

# Quantum cryptography

# Communication security you enjoy daily

Paying by credit card in a supermarket

Cell phone conversations, SMS

Email, chat, online calls

Secure browsing, shopping online, content delivery

Cloud storage and communication between your devices

Software updates on your computer, phone, tablet

Online banking

Off-line banking: the *bank* needs to communicate internally

Electricity, water: the *utility* needs to communicate internally

Car keys, electronic door keys, access control

Government services (online or off-line)

Medical records at your doctor, hospital

Bypassing government surveillance and censorship

CCTV, industrial automation, military, spies...

# A (very) brief history of cryptography

Broken?

<b>Monoalphabetic cipher</b>	invented ~50 BC (J. Caesar)	~850 (Al-Kindi)
<b>Nomenclators (code books)</b>	~1400 – ~1800	✓
<b>Polyalphabetic (Vigenère)</b>	1553 – ~1900	1863 (F. W. Kasiski)
...		
<b>Polyalphabetic electromechanical (Enigma, Purple, etc.)</b>	1920s – 1970s	✓
...		
<b>DES</b>	1977 – 2005	1998: 56 h (EFF)
<b>Public-key crypto (RSA, elliptic-curve)</b>	1977 –	will be once we have q. computer (P. Shor 1994)
<b>AES</b>	2001 –	?
<b>Public-key crypto ('quantum-safe')</b>	in development	?

# Breaking cryptography retroactively



## Mosca theorem

y (re-tool infrastructure)

x (encryption needs be secure)

z (time to build large quantum computer)

Time

If  $x + y > z$ , then worry.

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...		
<b>One-time pad</b>	invented 1918 (G. Vernam)	<b>impossible</b> (C. Shannon 1949)
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<b>Public-key crypto ('quantum-safe')</b>	in development	?

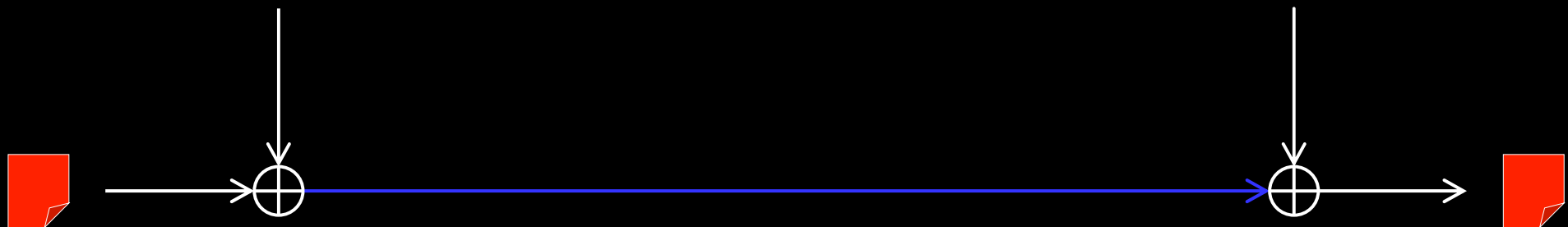
# One-time pad

Alice

Bob

**Random secret key** of same length as message

**Random secret key**



**Message**

**Message**

$\alpha$	$\beta$	$\alpha \oplus \beta$
0	0	0
0	1	1
1	0	1
1	1	0

G. Vernam, U.S. patent 1310719 (filed in 1918, granted 1919)  
C. E. Shannon, Bell Syst. Tech. J. **28**, 656 (1949)

# A (very) brief history of cryptography

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# Quantum communication primitives

## Advantages over classical primitives:

Unconditionally secure?

Less resources?

Other quantum advantages?

Money



Key distribution



Secret sharing



Digital signatures



Superdense coding



Fingerprinting



Oblivious transfer

Impossible



Bit commitment

Impossible



Coin-tossing



Cloud computing



Software leasing



Bitcoin



Bell inequality testing

Teleportation

Entanglement swapping

Interaction-free measurement



(no classical equivalent)

Random number generators





# Quantum communication primitives

Money

Key distribution

Secret sharing

Digital signatures

Superdense coding

Fingerprinting

Oblivious transfer

Bit commitment

Coin-tossing

Cloud computing

Software leasing

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Bell inequality testing

Teleportation

Entanglement swapping

Interaction-free measurement

Random number generators

S. Wiesner, unpublished circa 1970, *Sigact News* **15**, 78 (1983);  
S. Aaronson, P. Christiano, *Proc. STOC'12*, 41 (2012)  
[idquantique.com](http://idquantique.com), [quantum-info.com](http://quantum-info.com), [qasky.com](http://qasky.com), [goqrates.com](http://goqrates.com)

W. P. Grice *et al.*, *Opt. Express* **23**, 7300 (2015).

R. Collins *et al.*, *Phys. Rev. Lett.* **113**, 040502 (2014)

C. H. Bennett, S. J. Wiesner, *Phys. Rev. Lett.* **69**, 2881 (1992)

J.-Y. Guan *et al.*, *Phys. Rev. Lett.* **116**, 240502 (2016)

C. Erven *et al.*, *Nat. Commun.* **5**, 3418 (2014)

T. Lunghi *et al.*, *Phys. Rev. Lett.* **111**, 180504 (2013)

A. Pappa *et al.*, *Nat. Commun.* **5**, 3717 (2014)

S. Barz *et al.*, *Science* **335**, 303 (2012)

A. Broadbent *et al.*, *Lect. Notes Comp. Sci.* **13042**, 90 (2021)

J. Jogenfors, *Proc. IEEE ICBC 2019*, 245 (2019)

B. Hensen *et al.*, *Nature* **526**, 682 (2015)

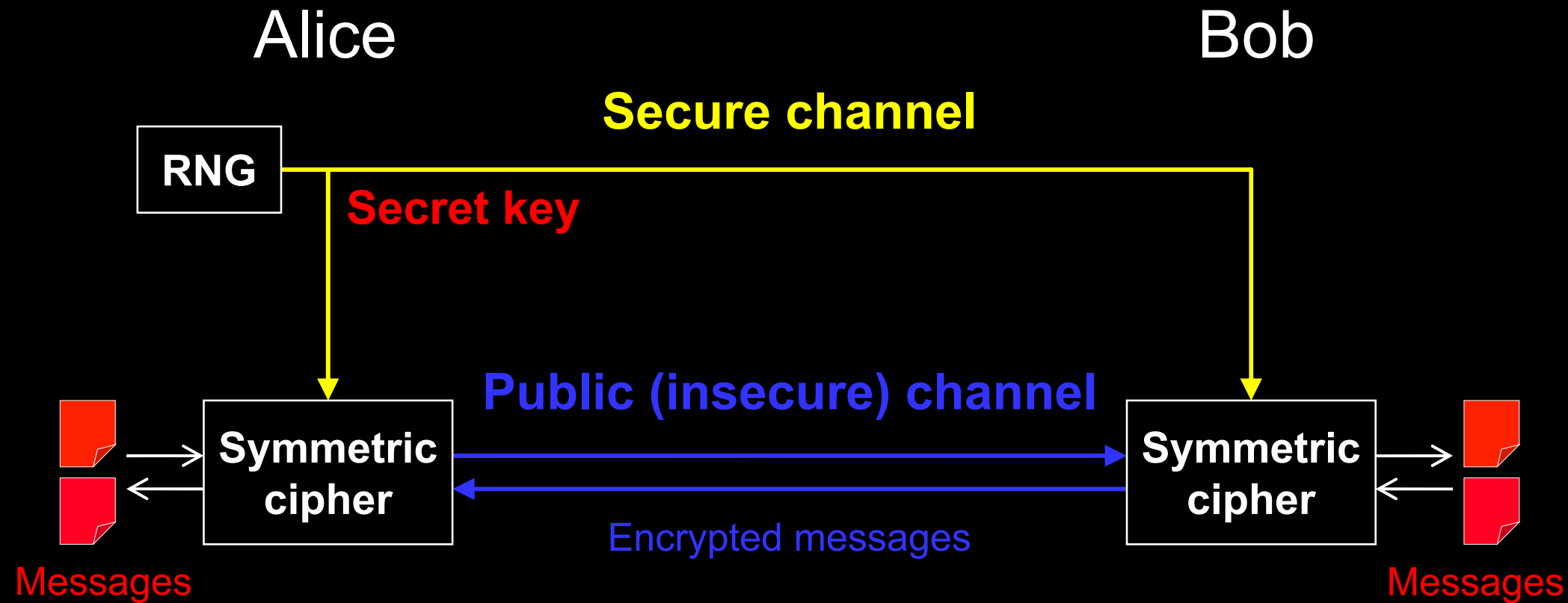
X.-S. Ma *et al.*, *Nature* **489**, 269 (2012)

M. Żukowski *et al.*, *Phys. Rev. Lett.* **71**, 4287 (1993)

A. C. Elitzur, L. Vaidman, *Found. Phys.* **23**, 987 (1993)

[idquantique.com](http://idquantique.com), [picoquant.com](http://picoquant.com)

# Key distribution for encryption



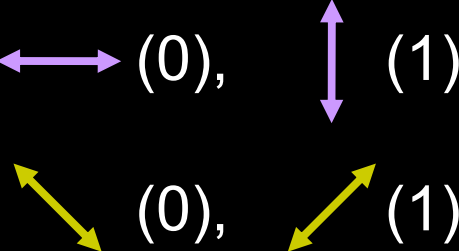
Quantum key distribution transmits secret key by sending quantum states over *open channel*.

# Quantum key distribution (QKD)

Alice



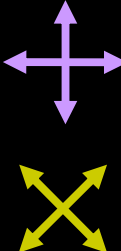
Prepares photons



Bob



Measures photons

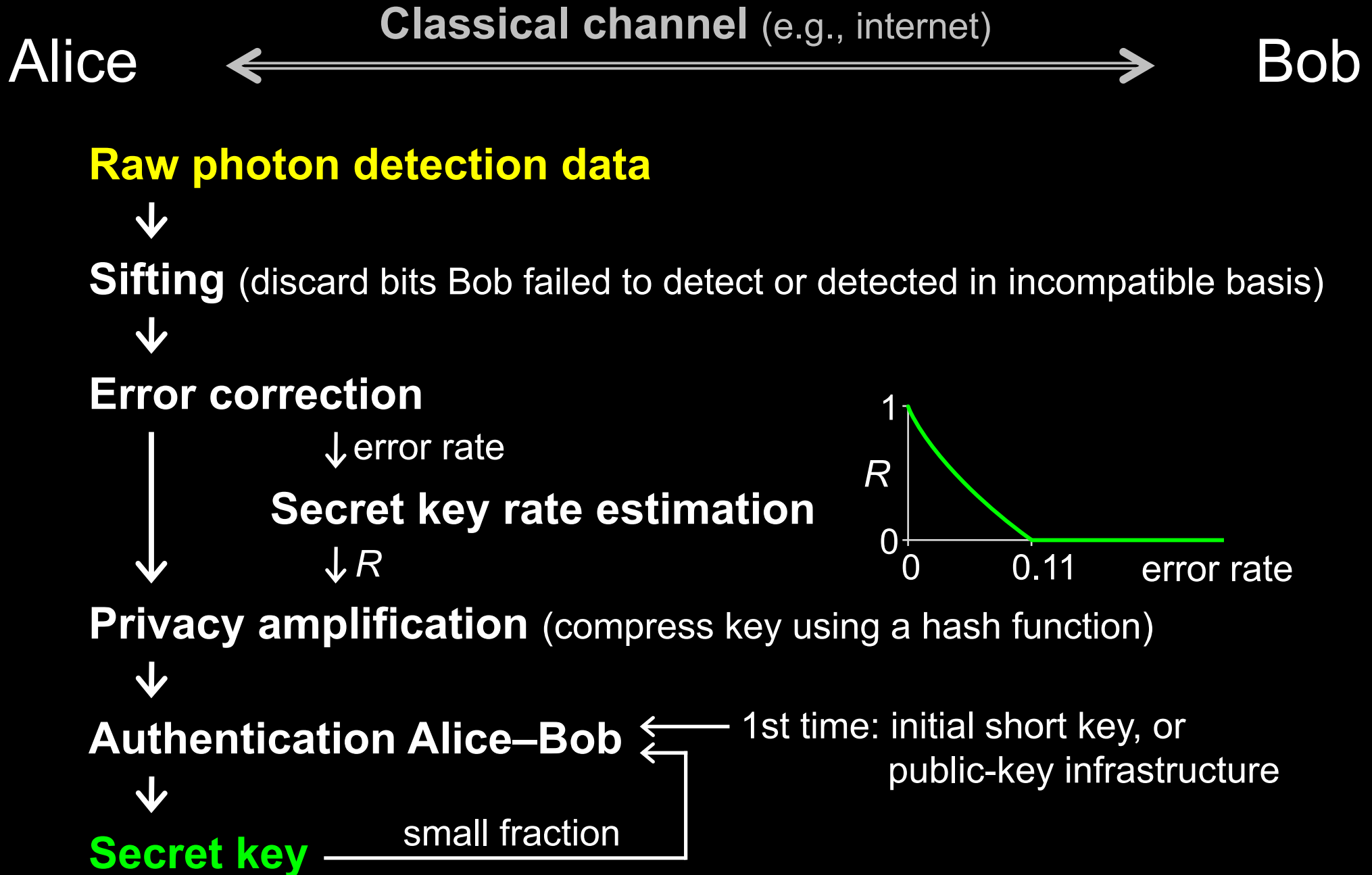


or ?



Eavesdropping introduces errors

# Post-processing in QKD



# Dealing with errors

Errors due to imperfections and Eve.

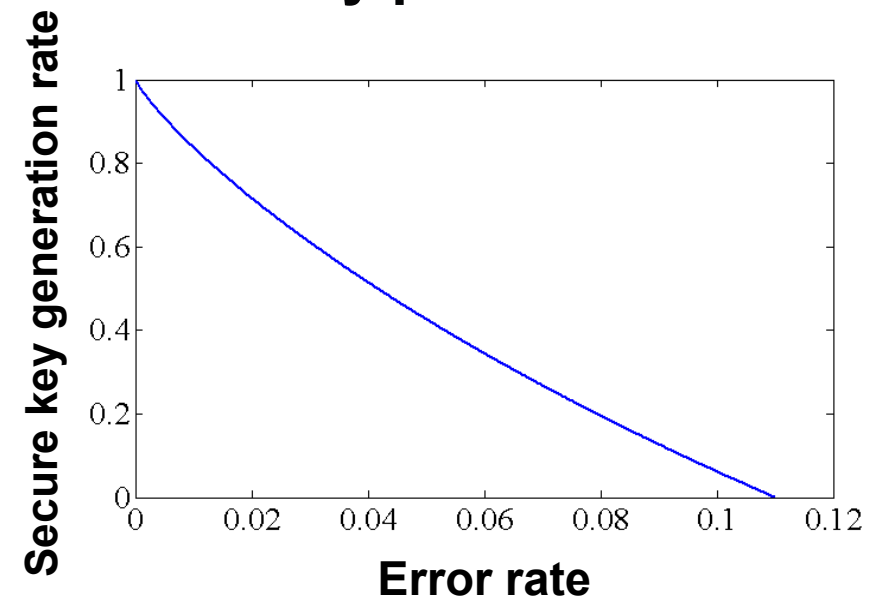
Must assume that all errors are due to Eve!

- Error correction: standard classical protocols
- Privacy amplification:

secure key      random matrix      raw key

$$\begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

Security proof:



# Commercial QKD

## Classical encryptors:

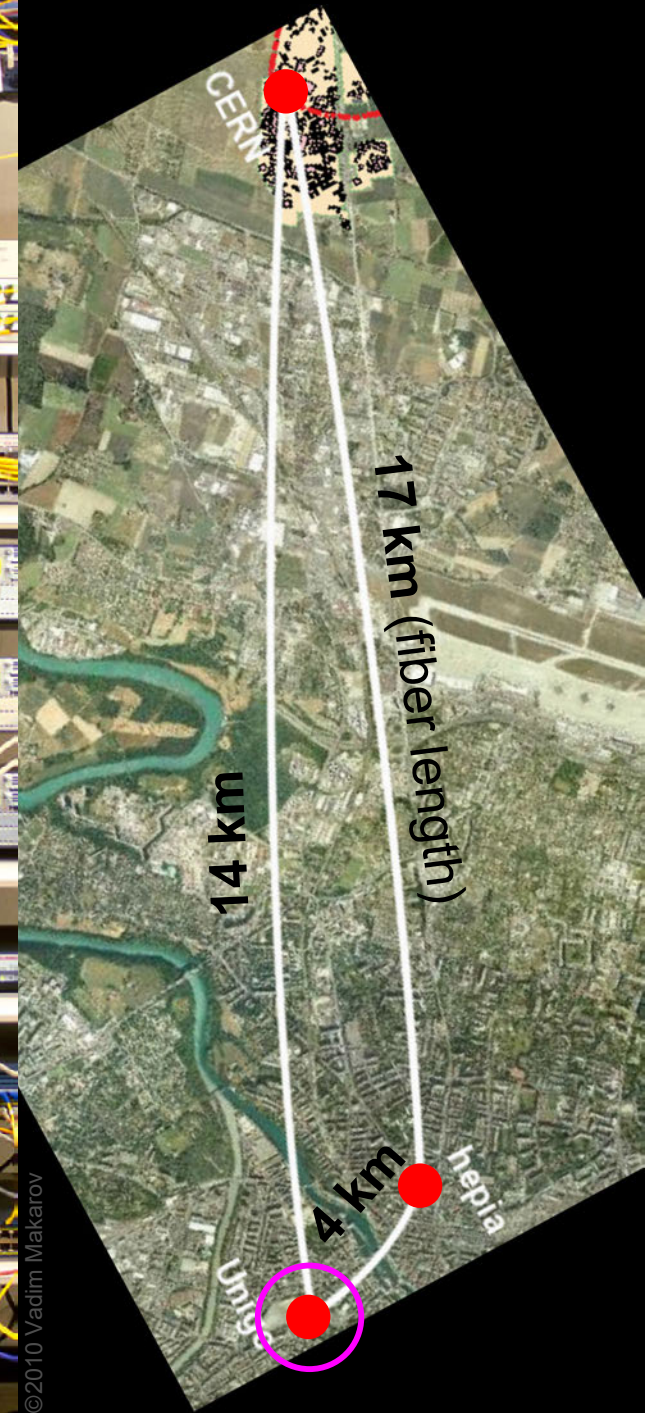
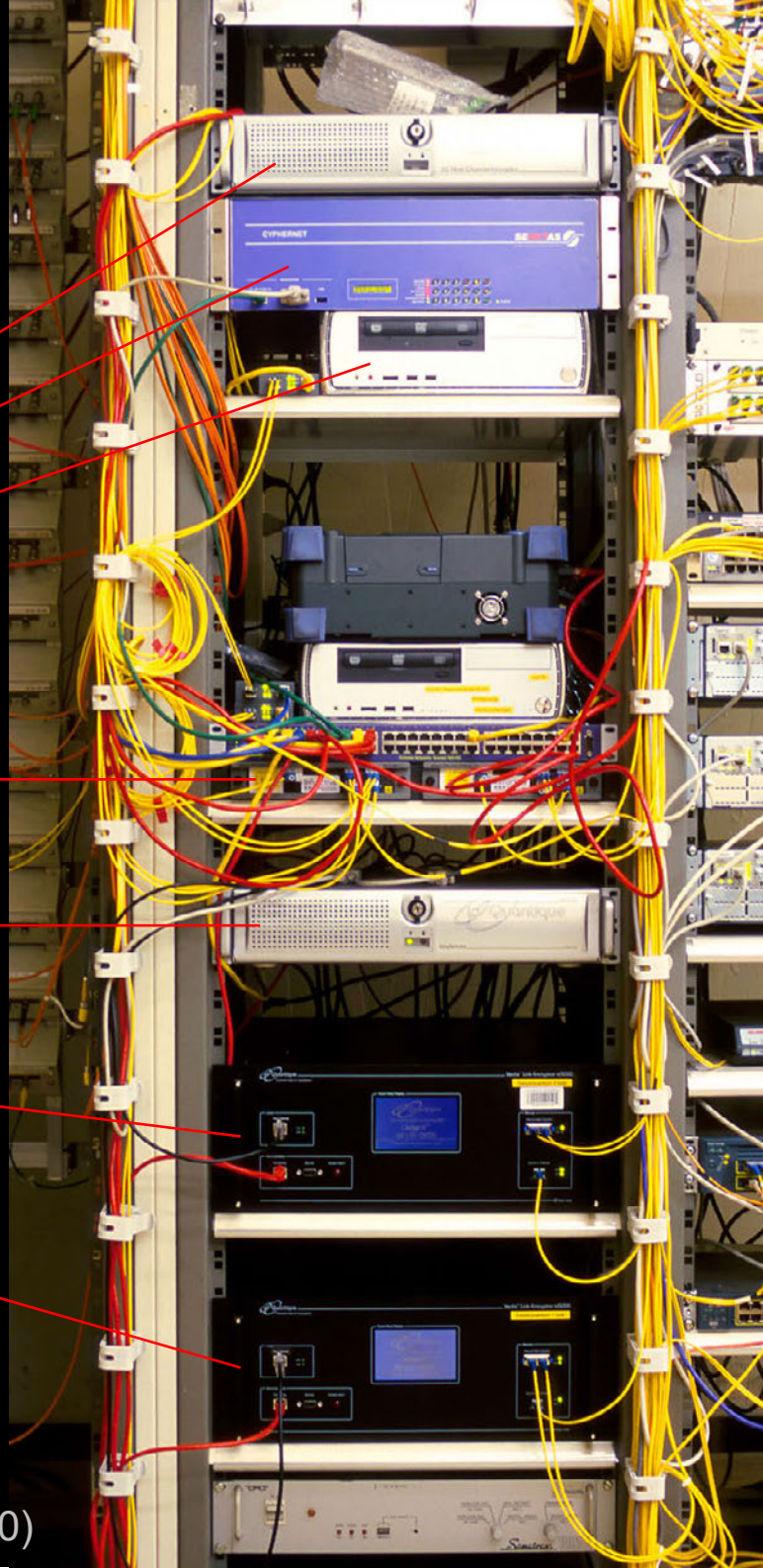
- L2, 2 Gbit/s
- L2, 10 Gbit/s
- L3 VPN, 100 Mbit/s

## WDMs

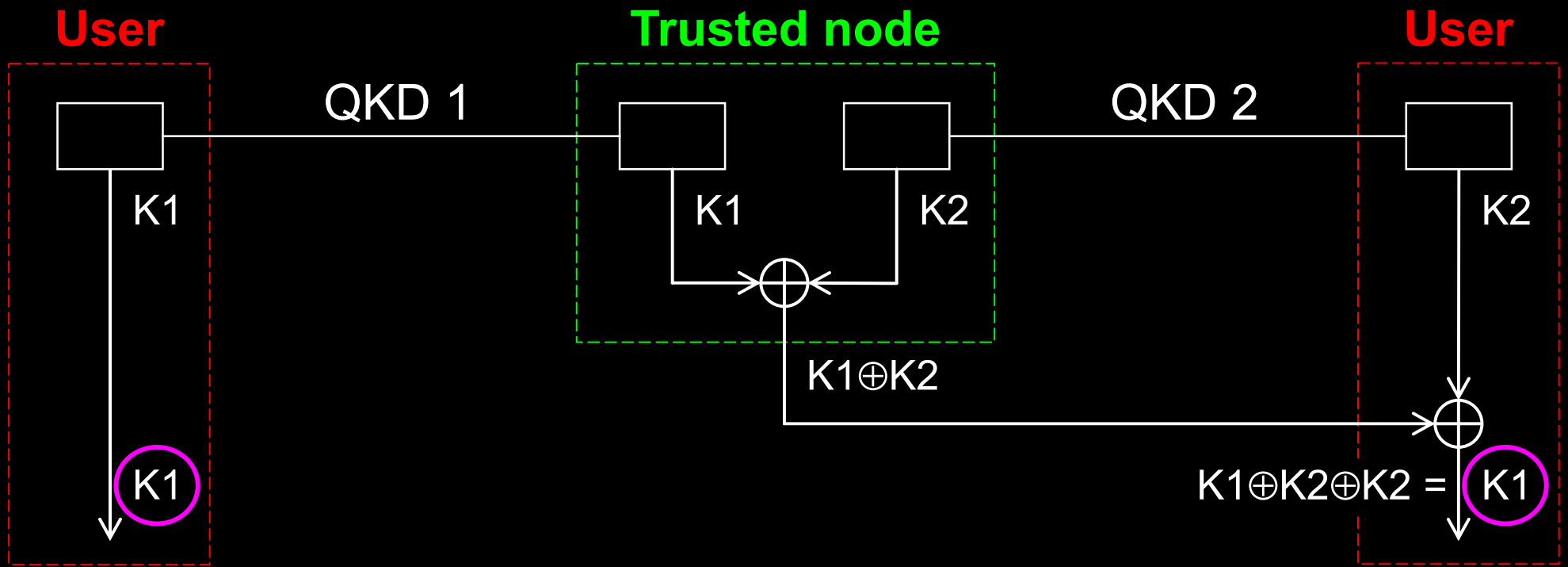
## Key manager

QKD to another node  
(4 km)

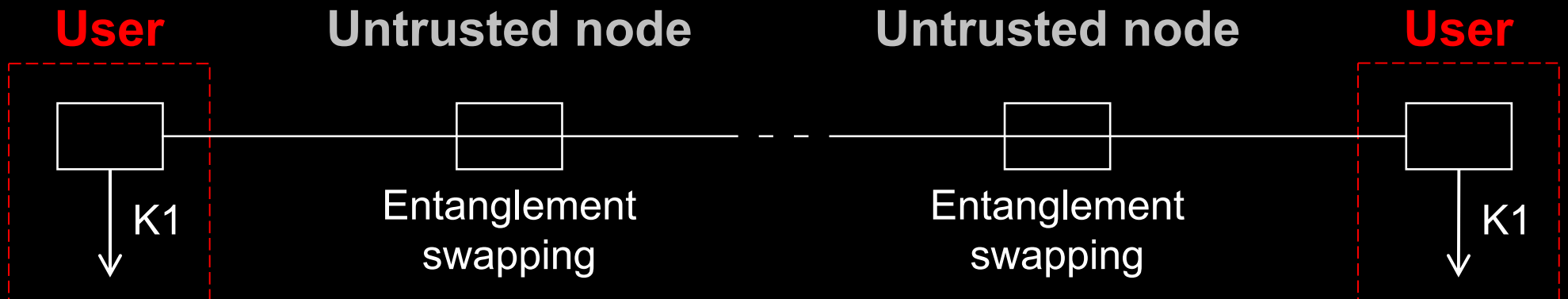
QKD to another node  
(14 km)

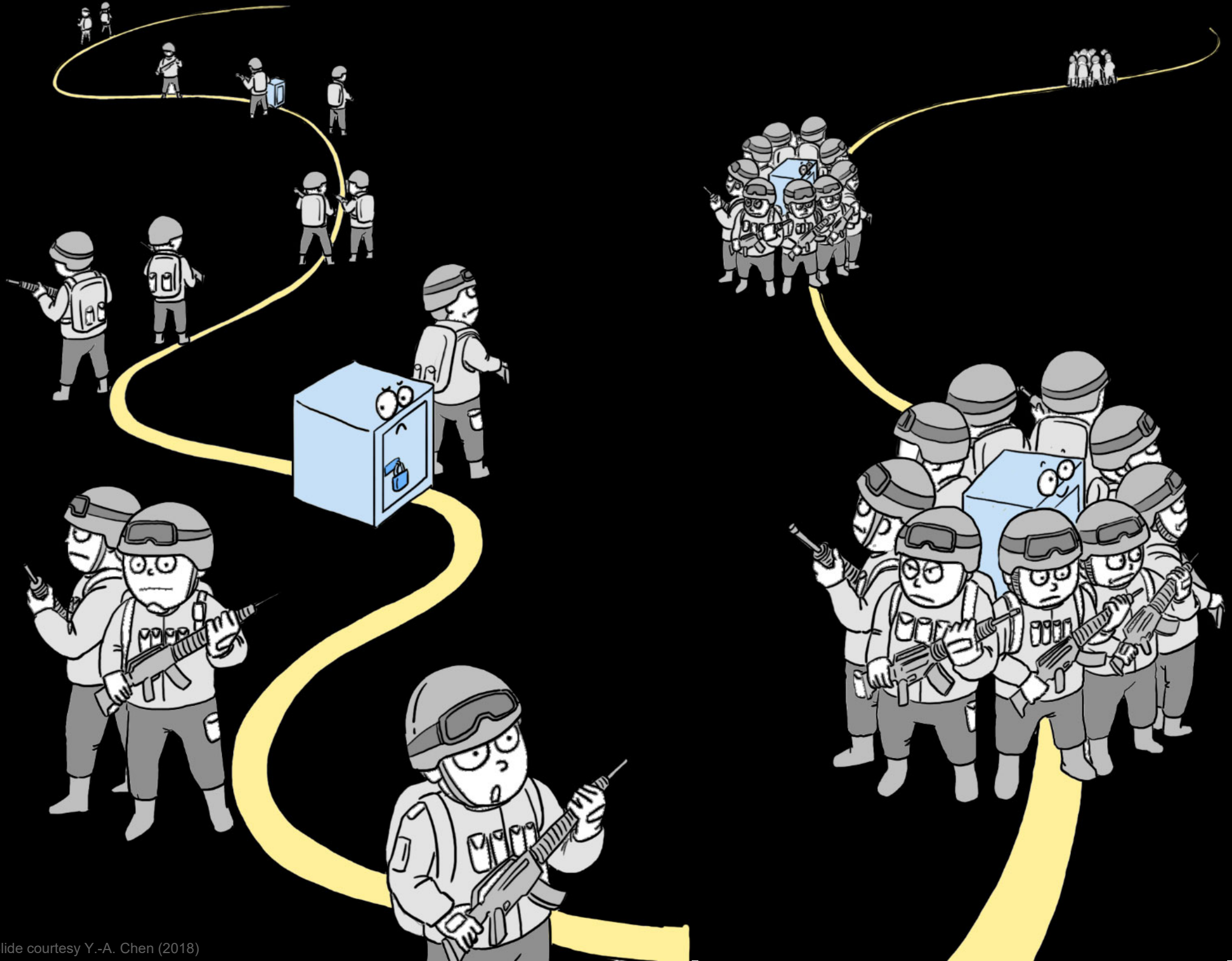


# Today: trusted-node repeater



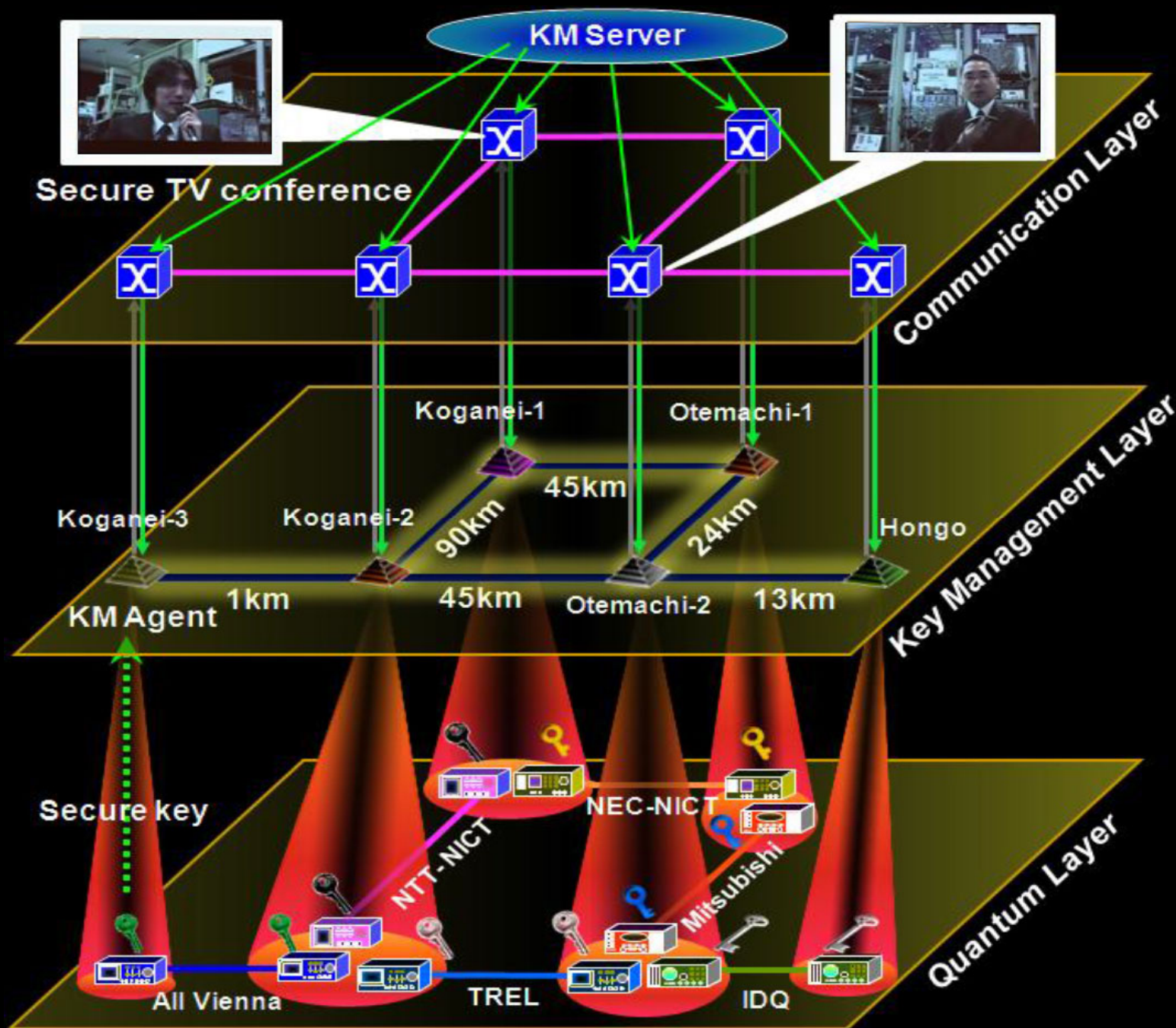
# Future: quantum repeater







# Trusted-node network





**Shanghai control center of the Chinese quantum key distribution network and satellite**

Photo ©2016 Vadim Makarov

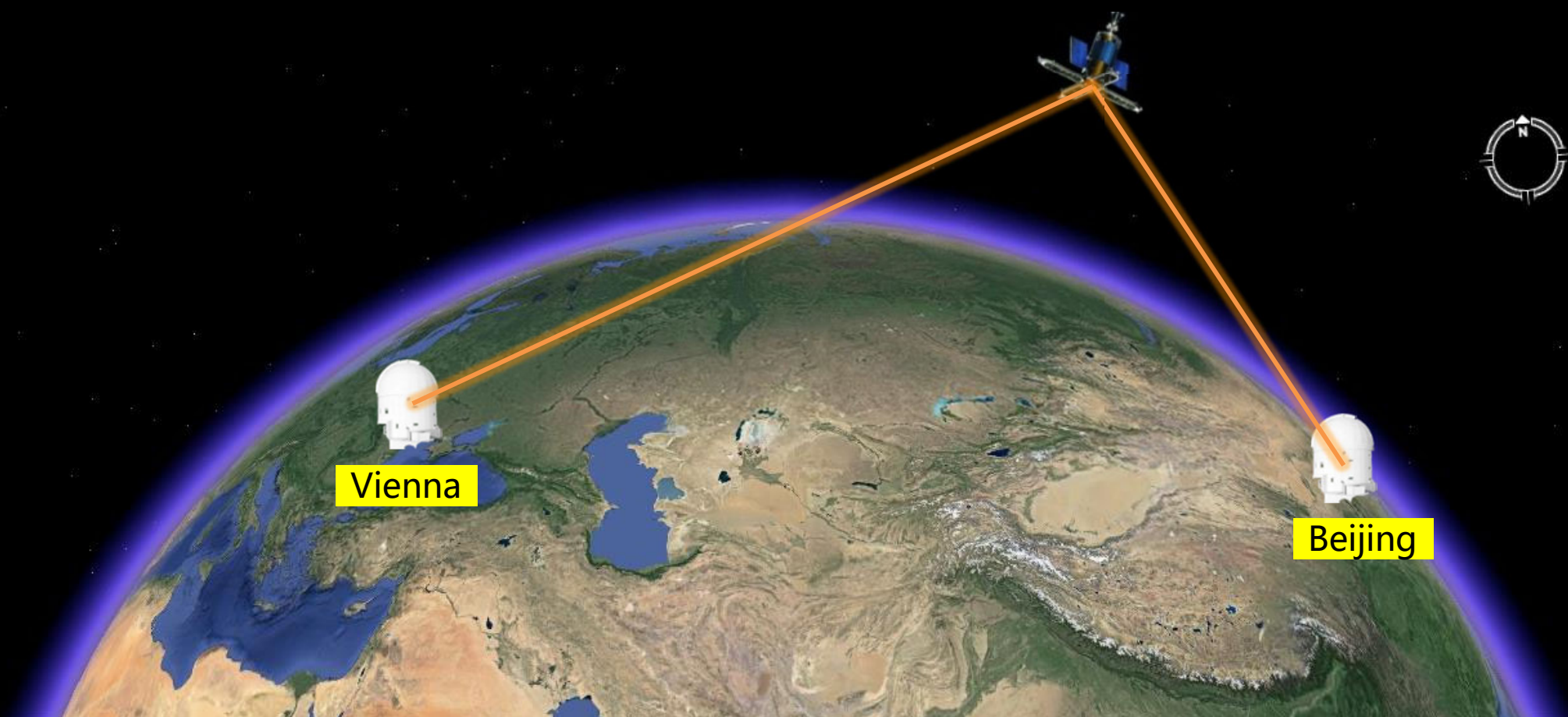
A satellite view of Earth from space, showing the Americas and surrounding oceans with white text overlaid.

# Global quantum key distribution



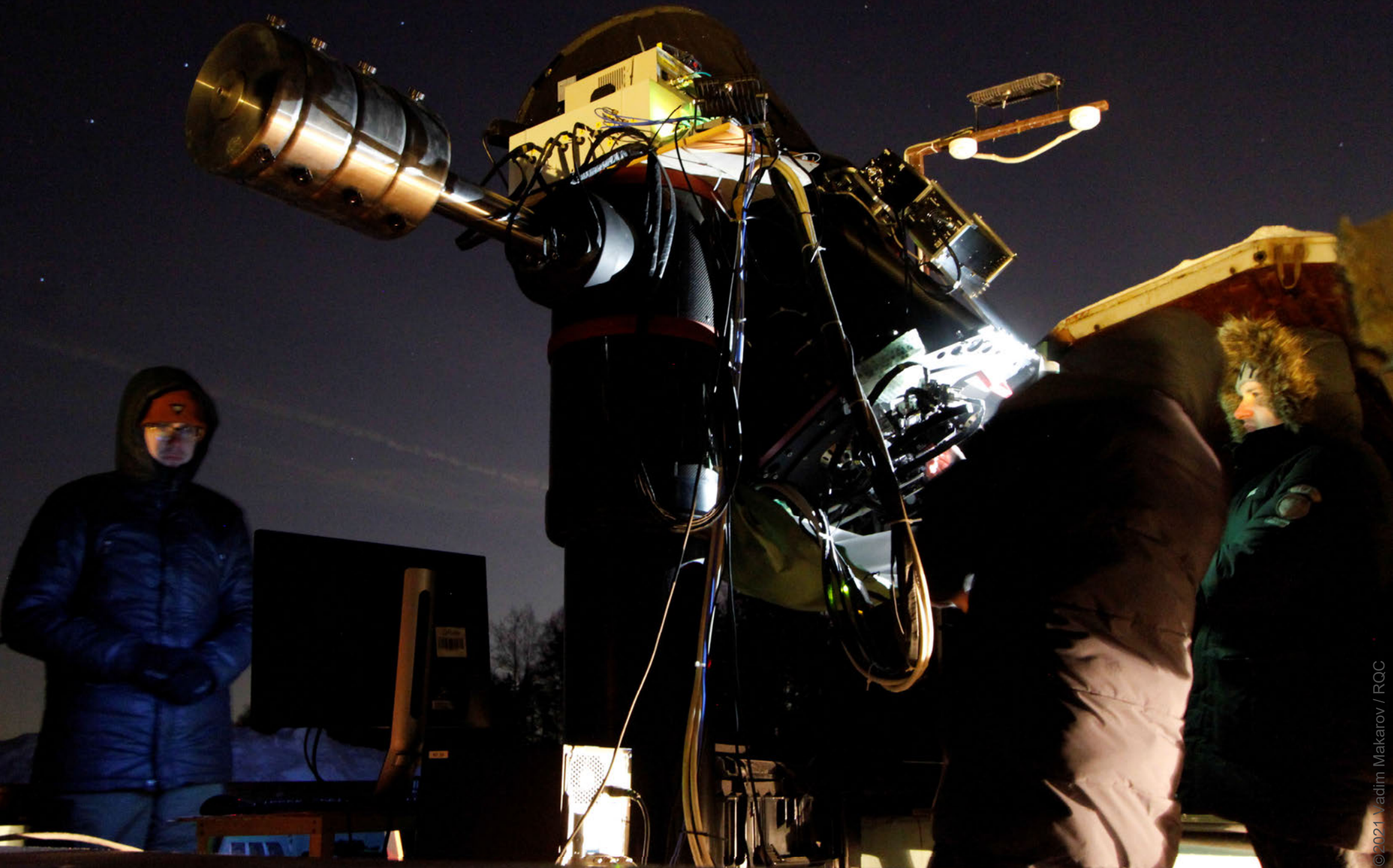
# CAS Strategic Priority Research Program: Quantum Satellite

- Intercontinental quantum key distribution



Slide presented by Jian-Wei Pan at TyQI conference, Shanghai, June 27–30, 2016

Review of results: C.-W. Lu, Y. Cao, C.-Z. Peng, J.-W. Pan, *Rev. Mod. Phys.* **94**, 035001 (2022)



**Ground station in Zvenigorod communicates with Micius satellite (18 Jan 2021)**



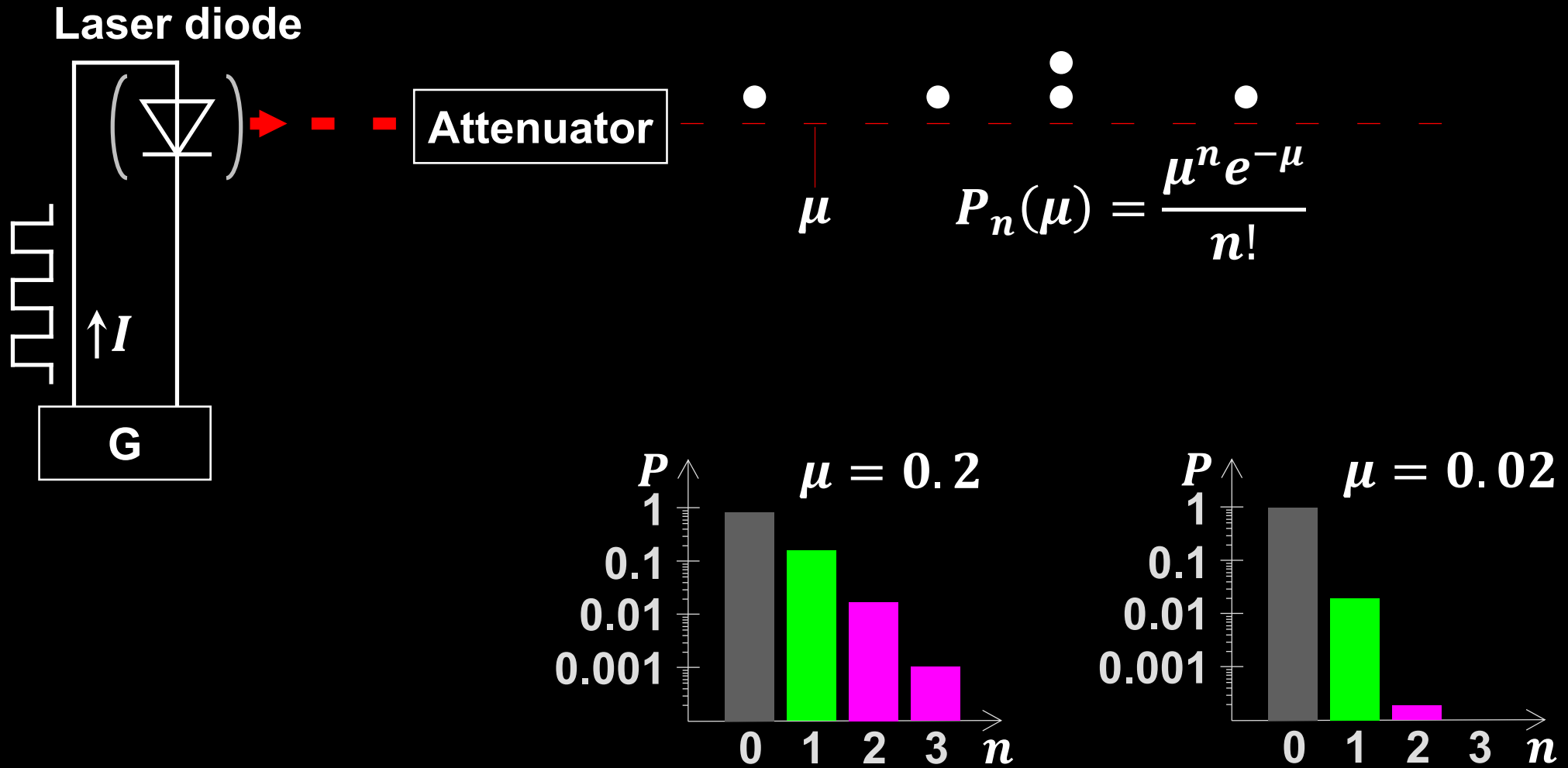
**Ground station in Zvenigorod communicates with Micius satellite (18 Jan 2021)**

# Components of quantum-optical systems

**Photon sources** \_\_\_\_\_ **Transmission channels** \_\_\_\_\_ **“Processing” elements** \_\_\_\_\_ **Photon detectors**



# Attenuated laser source



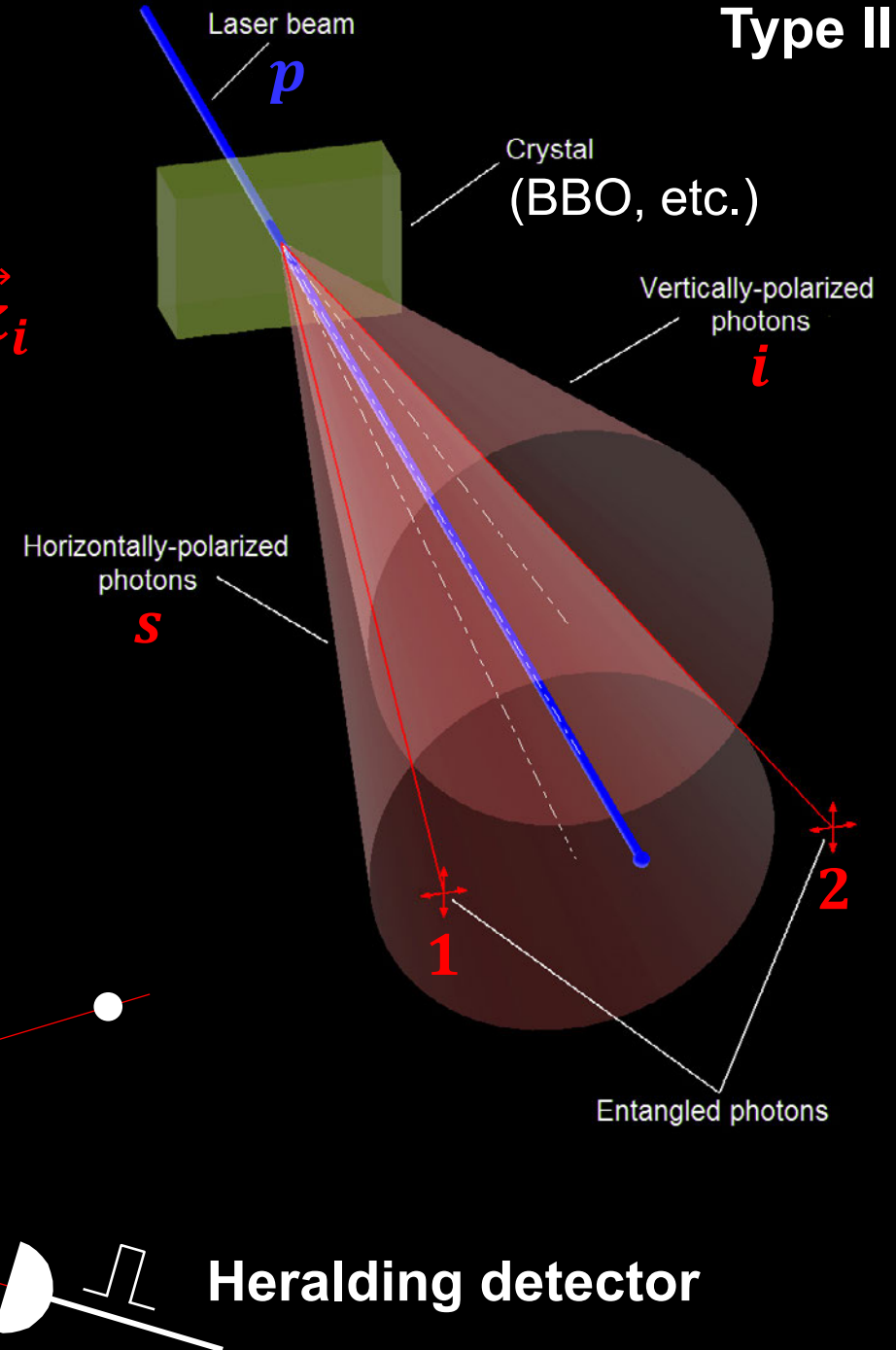
# Spontaneous parametric down-conversion

Type II

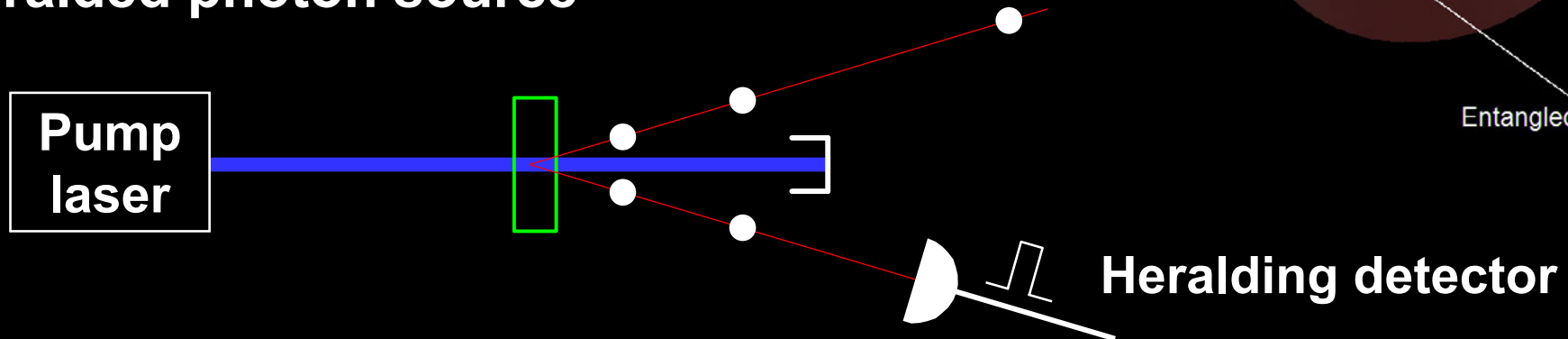
Energy conservation:  $\omega_p = \omega_s + \omega_i$

Momentum conservation:  $\vec{k}_p = \vec{k}_s + \vec{k}_i$

$$|\psi\rangle = (|H_1, V_2\rangle + |V_1, H_2\rangle) / \sqrt{2}$$

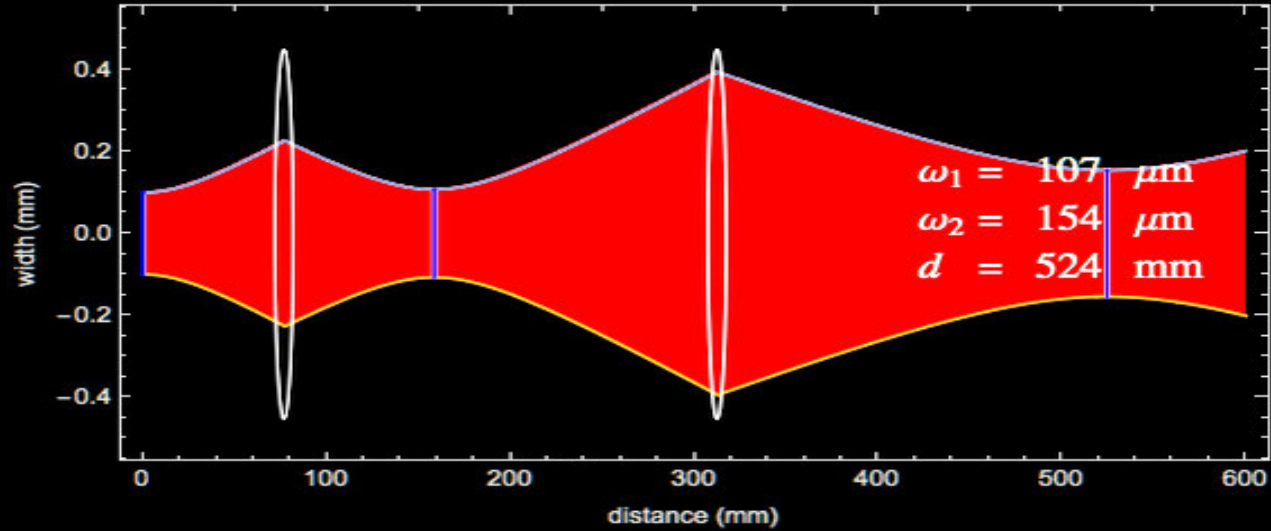


Heralded photon source

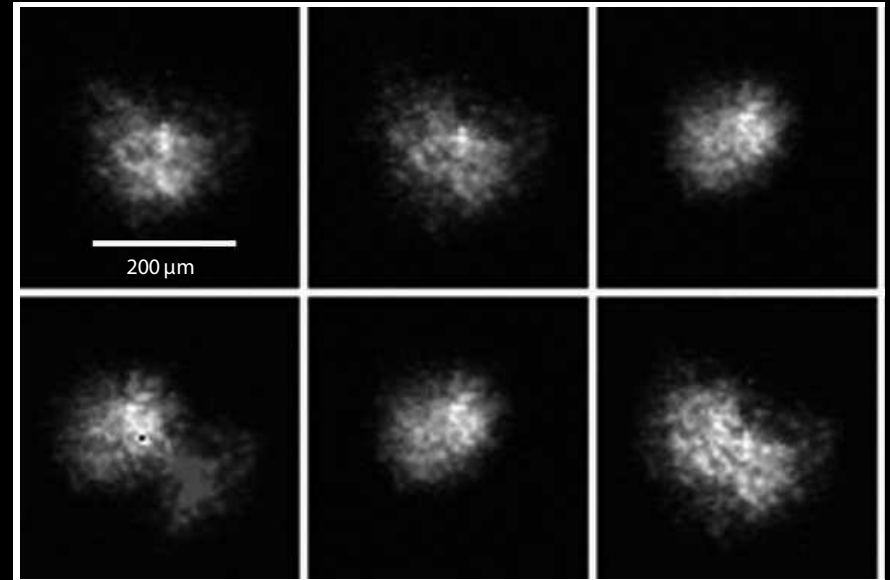
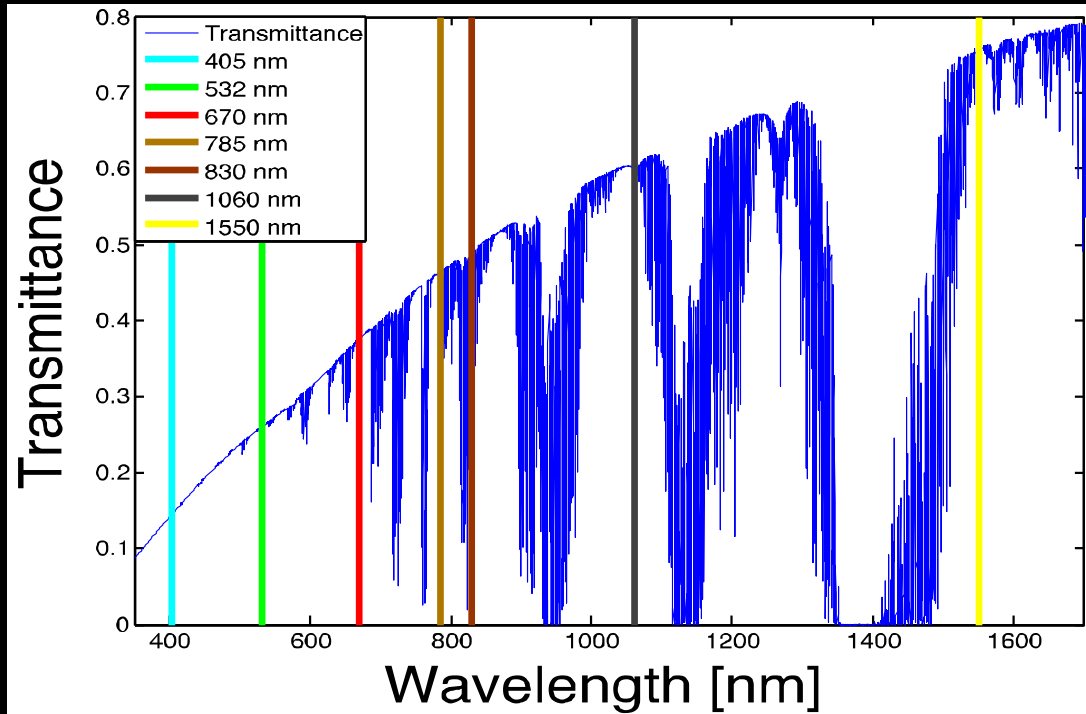


# Transmission in free space

Vacuum:  
Gaussian optics



Atmosphere: loss, turbulence

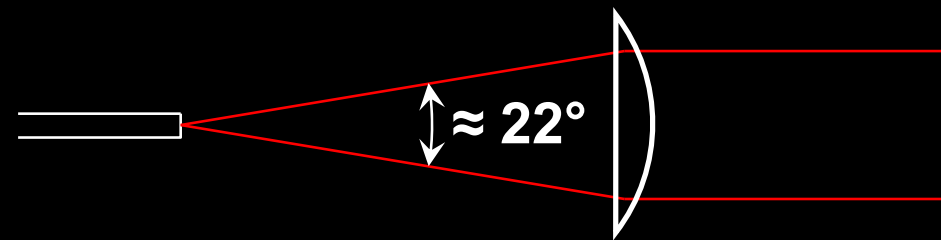
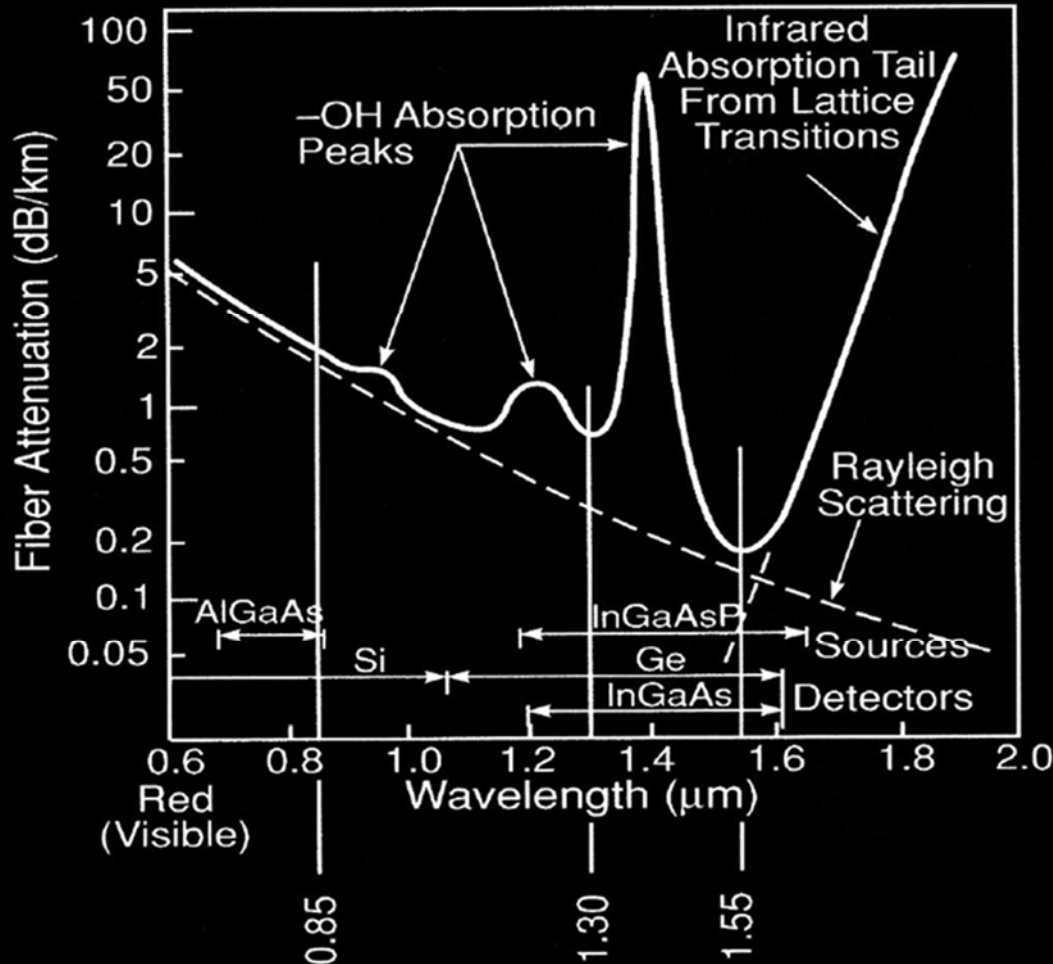
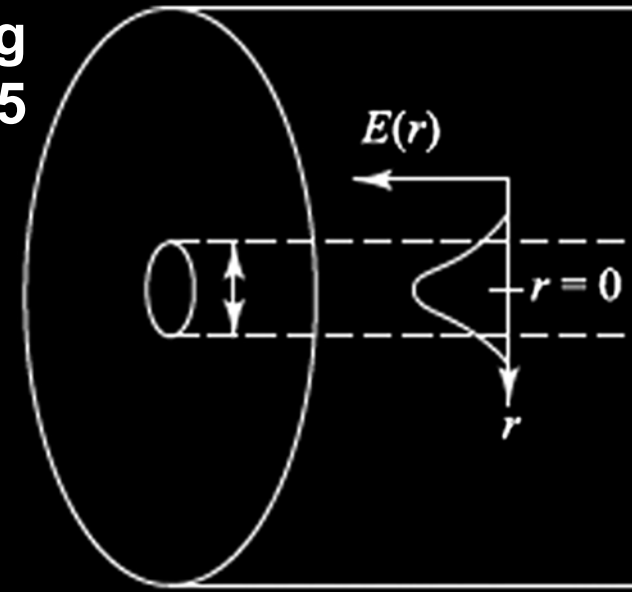


# Transmission in optical fiber

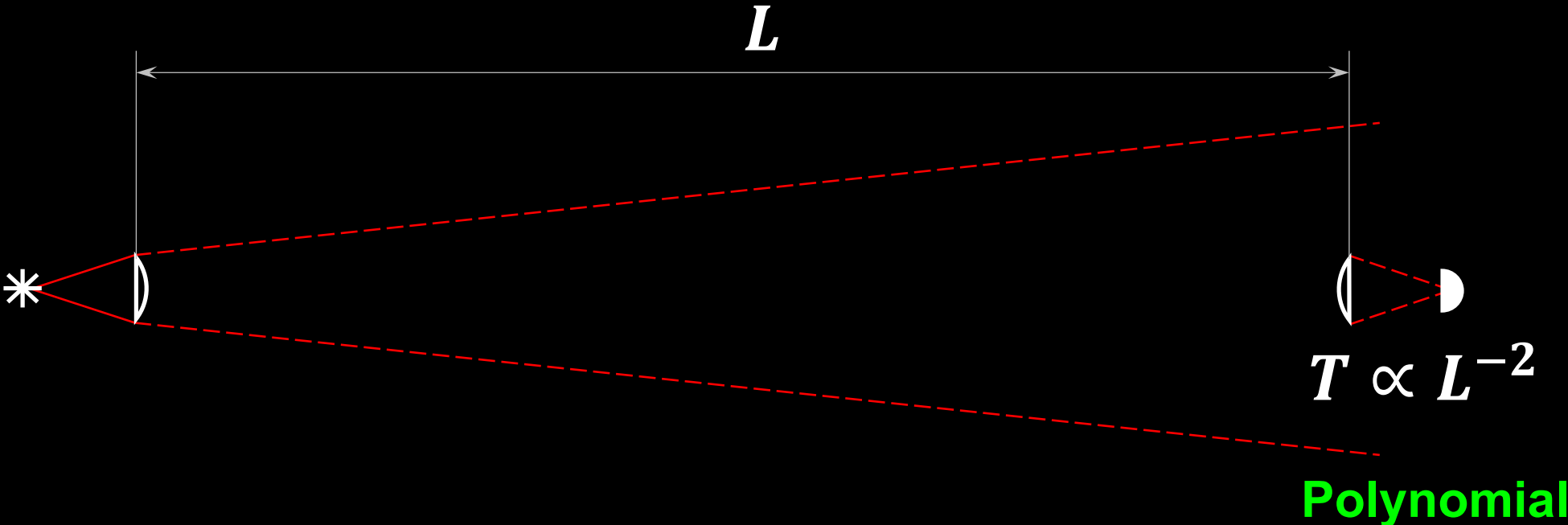
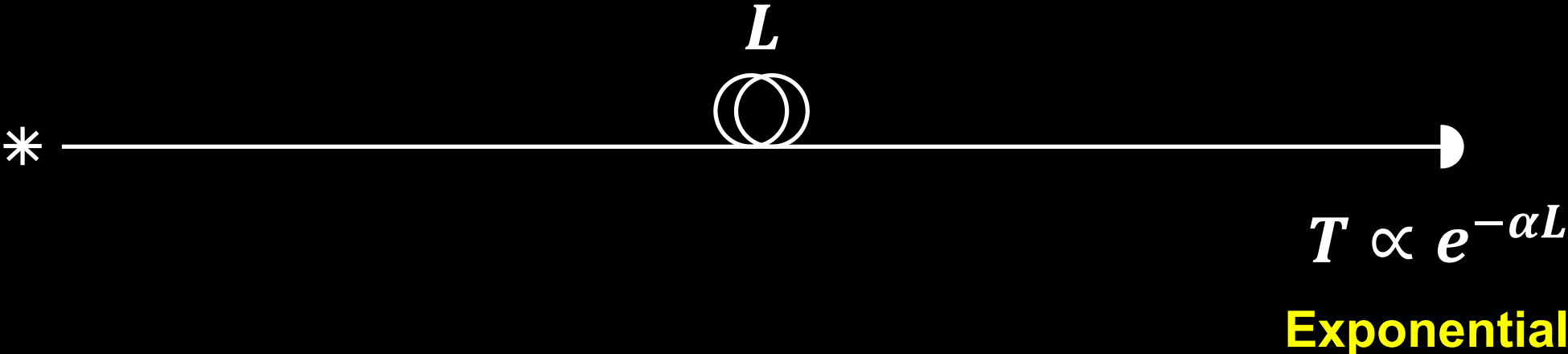
## Single-mode fiber

125  $\mu\text{m}$  diameter cladding  
fused quartz,  $n_1 = 1.45$

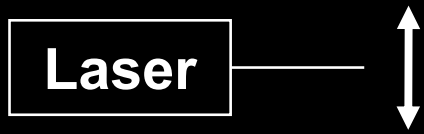
8  $\mu\text{m}$  diameter core  
 $n_2 > n_1$



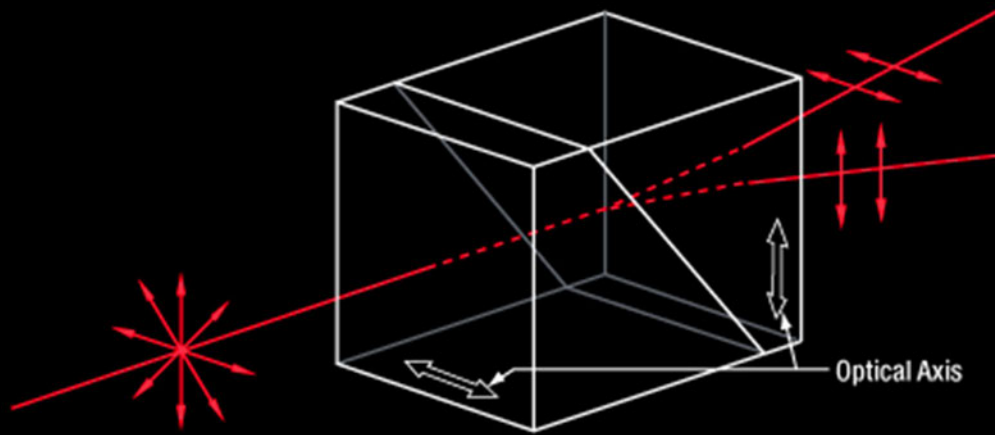
# Fiber vs. beam in vacuum: loss scaling



# Polarizers

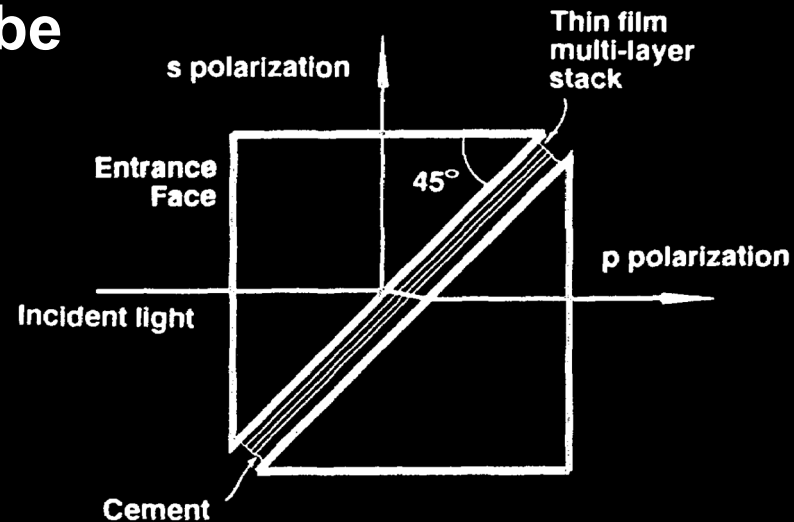
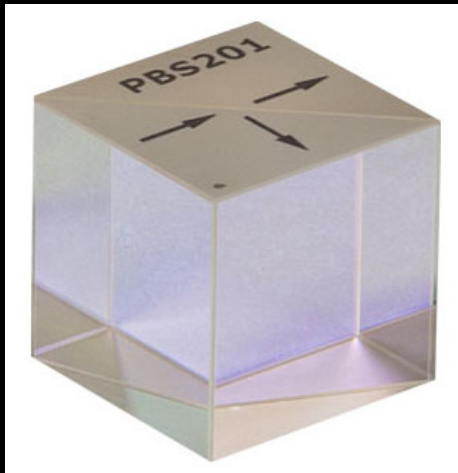


## Birefringent polarizing beamsplitter



Wollaston prism

## Polarizing beamsplitter cube



# Beamsplitters

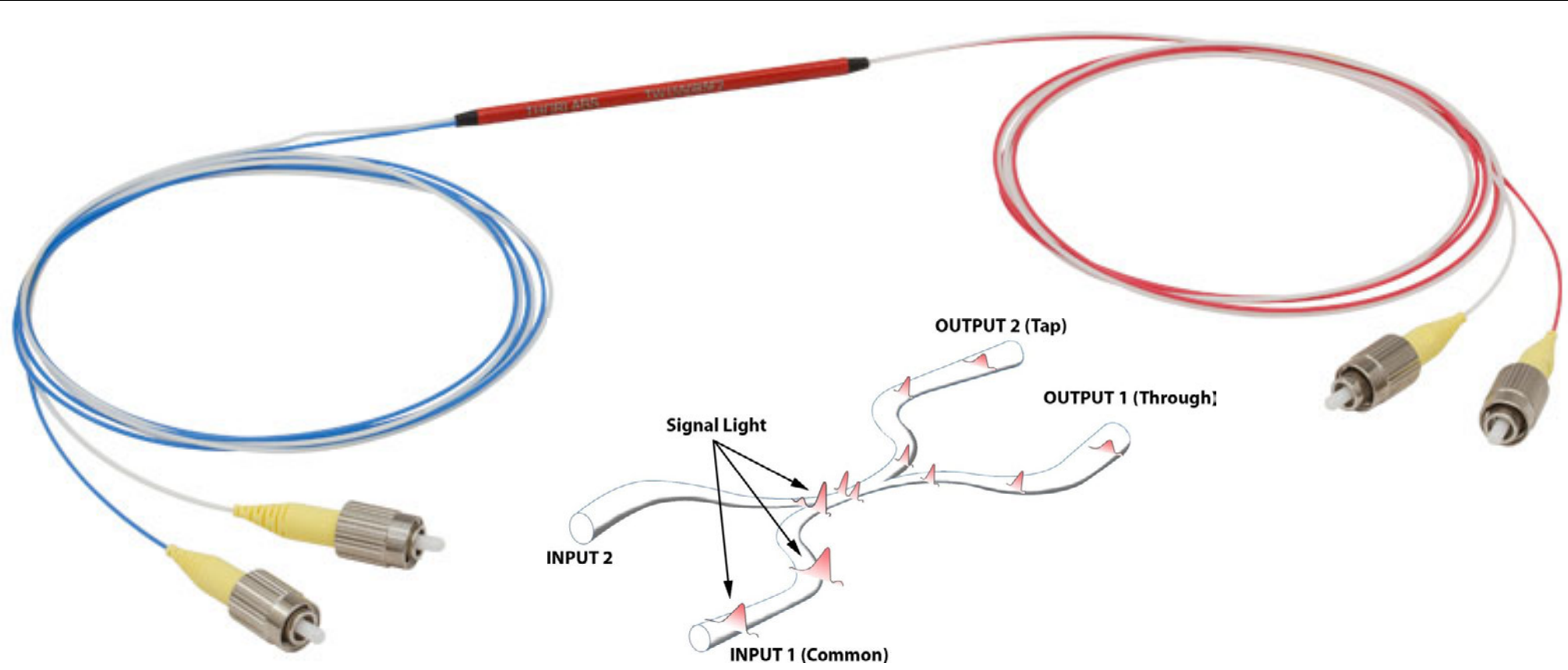


50:50

10:90

1:99

## Fiber-optic fused beamsplitter (or coupler)

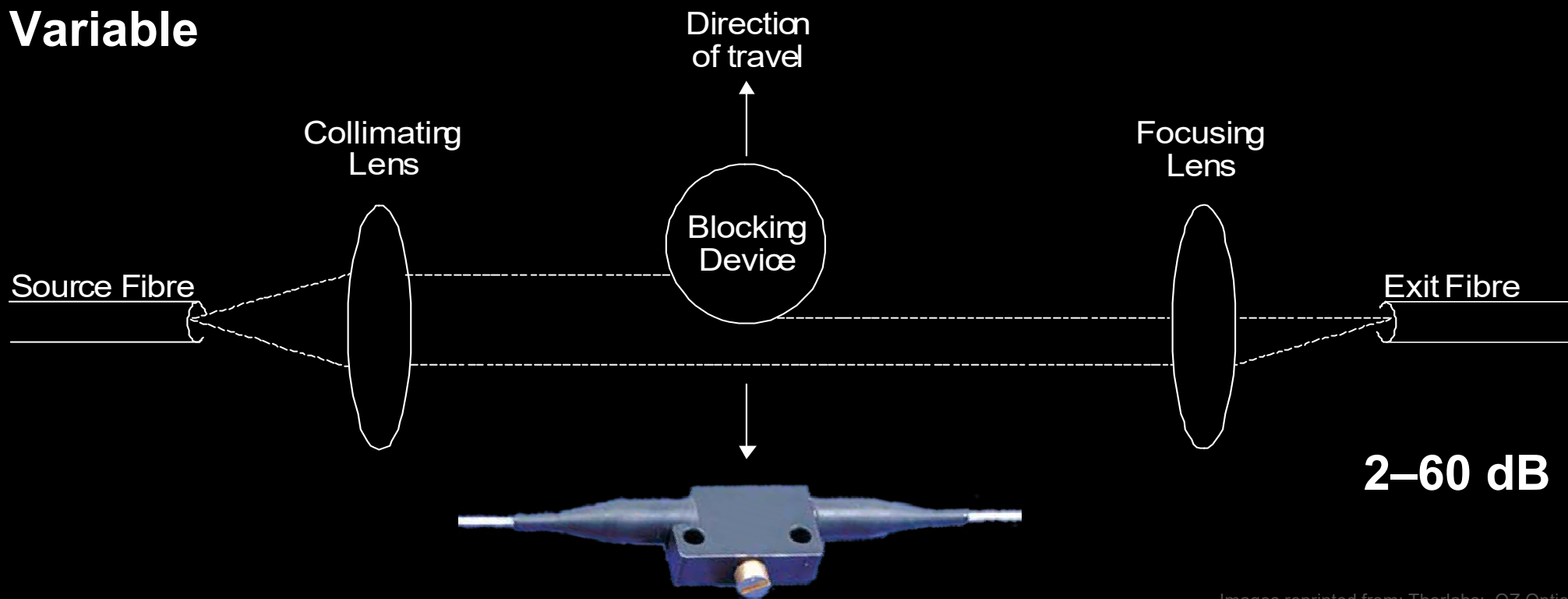


# Attenuators

Absorbing or partially reflecting coated glass



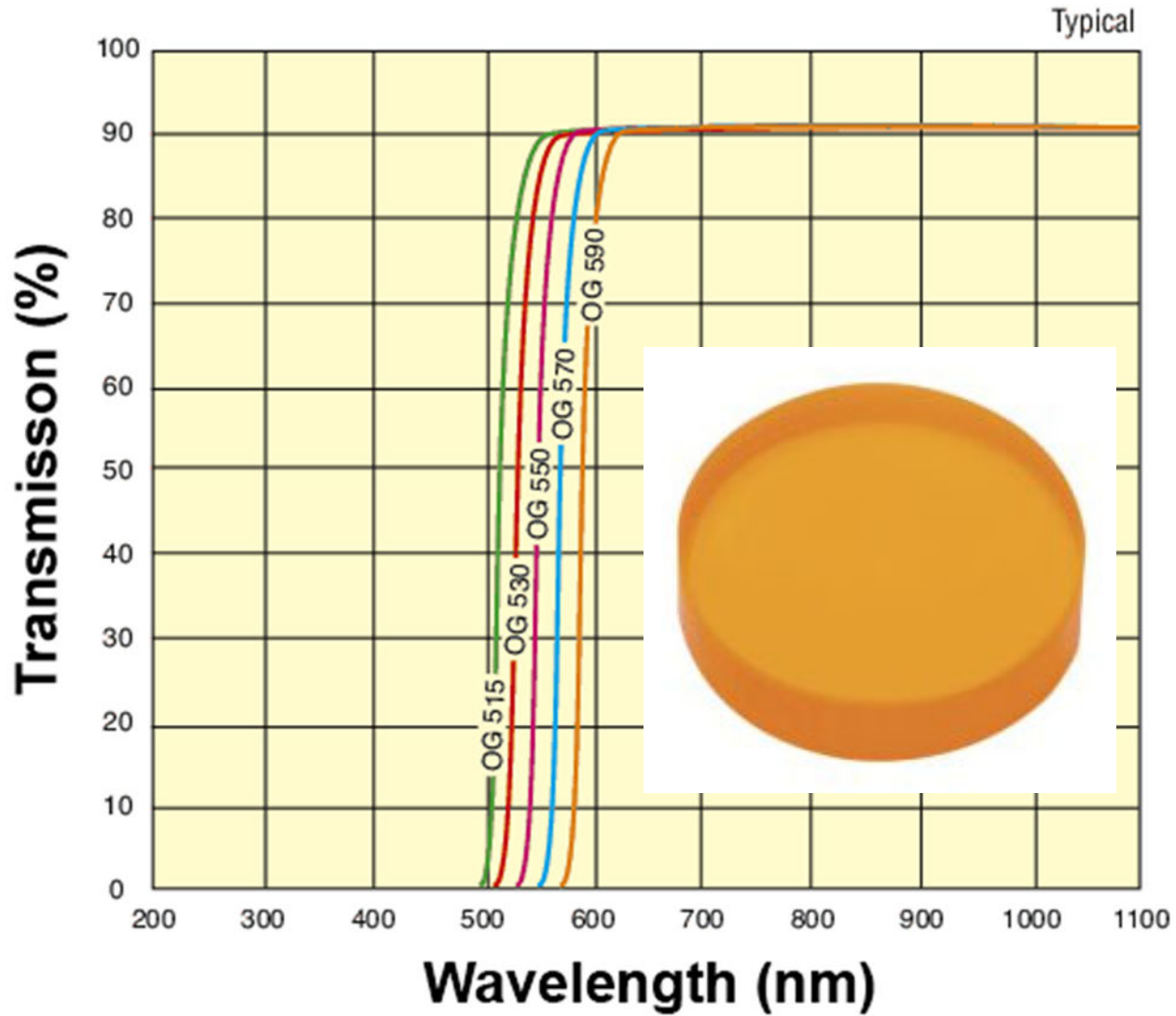
## Variable





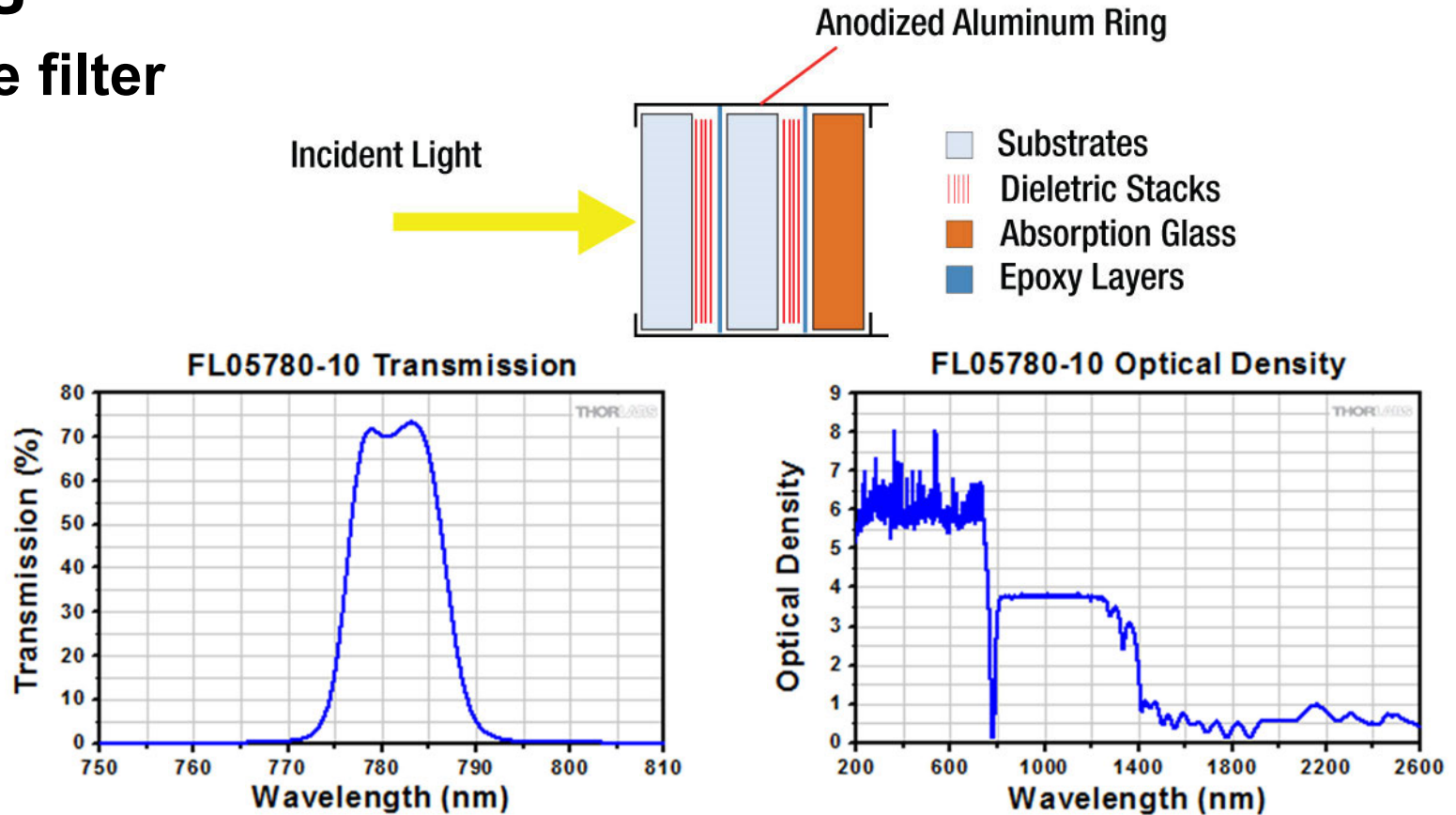
# Wavelength filters

## Colored glass

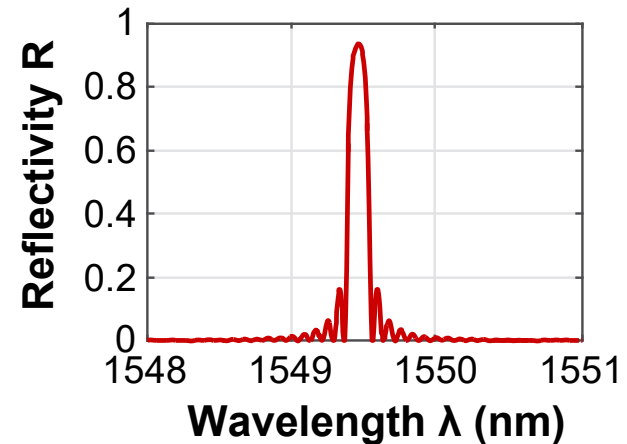
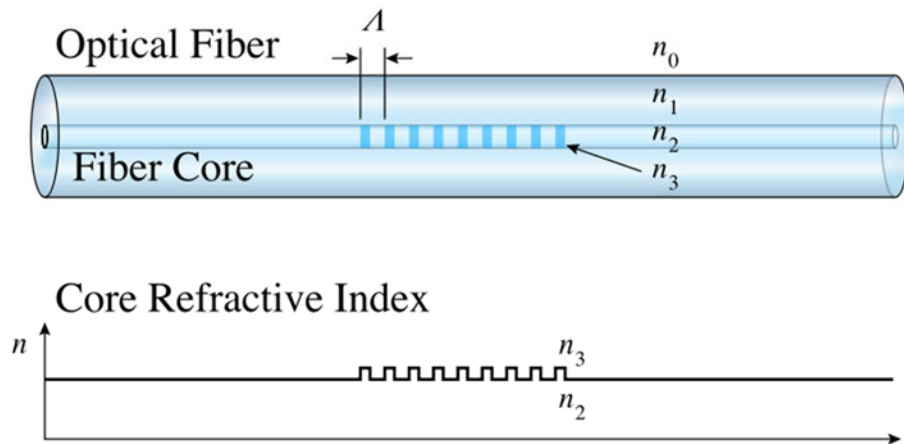


# Wavelength filters

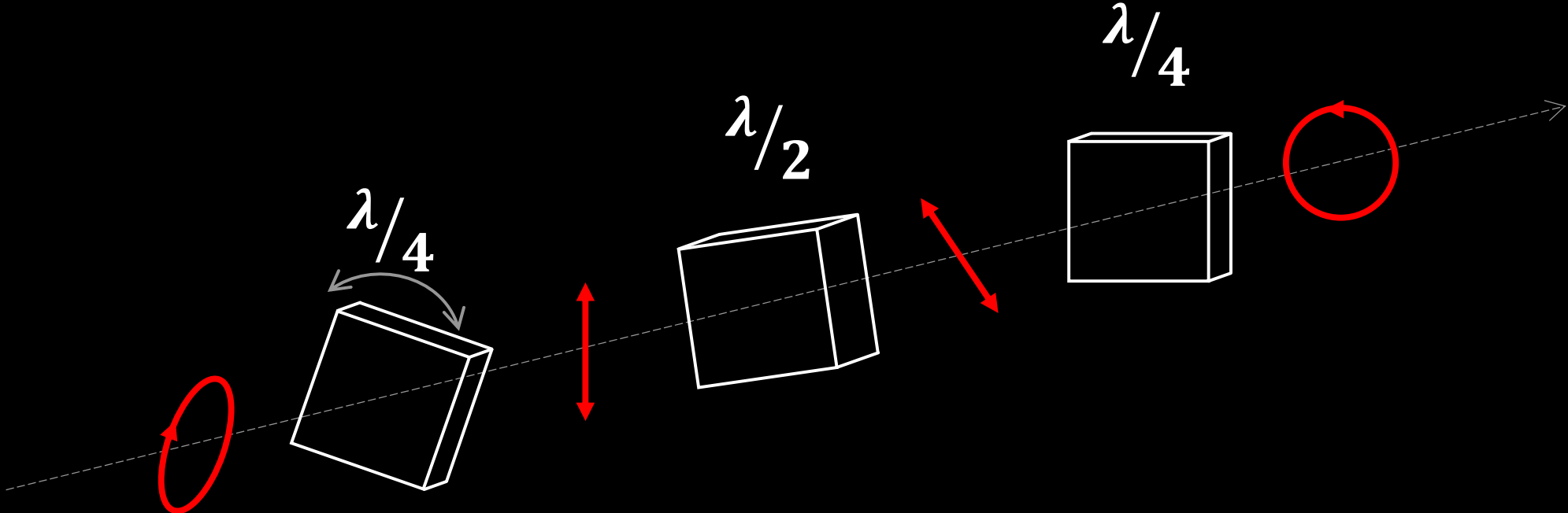
## Interference filter



## Fiber Bragg grating

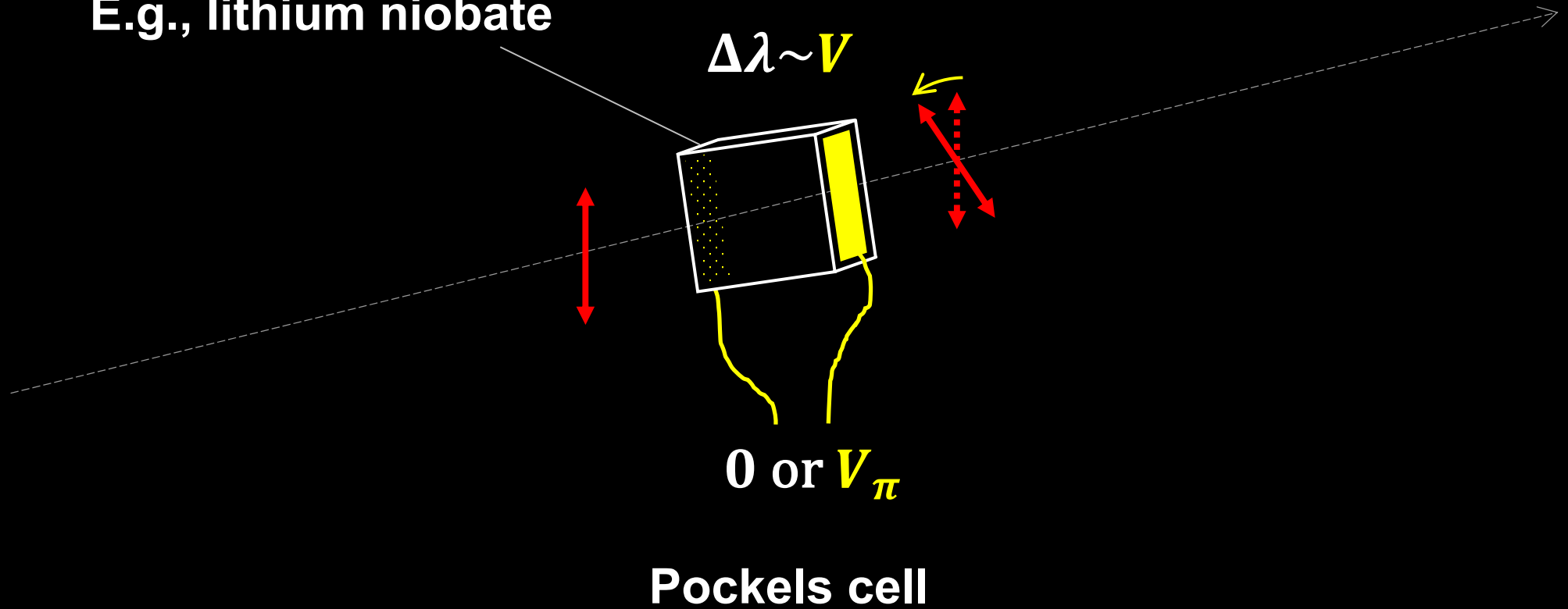


# Polarization controller (slow)

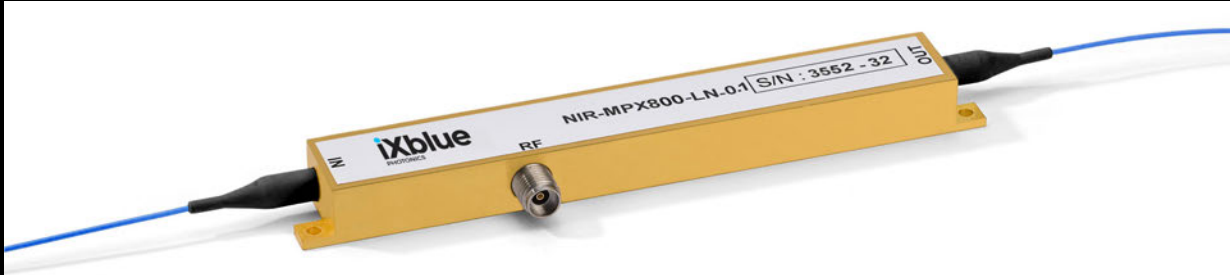
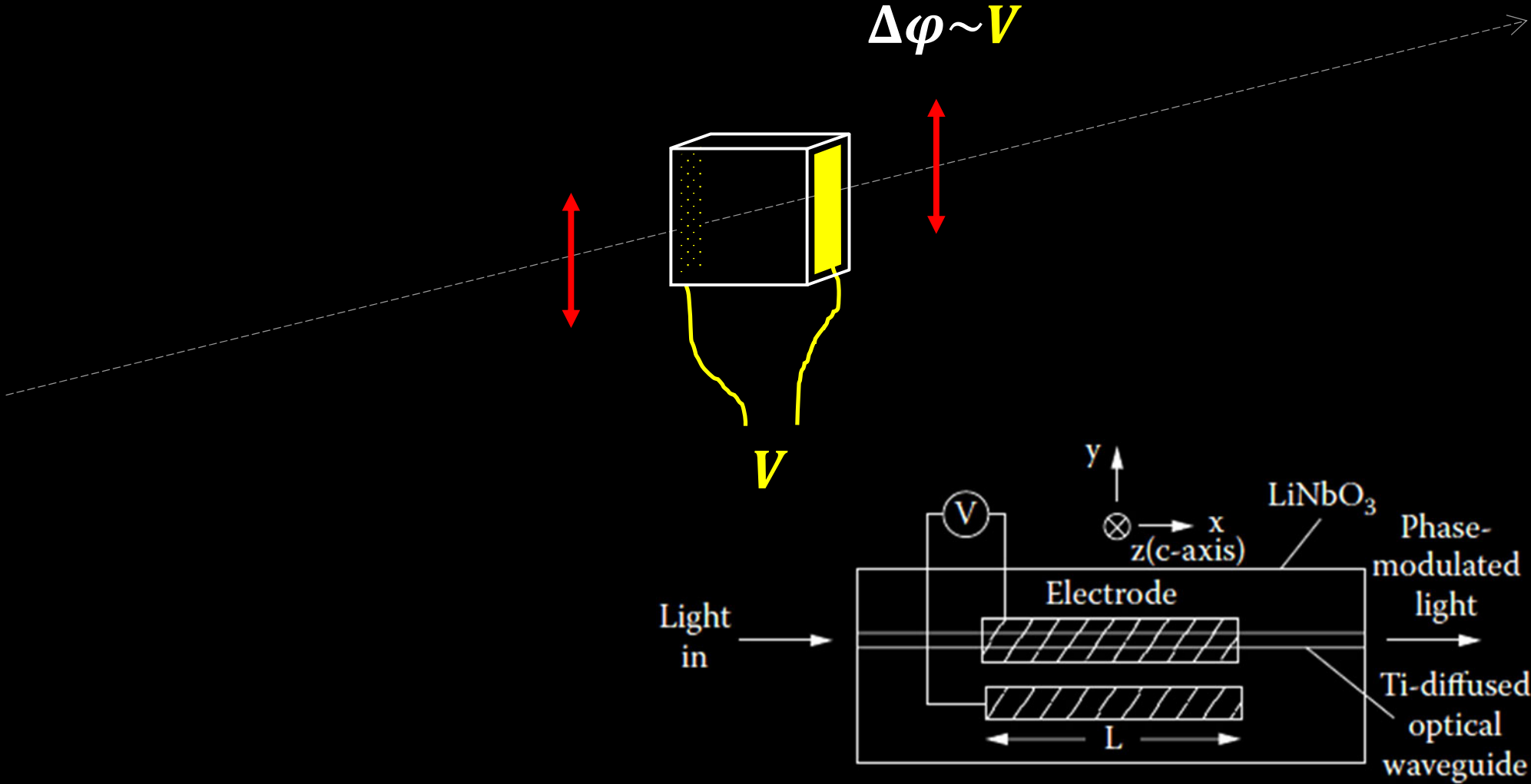


# Polarization modulator (fast)

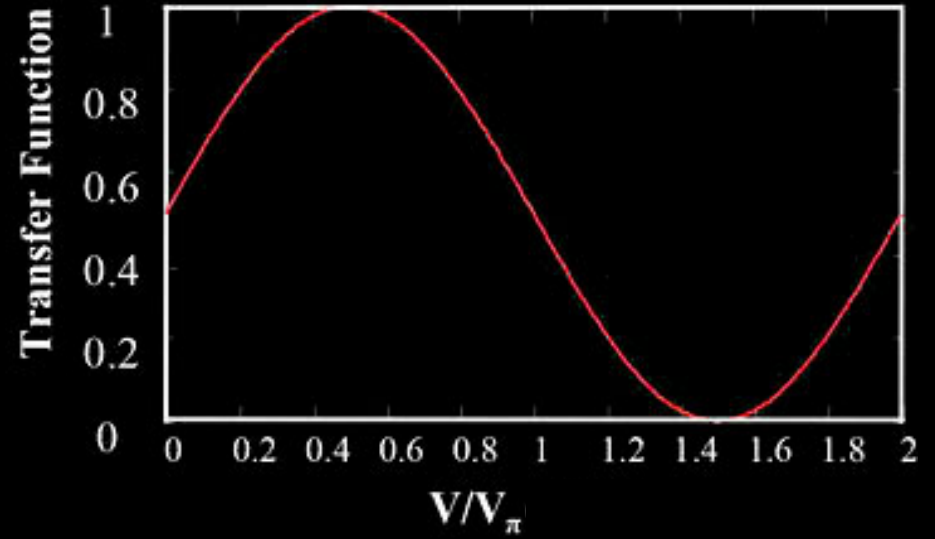
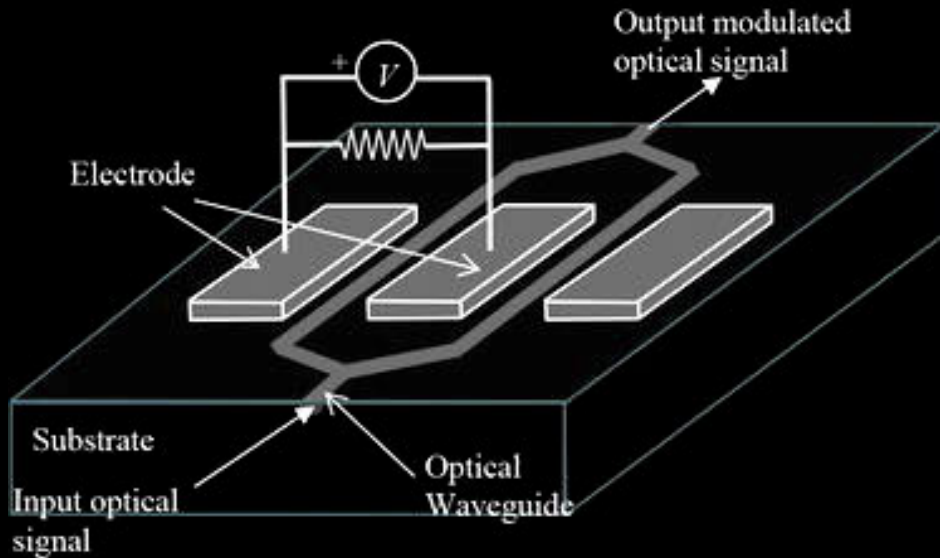
E.g., lithium niobate



# Phase modulator



# Intensity modulator

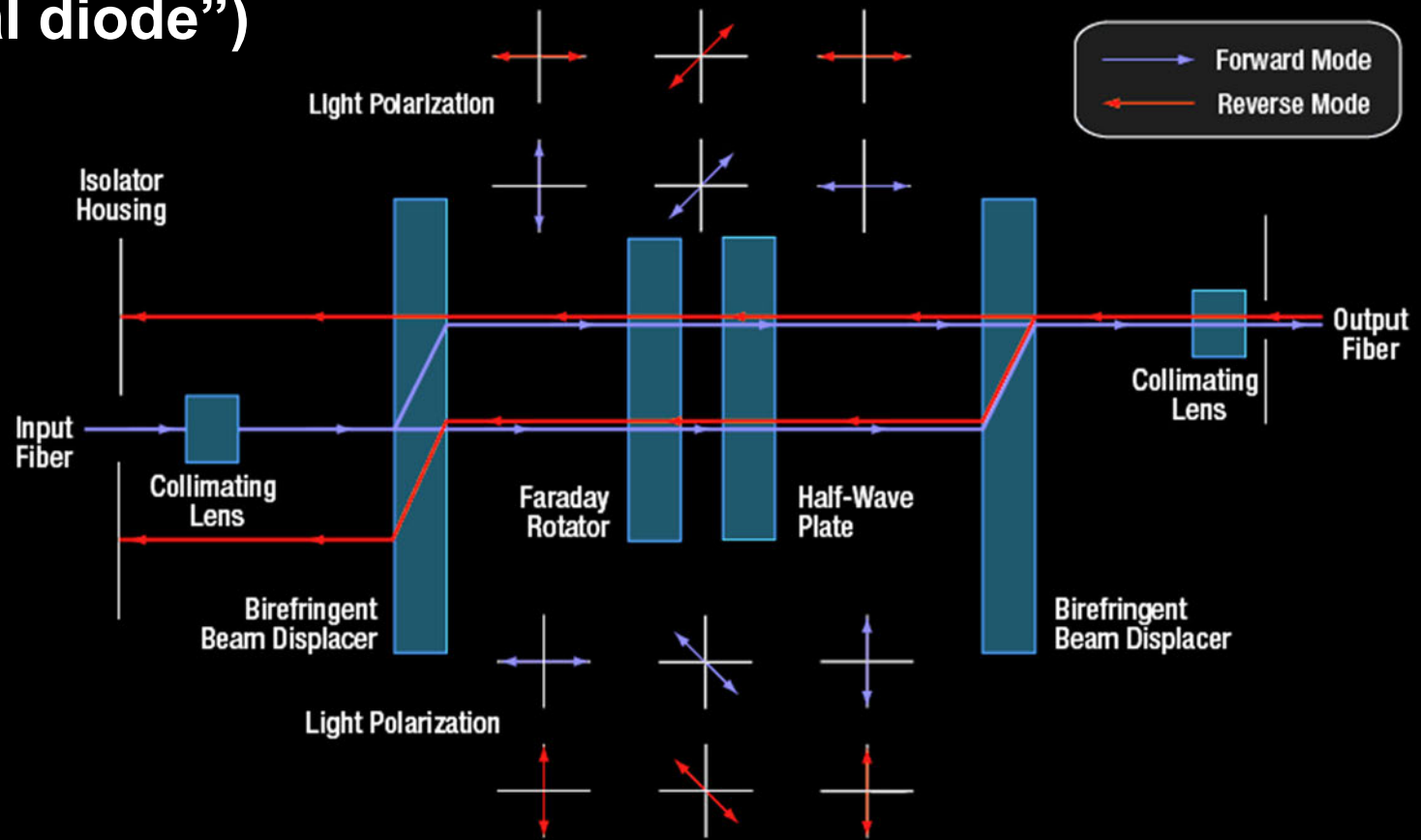
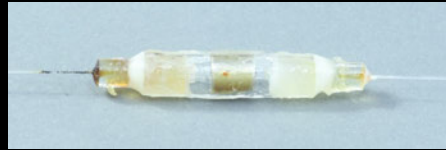


## Mach-Zehnder interferometer

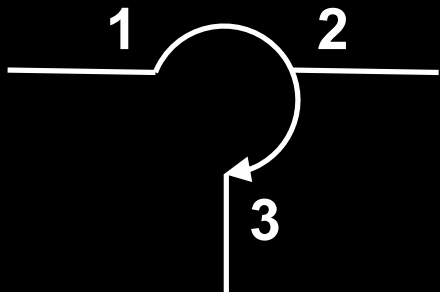


# Directional elements

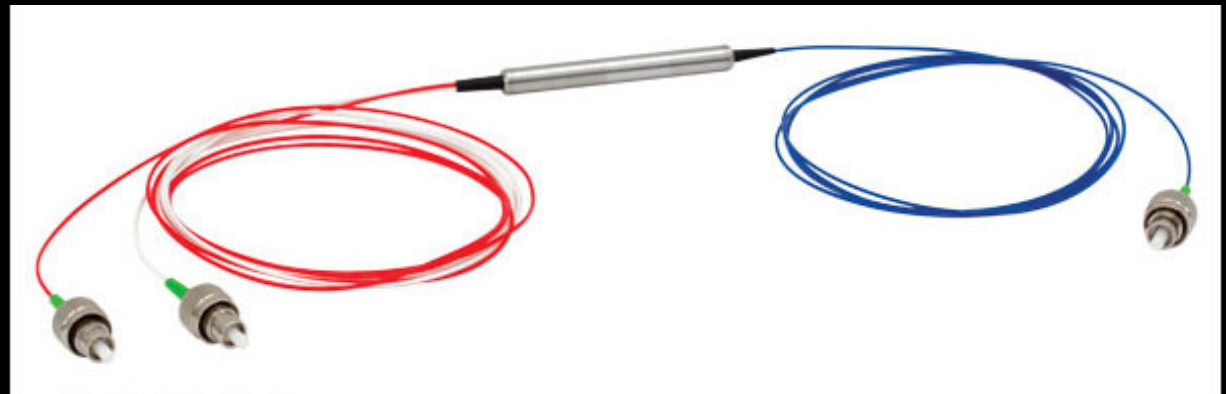
## Isolator (an “optical diode”)



## Circulator



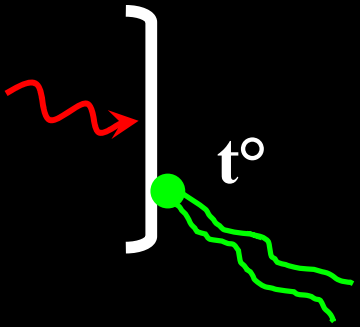
1 → 2  
2 → 3



# Optical power meters

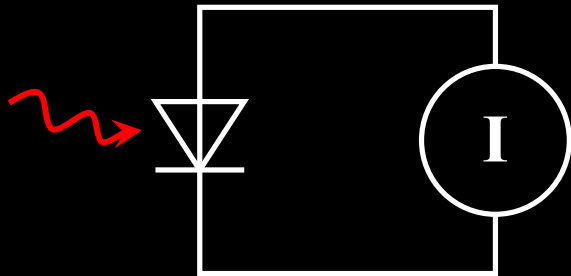
## Thermal

$> 10 \mu\text{W}$



## Photodiode

$> 0.1 \text{ nW}$





# Single-photon detectors

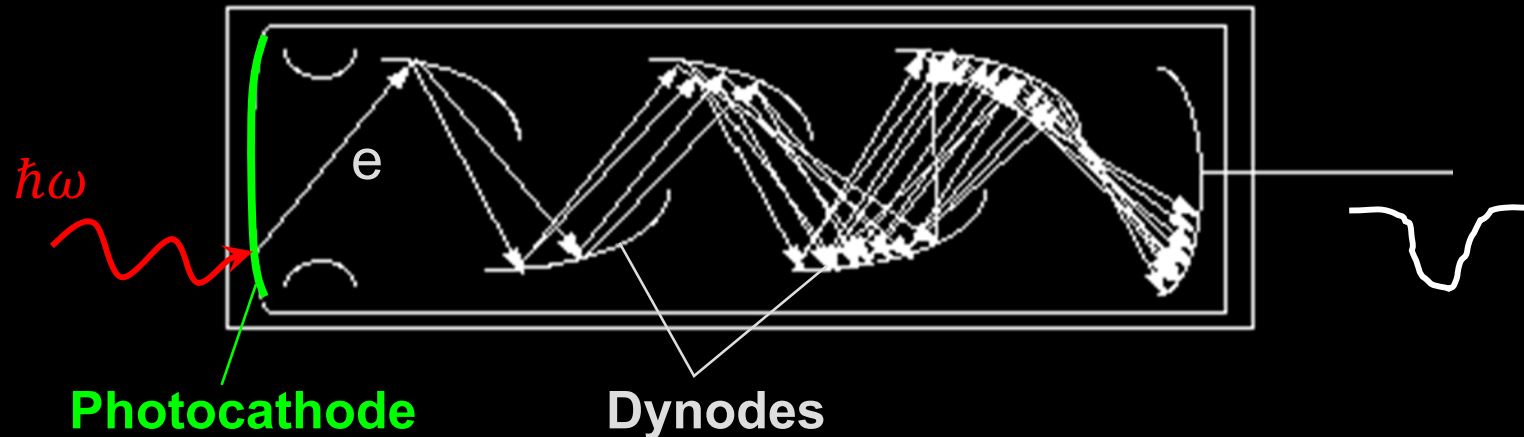
Photon energy

$$E = \frac{hc}{\lambda} = \frac{19.9 \times 10^{-26}}{1.55 \times 10^{-6}} = 1.28 \times 10^{-19} \text{ J}$$

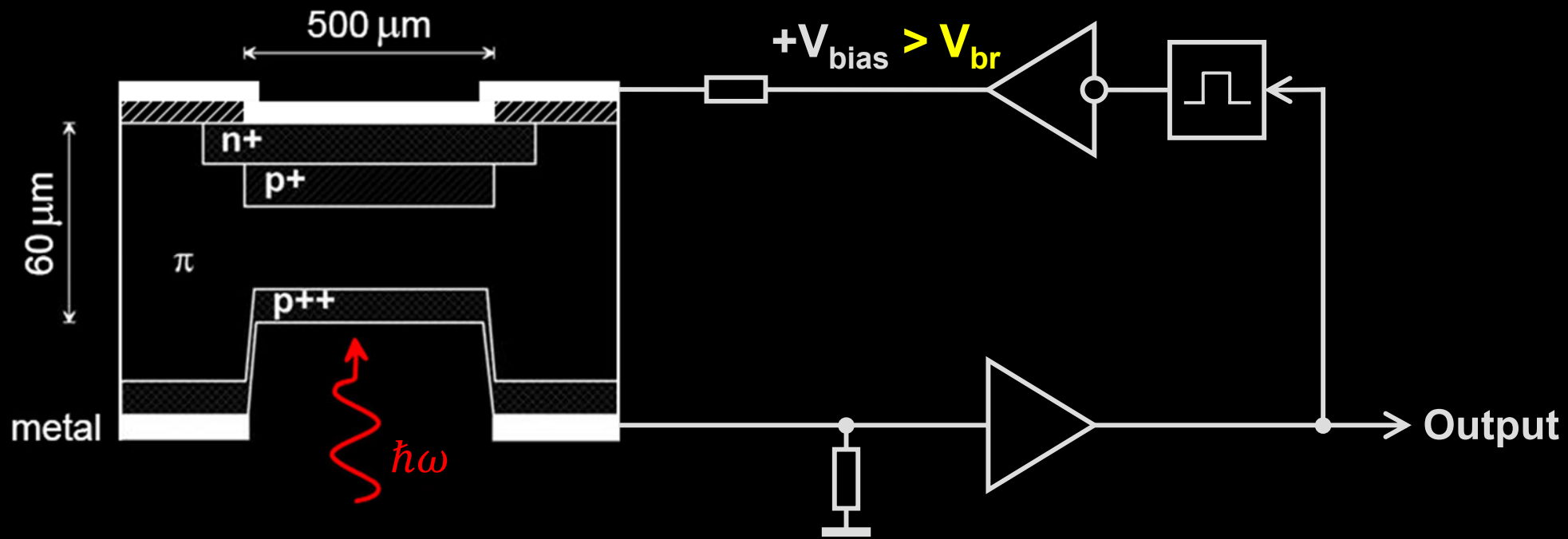
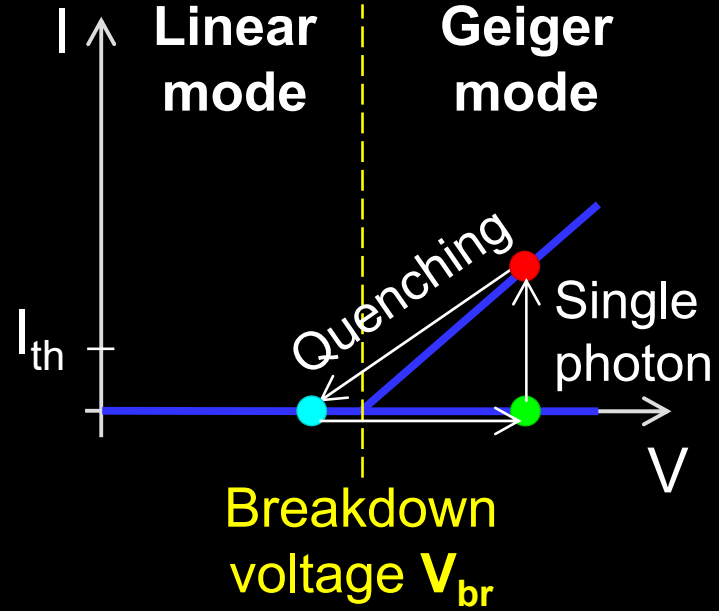
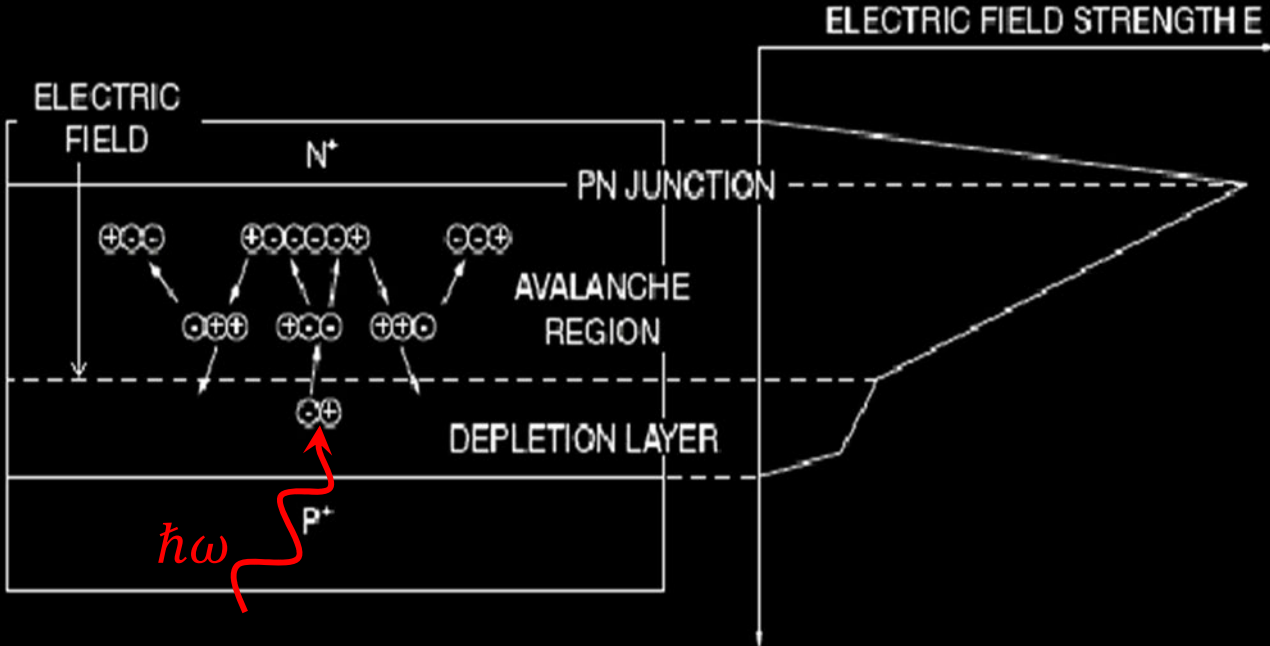


Need a gain mechanism

Photomultiplier tube



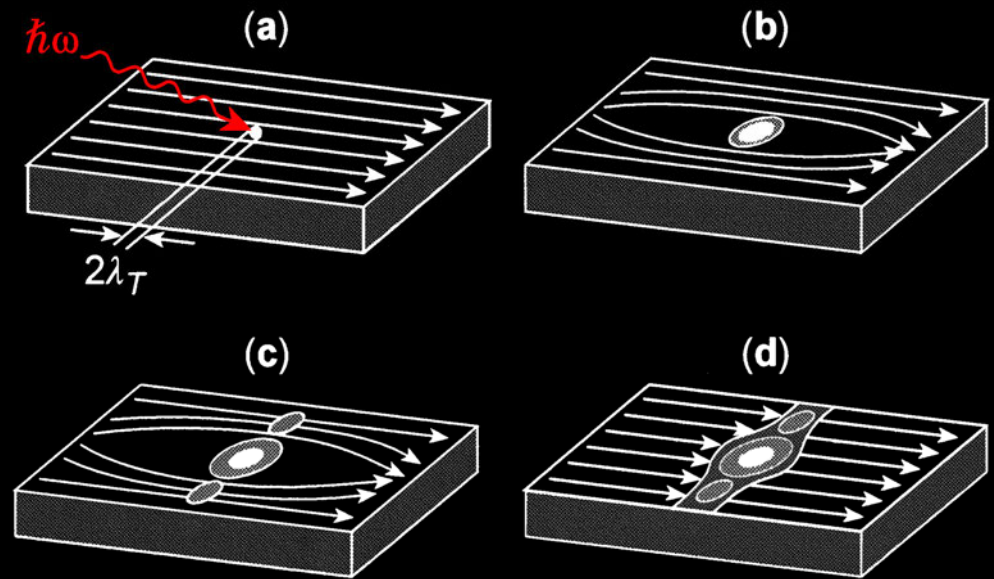
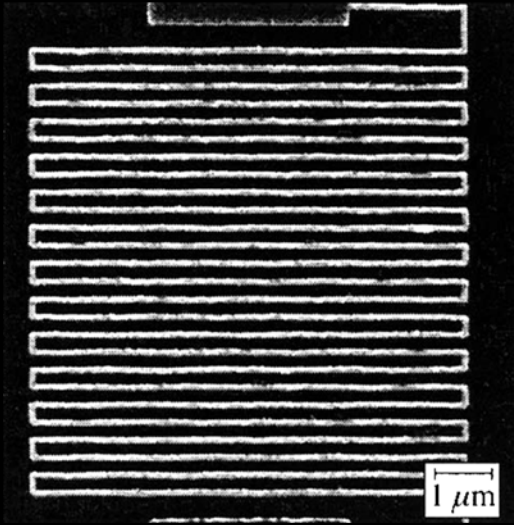
# Single-photon avalanche photodiode



Images reprinted from: <https://www.photonicsonline.com/doc/avalanche-photodiodes-theory-and-applications-0001>; S. Cova *et al.*, J. Mod. Opt. 51, 1267 (2004)

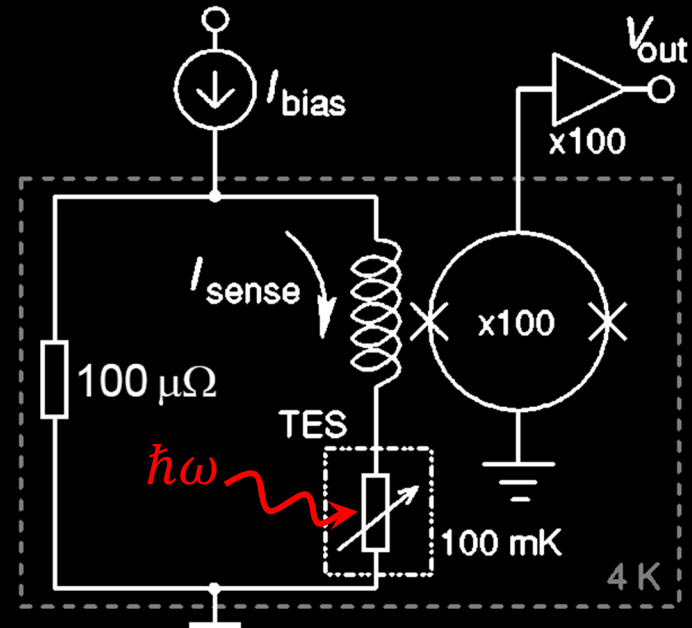
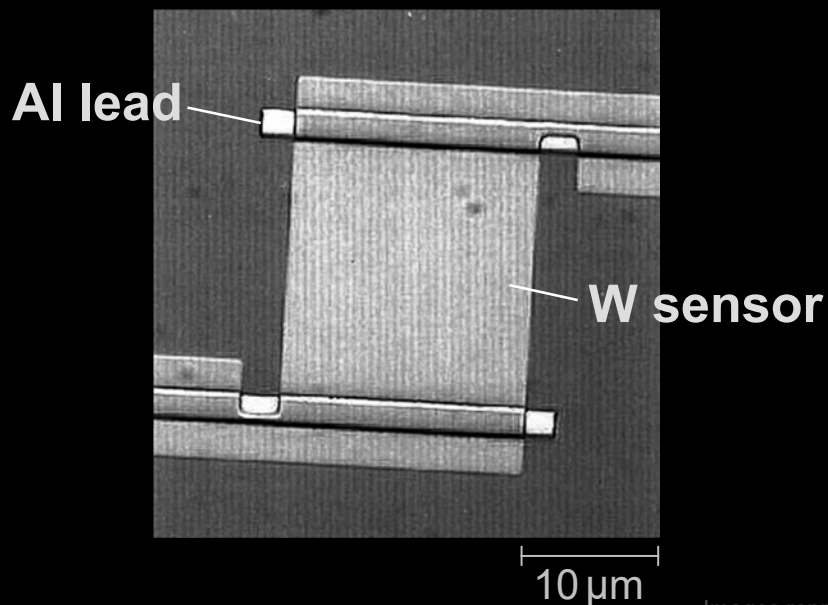
# Superconducting single-photon detectors

## Superconducting nanowire



Images reprinted from: R. Sobolewski *et al.*, IEEE Trans. Appl. Supercond. 13, 1151 (2003)

## Transition-edge sensor

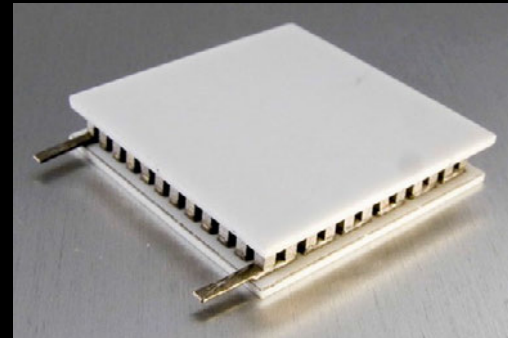


Images reprinted from: B. Cabrera *et al.*, Appl. Phys. Lett. 73, 735 (1998); A.J. Miller *et al.*, Appl. Phys. Lett. 83, 791 (2003)

# Cooling requirements

Photomultiplier: room temperature

Avalanche photodiode:  $-50\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$



Thermoelectric cooling

0 5 mm

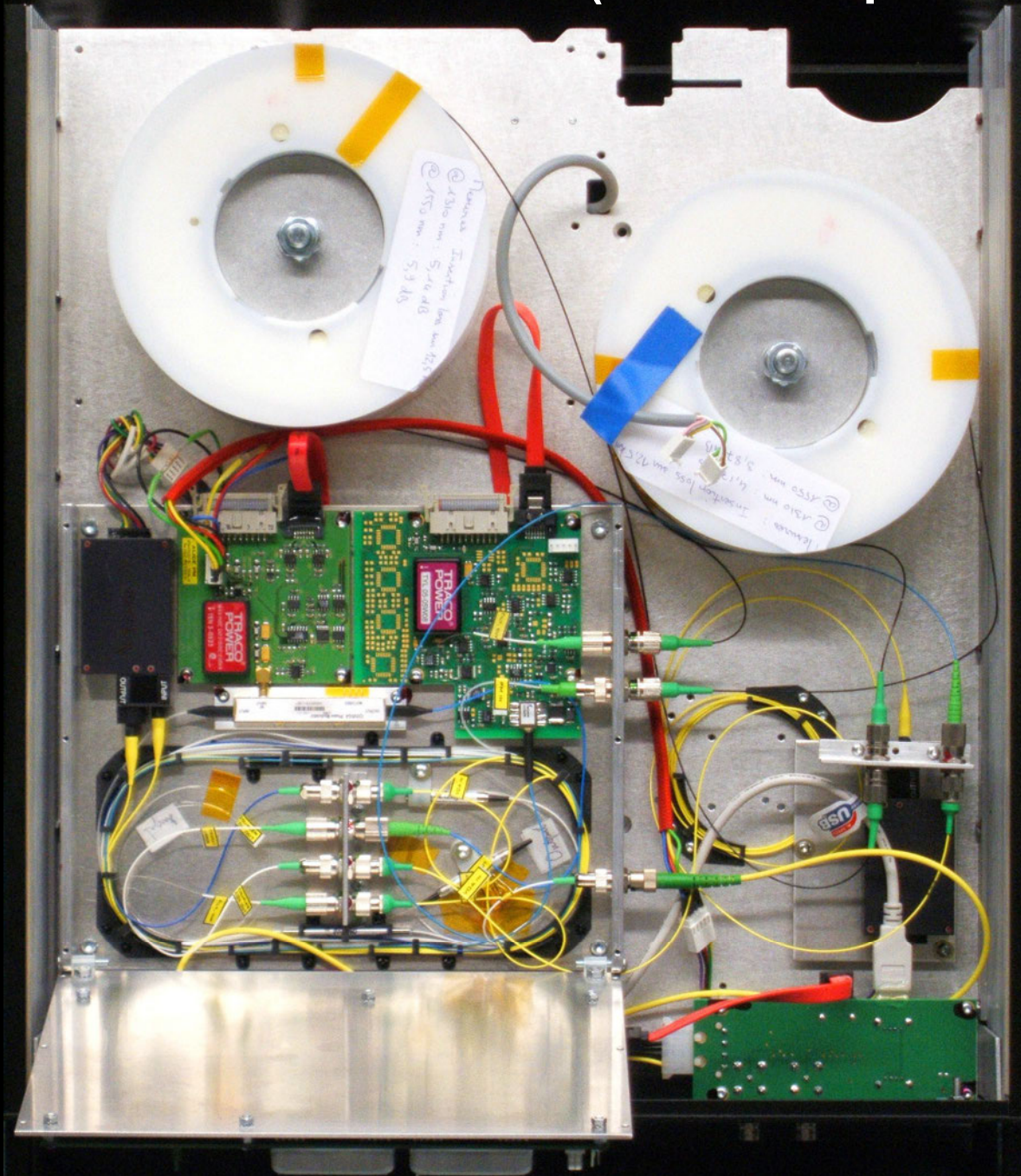
Superconducting nanowire: 4 K

Transition-edge sensor: 100 mK



# Assembled fiber optics

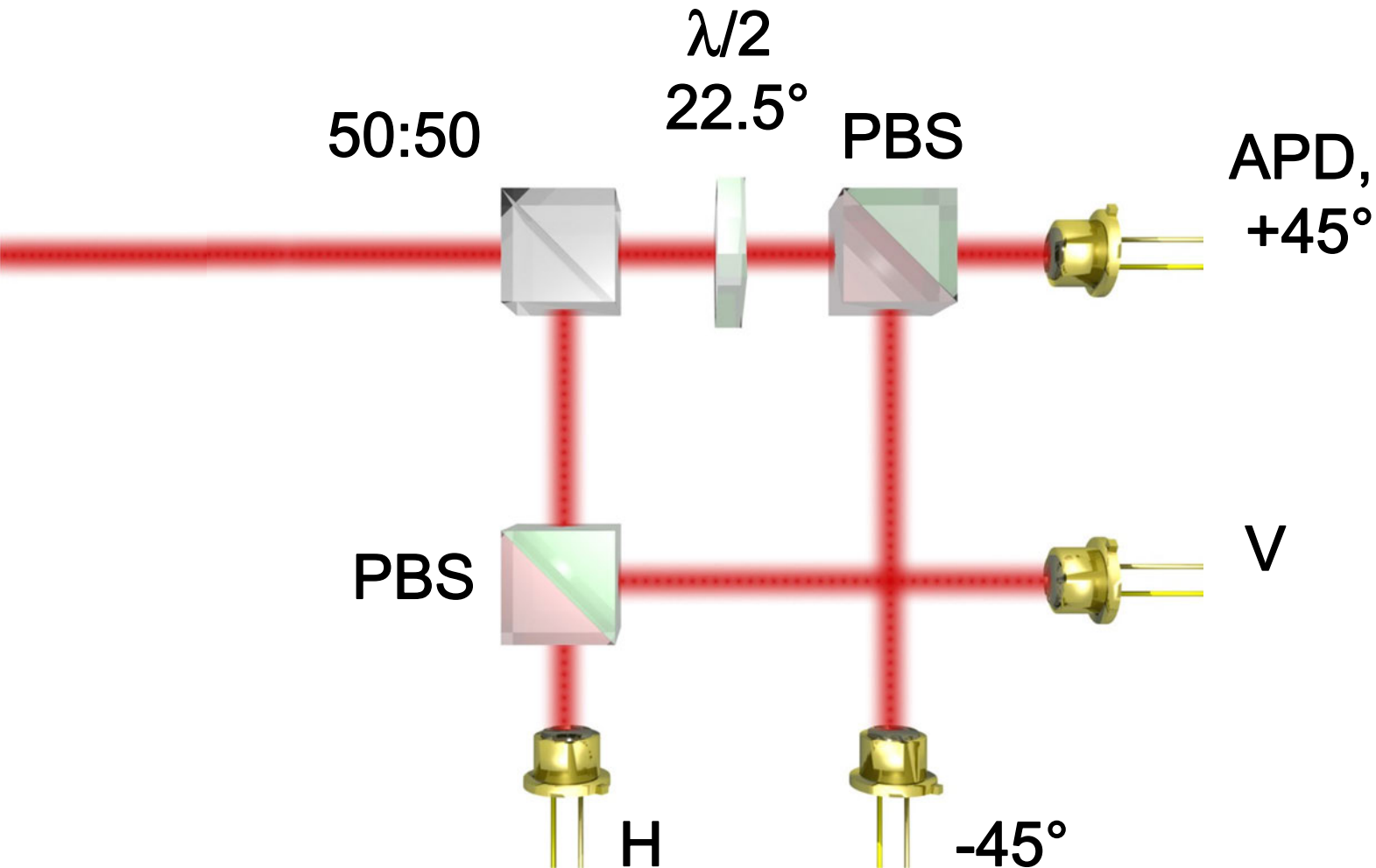
Quantum key distribution unit Alice (ID Quantique Clavis2)



0 100 mm

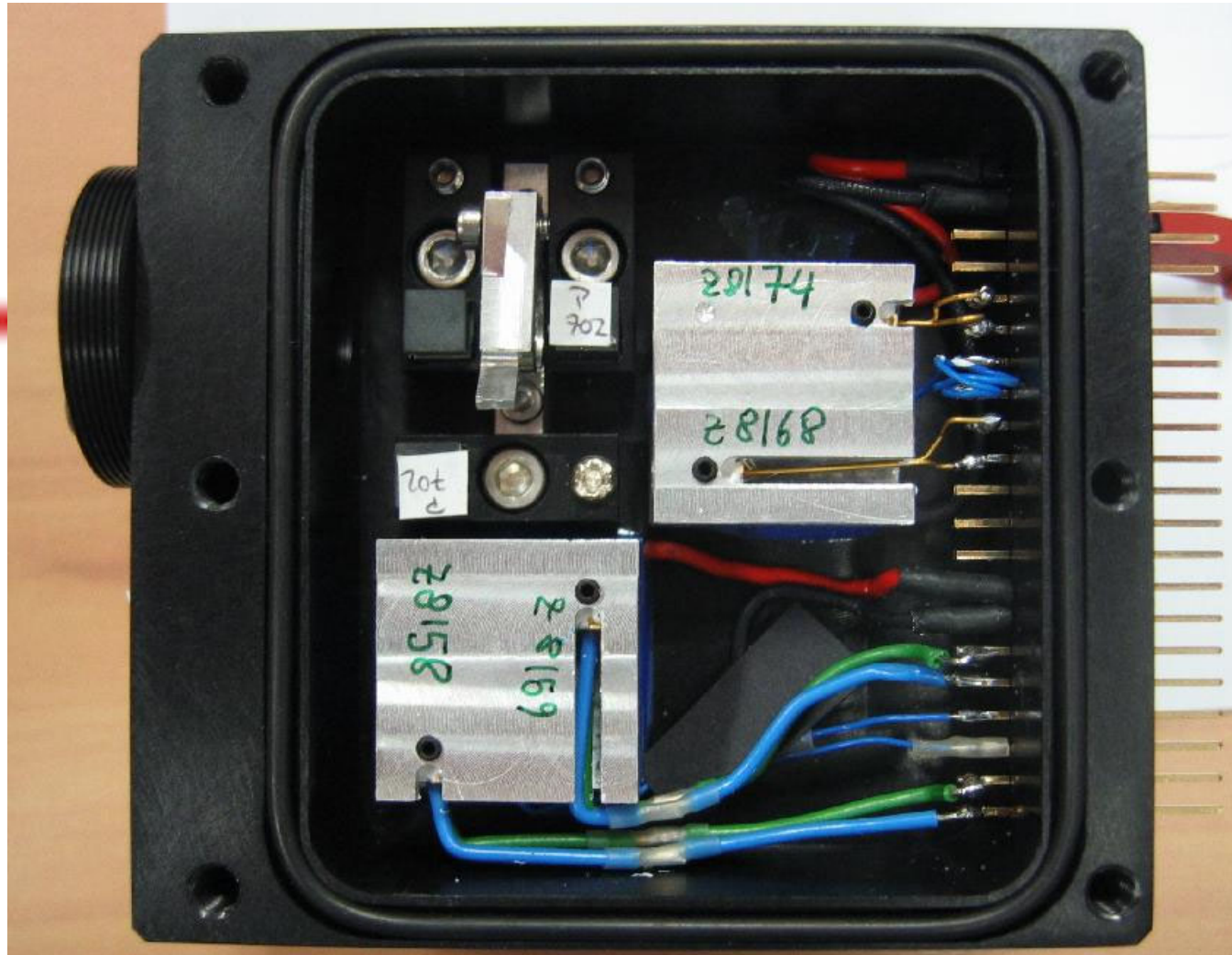
# Assembled free-space optics

## Bob's polarization analyzer with single-photon detectors



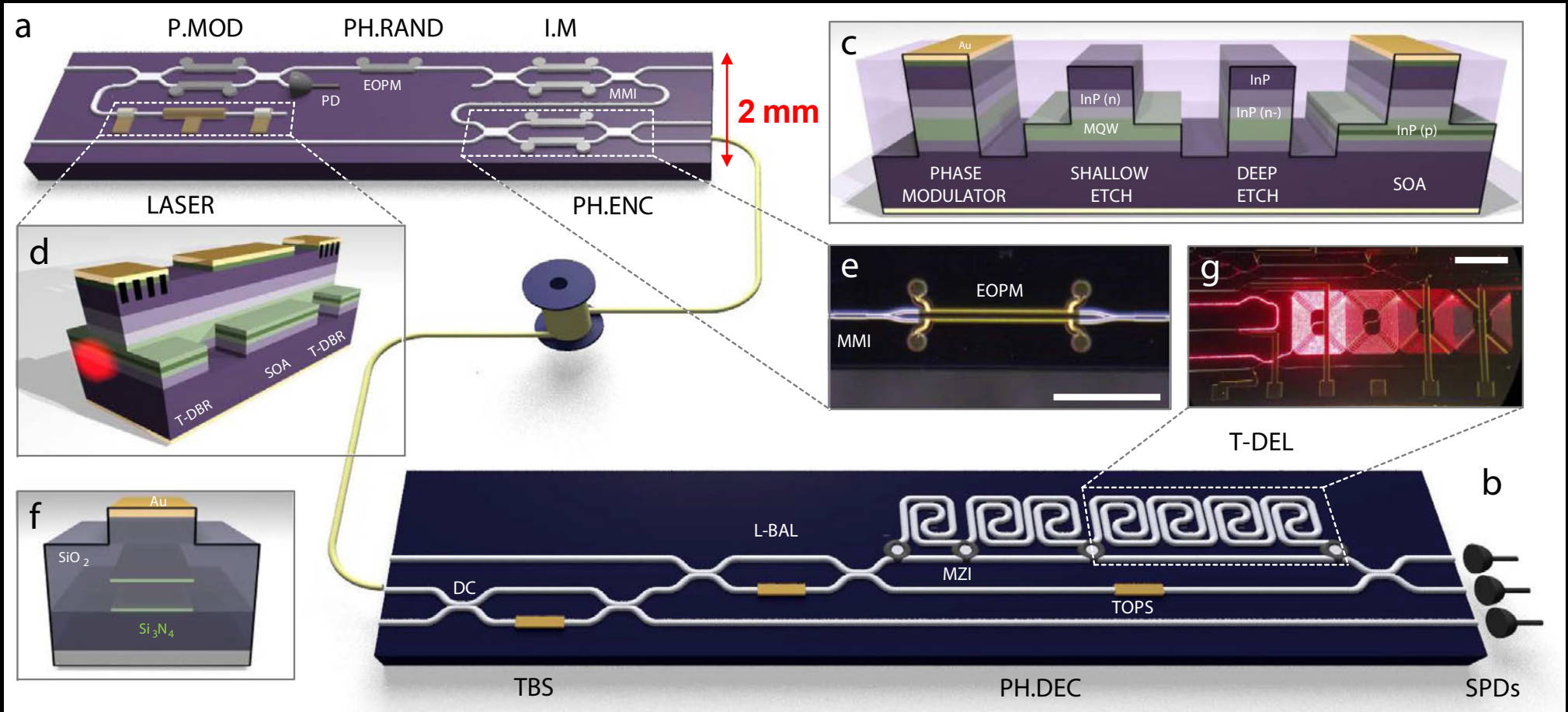
# Assembled free-space optics

## Bob's polarization analyzer with single-photon detectors



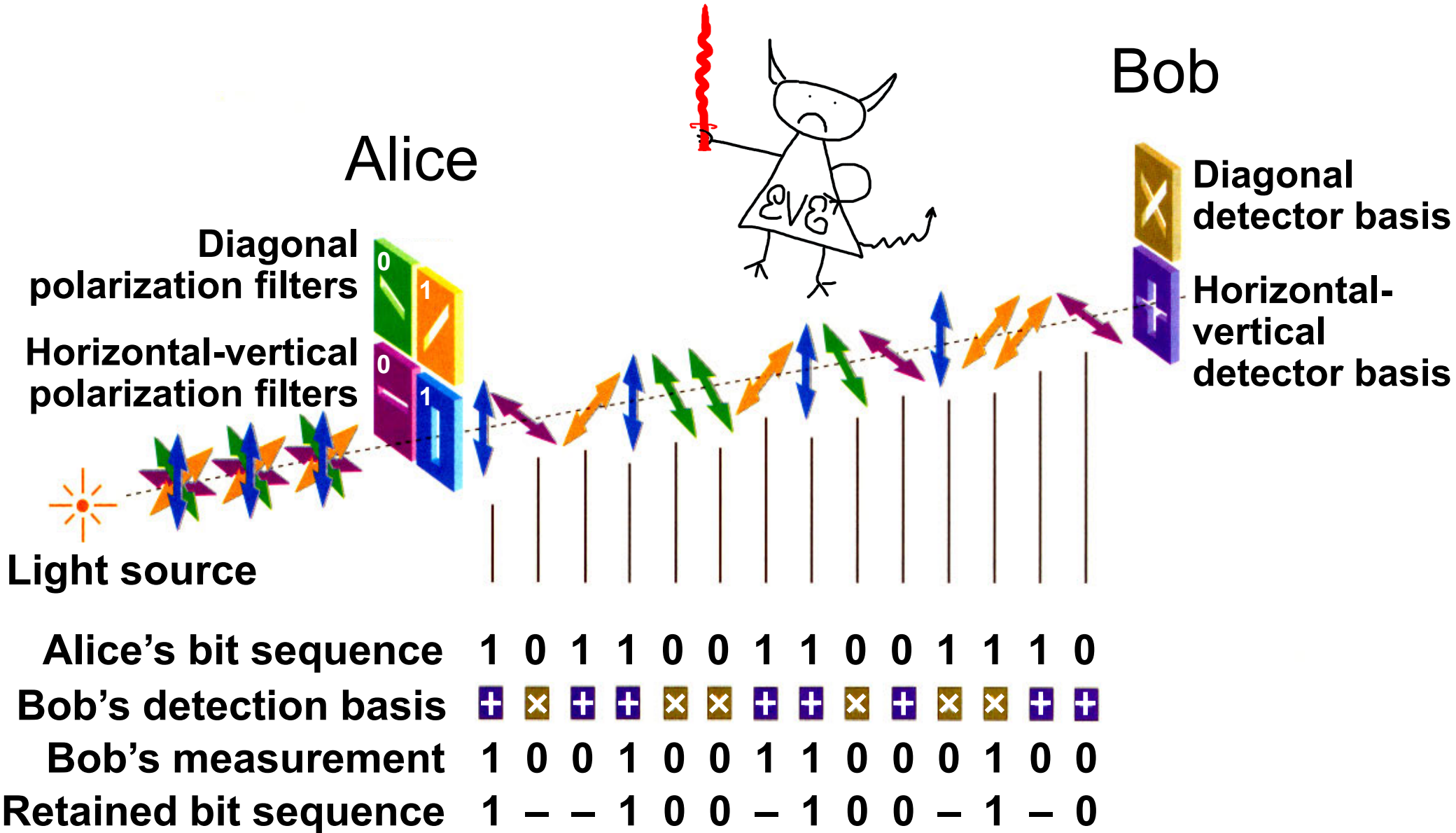
# Emerging: integrated optics

## Quantum key distribution system

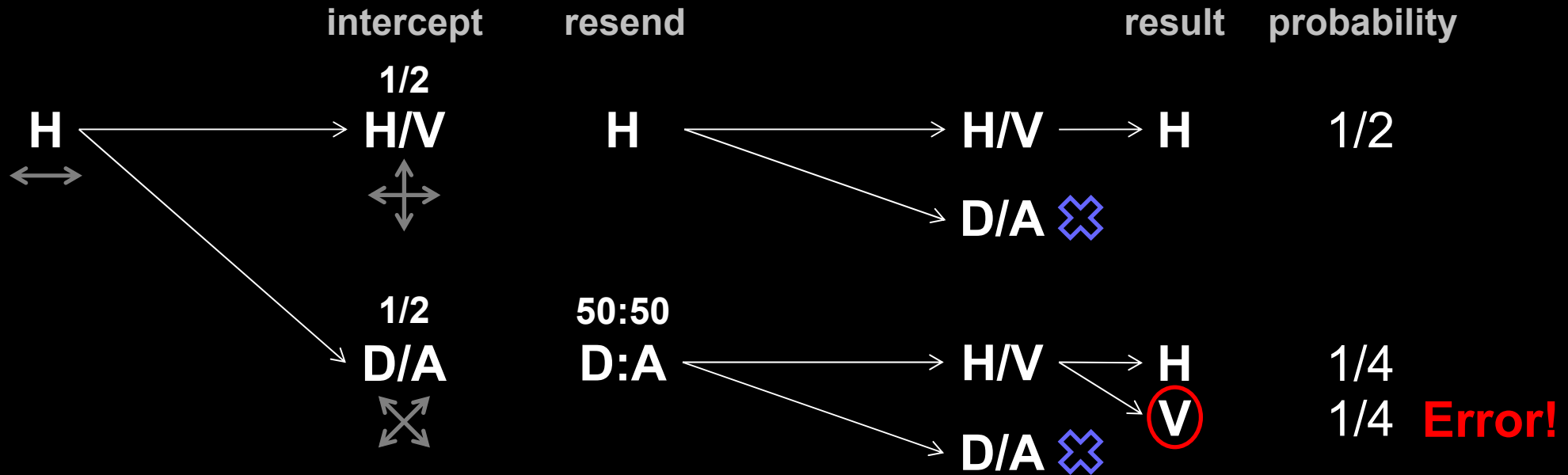
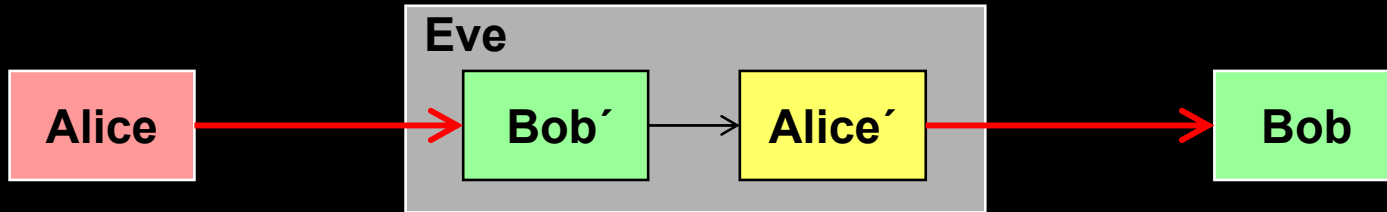




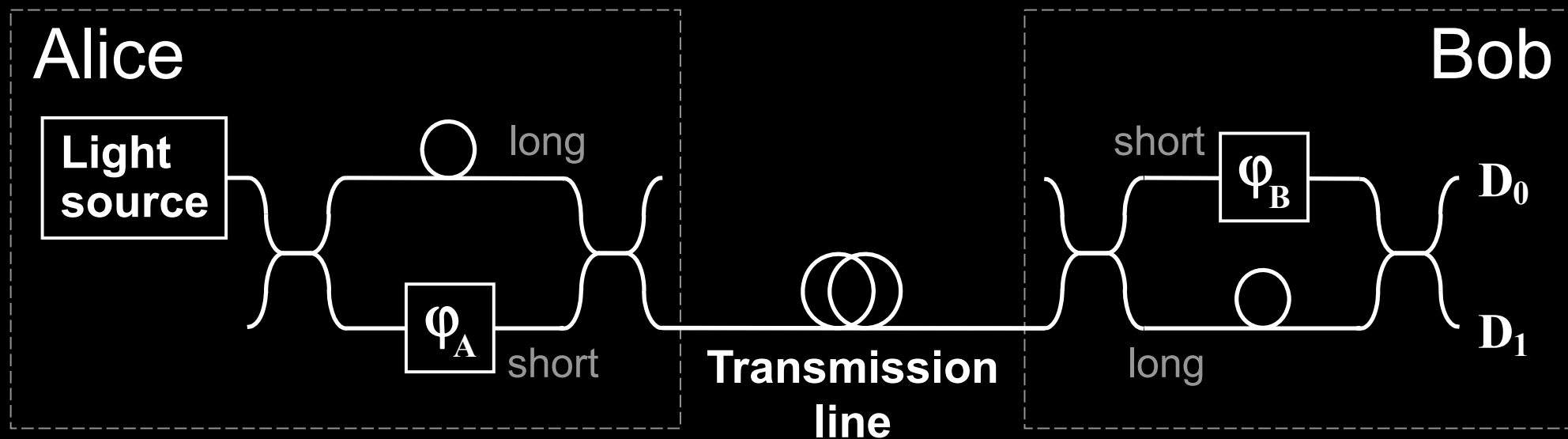
# Bennett-Brassard 1984 (BB84) QKD protocol



# Intercept-resend attack



# Phase (time-bin) encoding, interferometric QKD channel



$$\varphi_A = \begin{matrix} 0 & \text{or} & \pi/2 & : & 0 \\ \pi & \text{or} & 3\pi/2 & : & 1 \end{matrix}$$

**Detection basis:**

$$\varphi_B = \begin{matrix} 0 & : & X \\ \pi/2 & : & Z \end{matrix}$$

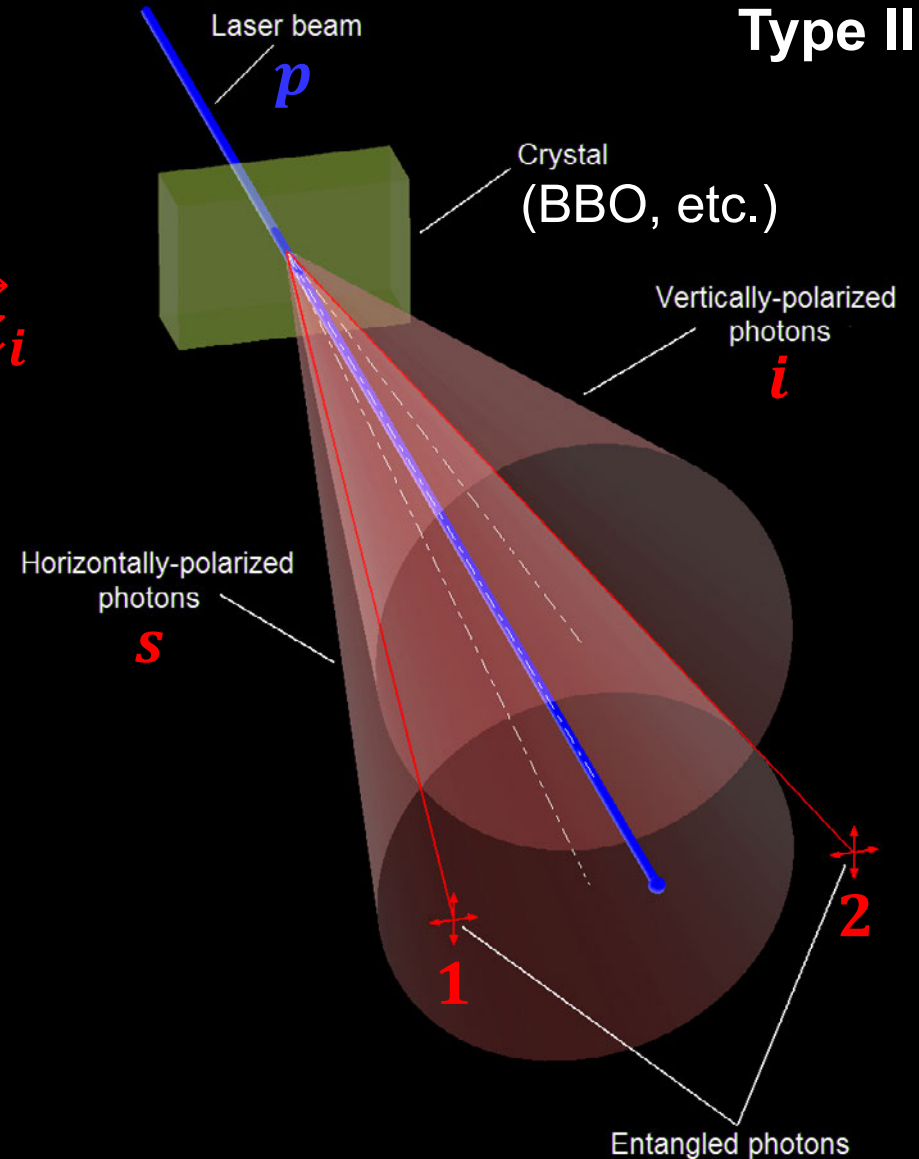
# Spontaneous parametric down-conversion

Type II

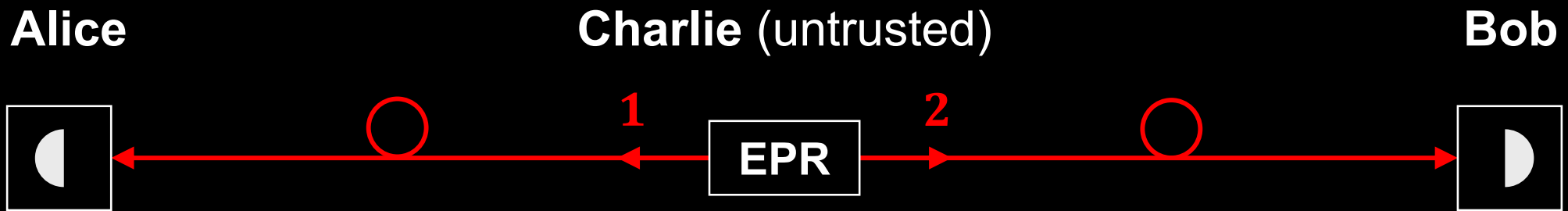
Energy conservation:  $\omega_p = \omega_s + \omega_i$

Momentum conservation:  $\vec{k}_p = \vec{k}_s + \vec{k}_i$

$$|\psi\rangle = (|H_1, V_2\rangle + |V_1, H_2\rangle) / \sqrt{2}$$
$$= (|D_1, A_2\rangle + |A_1, D_2\rangle) / \sqrt{2}$$



# Entangled-pair QKD

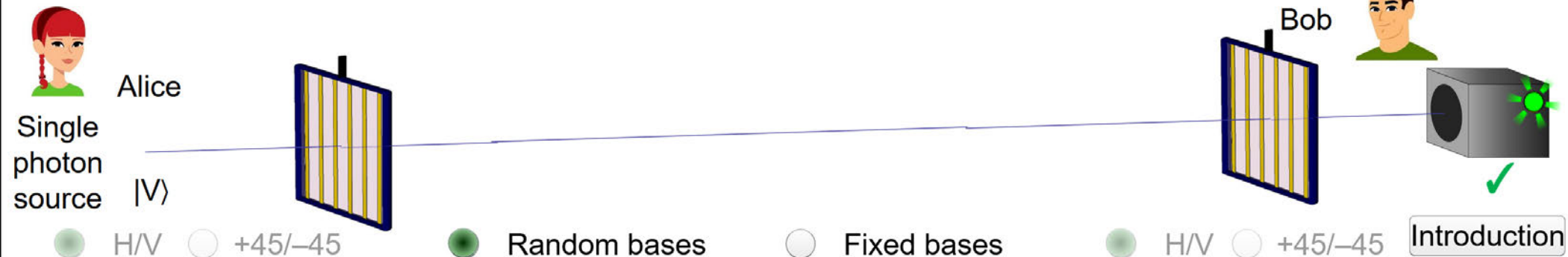


$$\begin{aligned} |\psi\rangle &= (|H_1, V_2\rangle + |V_1, H_2\rangle) / \sqrt{2} \\ &= (|D_1, A_2\rangle + |A_1, D_2\rangle) / \sqrt{2} \end{aligned}$$

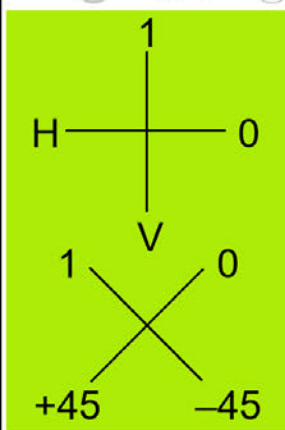
# Entangled-pair QKD over 1120 km



# Quantum key distribution (BB84 protocol) using polarized photons



H/V  
  +45/-45  
  Random bases  
  Fixed bases  
  H/V  
  +45/-45  
 Introduction



### Display controls

- Show key generation
- Show key bits
- Show total errors

Clear measurements

Alice		Eve		Bob		Alice and Bob	Key
Basis	Value	Basis	Outcome	Basis	Outcome	Same bases?	
H/V	1			H/V	1	YES	1
H/V	0			+45/-45	0	NO	
+45/-45	0			+45/-45	0	YES	0

### Main controls

Send polarized photons to Bob

Let Eve intercept and resend photons

### Most recent key bits (same bases)

Alice		Bob	
1	0	1	0

Let Alice & Bob compare 20 bits

More measurements needed for error checking

### Errors (all measurements)

Total:	$N_{tot} = 3$	$0.5 N_{tot}$
Key bits:	$N_{key} = 2$	
Errors:	$N_{err} = 0$	0
Probability	$\frac{N_{err}}{N_{key}} = 0.000$	0

Theoretical

**THORLABS**

Discovery

EDU-QCRY1

EDU-QCRY1/M

Quantum Cryptography  
Demonstration Kit

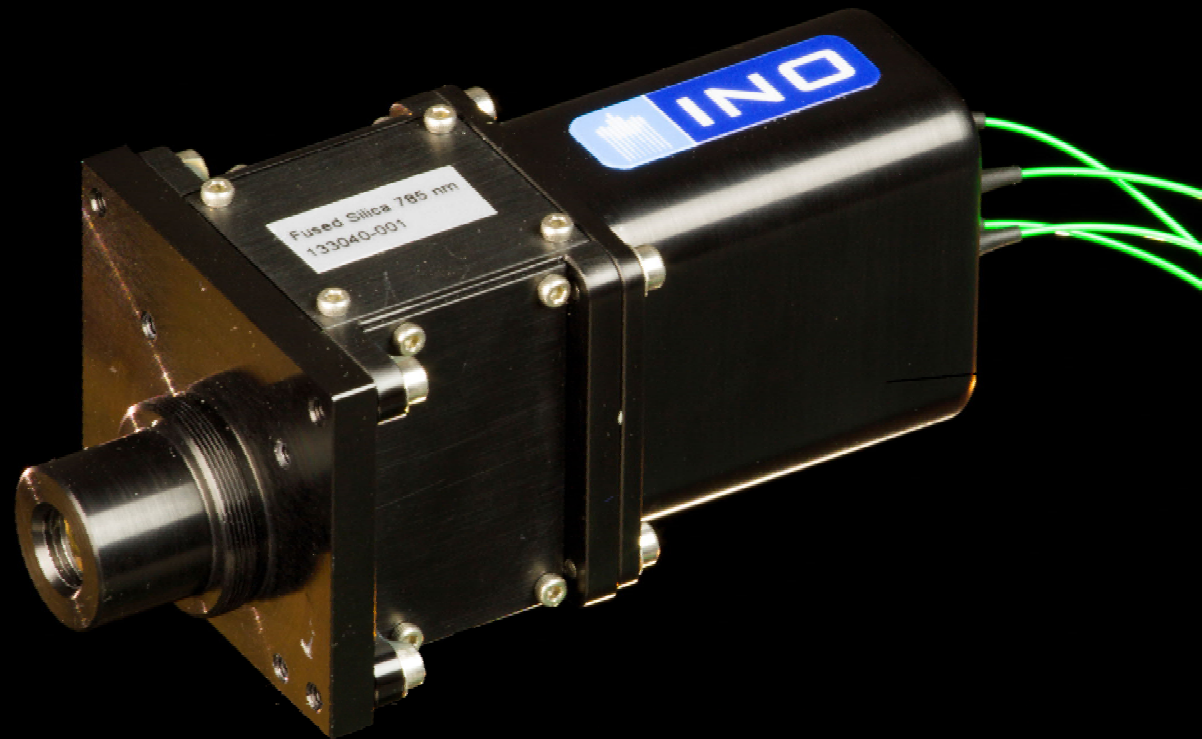
Manual



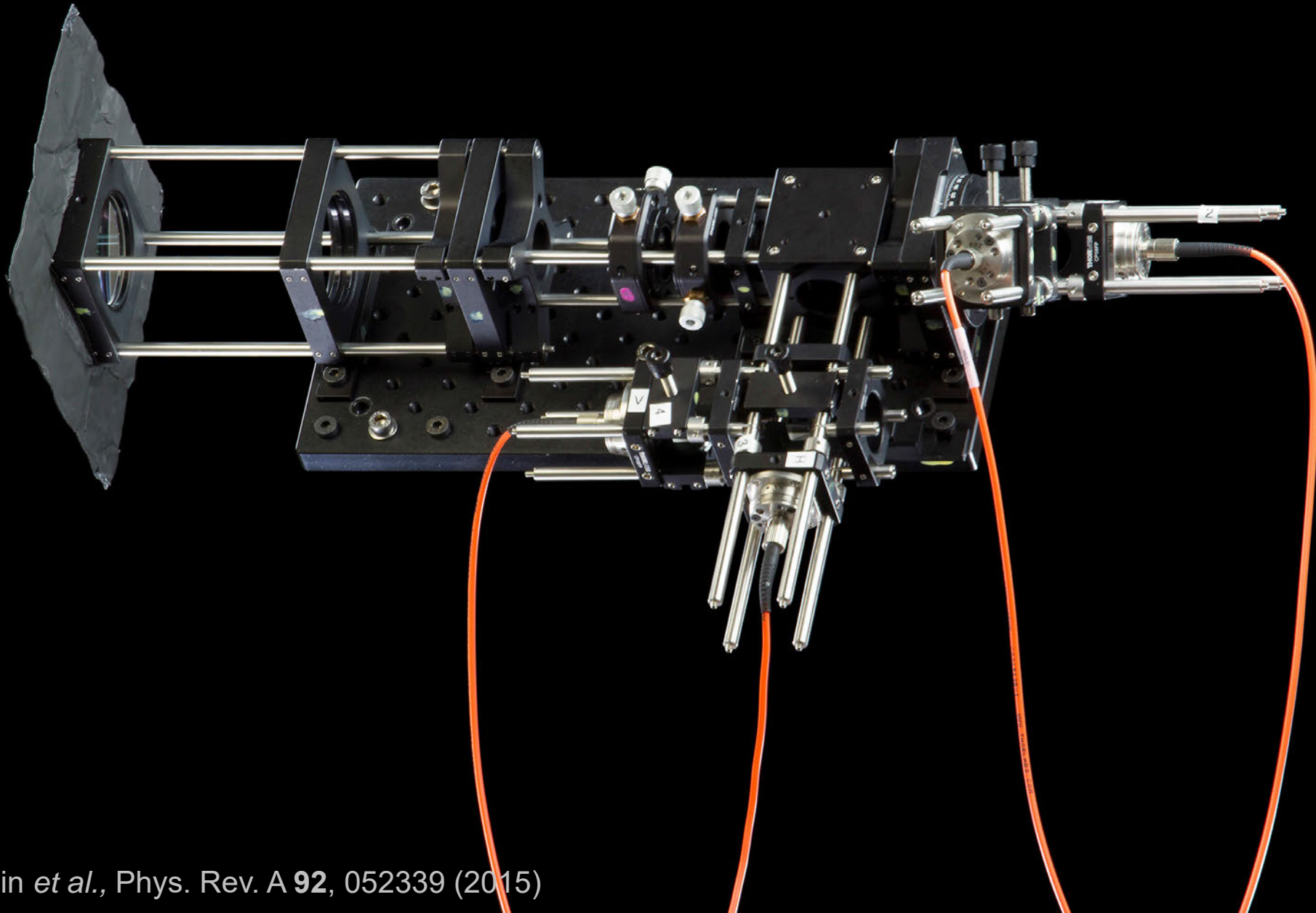




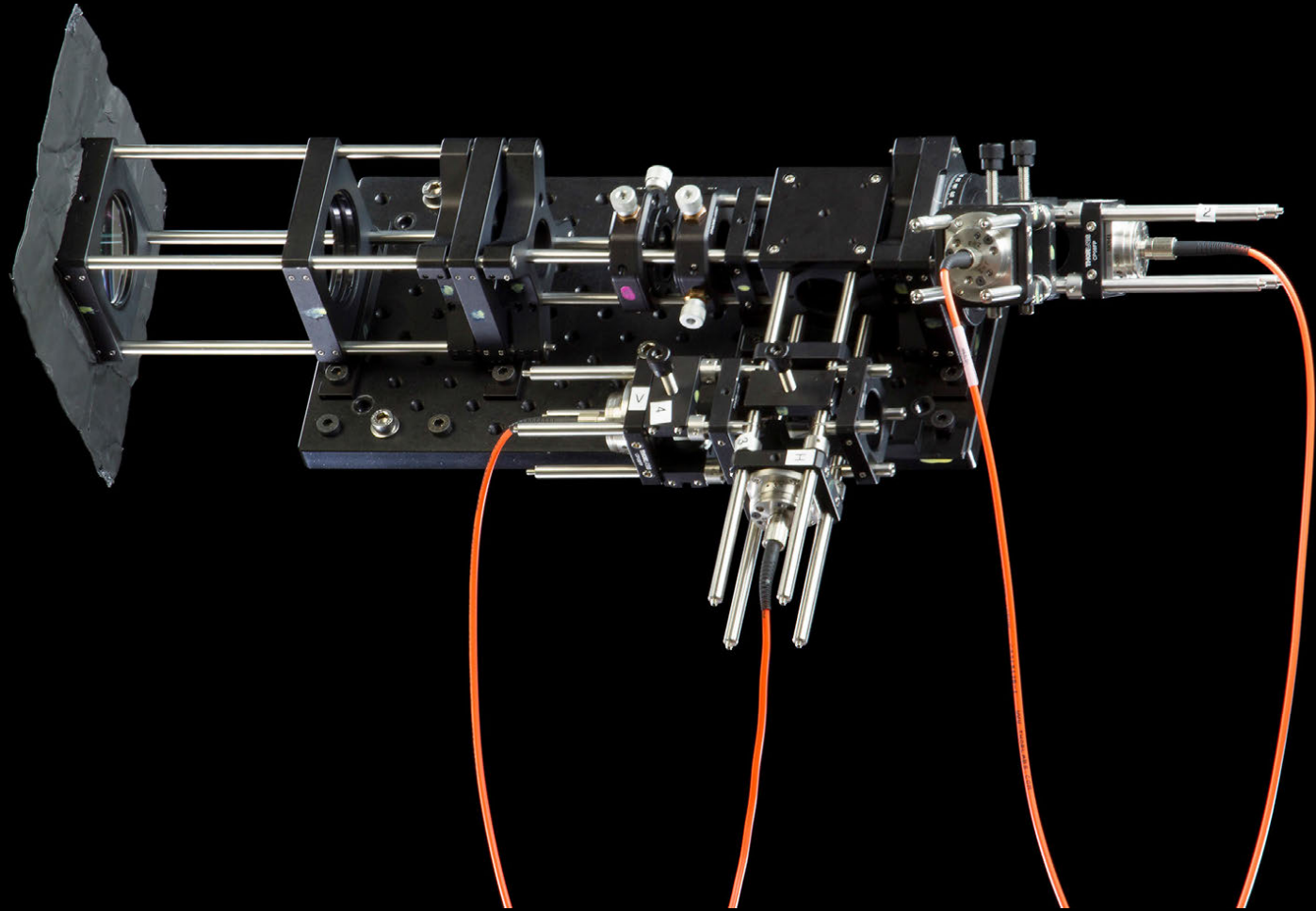
# Polarization receiver for satellite



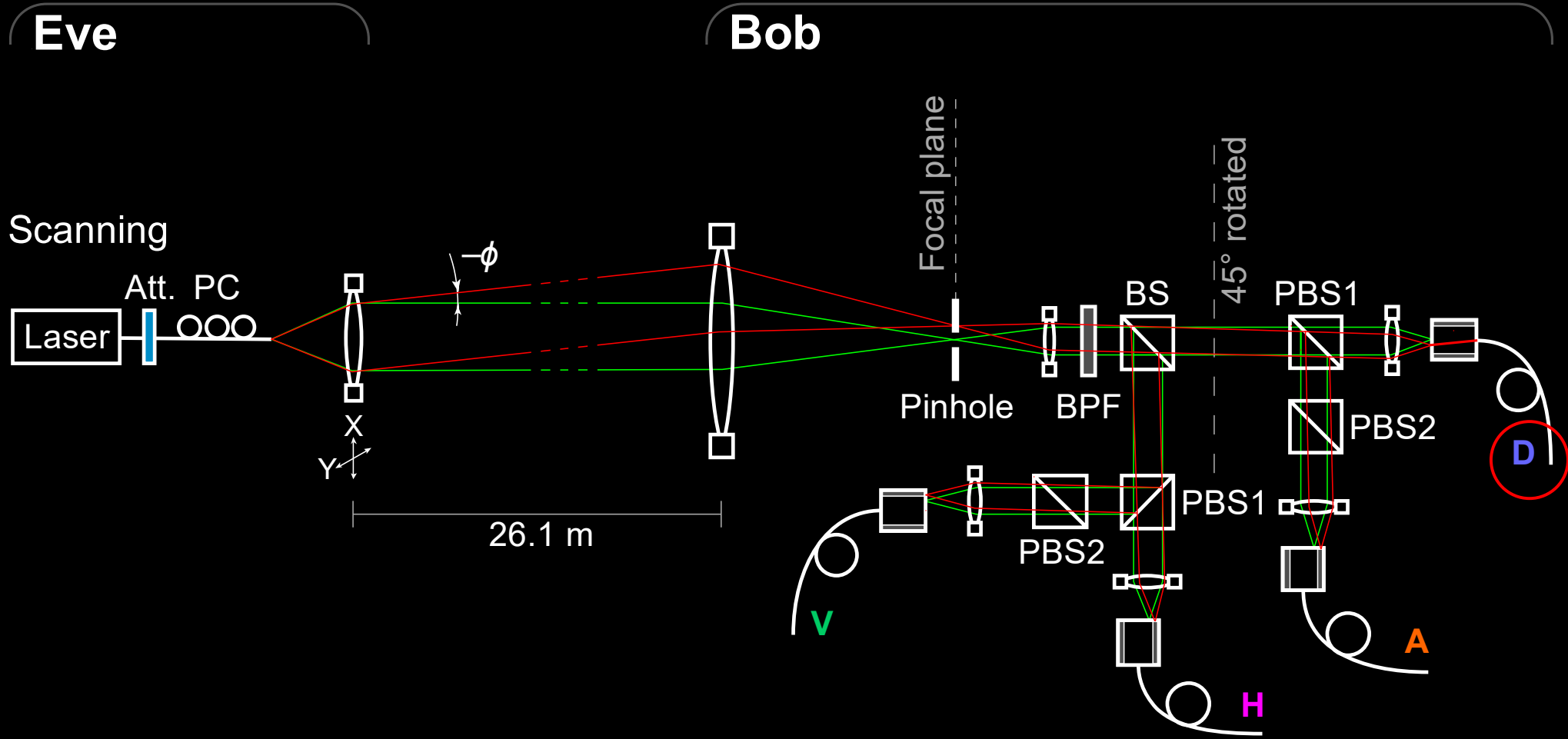
# Polarization analyzer



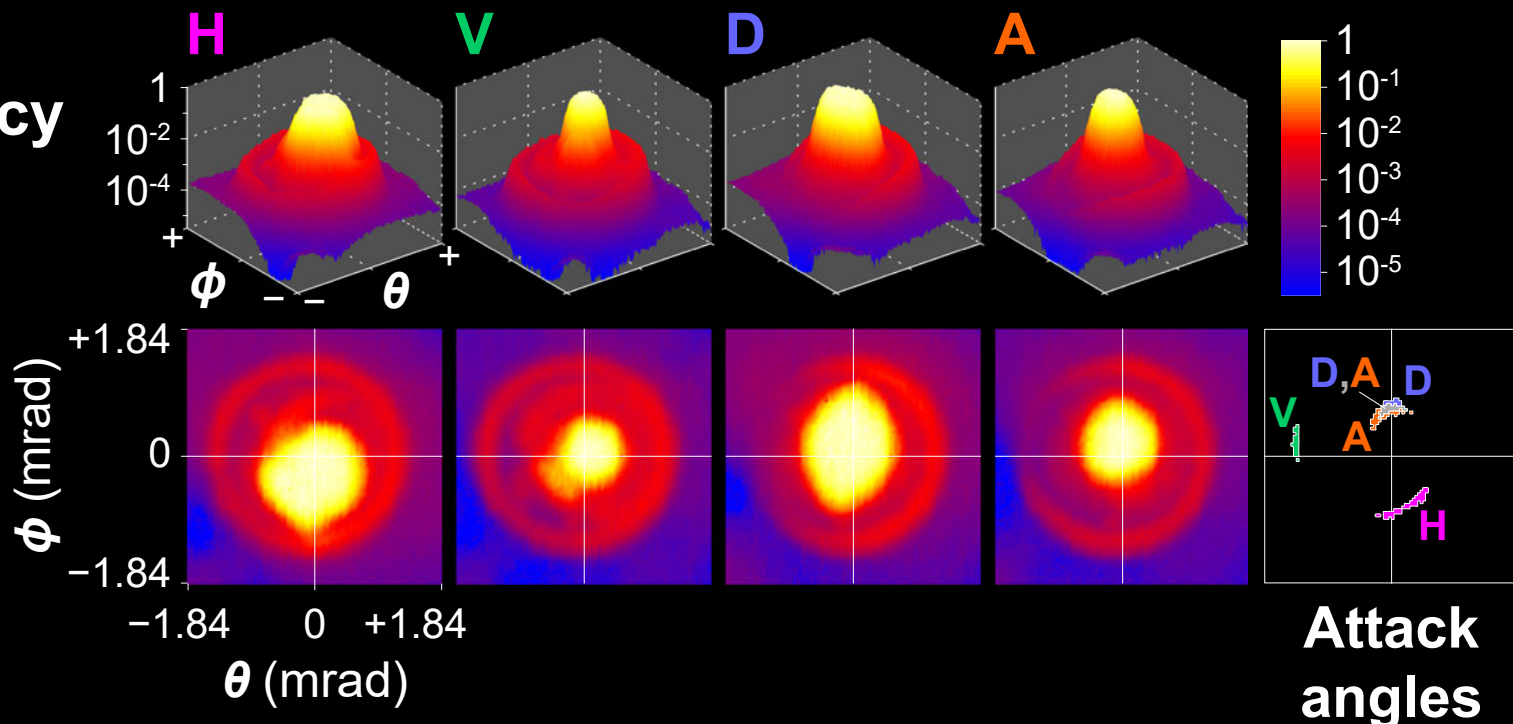
# Polarization analyzer



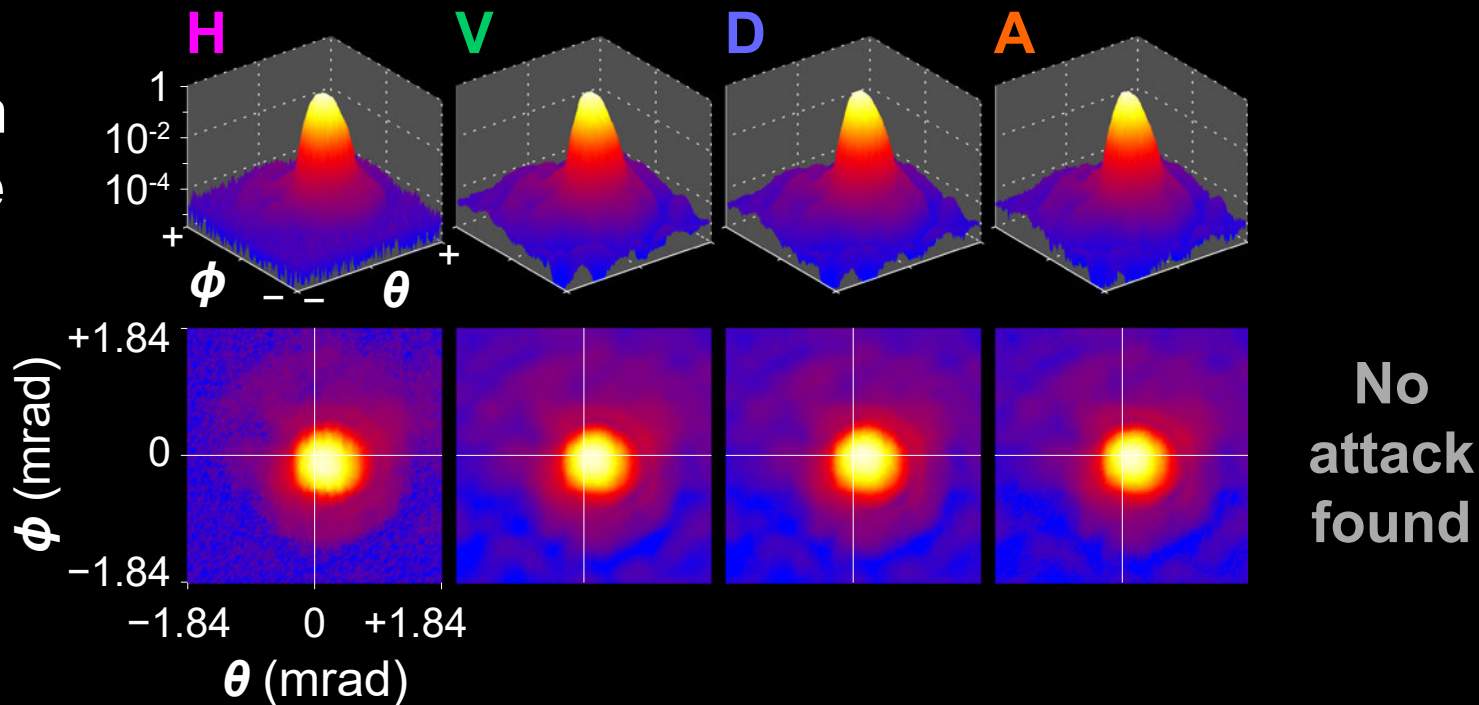
# Efficiency mismatch in polarization analyzer



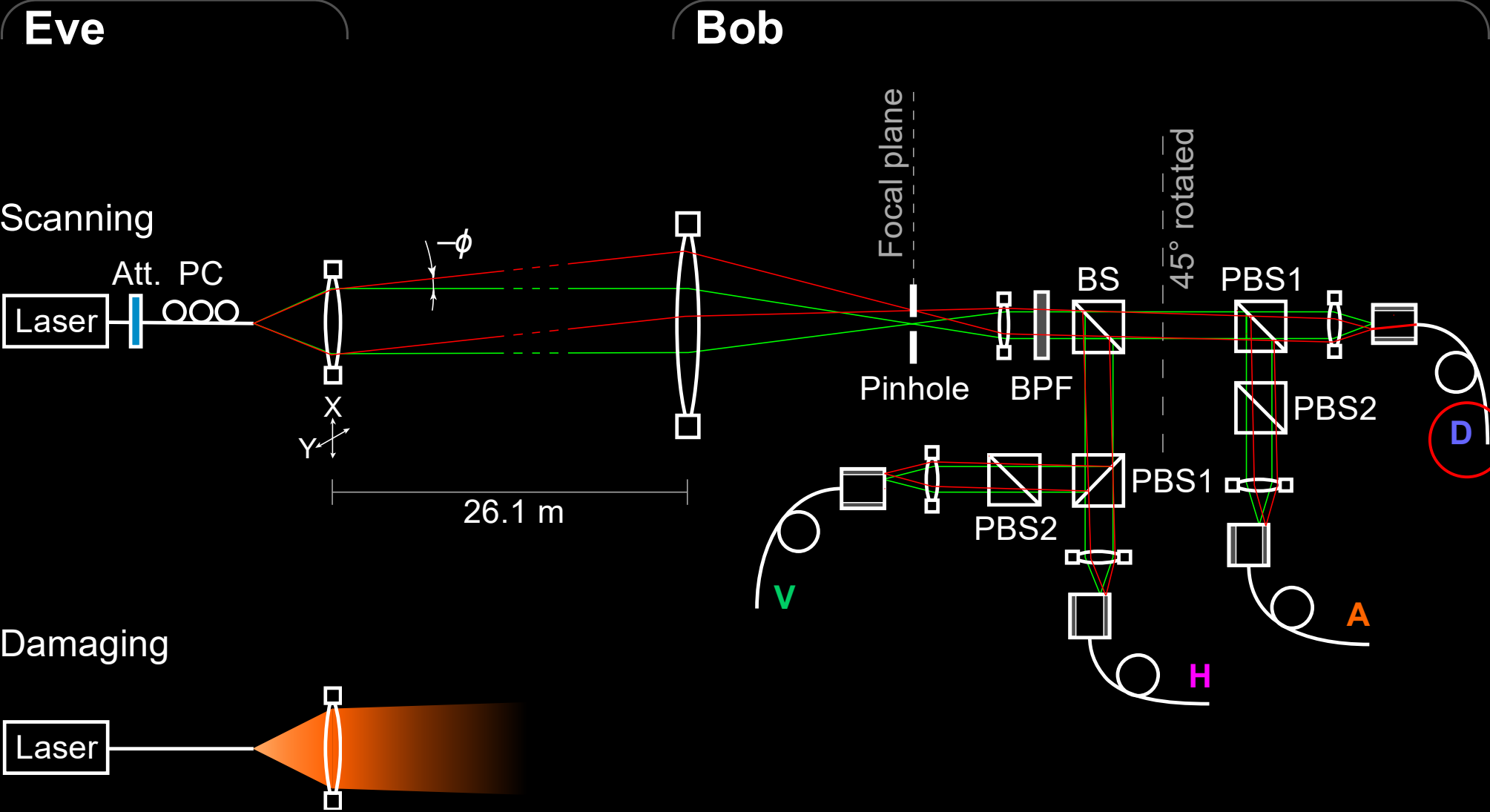
# Detector efficiency without pinhole



# ...and with 25 $\mu\text{m}$ diameter pinhole



# Counter-attack



**Thorlabs P20S pinhole**  
13  $\mu\text{m}$  thick stainless steel

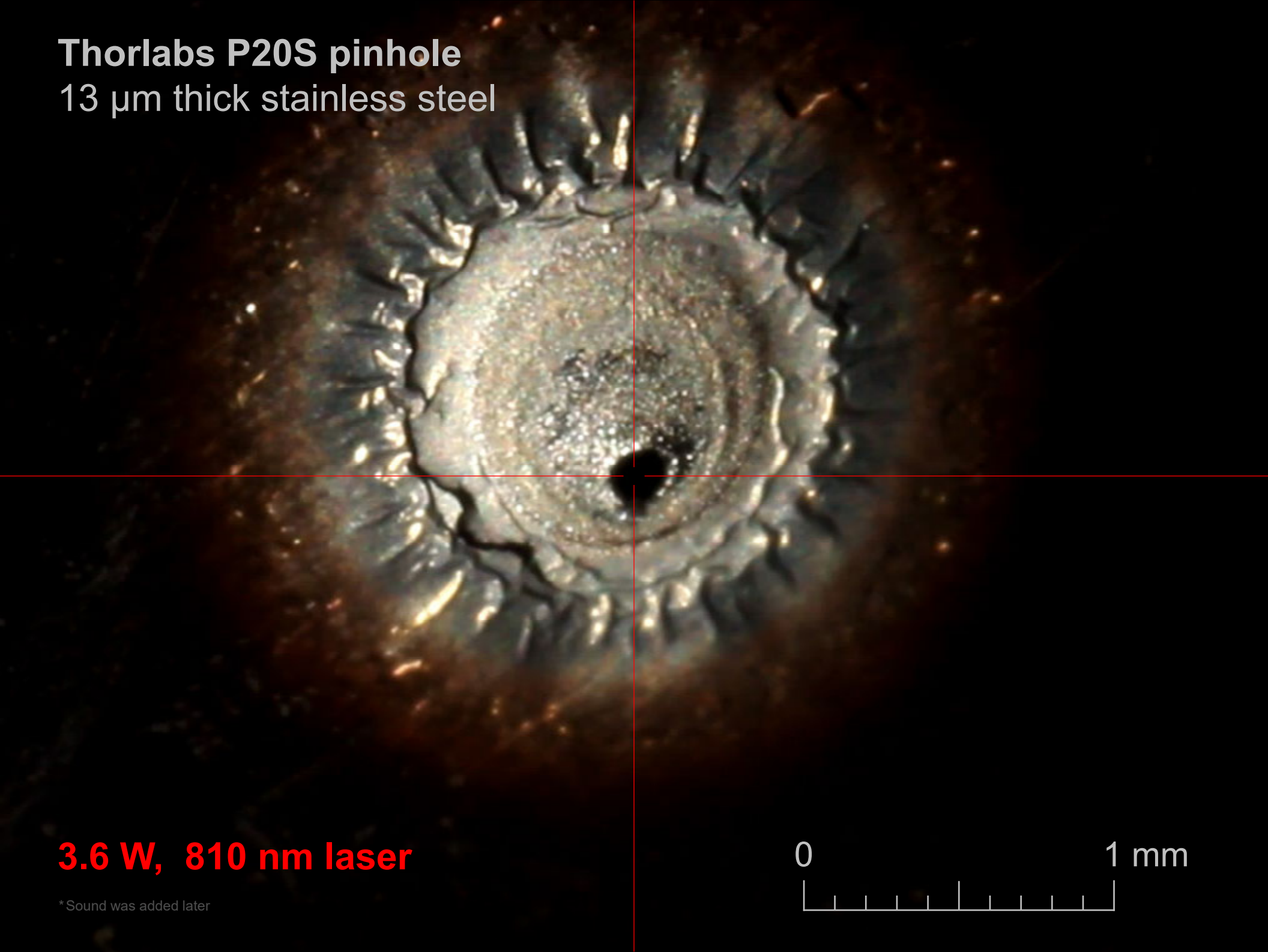
**3.6 W, 810 nm laser**

\* Sound was added later





**Thorlabs P20S pinhole**  
13  $\mu\text{m}$  thick stainless steel



**3.6 W, 810 nm laser**

\* Sound was added later

