

# Something about audio CAPTCHAs

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Paskov, Celine Fabry, John Mitchell



## Elie Bursztein

@elie Stanford

Researcher at Stanford University. Tweeting about web security, mobile security, and offensive technologies. No I don't wear a black hat :)

<http://elie.im>

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@random\_walker You need to have your own IP (for compatibility) and request a cert for a domain you own and the configure Apache mod\_ssl

21 hours ago



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Foursquare enhances security by moving to HTTPS connections <http://j.mp/fSVapx> < HTTPS finally being adopted ! GG #security #privacy

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World Bank: Online Game Gold Farming Pays Third World Countries Billions - Blog - Infosecurity.US <http://j.mp/eyexj6> #wow #security

7 Apr



**elie** Elie Bursztein

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5 Apr



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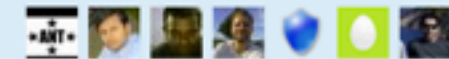
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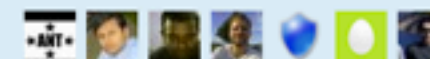
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- ✓ Added To Your Page Within 40 Days
- ✓ Targeted To Your Business/Niche
- ✓ Select The Country/s Where You Want Your Followers From
- ✓ No Automatic Bots/Programs To Get Followers, We Proudly Target 100% Of Your Followers Manually

**\$139.99**



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✓ ok

Your full name will appear on your public profile

Username

eliedemo

✓ ok

Your public profile: [http://twitter.com/ eliedemo](http://twitter.com/eliedemo)

Password

••••••••••

✓ Good

Are you human?

×

Before we create your account, we need to make sure you're not a computer.

edisibil from

Type the words  
above

Can't read this?

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Powered by reCAPTCHA.

[Help](#)

Finish

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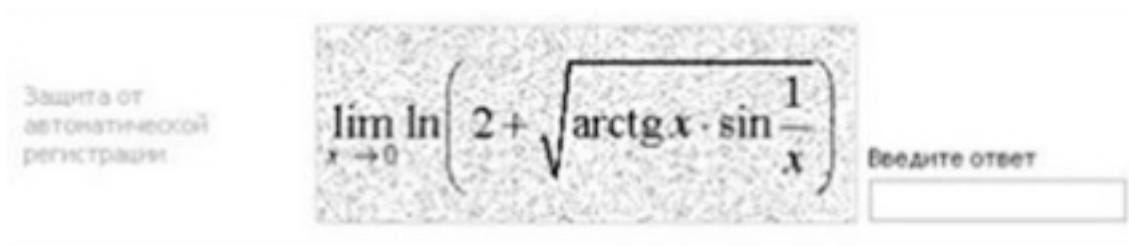
☒ I want the inside scoop—please send me email updates!

# CAPTCHAS





# CAPTCHAS



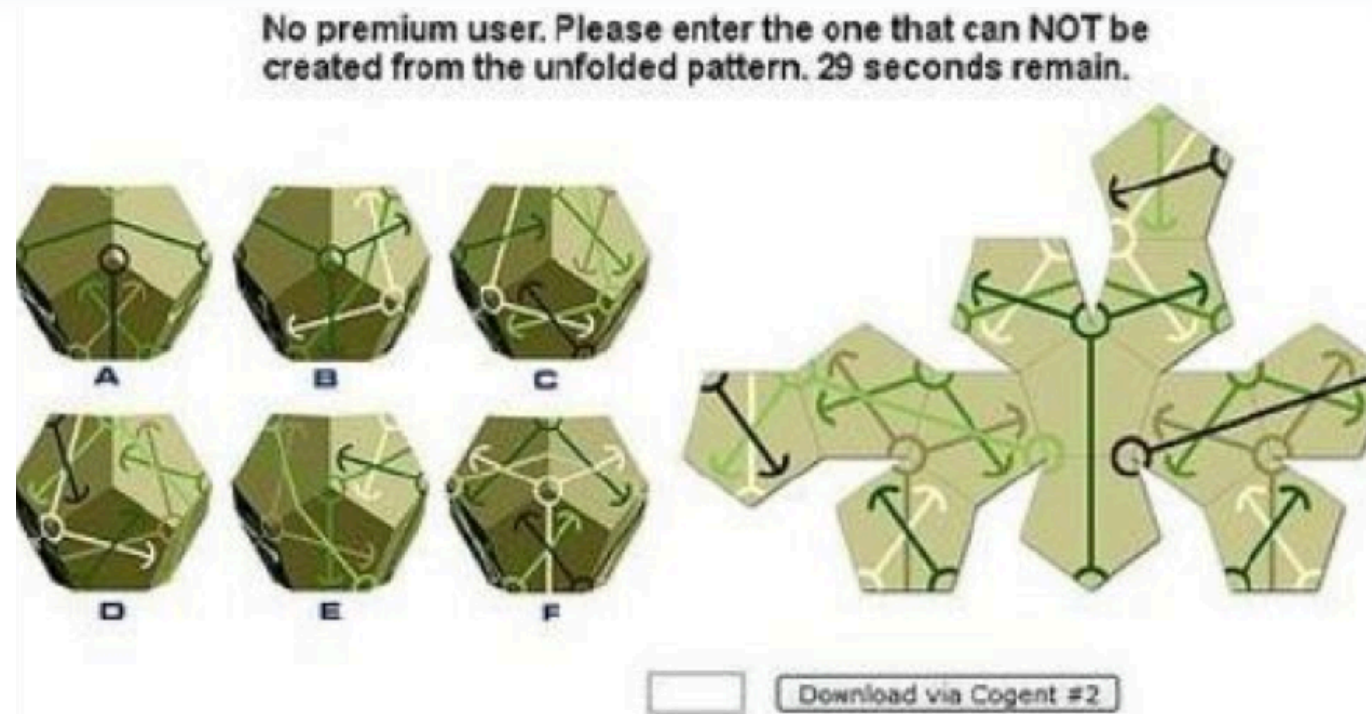
# CAPTCHAS



Защита от  
автоматической  
регистрации

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \ln \left( 2 + \sqrt{\arctg x \cdot \sin \frac{1}{x}} \right)$$

Введите ответ





# CAPTCHAS



Защита от автоматической регистрации

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \ln \left( 2 + \sqrt{\arctg x \cdot \sin \frac{1}{x}} \right)$$

Введите ответ

Please click on the images that show cats:



[adopt me](#)



[adopt me](#)



[adopt me](#)



[adopt me](#)



[adopt me](#)



[adopt me](#)



[adopt me](#)



[adopt me](#)



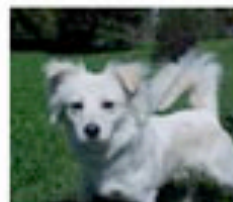
[adopt me](#)



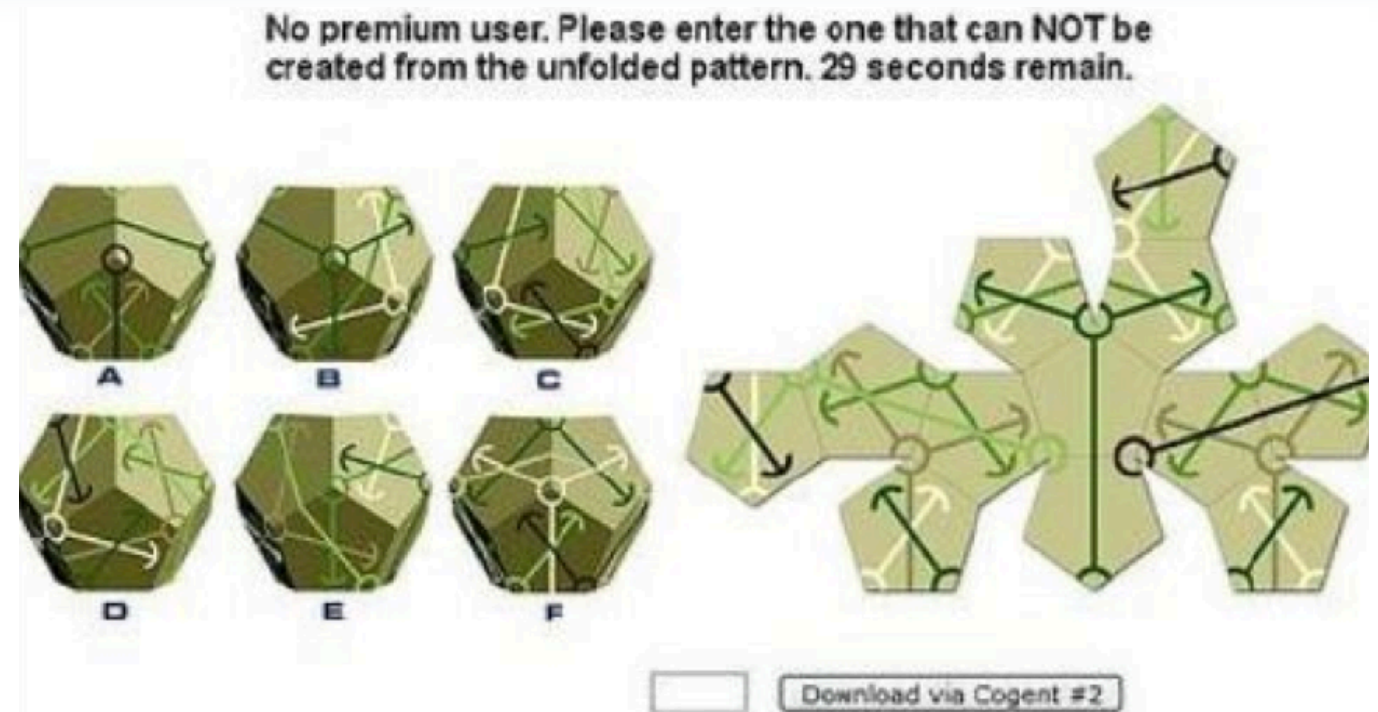
[adopt me](#)



[adopt me](#)



[adopt me](#)





# CAPTCHAS



Защита от автоматической регистрации

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \ln \left( 2 + \sqrt{\arctg x \cdot \sin \frac{1}{x}} \right)$$

Введите ответ

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[adopt me](#)



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[adopt me](#)



[adopt me](#)



[adopt me](#)



[adopt me](#)



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[adopt me](#)



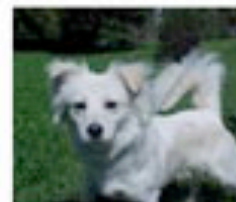
[adopt me](#)



[adopt me](#)

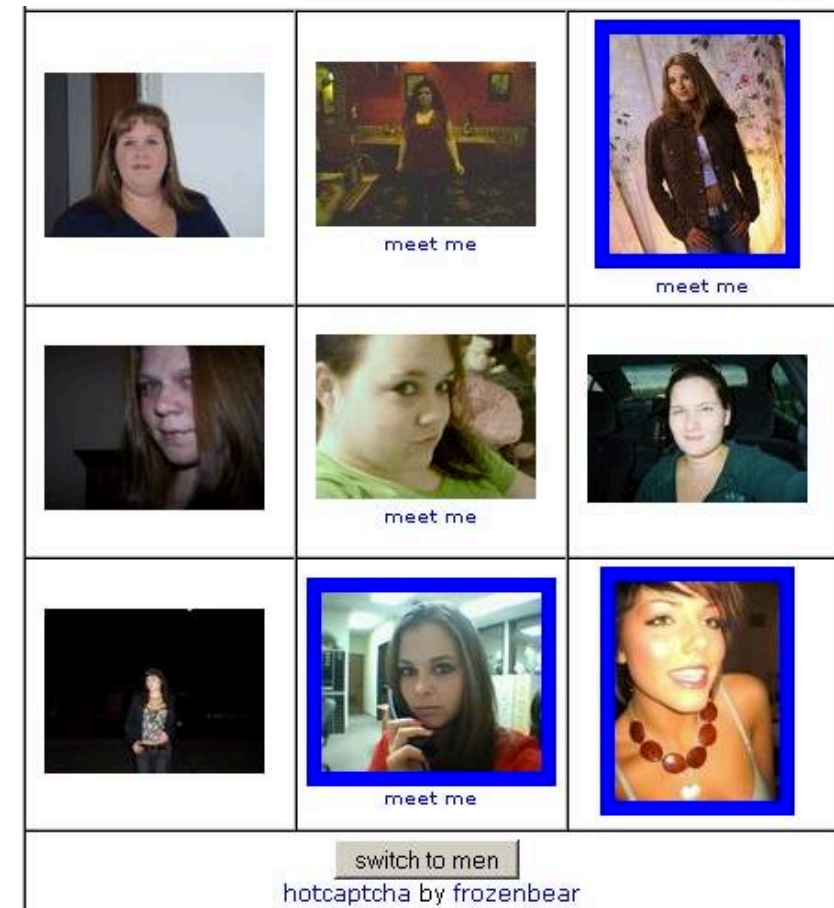
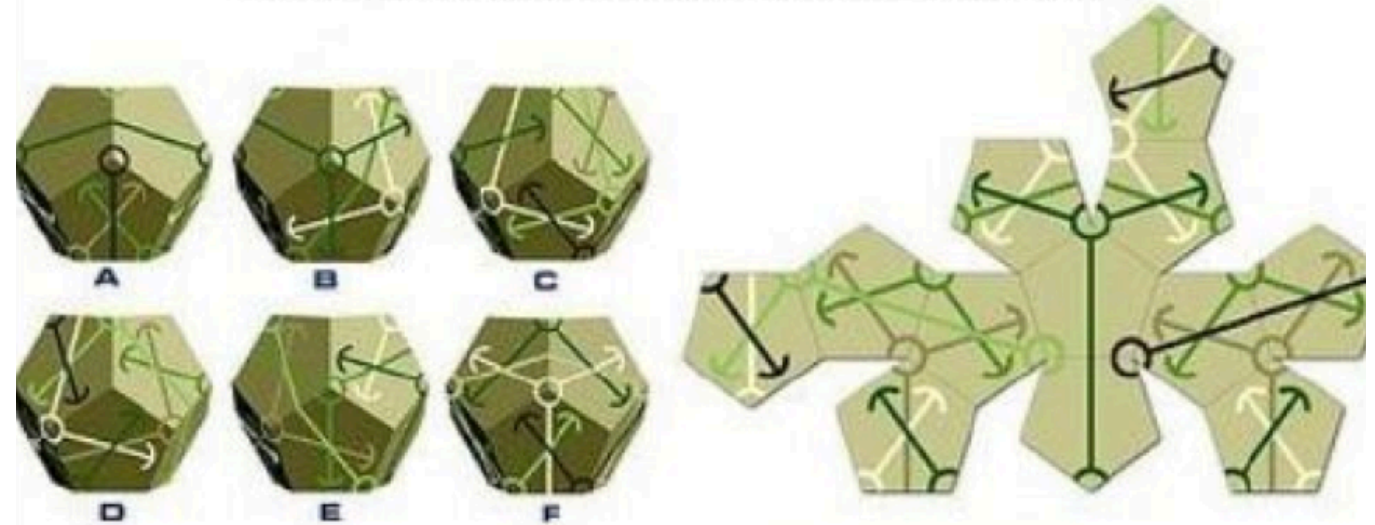


[adopt me](#)



[adopt me](#)

No premium user. Please enter the one that can NOT be created from the unfolded pattern. 29 seconds remain.





# CAPTCHAS

Weeks League

Type the two words:

reCAPTCHA™  
stop spam.  
read books.

No premium user. Please enter the one that can NOT be created from the unfolded pattern. 29 seconds remain.

A

B

C

Are you human?

Before we create your account, we need to make sure you're not a computer.

edisibil from

Type the words above

Finish


Can't read this?

Get two new words


Hear a set of words

Powered by reCAPTCHA.  
Help


Please click on the image of a dog.




adopt me




adopt me




adopt me




adopt me




adopt me




adopt me




adopt me



adopt me




adopt me

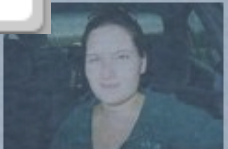


adopt me


Cogent #2



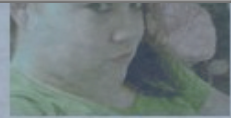
meet me




meet me



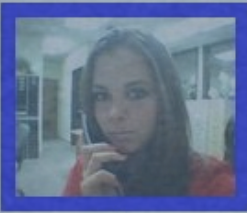
meet me




meet me



meet me



meet me



meet me

switch to men

hotcaptcha by frozenbear

Elie Bursztein (@elie)

The Failure of Noise-Based Non-Continuous Audio Captchas

<http://ly.tl/p18>



# CAPTCHAS

*Weeks League*

Type the two words:

reCAPTCHA™ stop spam. read books.

No premium user. Please enter the one that can NOT be created from the unfolded pattern. 29 seconds remain.

A B C

Are you human?

Before we create your account, we need to make sure you're not a computer.

Type the words above

*edibil from*

Can't read this?  
Get two new words  
Hear a set of words

Powered by reCAPTCHA.  
Help

Finish

Please click on the image that does not belong.

adopt me

adopt me

adopt me

adopt me

adopt me

adopt me

adopt me

adopt me

adopt me

adopt me

adopt me

adopt me

meet me

meet me

meet me

meet me

switch to men

hotcaptcha by frozenbear



# Audio captchas

Visual code | [Audio code](#) [Help](#)



Type the code shown

[Try a new code](#)

## The not-so-fine print

For [added security](#), please enter the verification code hidden in the image.



[Refresh the image](#) | [Listen to the verification code](#)





stop spam.  
read books.


YAHOO!

ebay

reCAPTCHA™

# Audio captchas

Visual code | [Audio code](#) [Help](#)



Type the code shown

[Try a new code](#)

## The not-so-fine print

For [added security](#), please enter the verification code hidden in the image.



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stop spam.  
read books.

YAHOO!

ebay

reCAPTCHA™

# Outline

- Audio captchas background
- Breaking audio captchas
- Evaluation results
- Demo



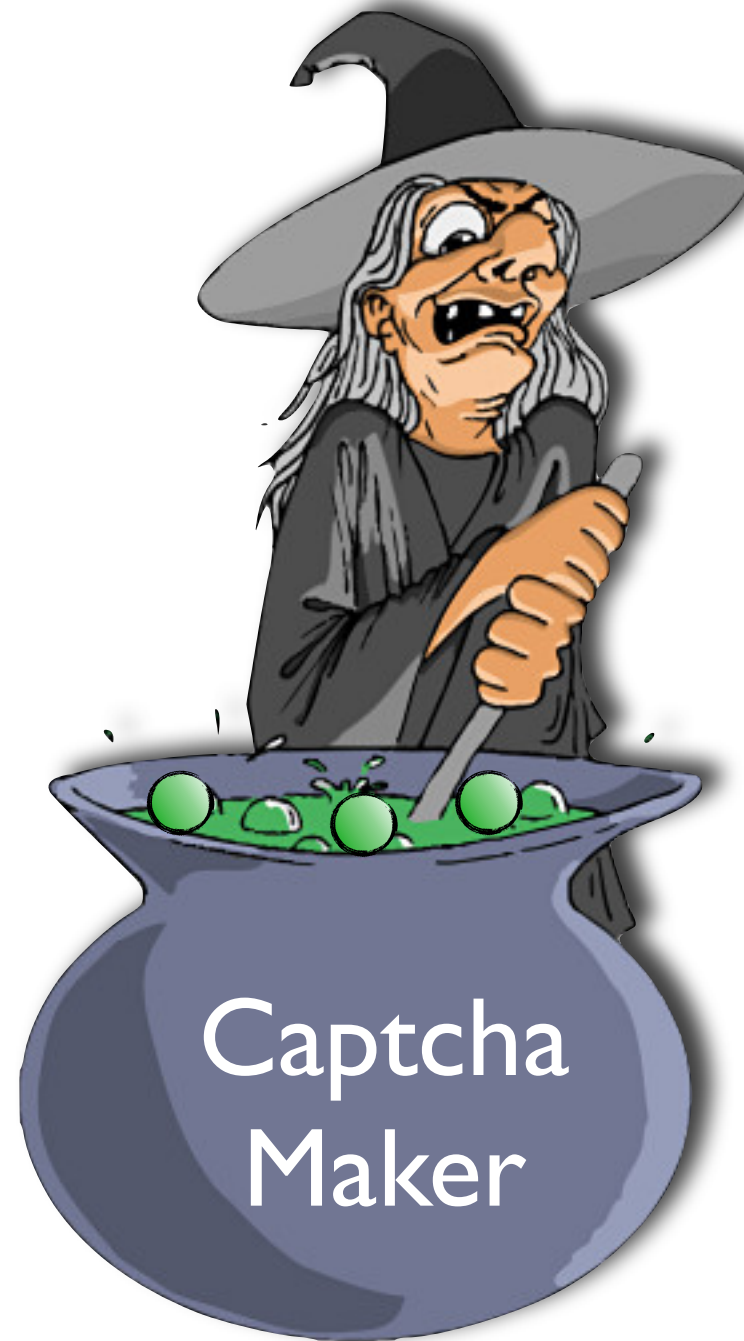
# Creating audio captcha



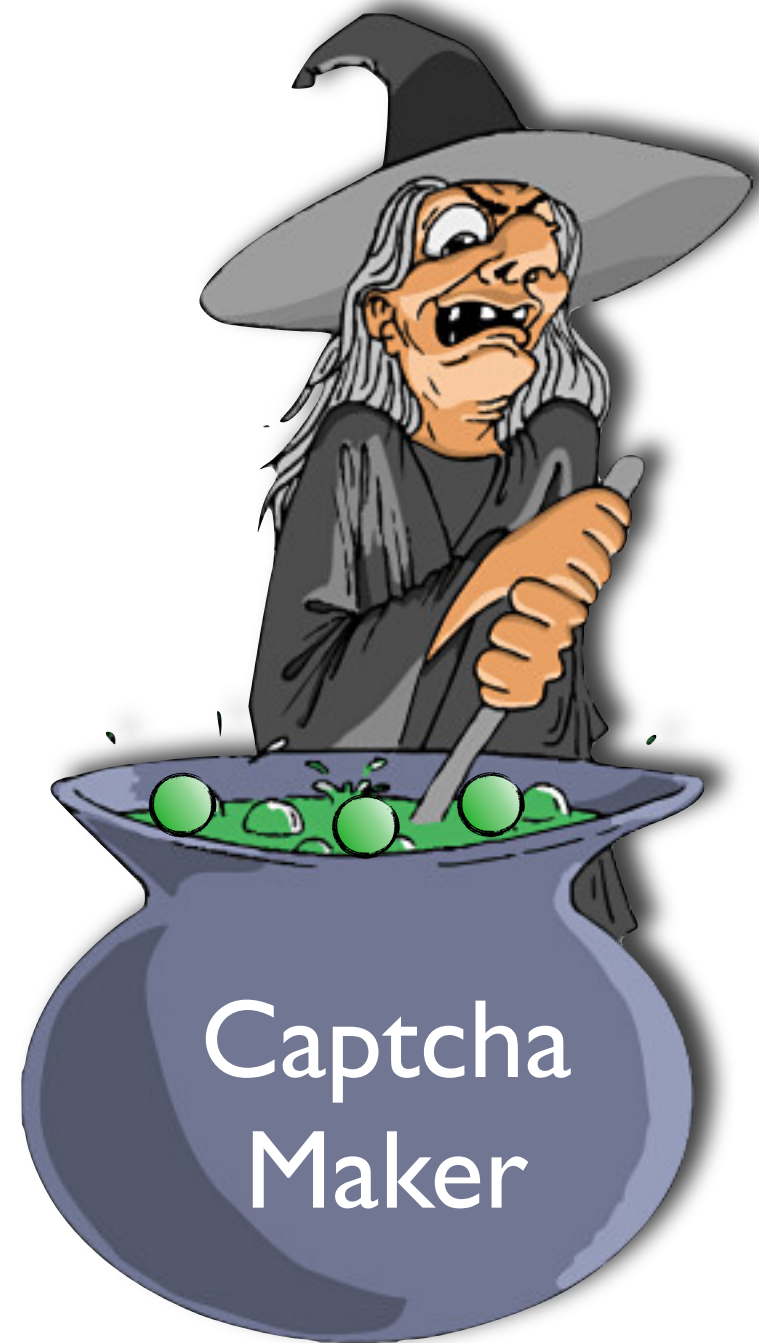
# Creating audio captcha



Voices



# Creating audio captcha



Noises



# Creating audio captcha

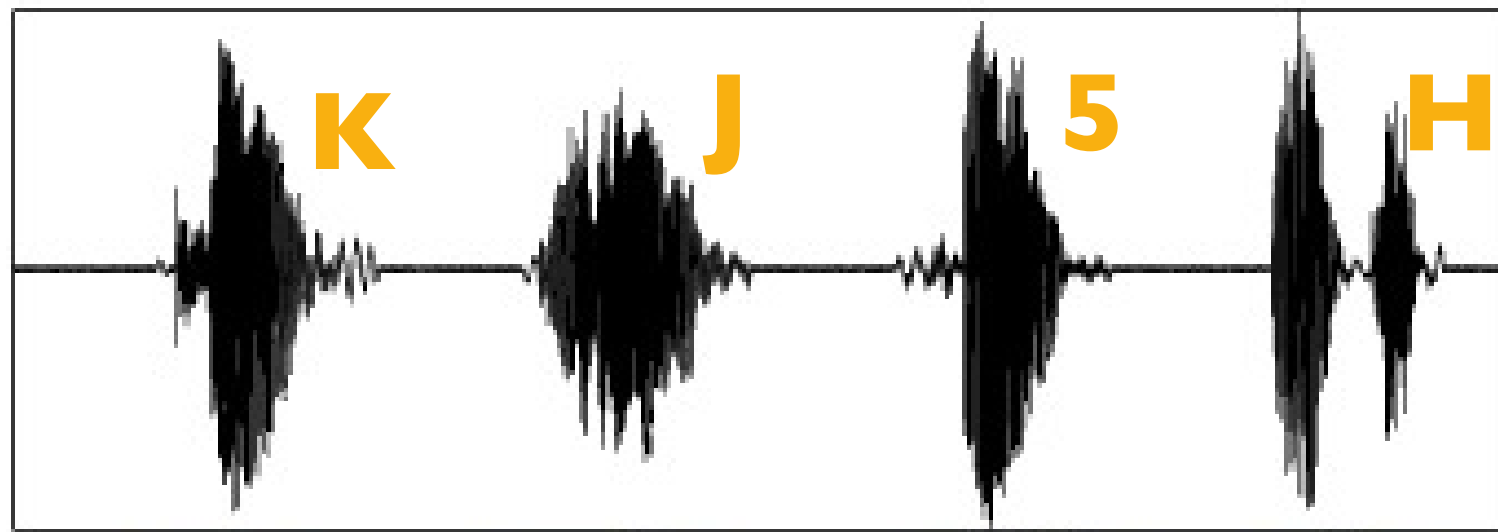


Super  
secure captcha

# Type of noise

- Additive noise i.e white noise
- Convolutive noise i.e echo
- Semantic noise i.e music

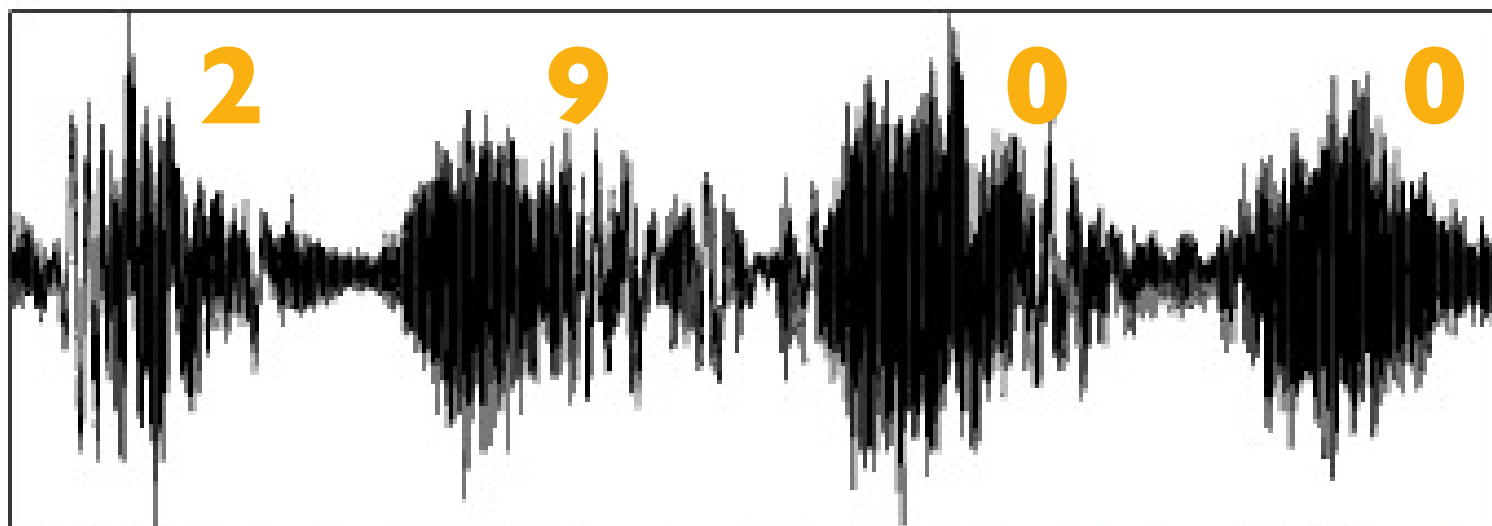
# Noise intensity (RMS/SNR)



Authorize



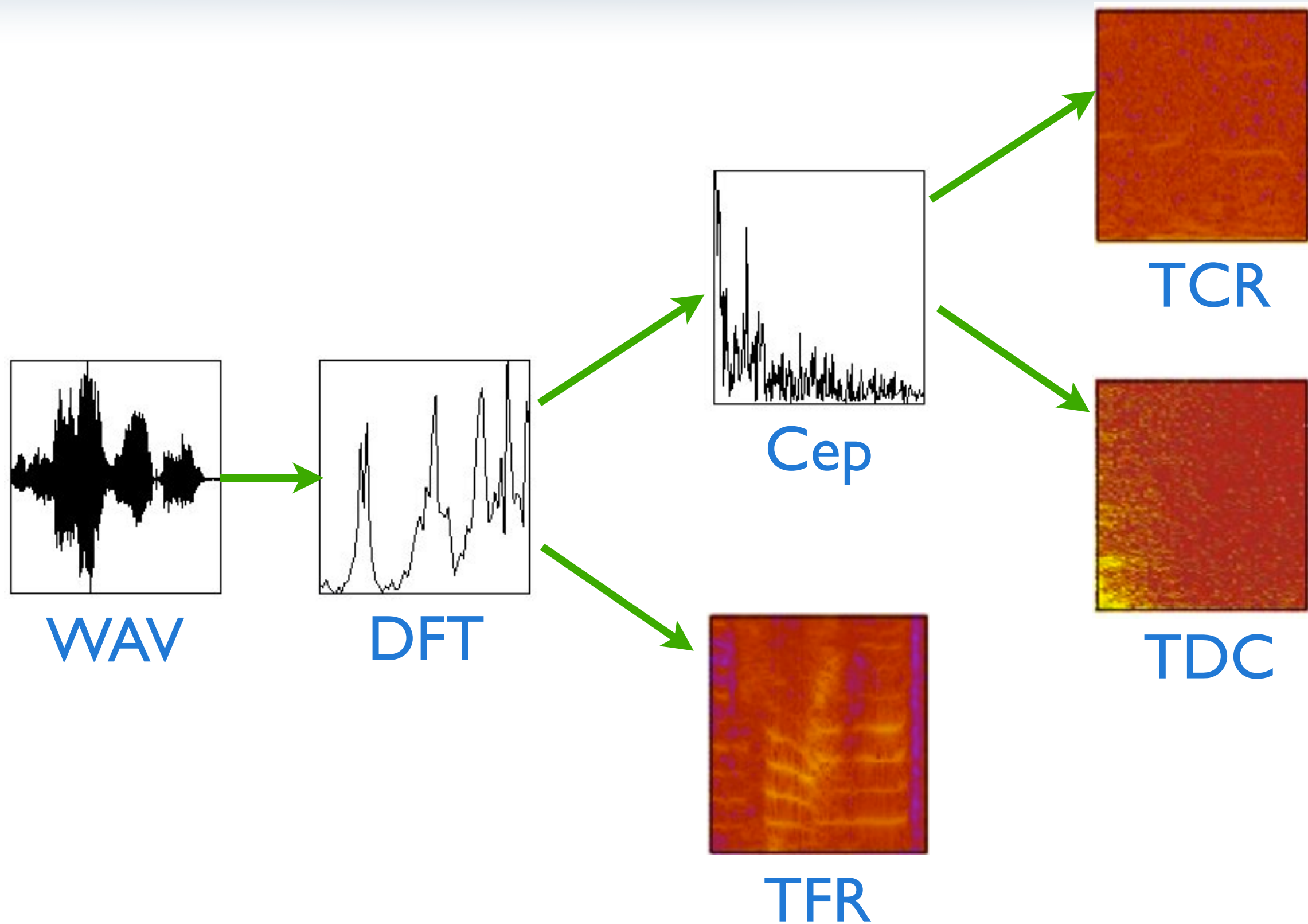
Digg



Microsoft



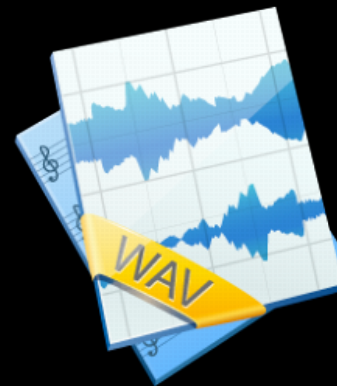
# Sound representation



# Breaking audio captchas

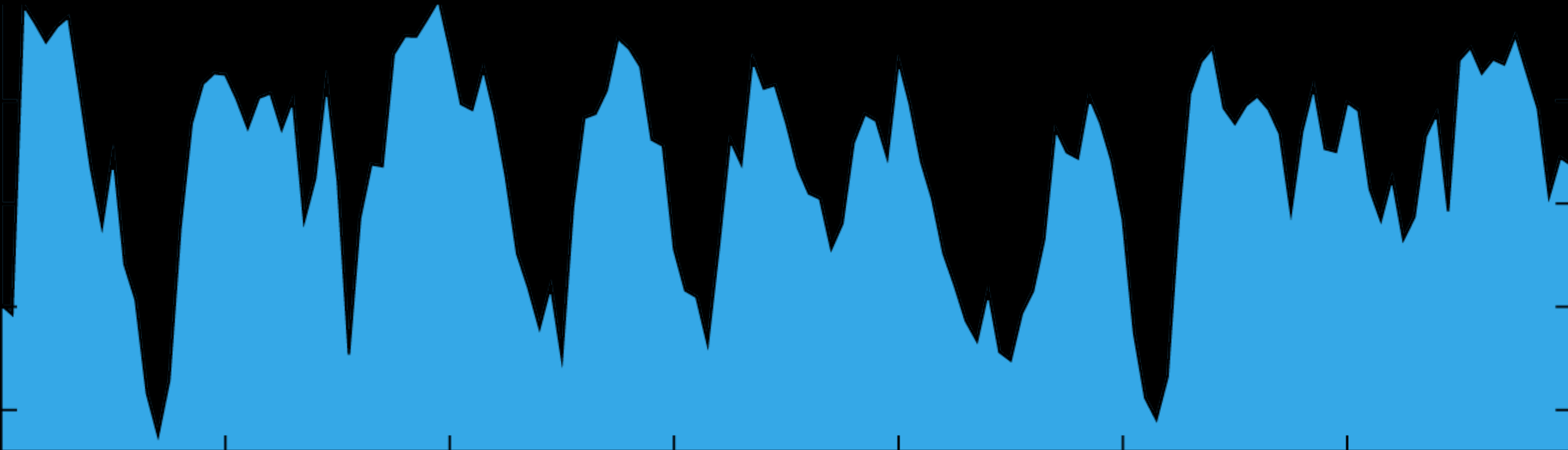
---

# Solving an audio captcha

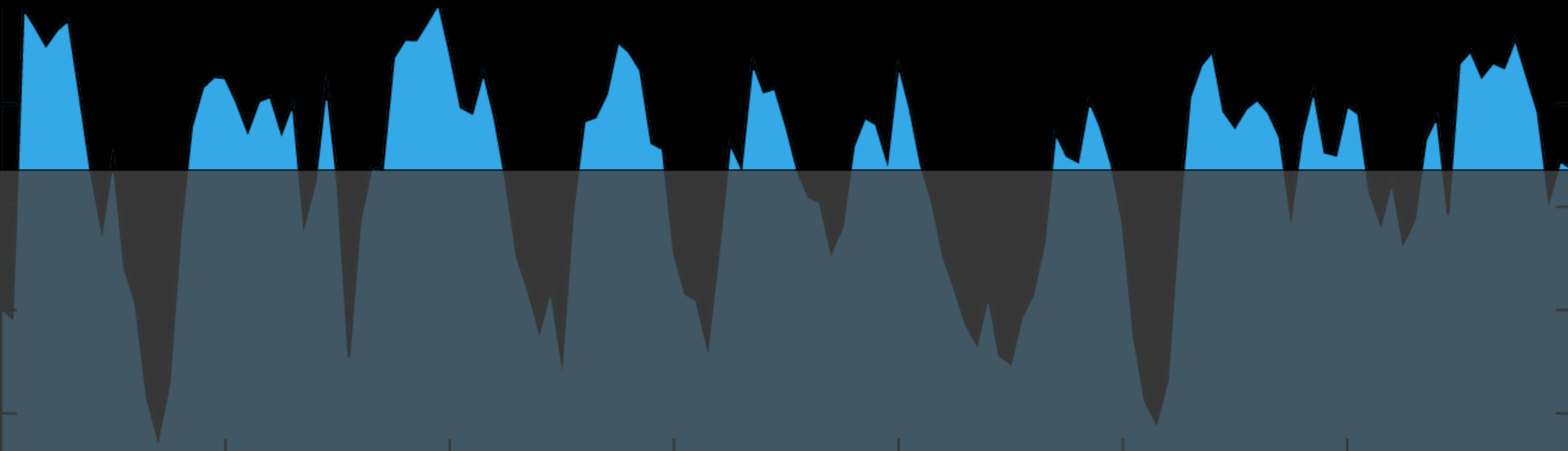




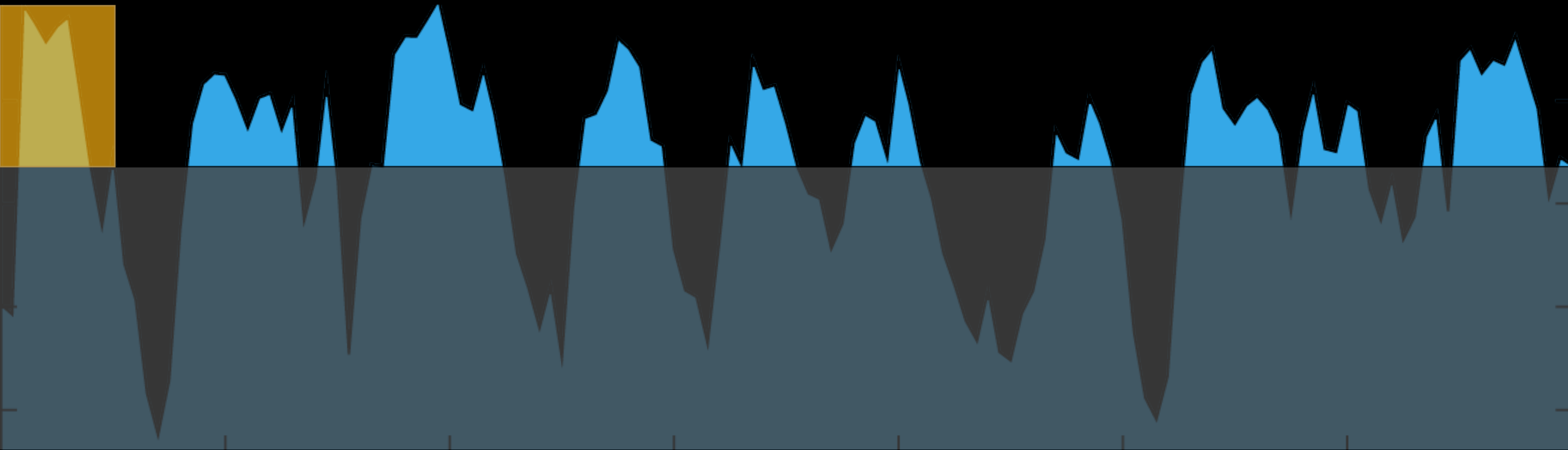
# Solving an audio captcha



# Solving an audio captcha

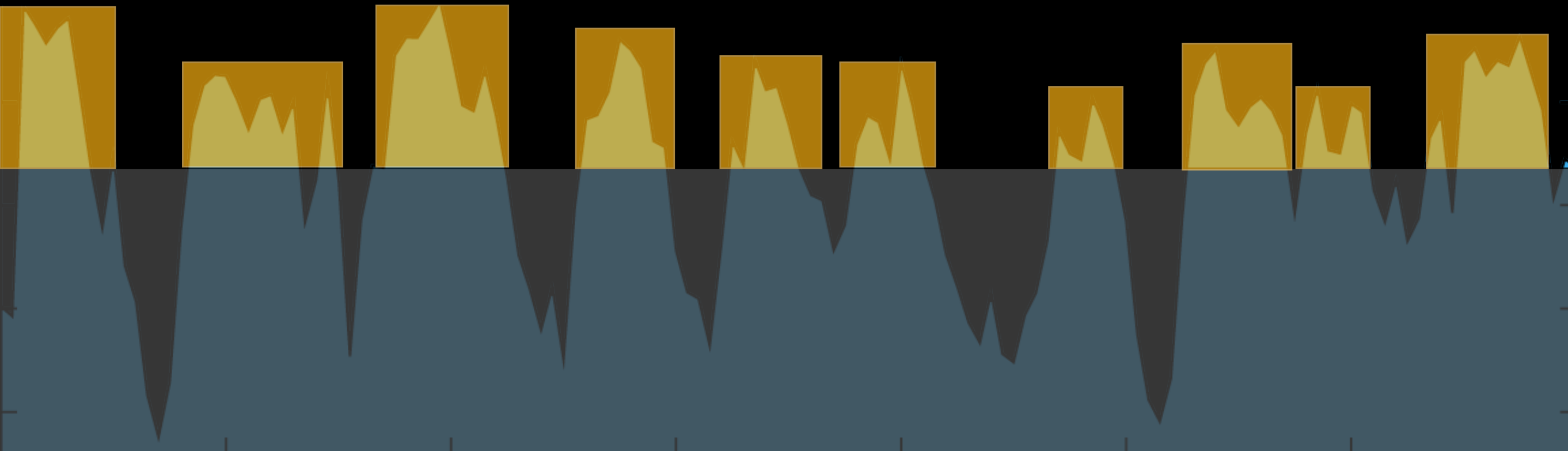


# Solving an audio captcha



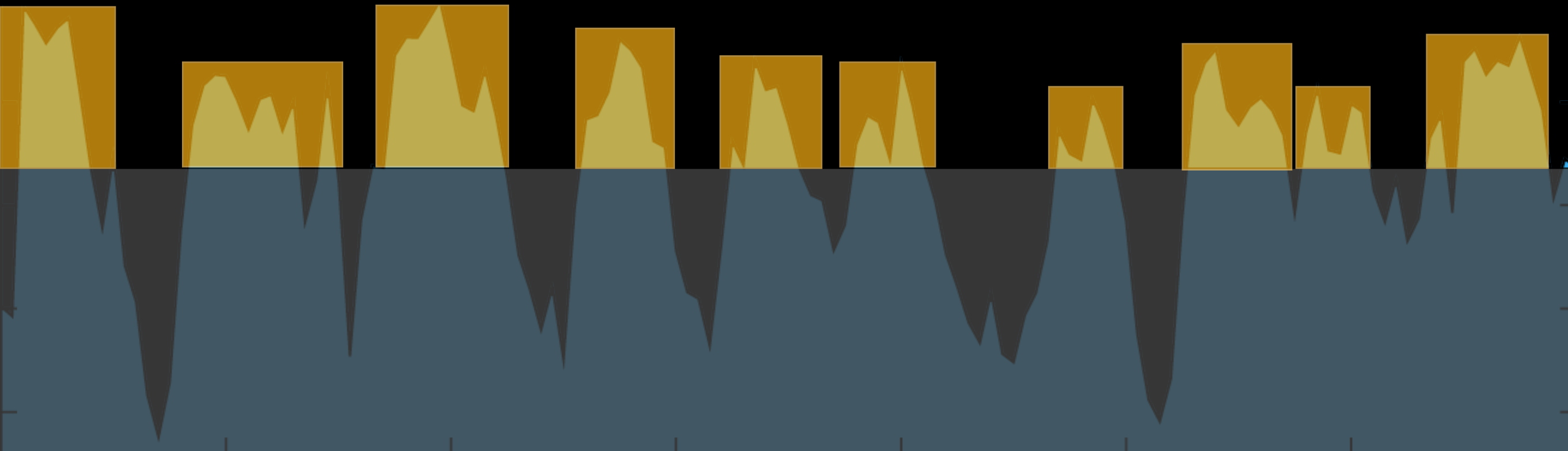


# Solving an audio captcha

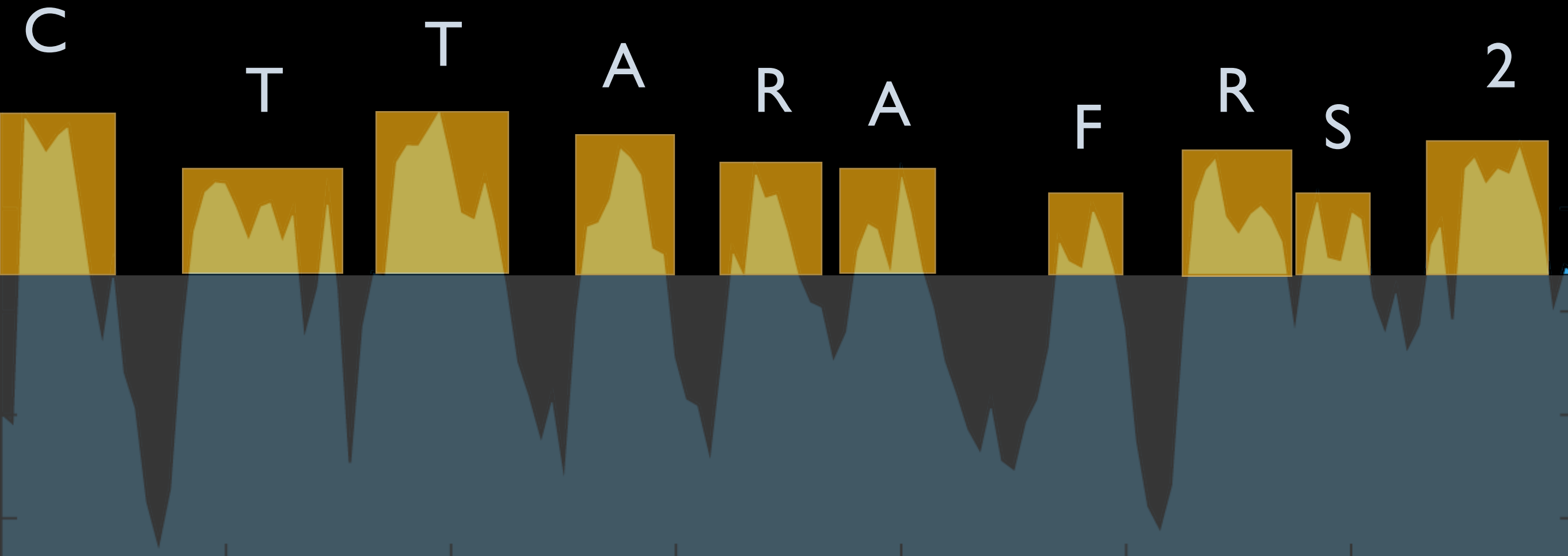


# Solving an audio captcha

C



# Solving an audio captcha

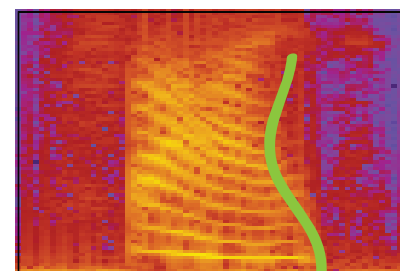




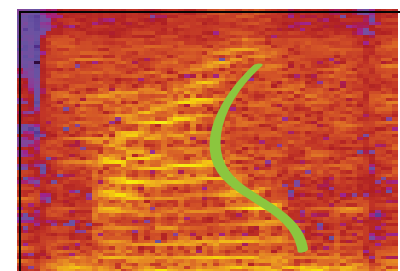
# Dealing with random noise

- Statistical learning
- Supervised learning
- RLS (Regularized least square) classifier

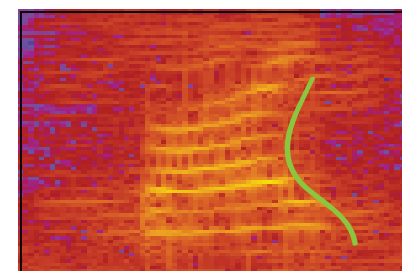
5:



Authorize

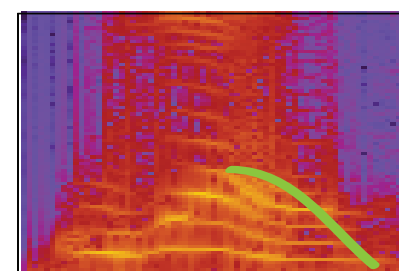


eBay

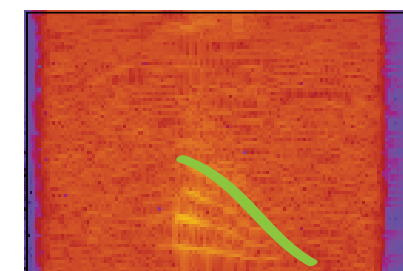


Recaptcha

J:



Authorize



Digg

# Solver efficiency

$$\text{Solver accuracy} = \text{Coverage} * \text{Precision}^{\text{length}}$$

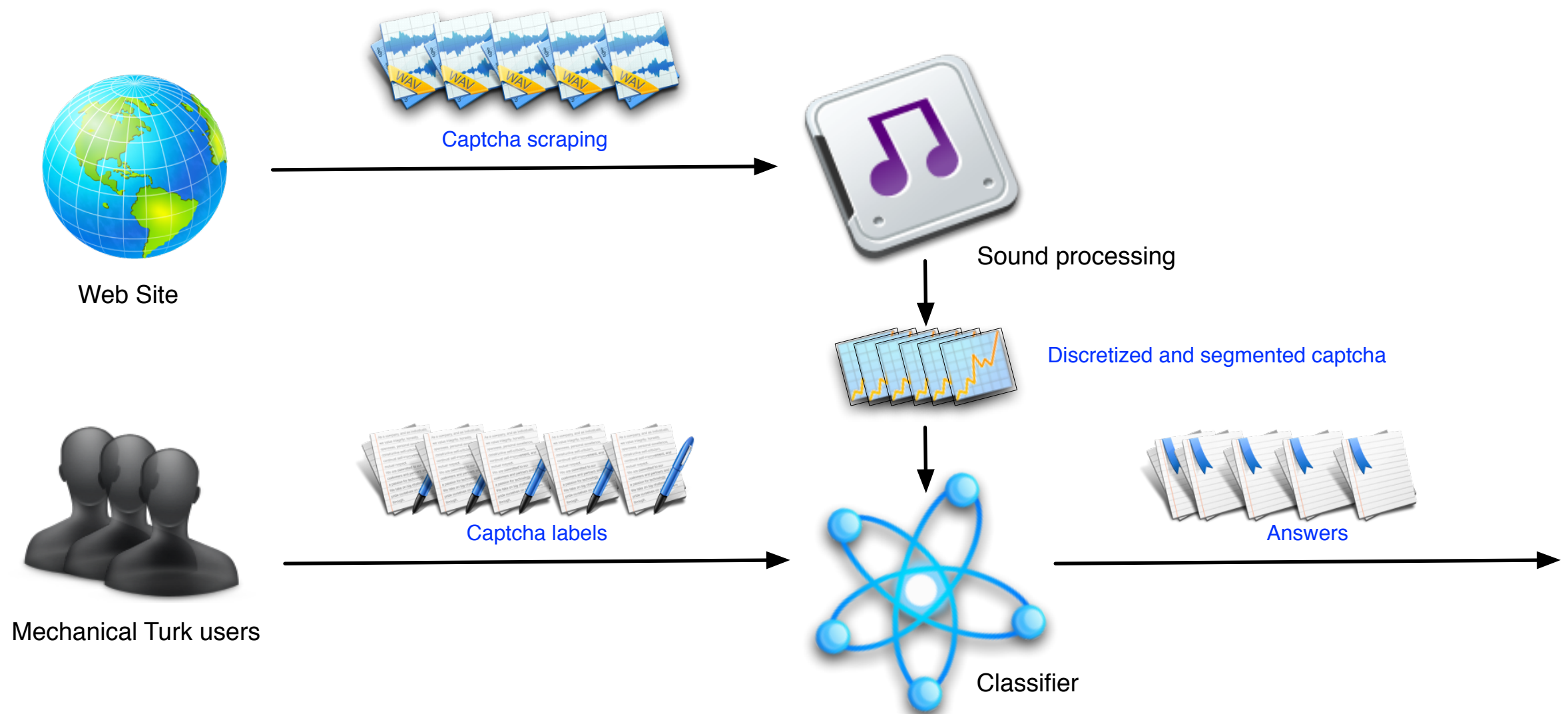
*Coverage*: Segmentation  
*Precision*: Recognition rate

# Decaptcha

---



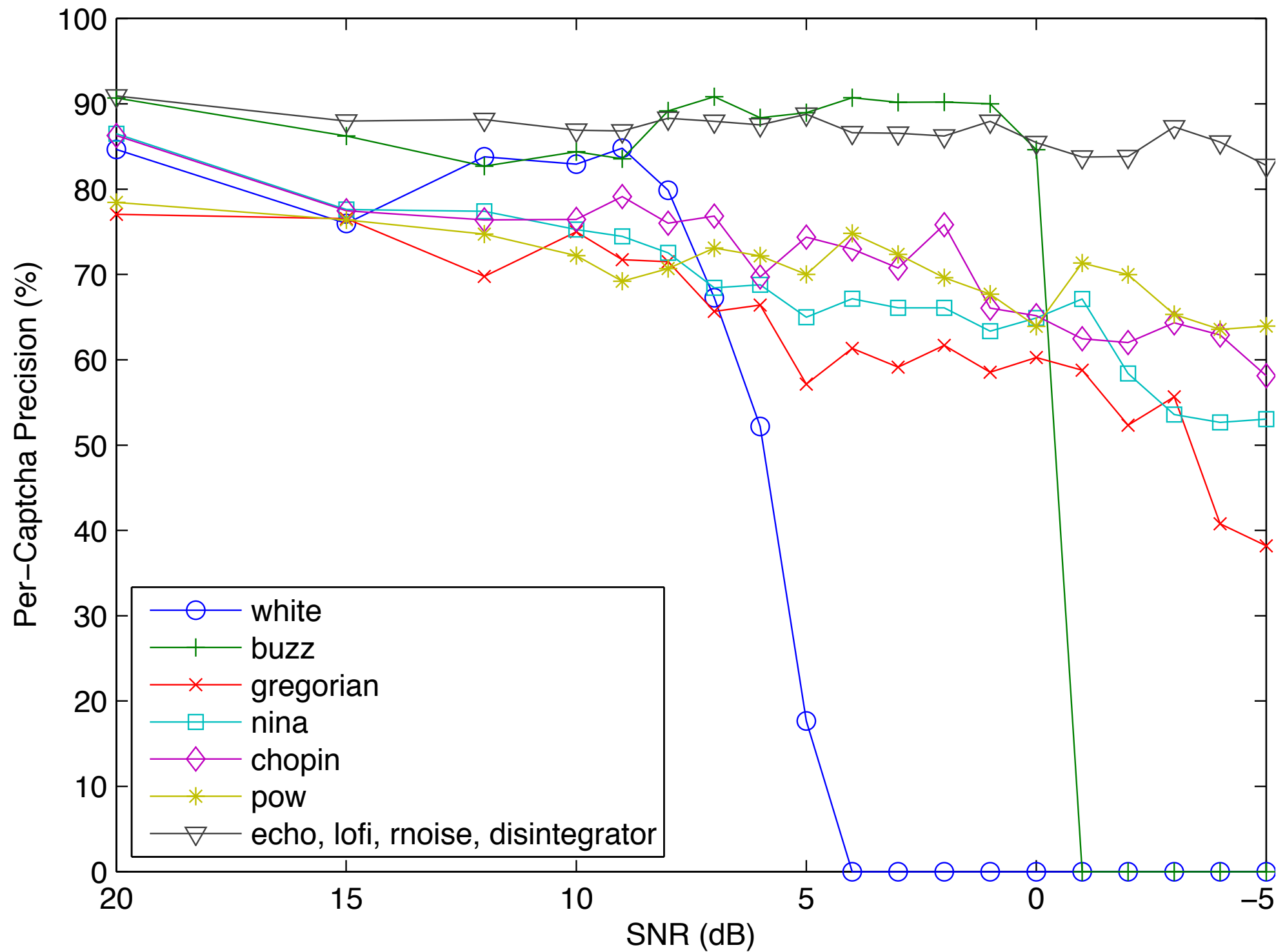
# Decaptcha overview



# Testing corpus

Family	Name	Description
Constant Noise	<i>White</i>	White Gaussian noise.
	<i>buzz</i>	Sine waves at 700 Hz, 2100 Hz and 3500 Hz.
Regular noise	<i>pow</i>	10 ms bursts of white Gaussian noise repeated every 100 ms.
	<i>rnoise</i>	Every 100 ms, a section of the signal is replaced by white noise of the same RMS amplitude.
	<i>lofi</i>	Add distortion, cracks, bandwidth limiting and compression. Simulates old audio equipment.
	<i>echo</i>	The signal starts to echo at 0.6, 1.32, and 1.92 seconds.
	<i>disintegrator</i>	Amplifies random half-cycles of the signal by a multiplier. Simulates a bad audio channel.
Semantic noise	<i>chopin</i>	Chopin Polonaise for Piano No. 6, Op. 53.
	<i>gregorian</i>	Gregorian chant.
	<i>nina</i>	“Just in time“ by Nina Simone.

# Synthetic evaluation



**Authorize.Net**<sup>®</sup>  
a CyberSource solution



**YAHOO!**<sup>®</sup>

**Microsoft**<sup>®</sup>

# Captcha features

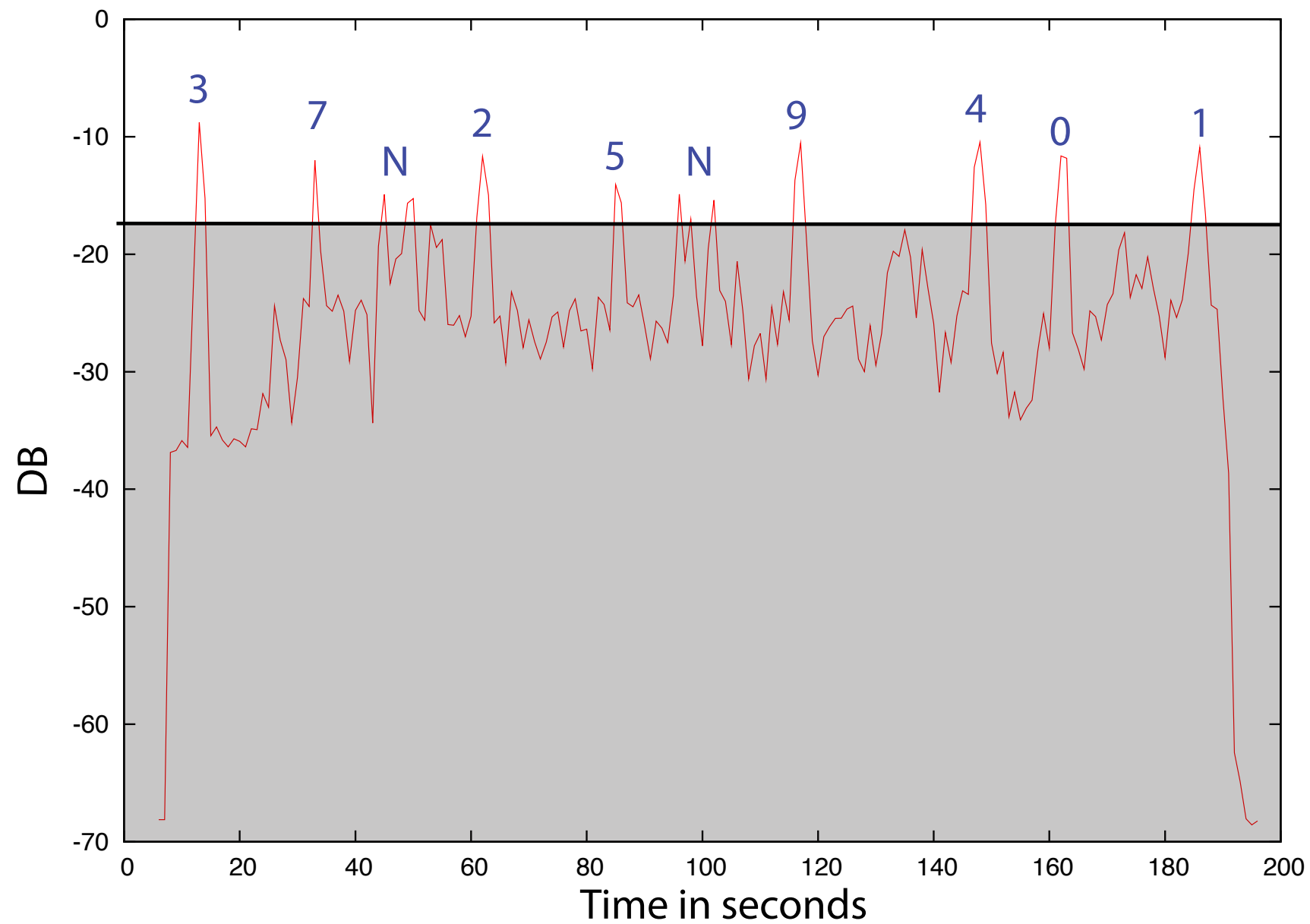
Scheme	Authorize	Digg	eBay	Microsoft	Recaptcha	Yahoo
Length	5	5	6	10	8	7
Type of voice	Female	Female	Various	Various	Various	Child
Background Noise	None	Constant (random)	Constant (random)	Constant (random)	Constant (random)	None
Intermediate noise	None	None	Regular (speech)	Regular (speech)	Regular (speech)	Regular (speech)
Charset	0-9a-z	a-z	0-9	0-9	0-9	0-9
Avg. duration	5.0	6.8	4.4	7.1	25.3	18.0
Sample rate	8000	8000 8000	8000	8000	8000	22050
Beep	no	no	no	no	no	yes



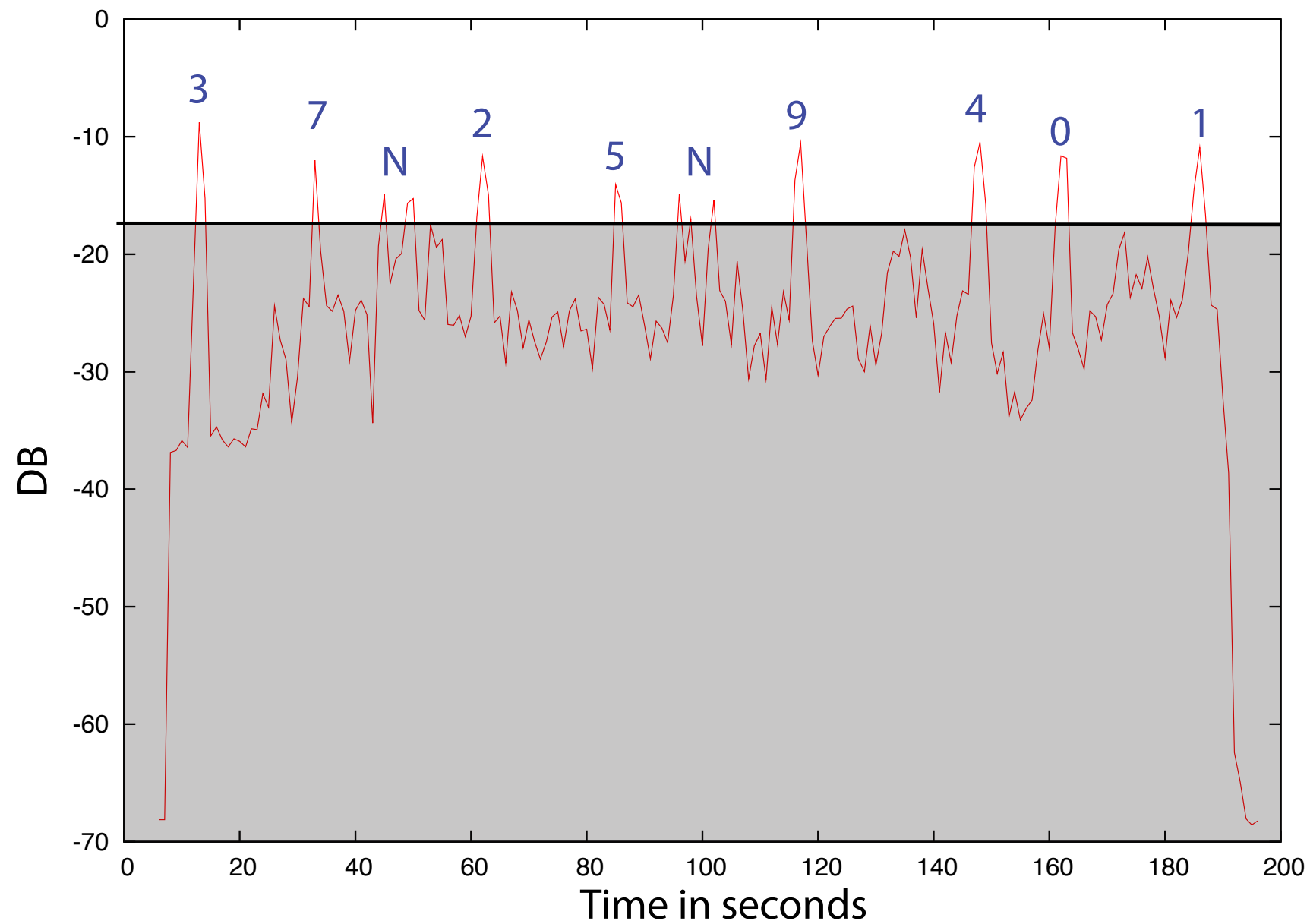
# Results

	Length	Coverage	Digit	Captcha
Authorize	5	100	97	<b>89.2%</b>
Digg	5	100	76	<b>41.4%</b>
eBay	6	85.6	92.5	<b>82.9%</b>
Microsoft	10	80.6	89.6	<b>48.9%</b>
Recaptcha	8	99.9	40.5	<b>1.5%</b>
Yahoo	7	99.1	74.7	<b>45.4%</b>

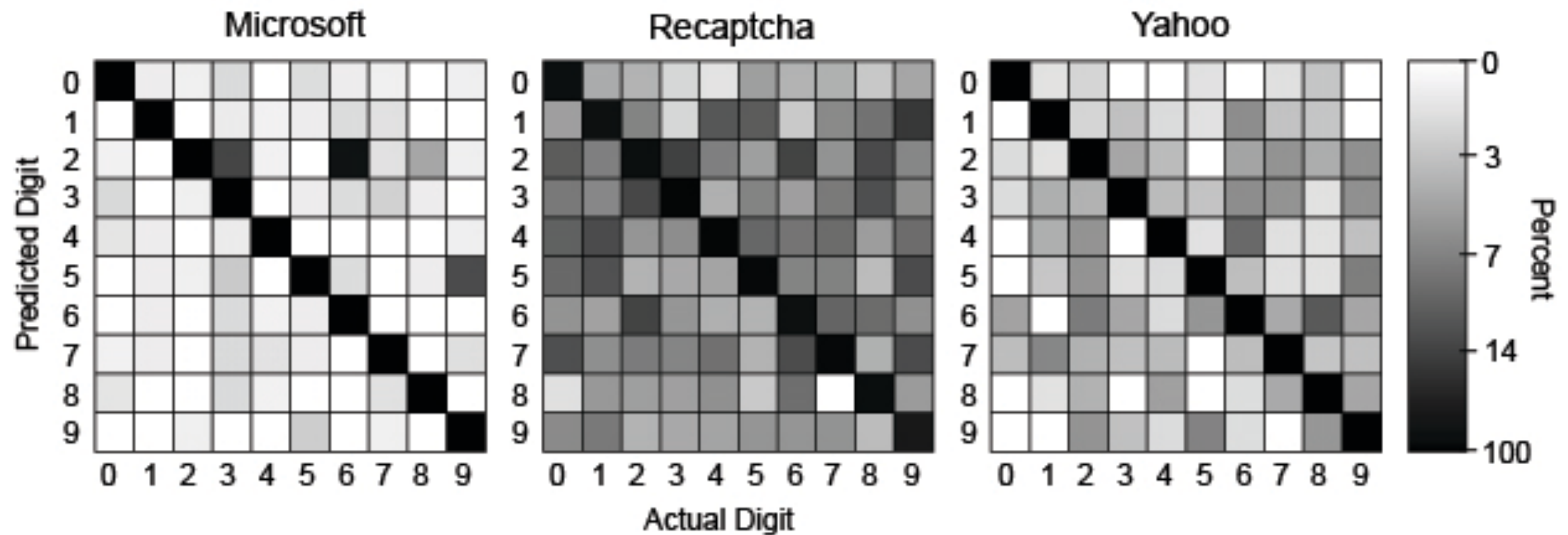
# Recaptcha semantic noise



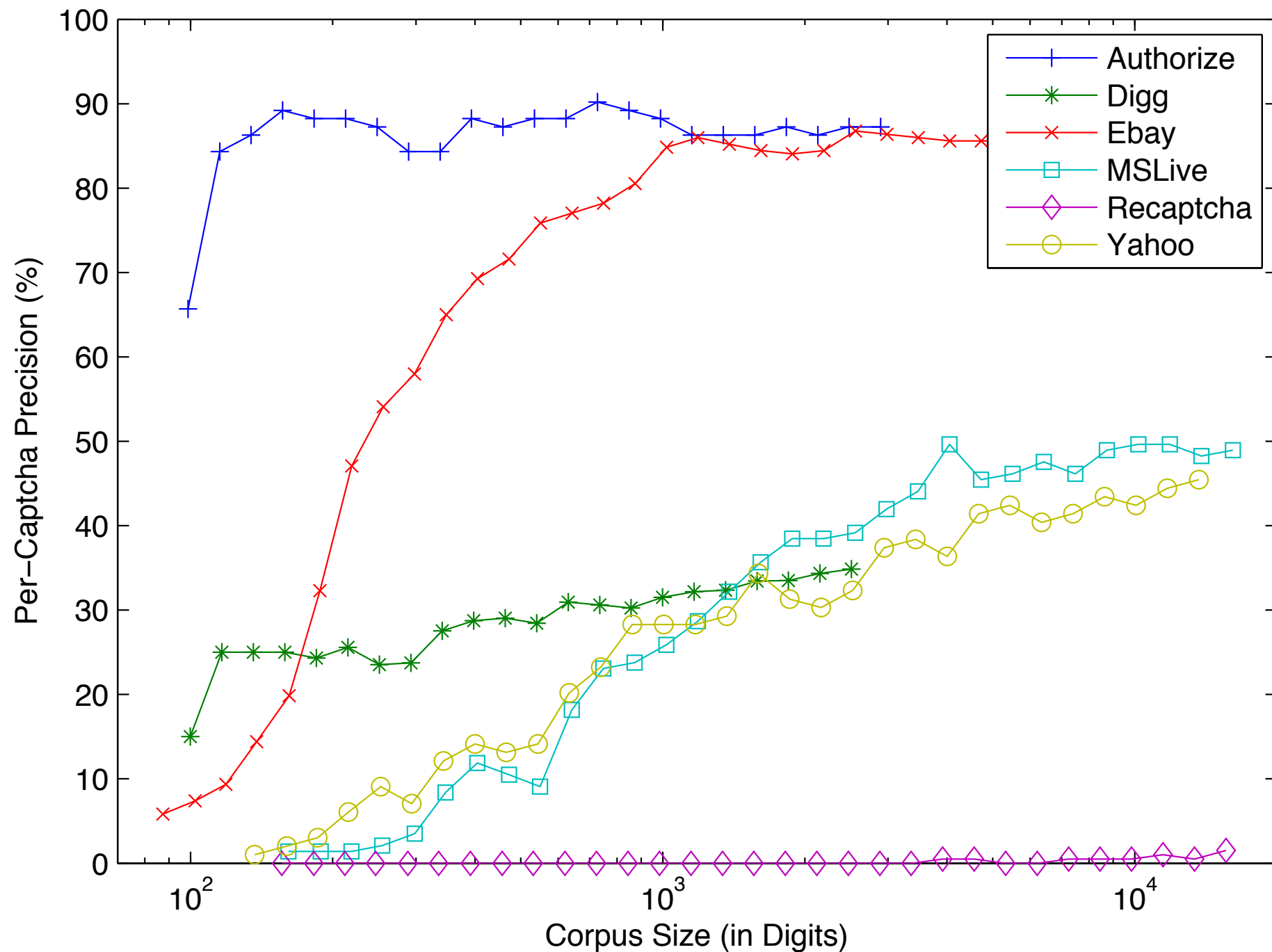
# Recaptcha semantic noise



# Confusion matrices



# How many captchas do you need ?





# Conclusion

- Non-continuous based captchas are broken
- Urgent need to come-up with the next generation of audio captchas

# Questions ?

Thanks

<http://ly.tl/p18>

Twitter: @elie