



# Setting Thresholds for the RMS-Energy Oscillation Detector

4/15/2025

**Jim Follum**



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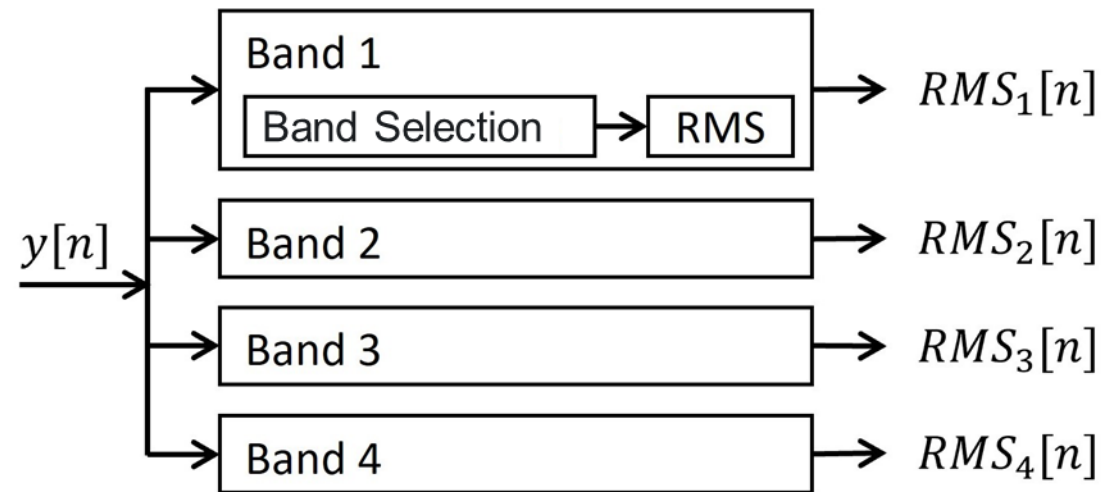
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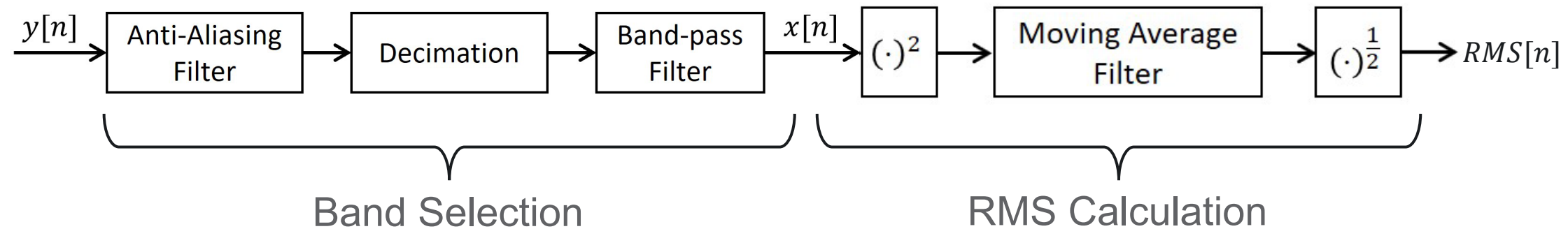
# Motivation and Objective

- Good oscillation detection performance is critical for tool adoption and supports reliable system operation
- Commercial RMS-energy detectors trigger alarms when the PMU signal's RMS-energy remains above a threshold for a certain duration
- A good RMS-energy threshold:
  - Avoids false alarms
  - Avoids nuisance alarms
  - Has predictable performance for oscillations of interest
- A good thresholding method:
  - Supports automation
  - Can be implemented readily
  - Does not require excessive time, compute power, or storage

# RMS-Energy Detector



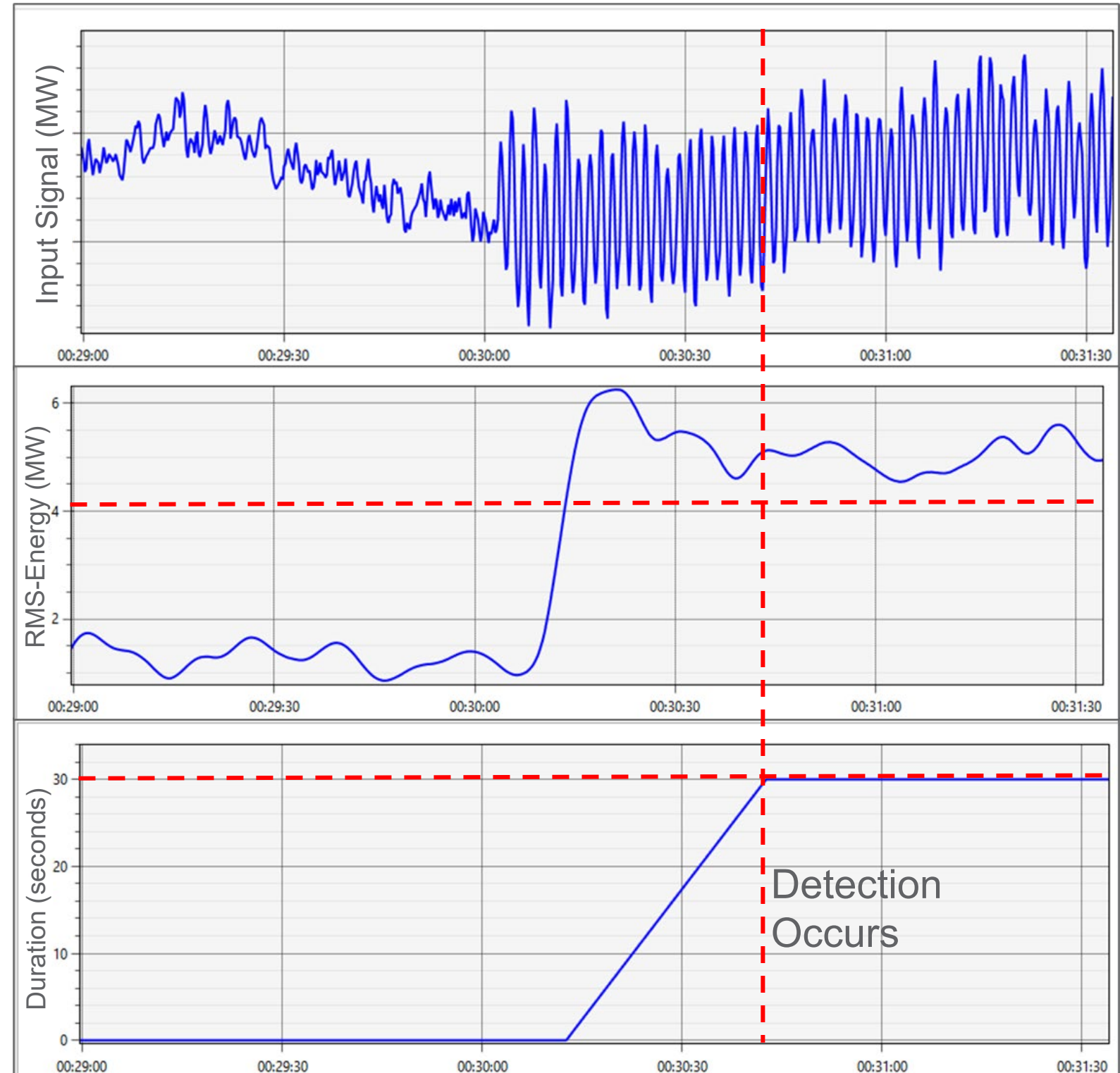
Band	Range (Hz)
1	0.01 – 0.15
2	0.15 – 1
3	1 – 5
4	5 – 15 or 30






## RMS-Energy Detector

Detection occurs when the RMS-energy exceeds a threshold for a specified period



## Current Industry Practice

- Calculate RMS-energy for historical ambient conditions
- Establish a threshold as the energy's mean plus 3 or 4 standard deviations
- Evaluate on >3 months of data



# Recommended Oscillation Analysis for Monitoring and Mitigation Reference Document

Synchronized Measurement Working Group

**Table 2.3: Example Criteria to Establish Alarm Threshold**

Alarm Level (Each Band)	Alarm Threshold (Each Band)
Level-1 (Less Severe)	Mean Energy of Ambient Data Set+(3×Standard Deviation of Ambient Data Set)
Level-2 (More Severe)	Mean Energy of Ambient Data Set+(4×Standard Deviation of Ambient Data Set)

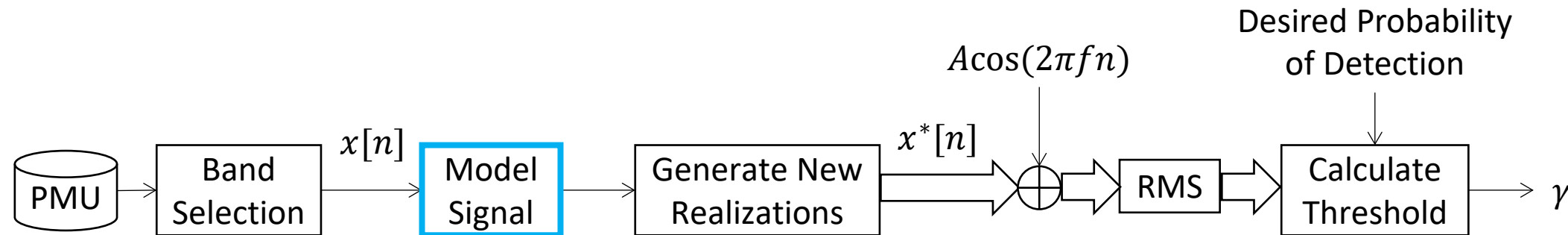


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# Proposed Approach

- Build a statistical model of each signal using a limited amount of ambient data
- Bootstrapping: use the model to generate new realizations of synthetic ambient data
- Add oscillations of various sizes
- Run RMS-energy detector with the duration requirement
- Determine threshold that provides desired performance

# Bootstrap-Based RMS-Energy Thresholds

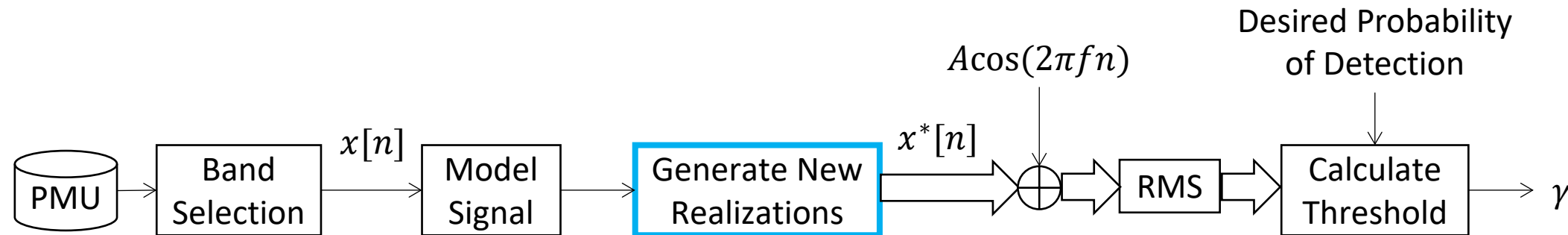


- Represent  $x[n]$  as the output of an AutoRegressive (AR) model

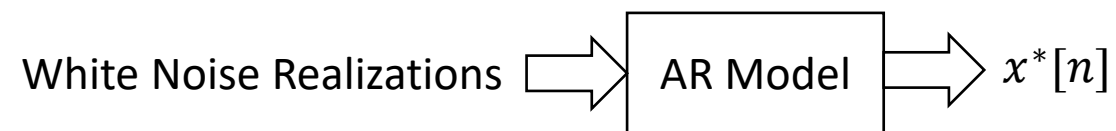


- Uses a classic approach based on least-squares curve fitting

# Bootstrap-Based RMS-Energy Thresholds

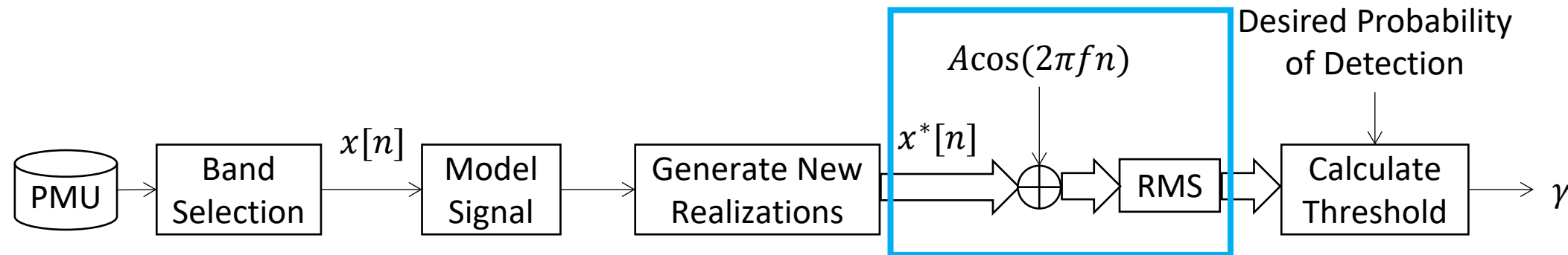


- Bootstrapping uses information from a statistical sample to generate new realizations
- For each signal model, 100 realizations of  $x^*[n]$  are generated

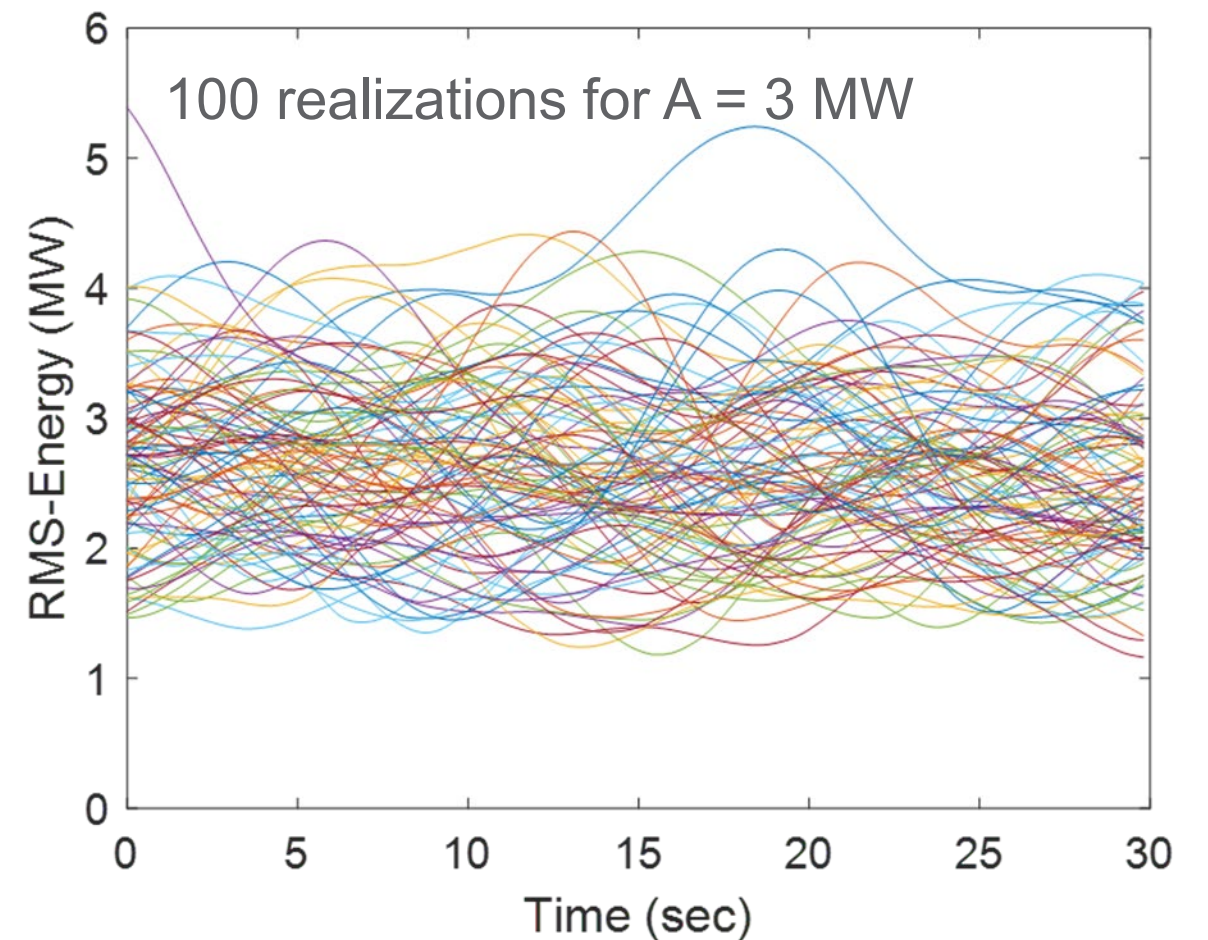




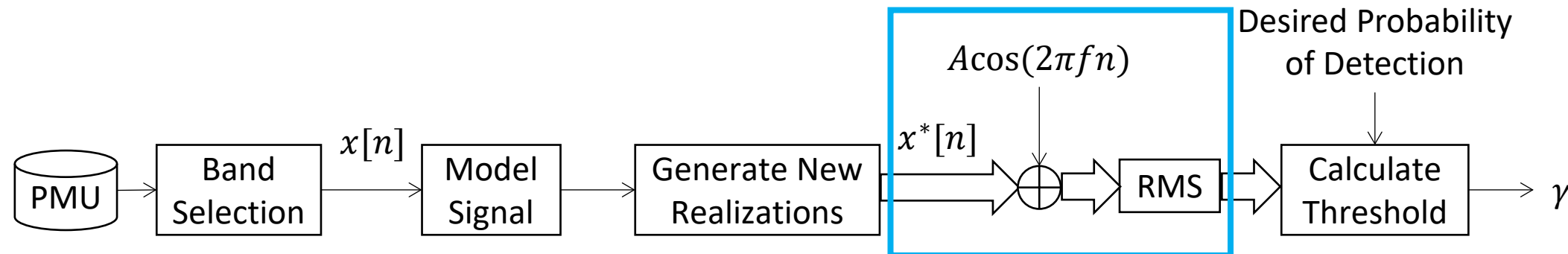
# Bootstrap-Based RMS-Energy Thresholds



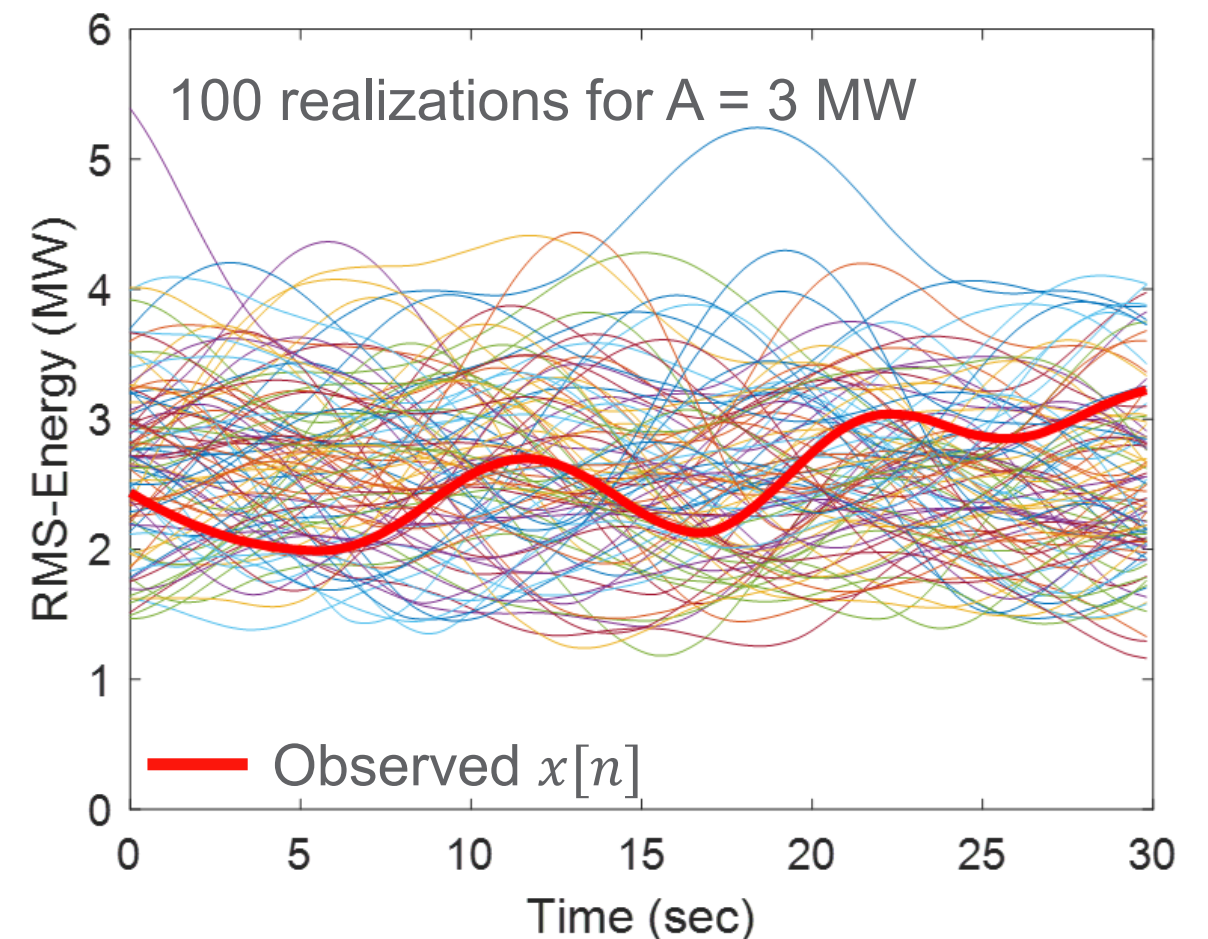
- Add oscillations of various amplitudes
- Calculate the RMS-energy



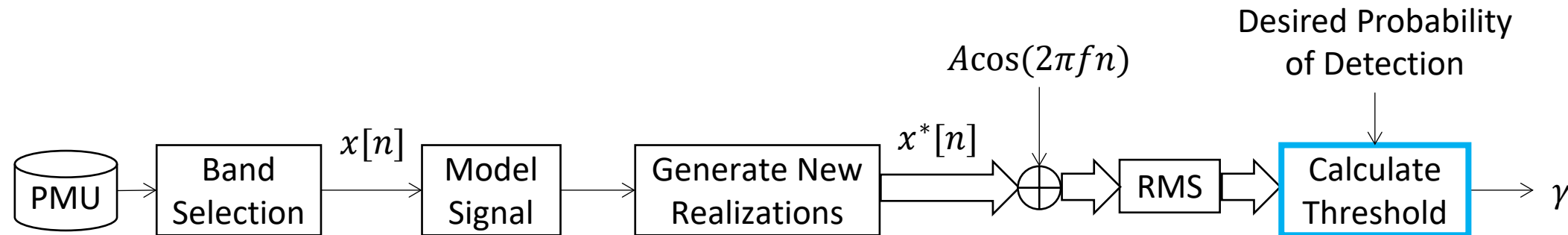
# Bootstrap-Based RMS-Energy Thresholds



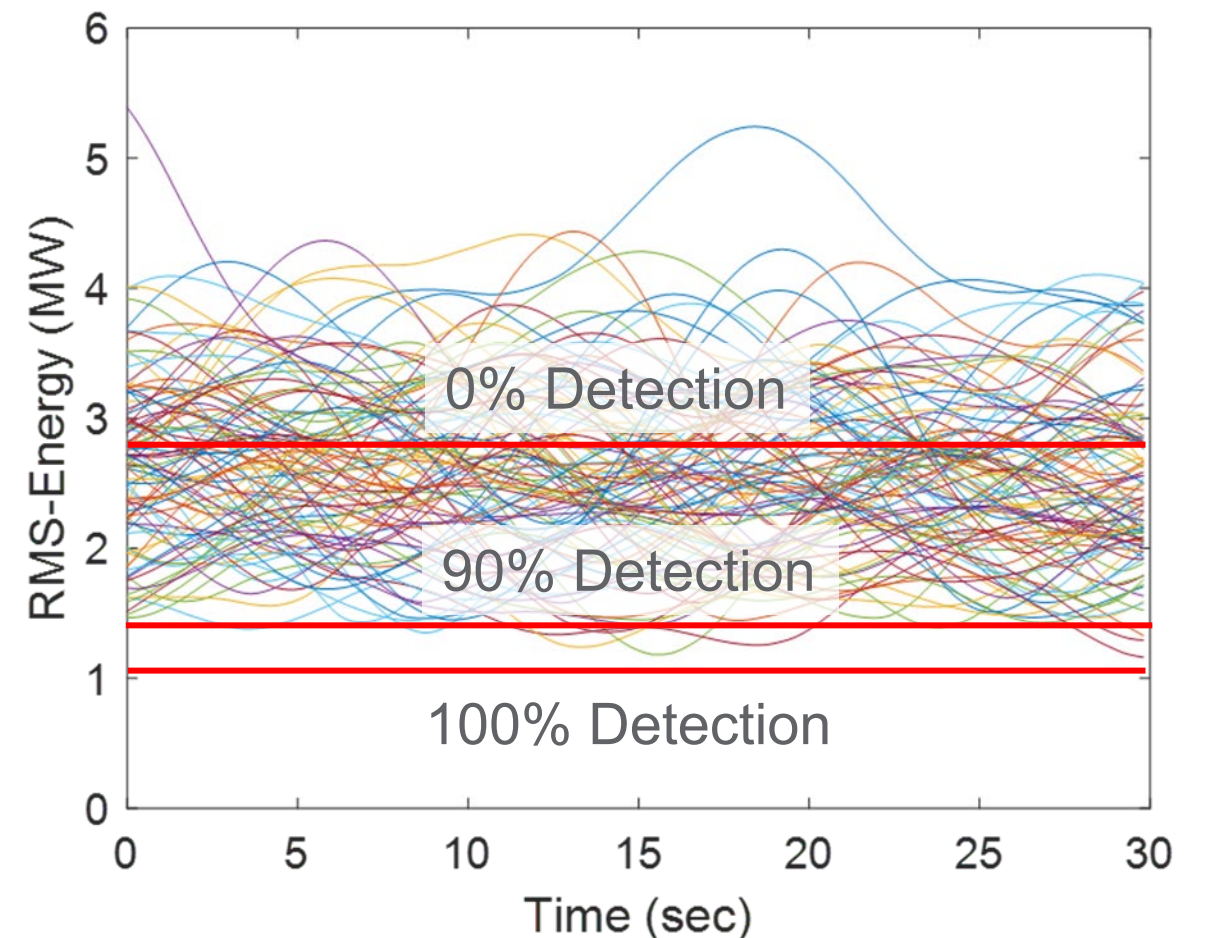
- Add oscillations of various amplitudes
- Calculate the RMS-energy
  - Due to the use of a statistical model, the RMS-energy of the  $x^*[n]$  realizations can be more extreme than the RMS-energy of the observed  $x[n]$



# Bootstrap-Based RMS-Energy Thresholds

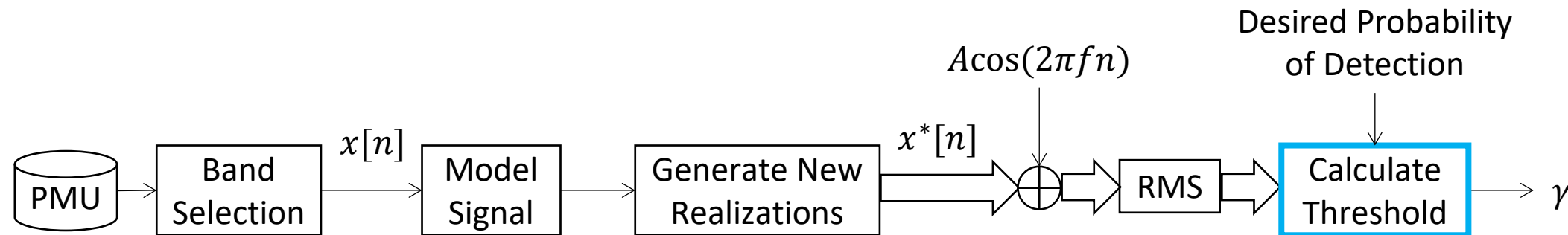


- Determine the threshold by considering the probability of detecting oscillations of various amplitudes
- In practice, this is done for realizations from several different AR models capturing various operating conditions

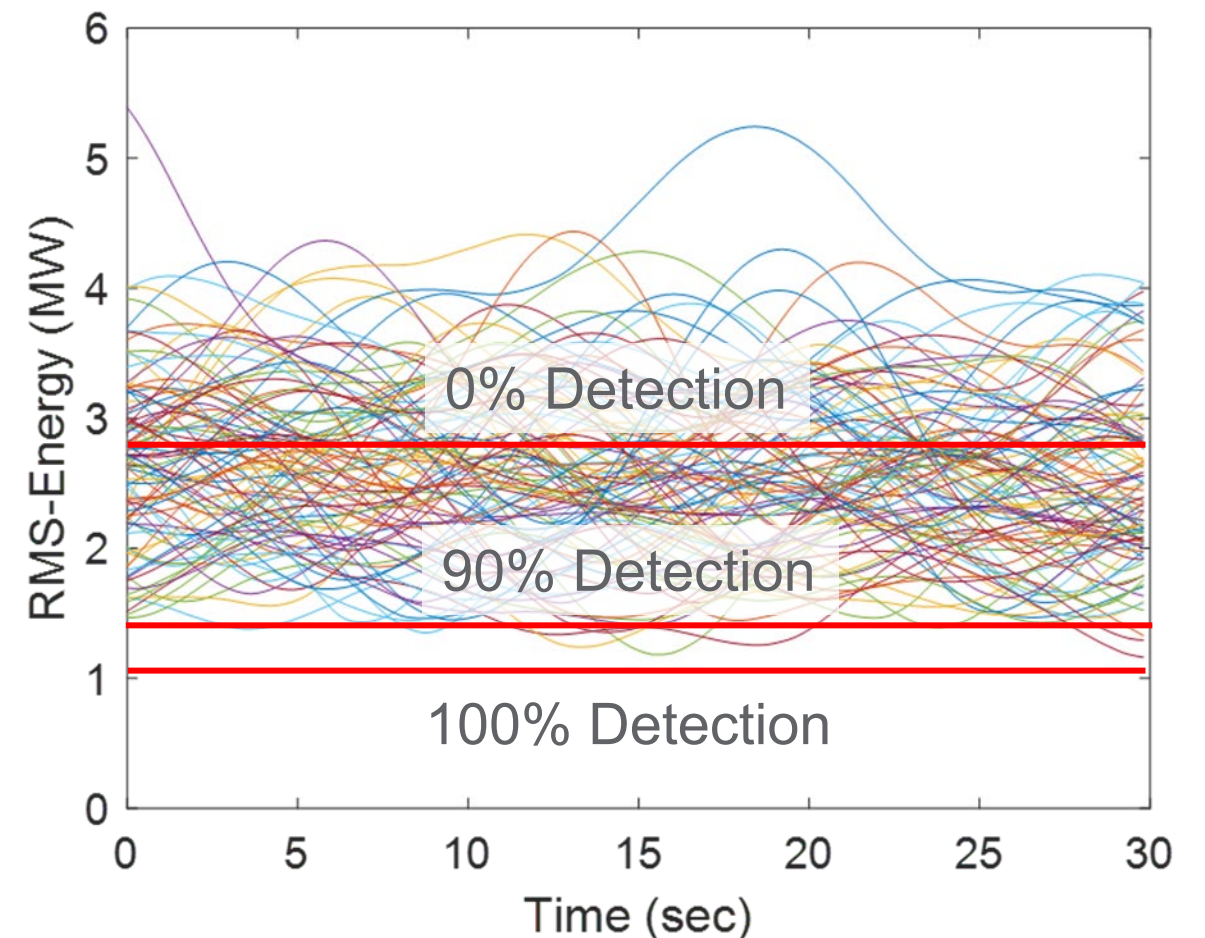




# Bootstrap-Based RMS-Energy Thresholds



- User input:
  - Nuisance amplitude, e.g., 3 MW
  - Max probability of detection, e.g., 0.1%
- Algorithm output:
  - Threshold that limits nuisance alarms
  - Summary of oscillations expected to be detected with various probabilities, e.g., 50%, 90%, 99.9%





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Archive Walker Projects

- FO Task Force Demo
- Analysis
- NASPI
  - Design Thresholds
  - Design Thresholds 2

Add Project

Coordinates Settings Results Signal Inspection Available Results: 01/01/2010 00:00:00 - 01/02/2010 23:59:00

Forced Oscillations Out of Range Events Ringdowns Wind Ramps Mode Meter FRM VRM Voltage Schedule RMS Thresholding

Search Start Time: 01/02/2010 00:00:00 Search End Time: 01/02/2010 23:59:59

Detector: Detector 2

Save Path: C:\Users\fol1154\OneDrive - PNNL\Documents\D TSA\SOCO\ConfiguringThresholds\Tir

File Name: ThreshB2 .mat

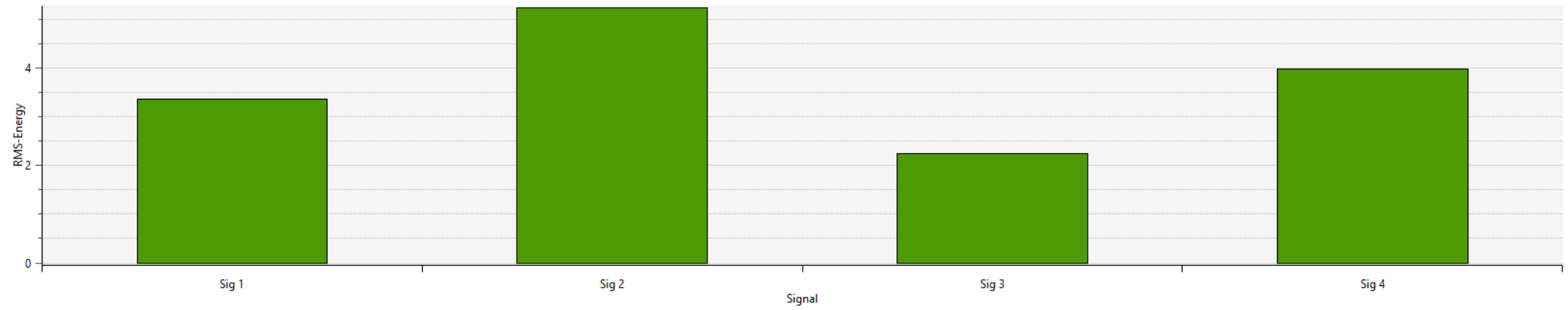
Nuisance Amplitude: 3 Probability of Detection: 0.001

Probabilities of Detection for Evaluation: 0.5,0.9,0.999 (separate entries with a comma)

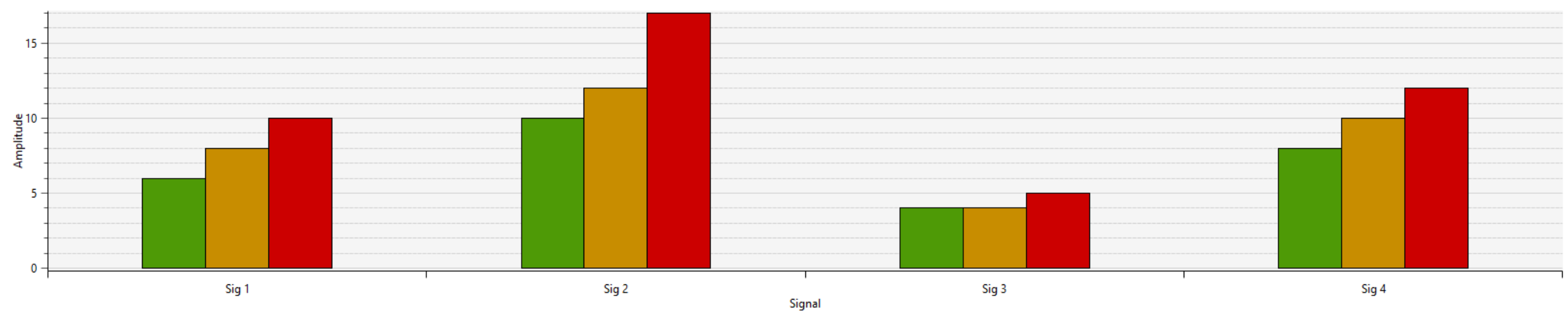
Generate Thresholds

# Demo

### Thresholds



### Detection Performance



# Utility Example

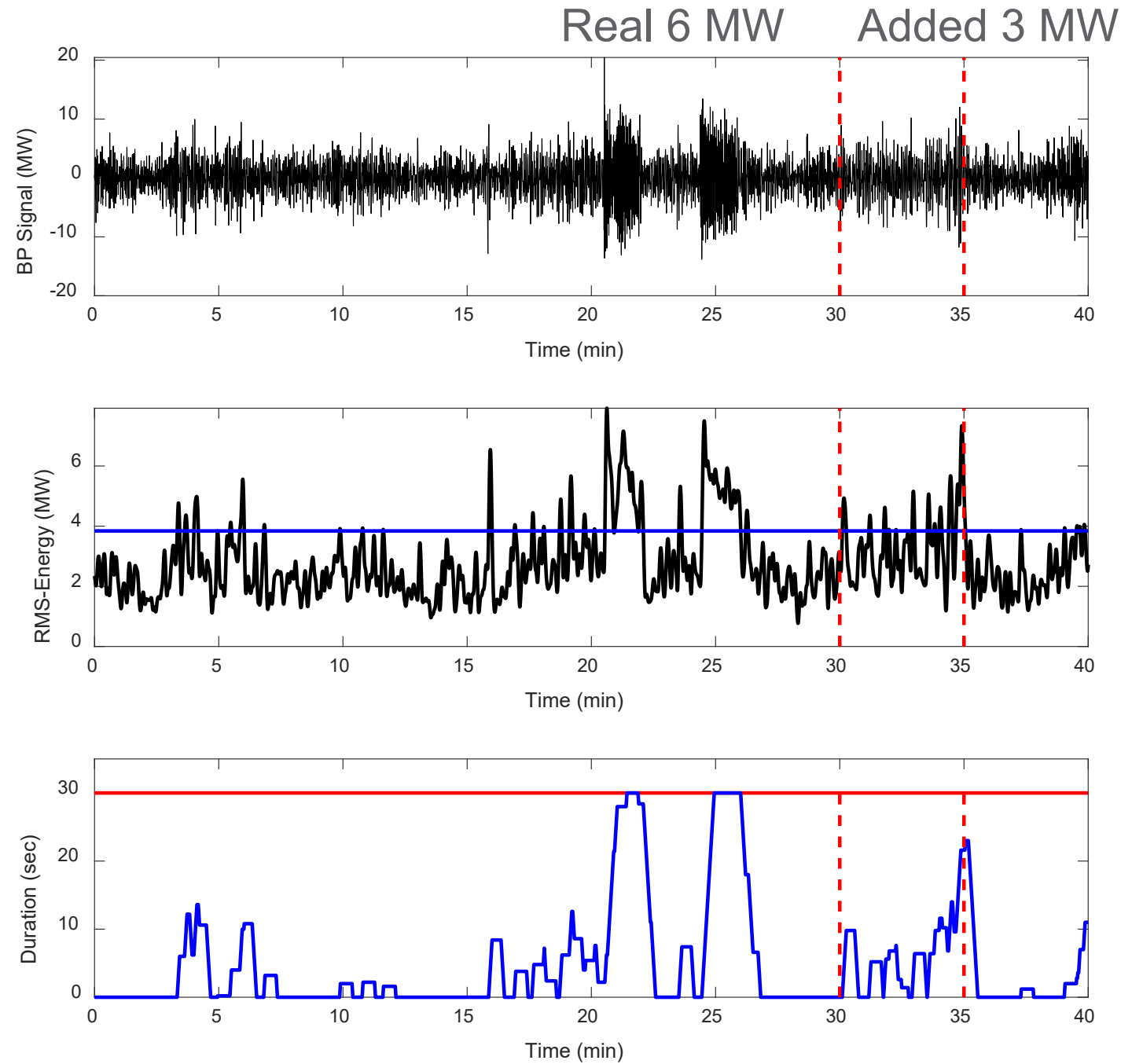
- Setup
  - 130 MW signals, 130 MVAR signals
  - 14400 realizations per frequency band
    - 48 hours of data from December 2023
    - AR model for every 20-minute window
    - 100 trials per model
  - 4 frequency bands
- Processing
  - PMU analysis (bootstrapping): 3 hours
    - Storage: 1 GB
  - Generating thresholds: 15 seconds
- Thresholds validated using oscillation events gathered throughout 2024



# Example 1

Expected Performance:

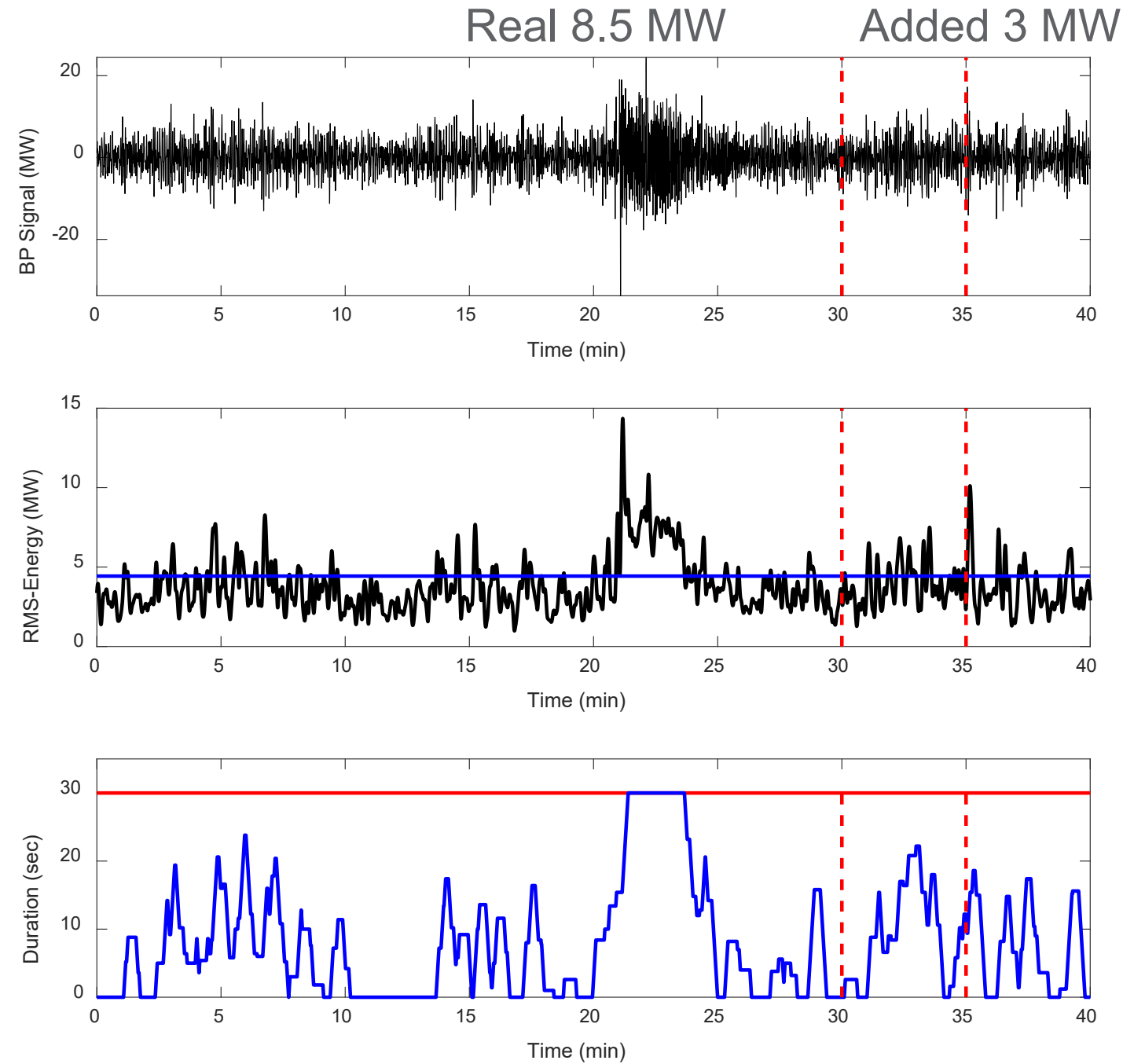
Amplitude (MW)	Detection (%)
3	< 0.1
7	≈ 50
9	≈ 90
12	≈ 99.9



## Example 2

Expected Performance:

Amplitude (MW)	Detection (%)
3	< 0.1
9	≈ 50
11	≈ 90
15	≈ 99.9







**Thank you**

