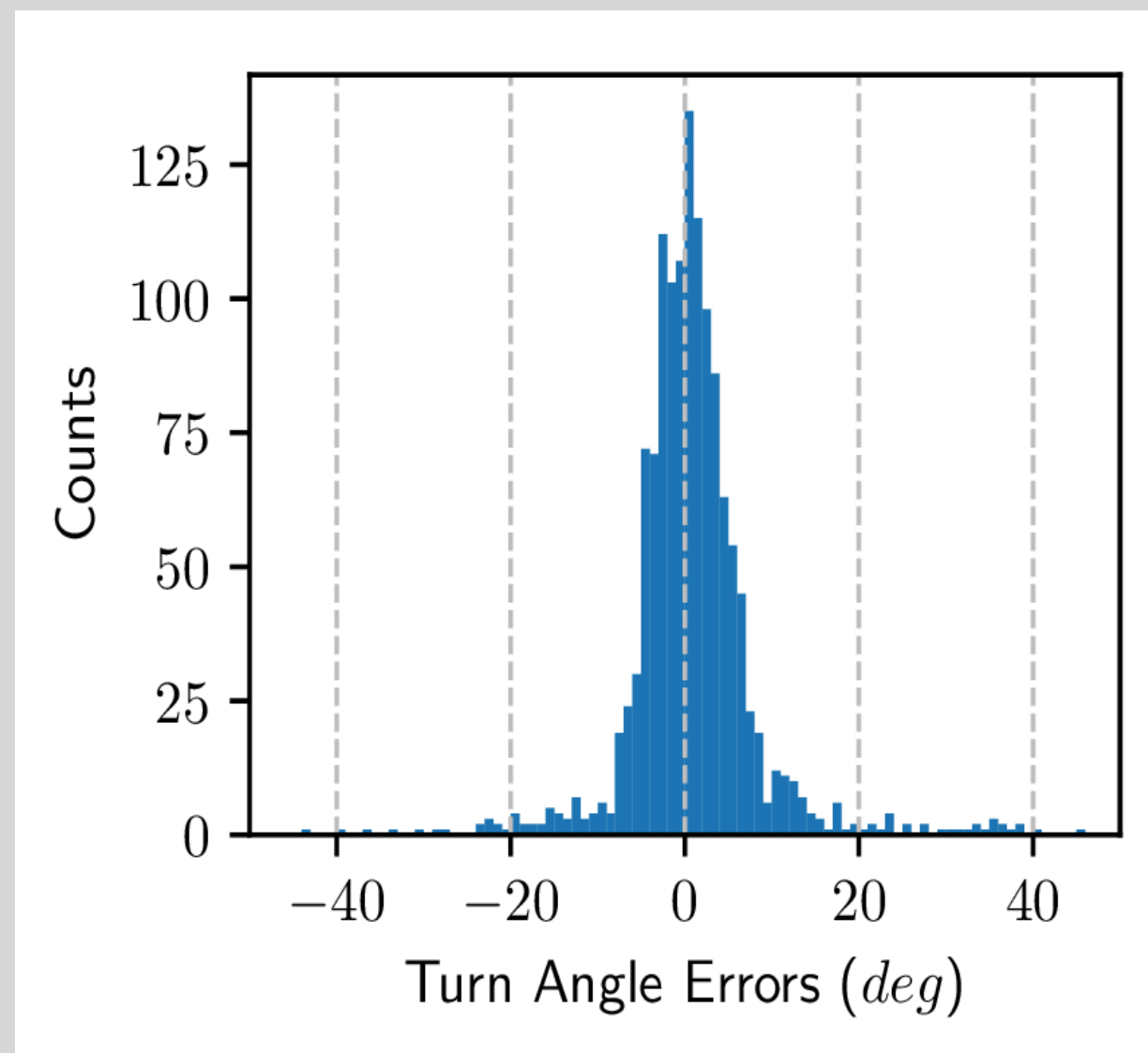
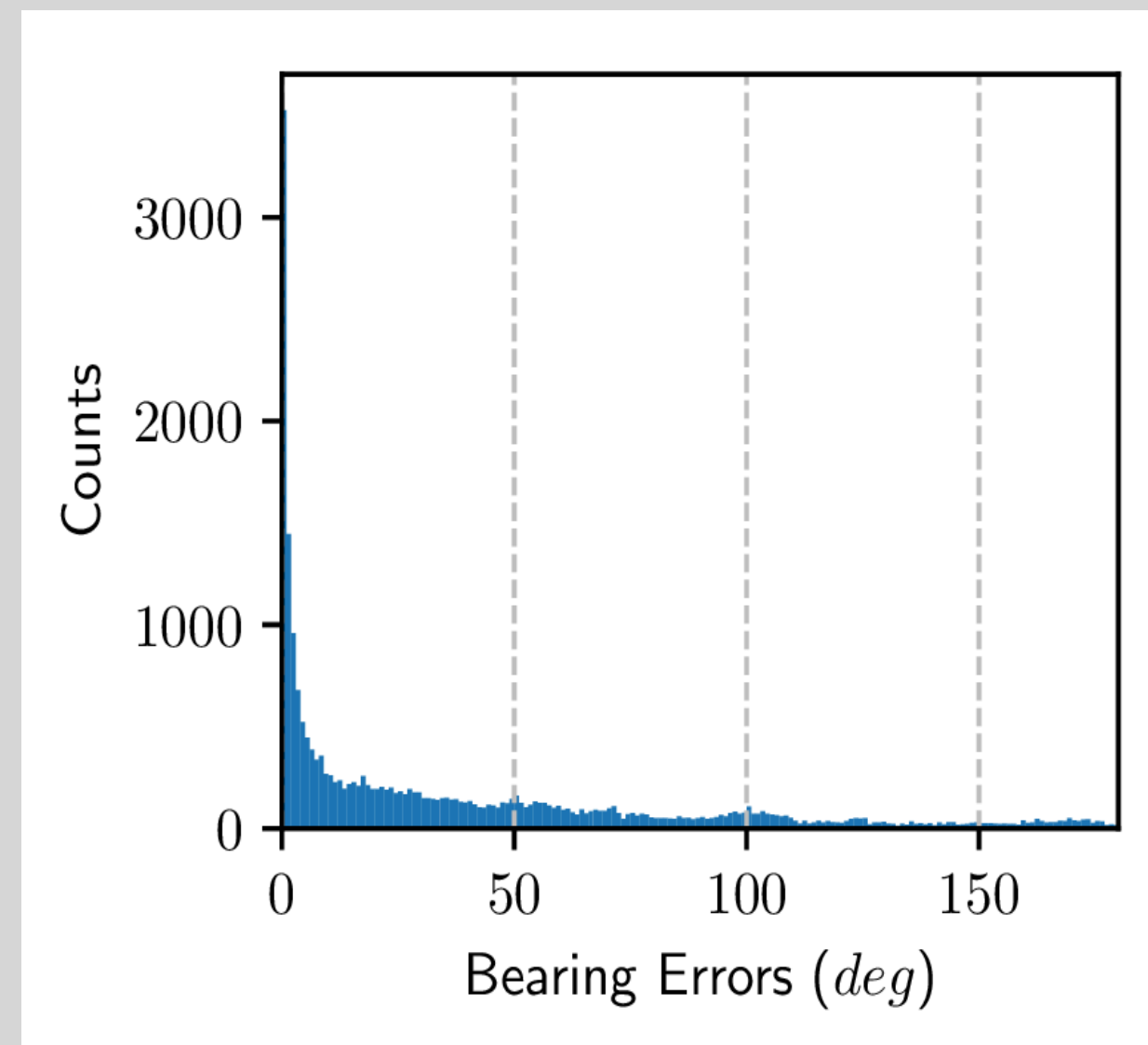
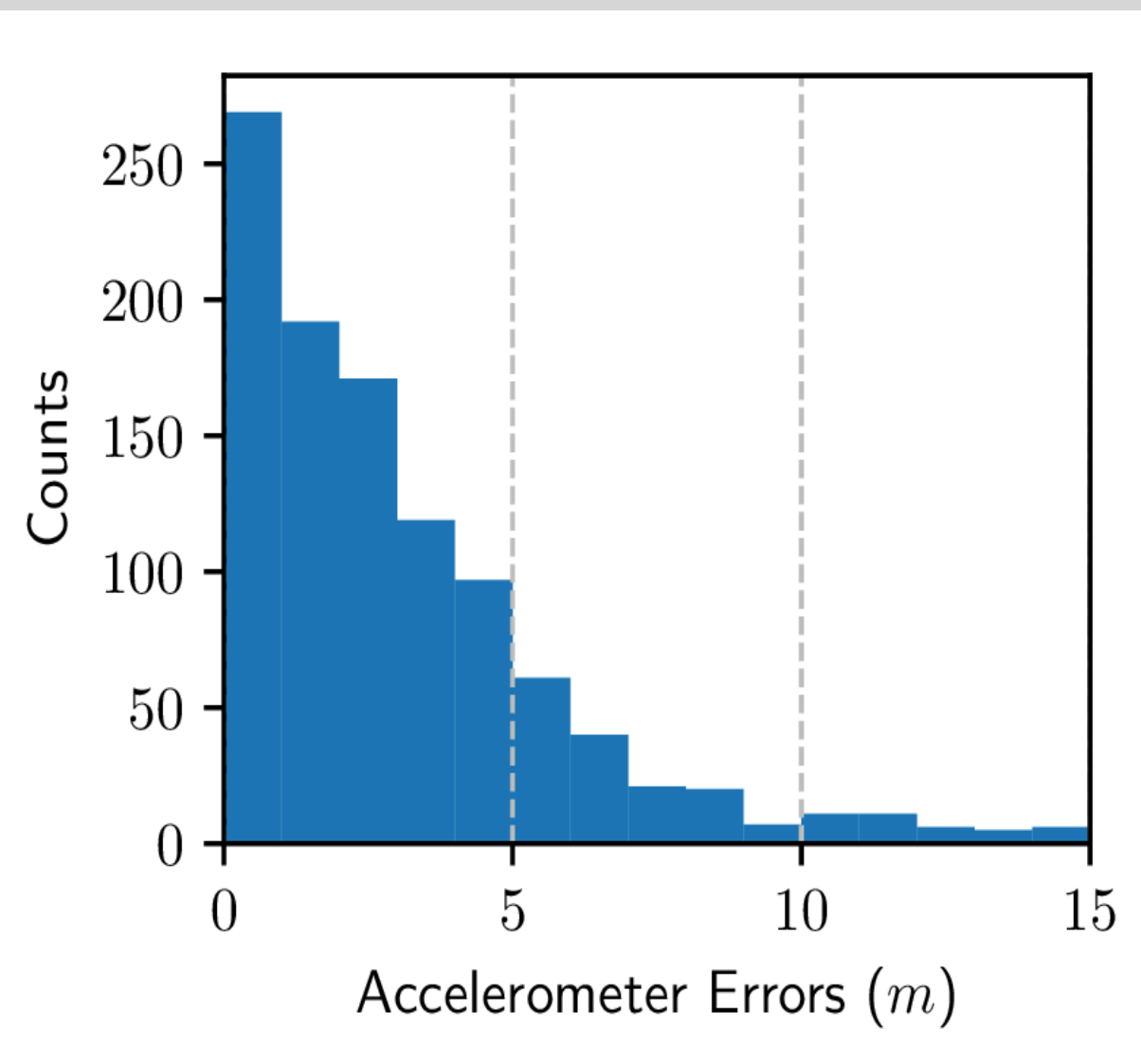
- **Filter routes** unlikely to reach destination
  - Define constraints for likely routes
  - Direct routes towards destination
- **Score routes** that reach destination
  - Using turn angles and road curvature
  - Compound probability of all vertices in path
- Select the top scoring paths

```
Input:  $G = (V, E)$ ,  $Loc(s)$ ,  $Loc(d)$ ,  $N_P$ 
Output:  $\mathcal{S} = \{p_1, \dots, p_{N_P}\}$ 

1 Initialization :  $\mathcal{S} \leftarrow \emptyset$ ;  $p \leftarrow []$ ;  $v \leftarrow \emptyset$ 
2  $s \leftarrow getSourceVertex(Loc(s))$ 
3  $d \leftarrow getDestinationVertex(Loc(d))$ 
4 GenerateSpoofedPaths( $s, d$ )
5  $\mathcal{S} \leftarrow selectTopPaths(\mathcal{S}, N_P)$ 
6 function GenerateSpoofedPaths( $s, d$ ) :
7    $p \leftarrow p + [s]$ 
8    $v \leftarrow v \cup \{s\}$ 
9   if  $s = d$  then
10     $\mathcal{S} \leftarrow \mathcal{S} \cup \{p\}$ 
11  else
12    for  $e \in V$  such that  $(s, e) \in E$  do
13      if  $e \notin v$  and  $Filter(s, e, p)$  passed then
14         $p.score \leftarrow p.score * Score(s, e, p)$ 
15        GenerateSpoofedPaths( $e, d$ )
16      end
17   $p \leftarrow p - [s]$ 
18   $v \leftarrow v - \{s\}$ 
```

# Intuition for Escape Routes Generation

- **Exploit noise sensitivity of sensors**
  - Accelerometers sensitive to road irregularities
  - Magnetometer sensitive to vehicle magnets
  - Gyroscopes can have significant drift





# Escape Routes Generation Algorithm

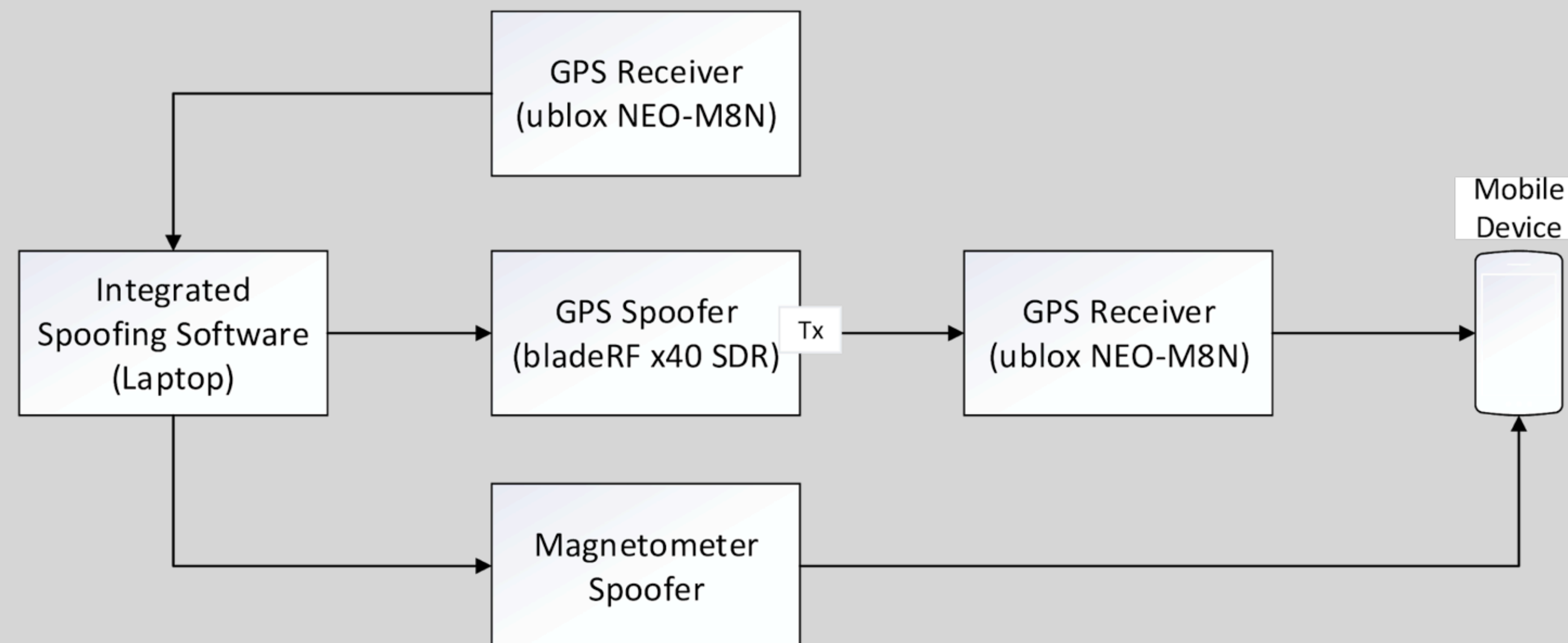
- **Extended Depth First Search**

- Ensures **spoof routes and escape routes are topologically similar**
  - Accounting for varying road curvatures and lengths
  - **Renders any sensor monitoring useless**
- **Filter paths** dissimilar to spoof routes
  - Exceeded the turn count
  - Turn, Curvature or Distance is outside noise threshold

```
Input:  $G = (V, E), \mathcal{S}_I$   
Output:  $N_P, \mathcal{E} = \{p_1, \dots, p_{N_P}\}$   
1 Initialization :  $\mathcal{E} \leftarrow \emptyset; N_P \leftarrow 0; p \leftarrow []; v \leftarrow \emptyset$   
2  $s \leftarrow \text{getSourceVertex}(\mathcal{S}_I)$   
3  $t \leftarrow \text{getTurnsCount}(\mathcal{S}_I)$   
4  $\text{GenerateEscapePaths}(s, t)$   
5 function  $\text{GenerateEscapePaths}(s, t)$  :  
6    $p \leftarrow p + [s]$   
7    $v \leftarrow v \cup \{s\}$   
8   if  $\text{len}(p.\text{turns}) > t$  then  
9     return  
10  if  $\text{len}(p.\text{turns}) = t$  then  
11     $\mathcal{E} \leftarrow \mathcal{E} \cup \{p\}$   
12     $N_P \leftarrow N_P + 1$   
13  for  $e \in V$  such that  $(s, e) \in E$  do  
14    if  $e \notin v$  and  $\text{Filter}(s, e, p, \mathcal{S}_I)$  passed then  
15       $p.\text{curve} \leftarrow \text{updateCurvature}(s, e, p)$   
16       $p.\text{turns} \leftarrow \text{updateTurns}(s, e, p)$   
17       $p.\text{score} \leftarrow p.\text{score} * \text{Score}(s, e, p, \mathcal{S}_I)$   
18       $\text{GenerateEscapePaths}(c, t)$   
19  end  
20   $p \leftarrow p - [s]$   
21   $v \leftarrow v - \{s\}$ 
```

# Real-World Spoofer

- **Generic system** usable in many different attack scenarios
- In case of Road Networks -
  - First implementation to account for **traffic fluidity**, **traffic lights** and **stop signs**
  - On receipt of driver's real (spooft) location -
    - Calculates a escape location and bearing **efficiently within ~5 ms**
    - **GPS spoofer generates NMEA packets** for escape location
    - **Magnetometer Spoofer generates magnetic field** for escape bearing



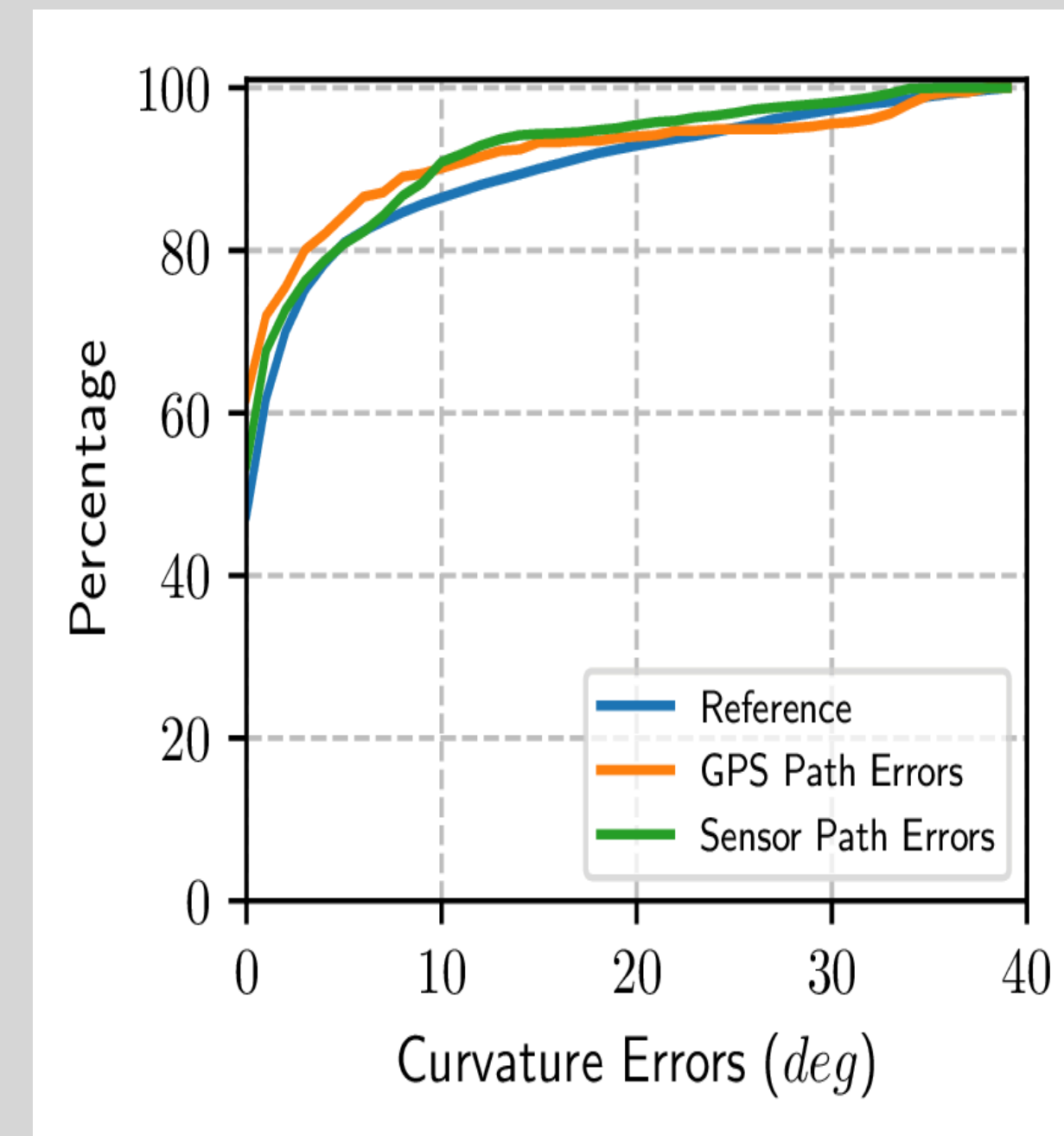
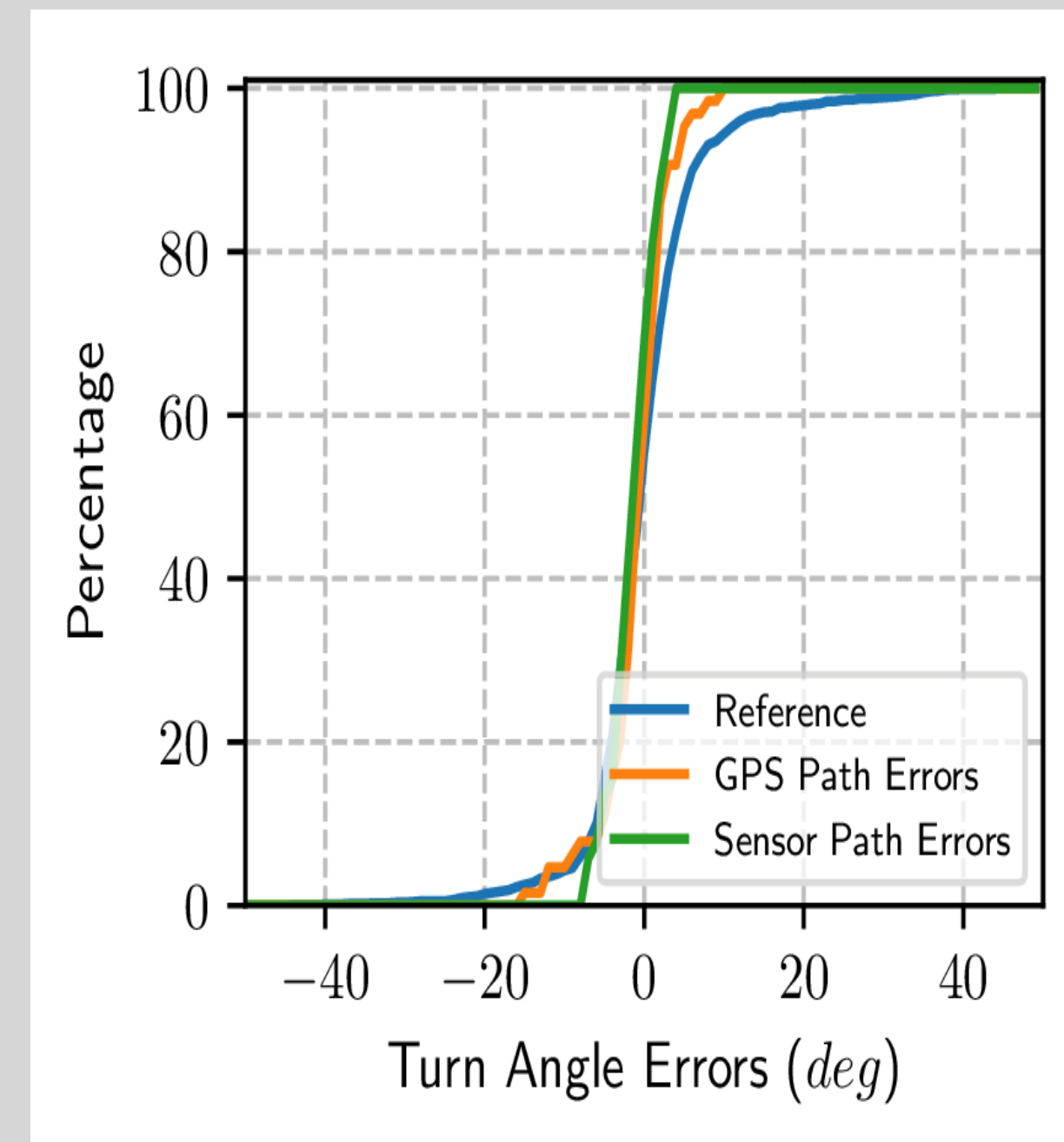
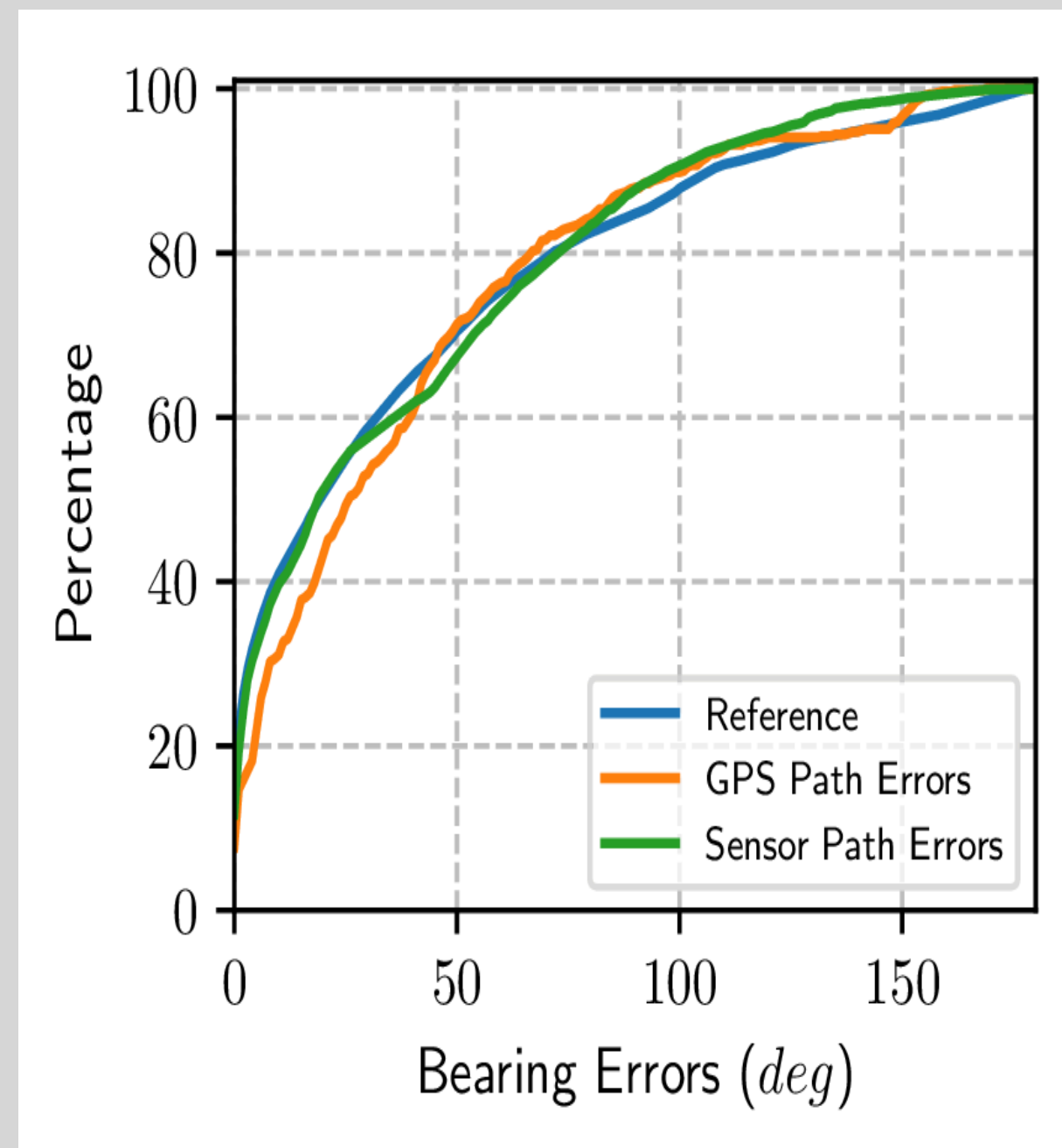
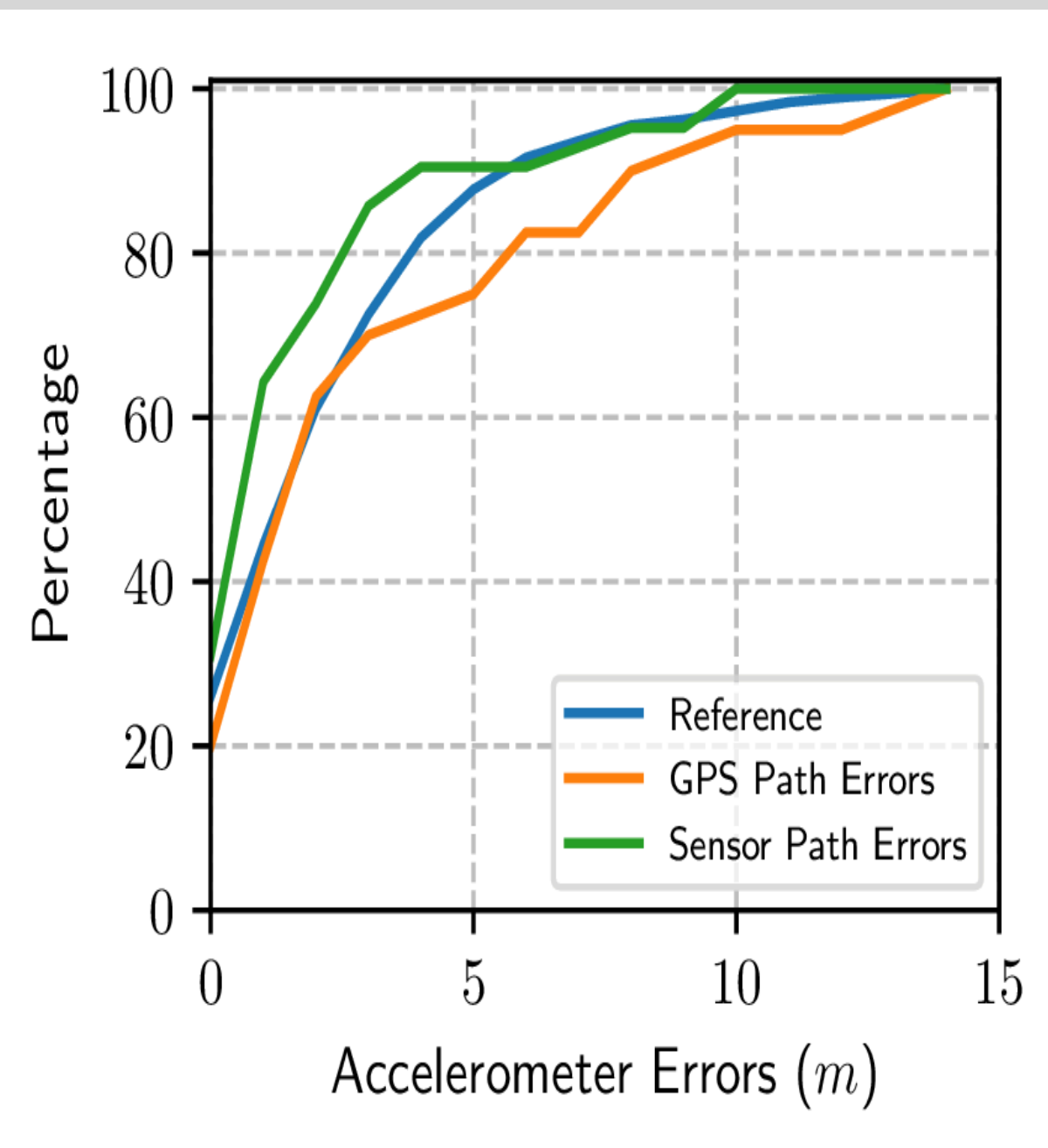






# Real-World Spoofer Evaluation

- **GPS lock never lost during 10 routes**
- **Maximum delay of 60 ms** between spoof and escape location
- **All sensor errors within range** of error threshold





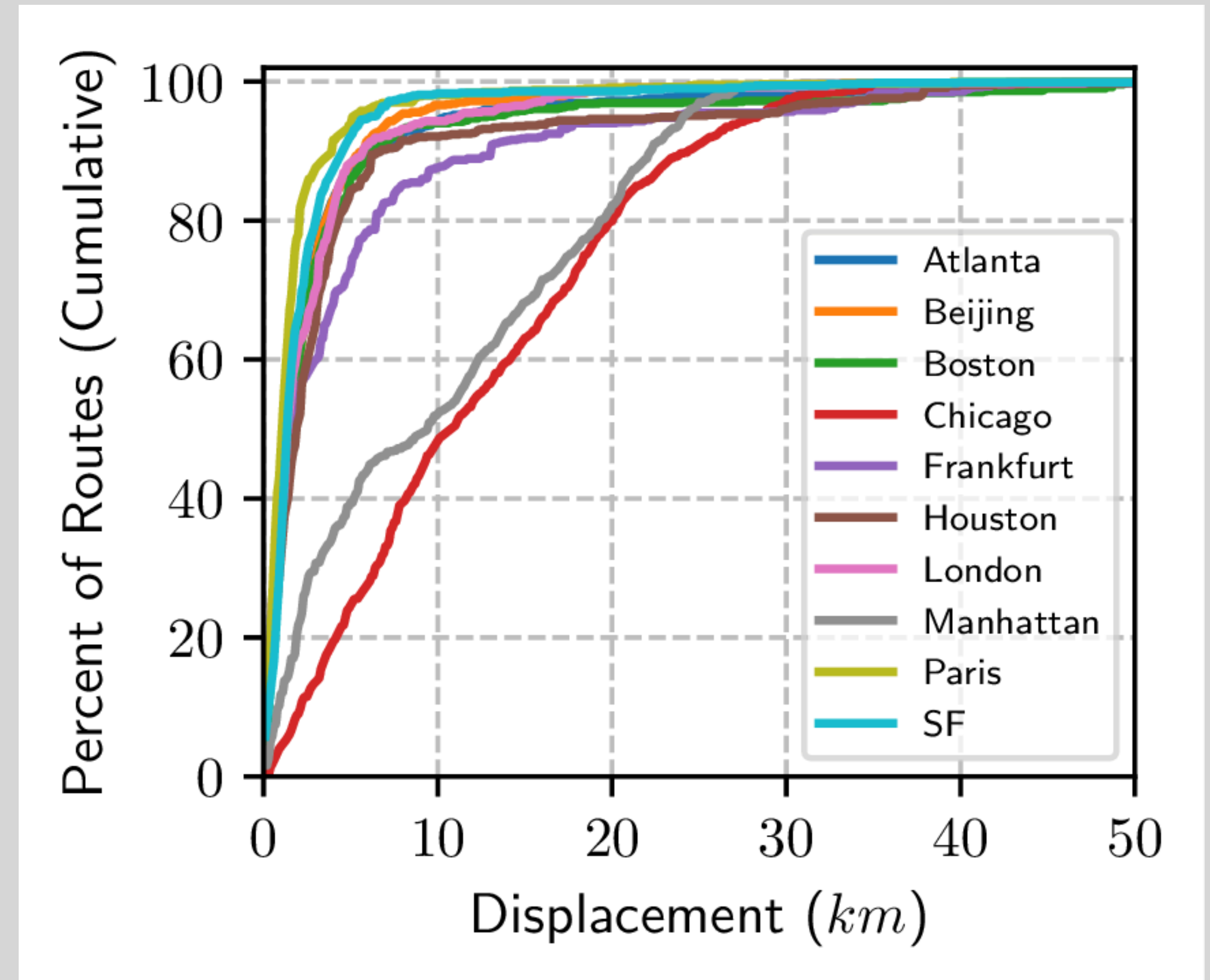
# Evaluation Methodology

- **Perform simulations for 10 global cities**
  - Major transportation and logistic hubs
  - With **diverse road networks**
    - Structured & Grid-like -> E.g., Manhattan and Chicago
    - High variability -> E.g., London and Paris
    - Somewhere in between -> E.g., Boston and San Francisco
- **Simulate 1000 routes in each chosen city**
  - “Residence” to “Office” using OpenStreetMap
  - Measure -
    - **Maximum Displacement from Intended Destination**
    - **Estimated Coverage Area of Escape Routes**

Atlanta
Beijing
Boston
Chicago
Frankfurt
Houston
London
Manhattan
Paris
San Francisco

# Maximum Displacement from Intended Destination

- **Significant Deviation possible**
  - In **grid-like** cities
    - **> 10 km for 50% routes**
    - **> 20 km for 20% routes**
  - In other cities
    - **> 10 km for 10% routes**
    - **Several routes with 30-40 km deviation**





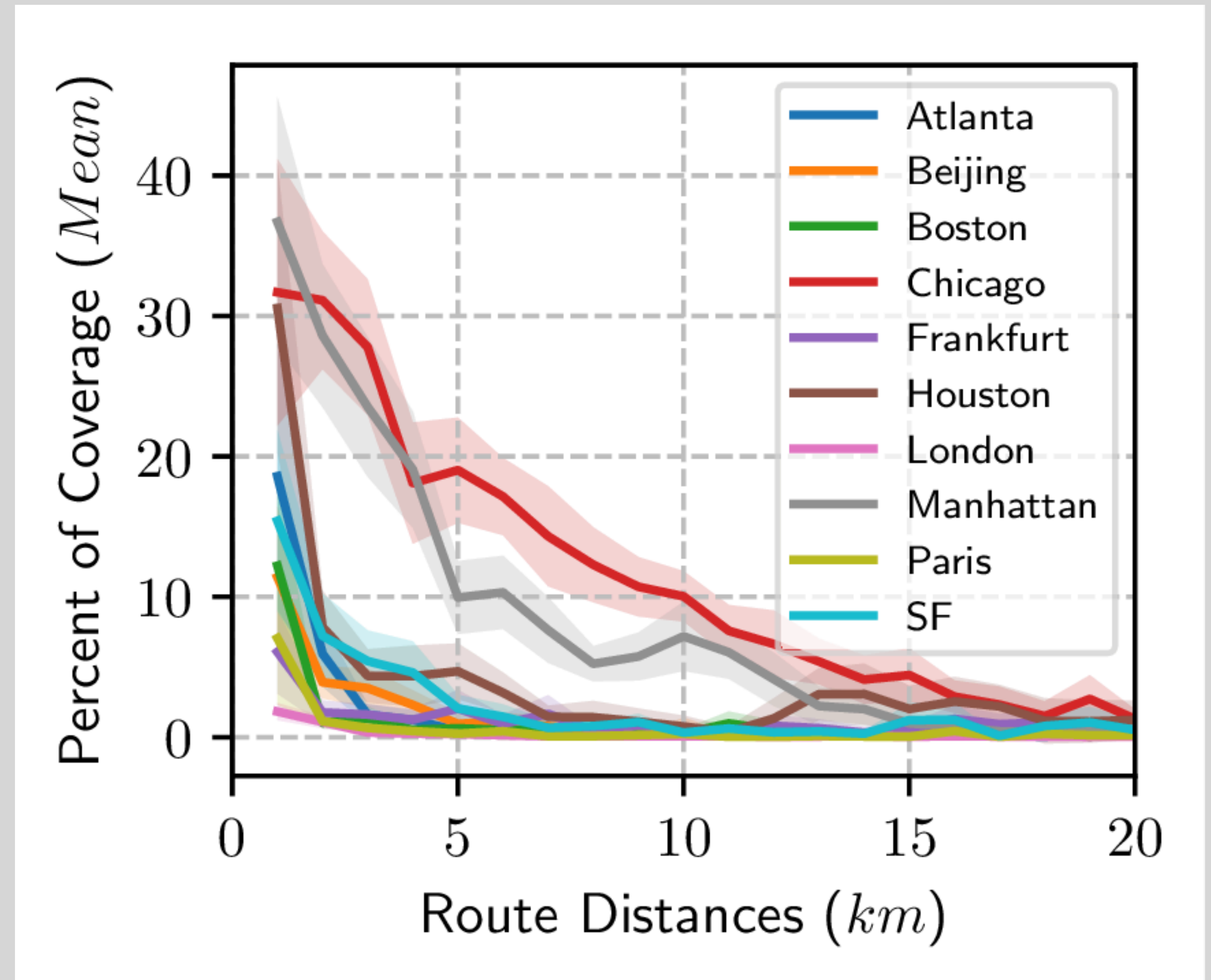
# Estimated Coverage Area of Escape Routes

- **Monte-Carlo Simulations**

- **Define a circle** with
  - Source as center
  - Distance from destination as radius
- **Calculate area** of escape destinations
  - Within the circle
  - Assuming user walks 50m around parking

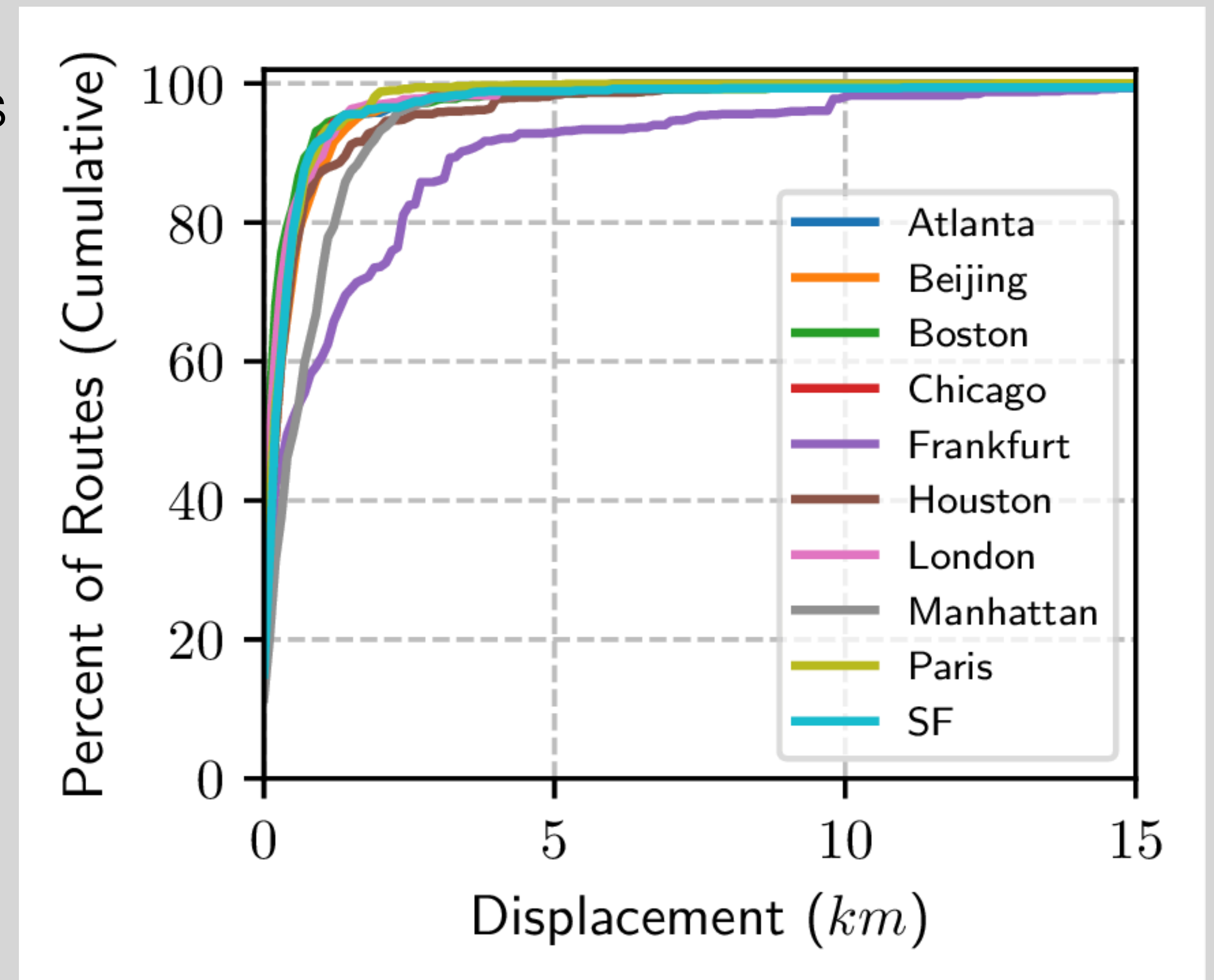
- **Possible to Cover**

- **> 30% area in grid-like cities**
- **> 8% area for long routes (~10 kms)**



# Countermeasure - “Secure Paths” Algorithm

- **Generate routes with low probability of spoofing**
  - **Reverse the spoof routes generation** algorithm
  - Run escape routes generation algorithms
  - Choose spoof route with least escape routes





# Summary & Questions?

- **Developed algorithms that derive potential destinations** reachable without raising alarms on GPS/INS tracking systems
  - **Possible to deviate > 10 km (> 20 km) for 50% (20%) routes** in grid-like cities
  - **Possible to deviate 30-40 km for many routes** in all cities
- **First real-time integrated GPS/INS spoofer** that accounts for traffic fluidity, lights and stop signs
  - **GPS lock never lost** during 10 routes
  - **All sensor errors within range of threshold**