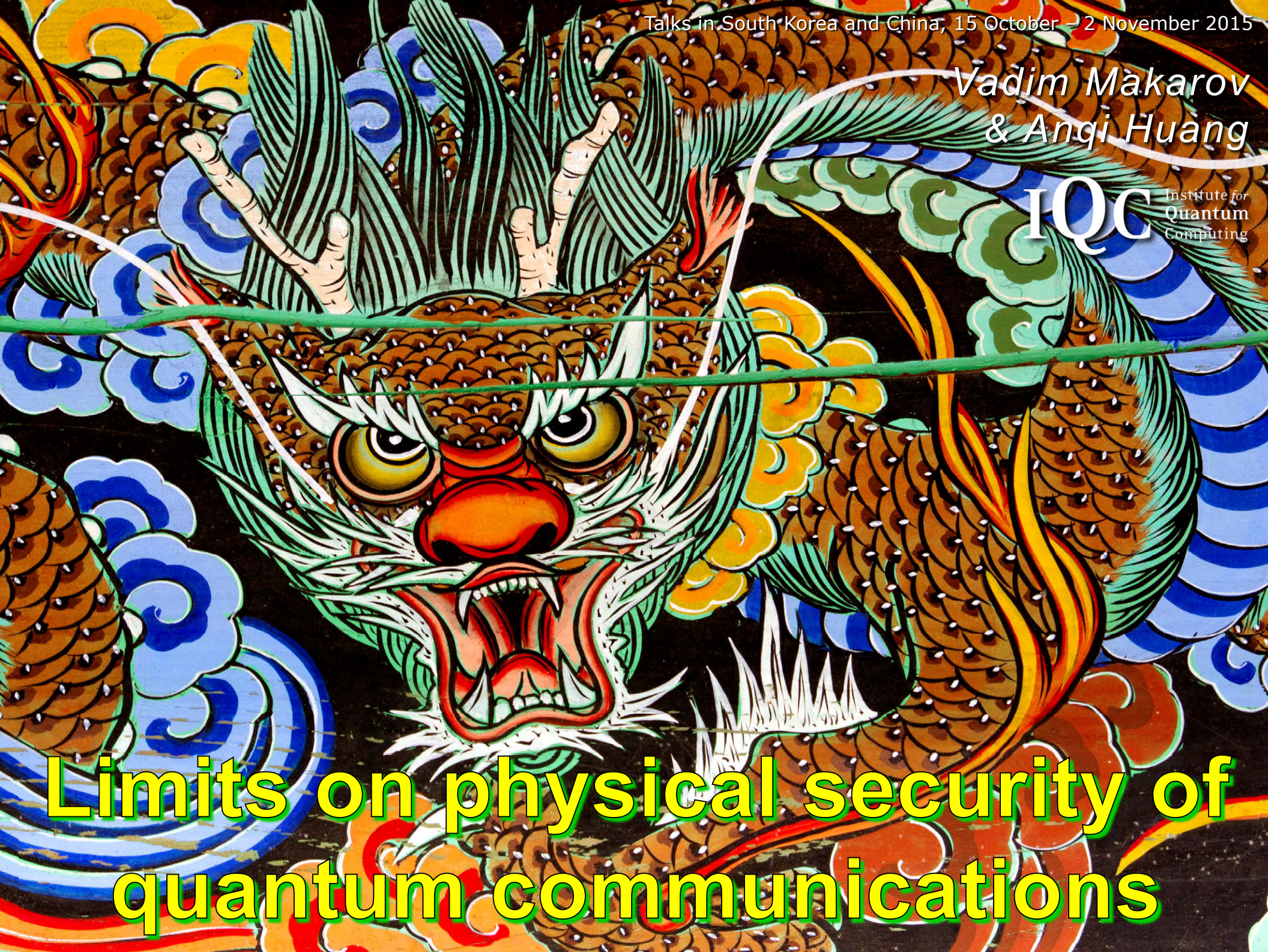


Vadim Makarov  
& Anqi Huang

**IQC** Institute for  
Quantum  
Computing

# Limits on physical security of quantum communications



# Communication security you enjoy daily

Paying by credit card in a supermarket

Cell phone conversations, SMS

Email, chat, online calls

Secure browsing, shopping online

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

Security cameras, industrial automation, military, spies...

# Public key cryptography

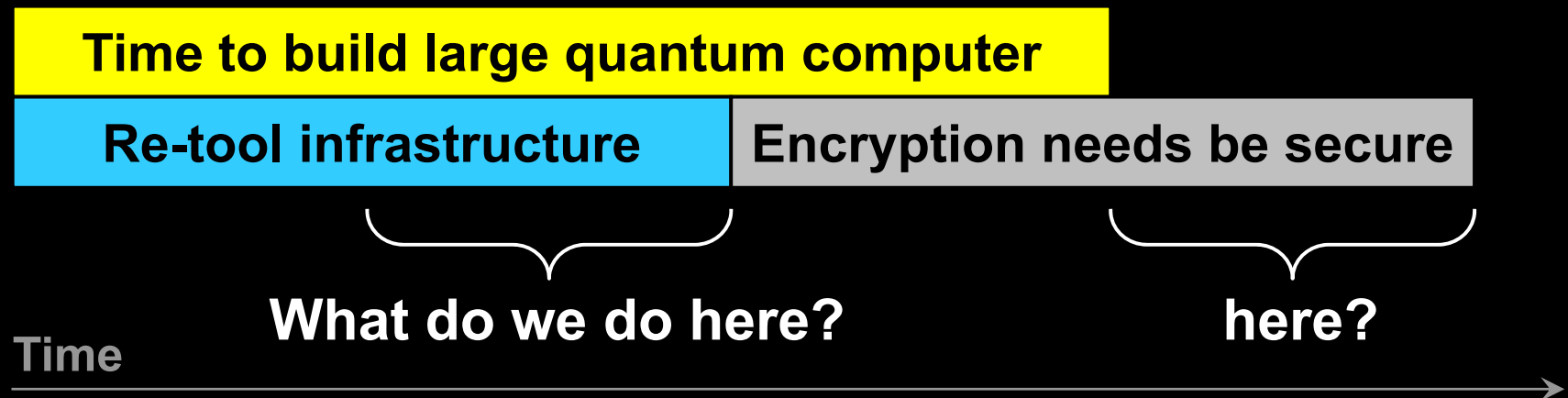
E.g., RSA (Rivest-Shamir-Adleman)

Elliptic-curve

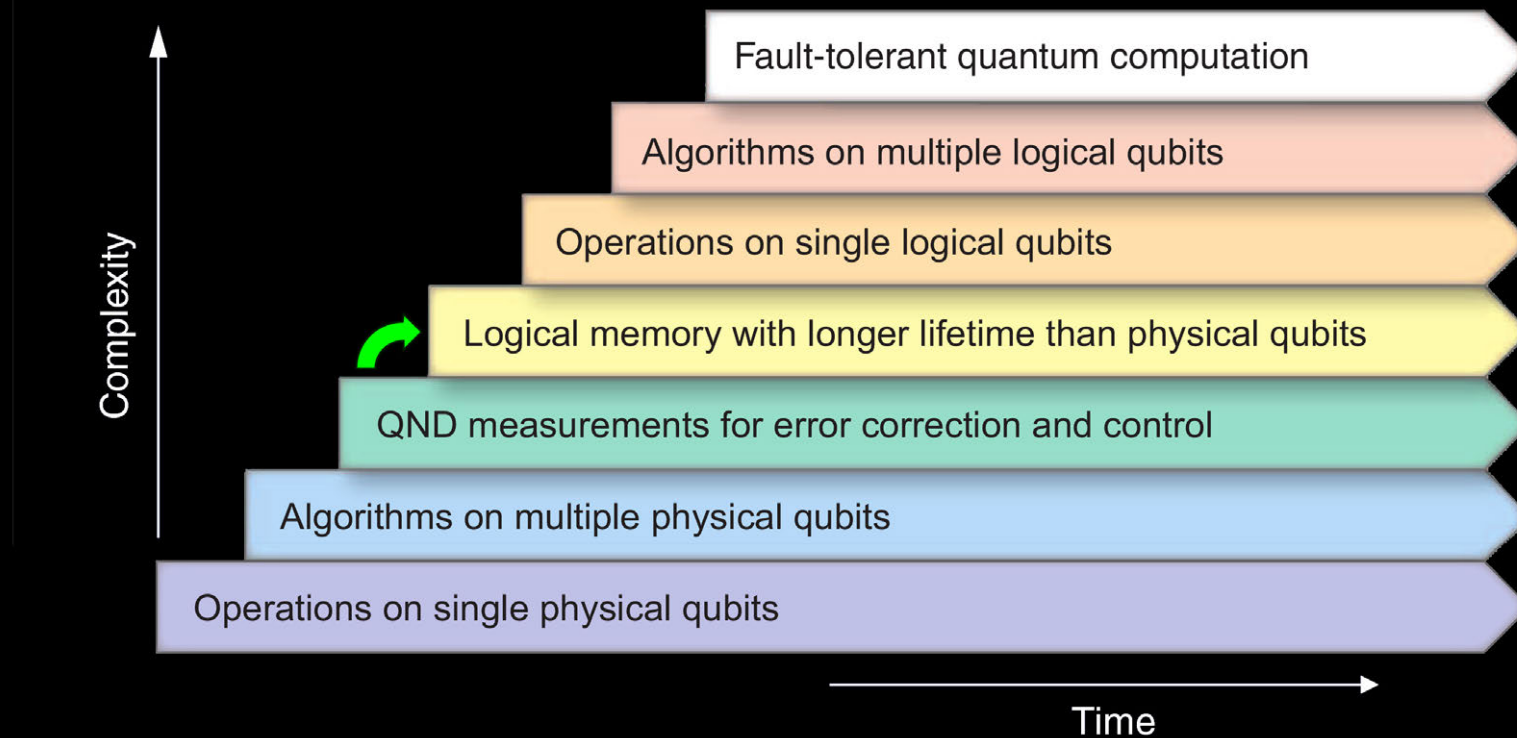
Based on *hypothesized* one-way functions

- ✂ Unexpected advances in classical cryptanalysis
- ✂ Shor's factorization algorithm for quantum computer

P. W. Shor, SIAM J. Comput. 26, 1484 (1997)

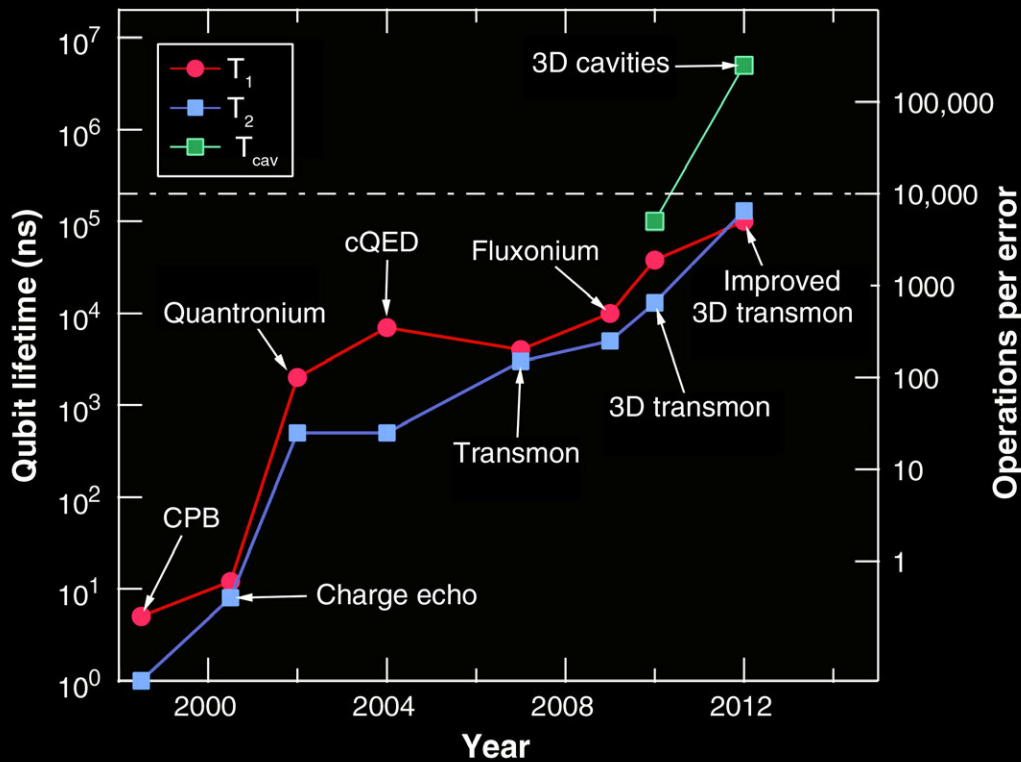


# How close is quantum computer?



**Fig. 1.** Seven stages in the development of quantum information processing. Each advancement requires mastery of the preceding stages, but each also represents a continuing task that must be perfected in parallel with the others. Superconducting qubits are the only solid-state implementation at the third stage, and they now aim at reaching the fourth stage (green arrow). In the domain of atomic physics and quantum optics, the third stage had been previously attained by trapped ions and by Rydberg atoms. No implementation has yet reached the fourth stage, where a logical qubit can be stored, via error correction, for a time substantially longer than the decoherence time of its physical qubit components.

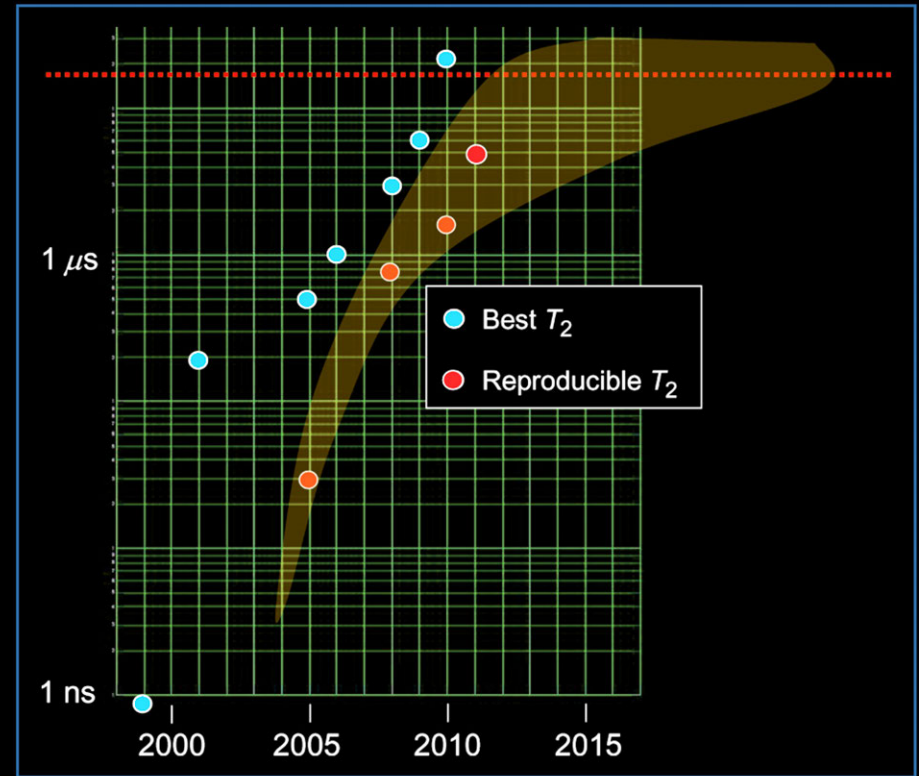
# How close is quantum computer?



**Fig. 3.** Examples of the “Moore’s law” type of exponential scaling in performance of superconducting qubits during recent years.

Improvement of coherence times for the “typical best” results associated with the first versions of major design changes. The blue, red, and green symbols refer to qubit relaxation, qubit decoherence, and cavity lifetimes, respectively. Innovations were introduced to avoid the dominant decoherence channel found in earlier generations. So far an ultimate limit on coherence seems not to have been encountered.

M. H. Devoret, R. J. Schoelkopf, *Science* **339**, 1169 (2013)



**Figure 5**

Progress toward reaching long dephasing ( $T_2$ ) times for superconducting qubits. (Red dashed line) Minimum necessary for fault-tolerant quantum computer, based on a 30-ns two-gate time. (Yellow field) Predicted improvements in  $T_2$ .

M. Steffen *et al.*, “Quantum computing: An IBM perspective,” *IBM J. Res. Dev.* **55**, 13 (2011)

**Quantum computers capable of catastrophically breaking our public-key cryptography infrastructure are a medium-term threat.**

## **Quantum-safe cryptographic infrastructure**

**“post-quantum” cryptography + quantum cryptography**

- **Classical tools deployable without quantum technologies**
- **Believed/hoped to be secure against quantum computer attacks of the future**
- **Quantum tools requiring some quantum technologies (typically less than a large-scale quantum computer)**
- **Typically no computational assumptions and thus known to be secure against quantum attacks**

Both sets of cryptographic tools can work very well together in quantum-safe cryptographic ecosystem.

- Information Assurance**
- About IA at NSA
- IA Client and Partner Support
- IA News
- IA Events
- IA Mitigation Guidance
- IA Academic Outreach
- IA Business and Research
- ▼ IA Programs
  - Commercial Solutions for Classified Program
  - Global Information Grid
  - High Assurance Platform
  - Inline Media Encryptor
  - ▶ **Suite B Cryptography**
  - NSA Mobility Program
  - National Security Cyber Assistance Program
- IA Careers
- Contact Information

Home > Information Assurance > Programs > NSA Suite B Cryptography

## Cryptography Today

In the current global environment, rapid and secure information sharing is important to protect our Nation, its citizens and its interests. Strong cryptographic algorithms and secure protocol standards are vital tools that contribute to our national security and help address the ubiquitous need for secure, interoperable communications.

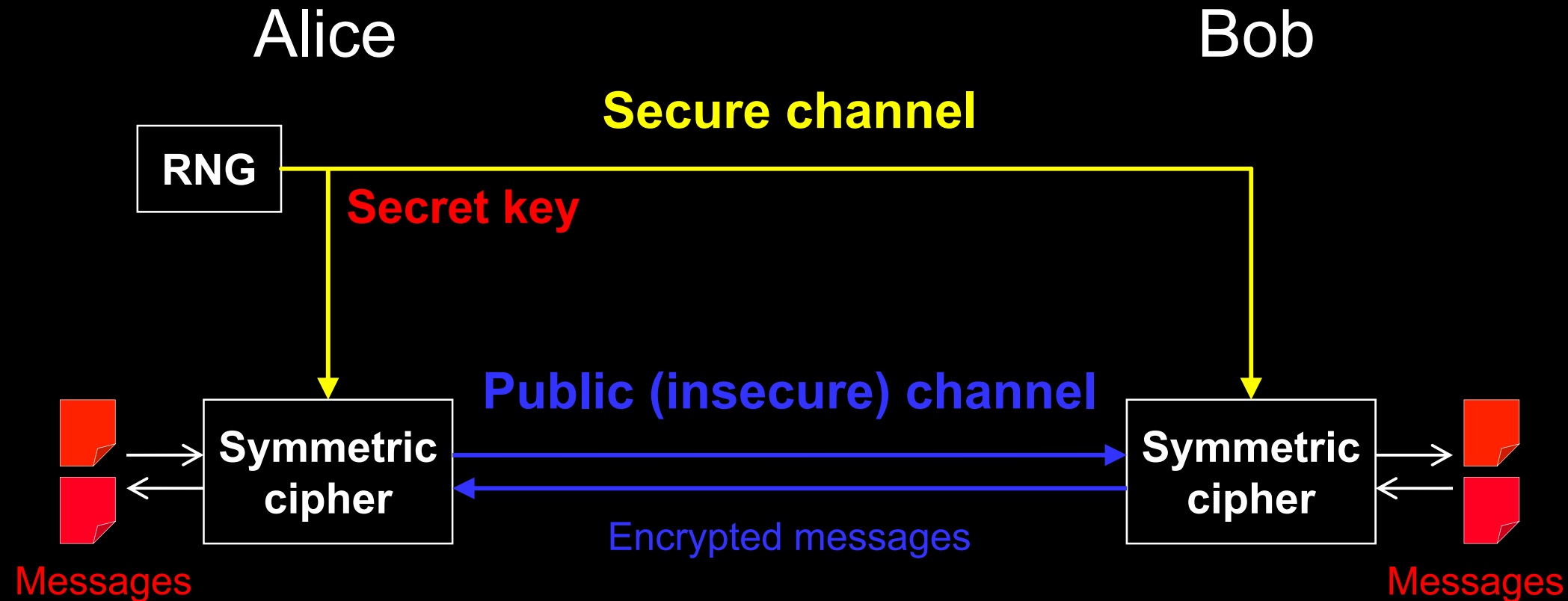
Currently, Suite B cryptographic algorithms are specified by the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) and are used by NSA's Information Assurance Directorate in solutions approved for protecting classified and unclassified National Security Systems (NSS). Below, we announce preliminary plans for transitioning to quantum resistant algorithms.

### Background

IAD will initiate a transition to quantum resistant algorithms in the not too distant future. Based on experience in deploying Suite B, we have determined to start planning and communicating early about the upcoming transition to quantum resistant algorithms. Our ultimate goal is to provide cost effective security against a potential quantum computer. We are working with partners across the USG, vendors, and standards bodies to ensure there is a clear plan for getting a new suite of algorithms that are developed in an open and transparent manner that will form the foundation of our next Suite of cryptographic algorithms.

(19 August 2015)

# Encryption and key distribution



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



# Quantum key distribution (QKD)

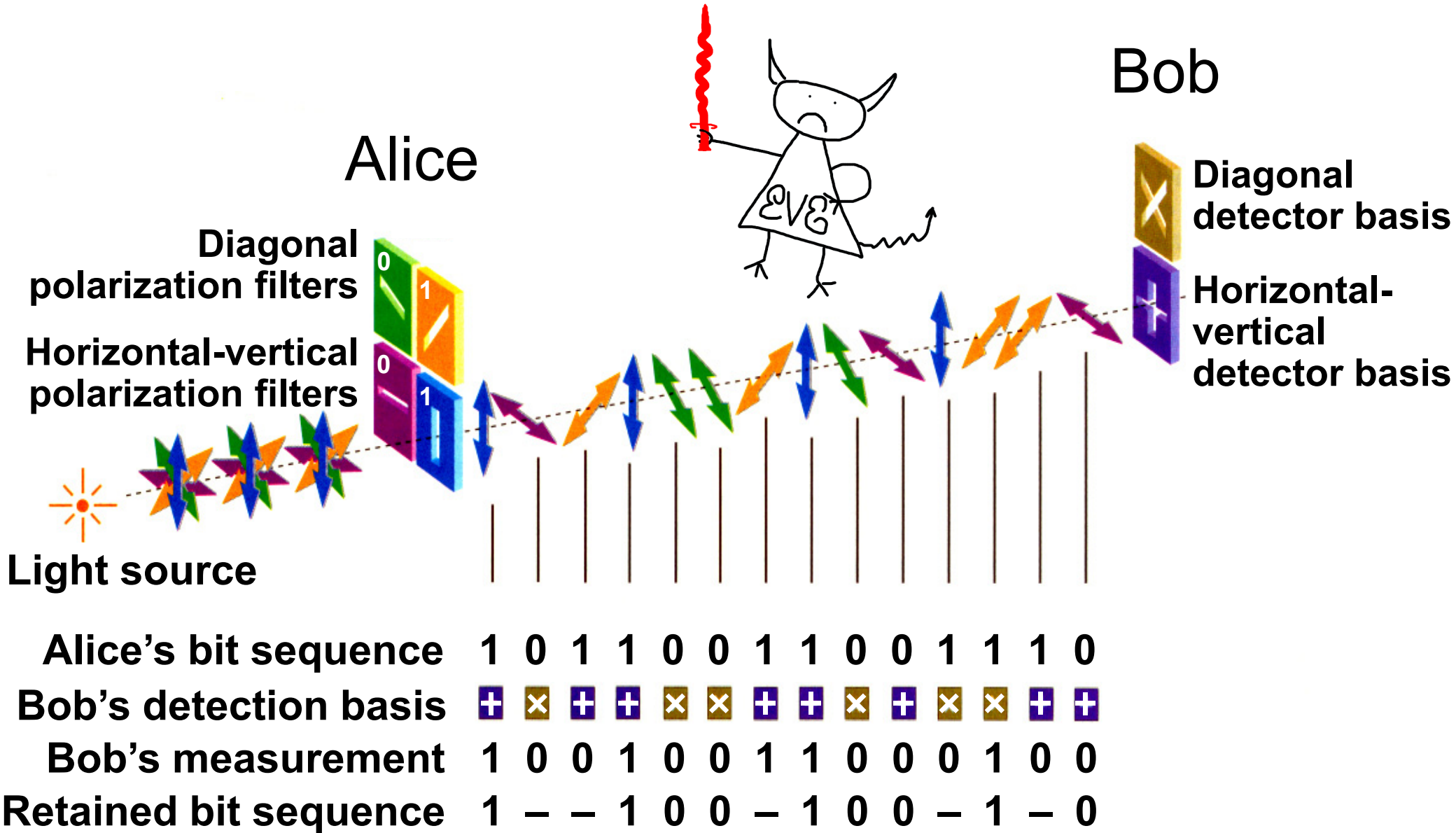
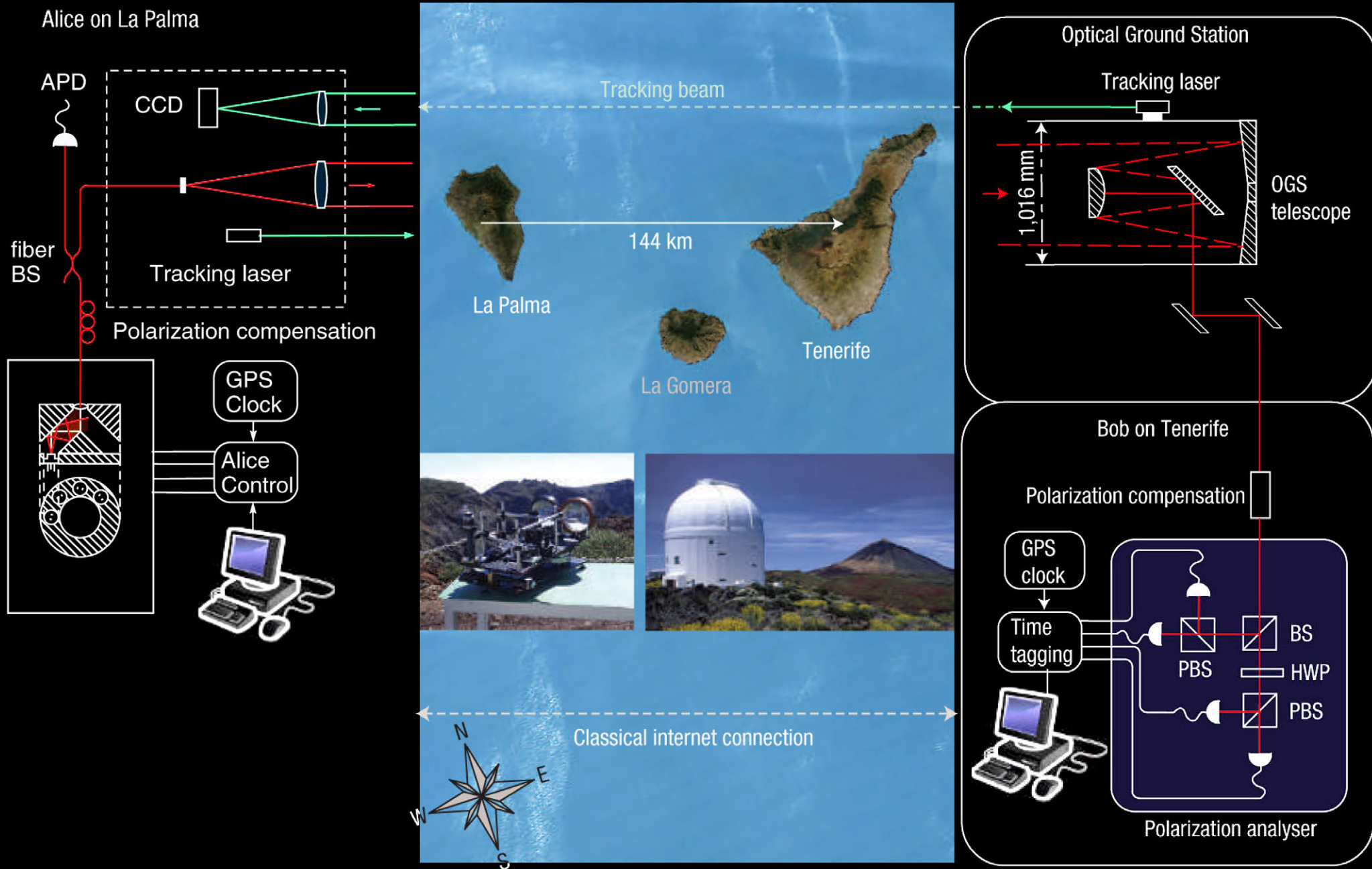
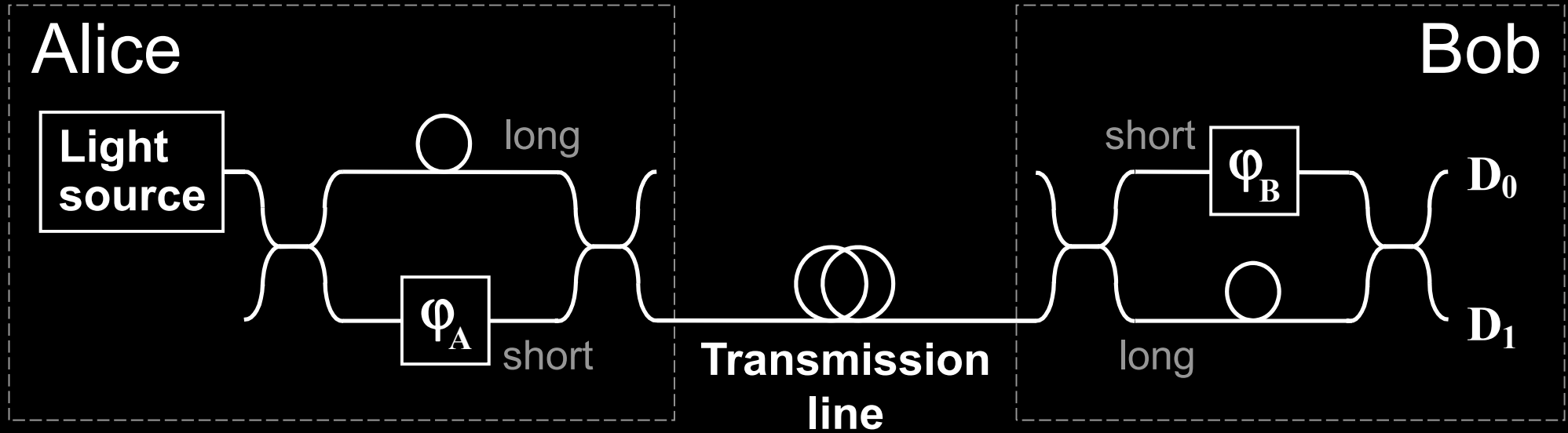


Image reprinted from article: W. Tittel, G. Ribordy & N. Gisin, "Quantum cryptography," Physics World, March 1998

# Free-space QKD



# Phase encoding, interferometric QKD channel

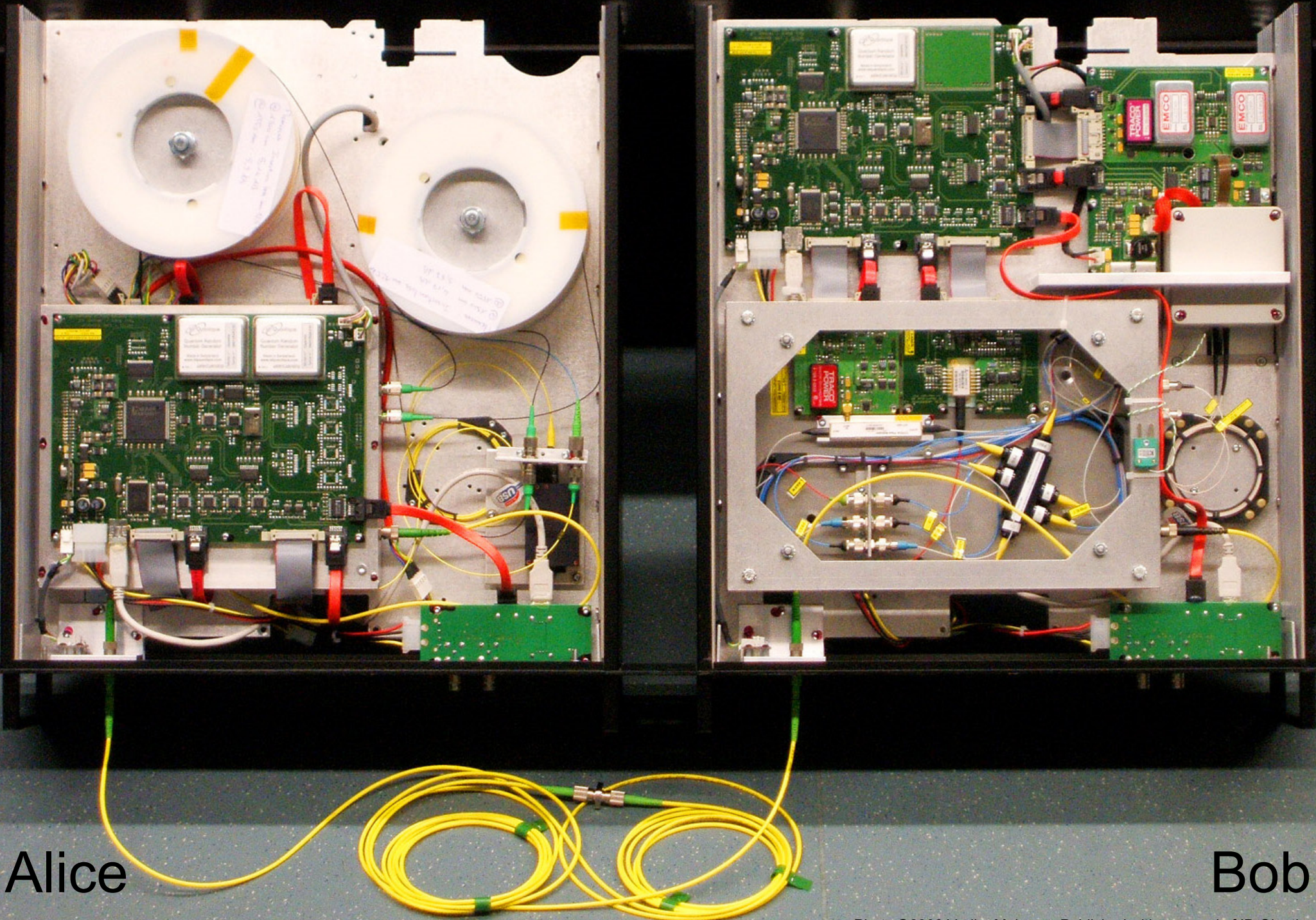


$$\varphi_A = \begin{matrix} 0 & \text{or} & \pi/2 & : & 0 \\ \pi & \text{or} & 3\pi/2 & : & 1 \end{matrix}$$

**Detection basis:**

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

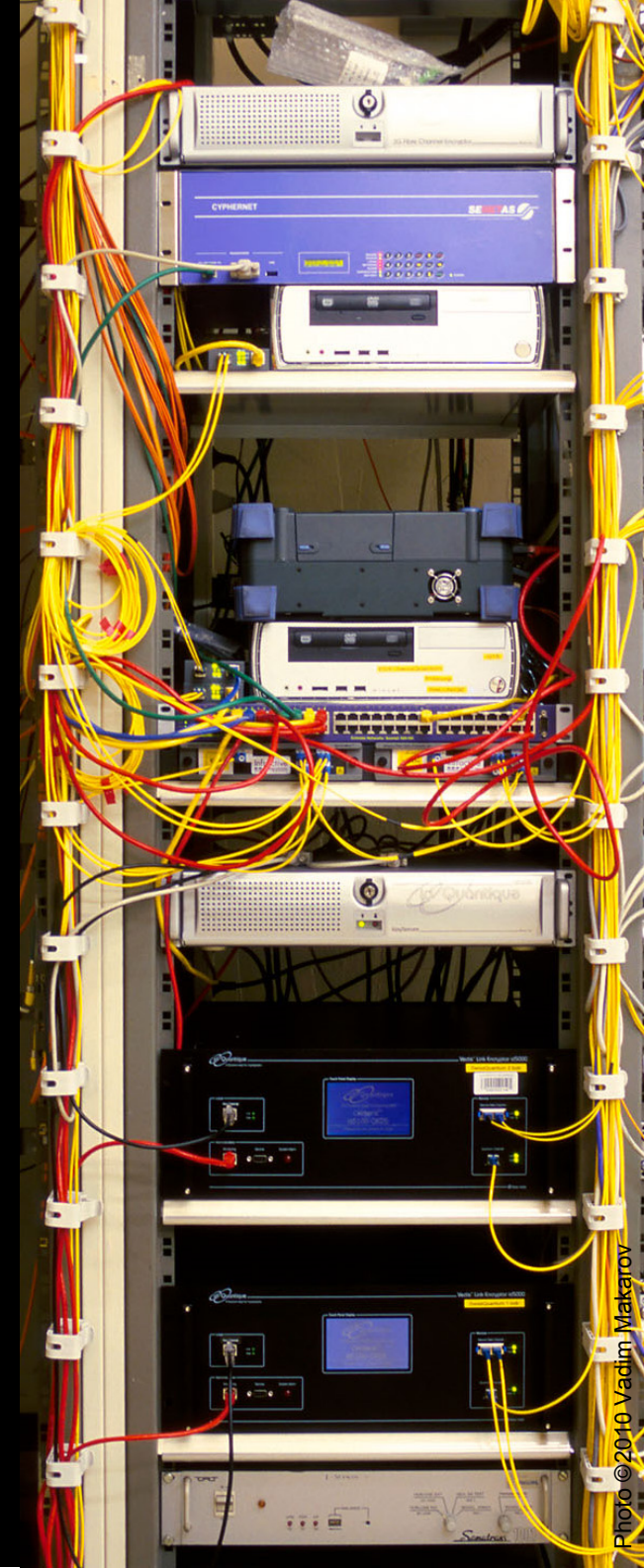
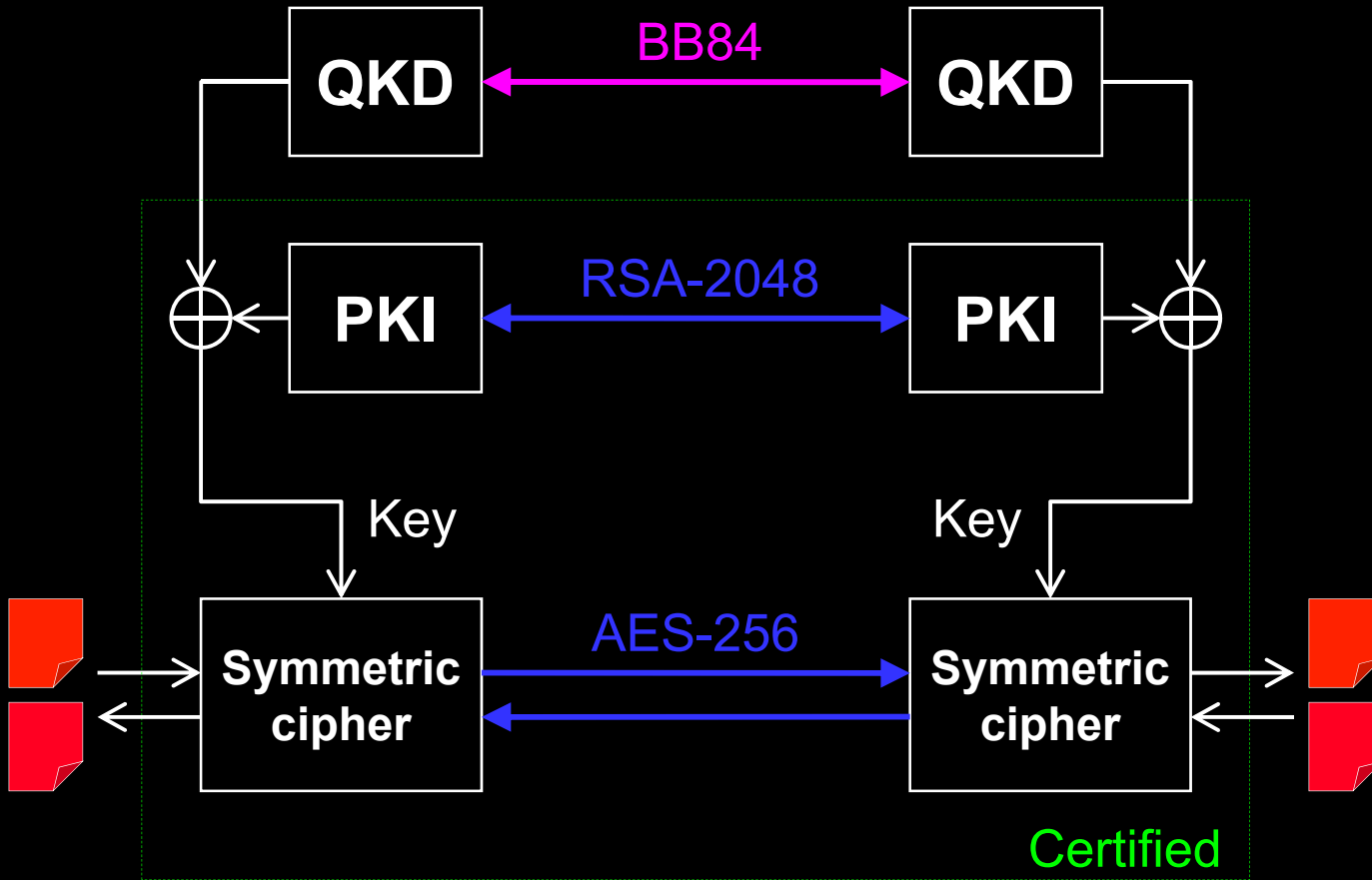
# ID Quantique Clavis2 QKD system



Alice

Bob

# Dual key agreement



# 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)

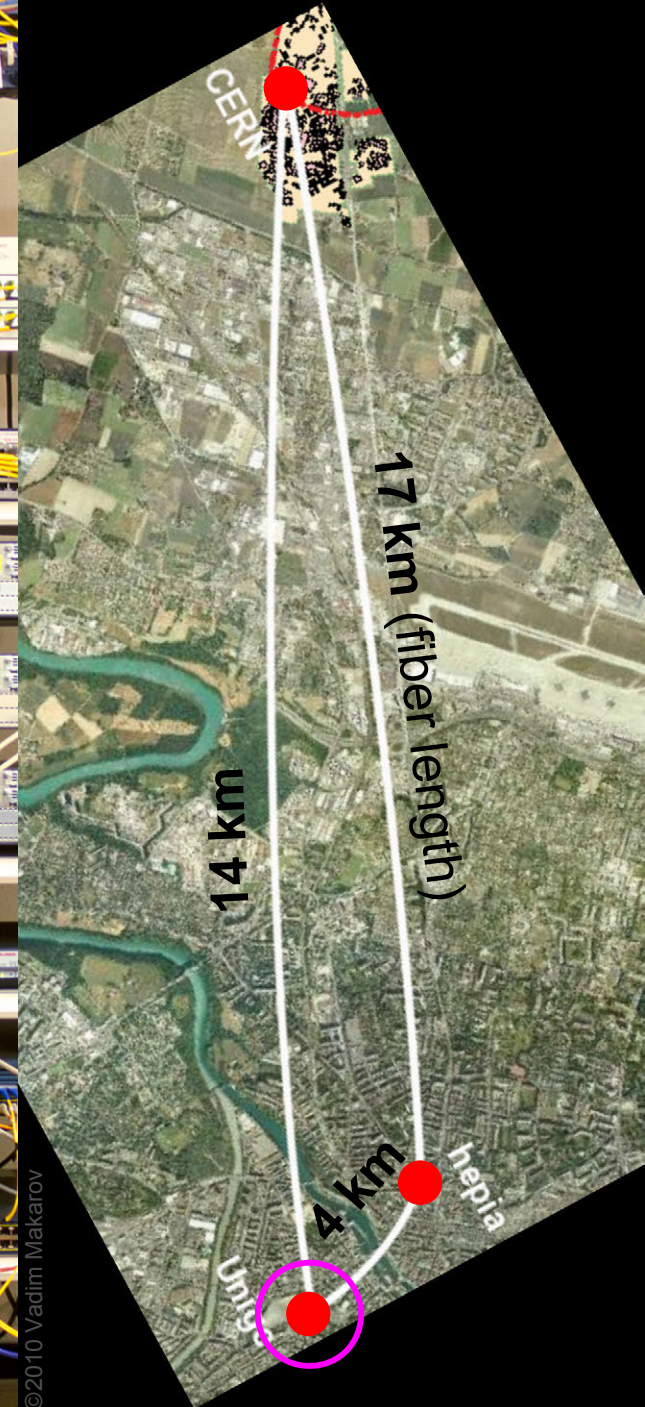
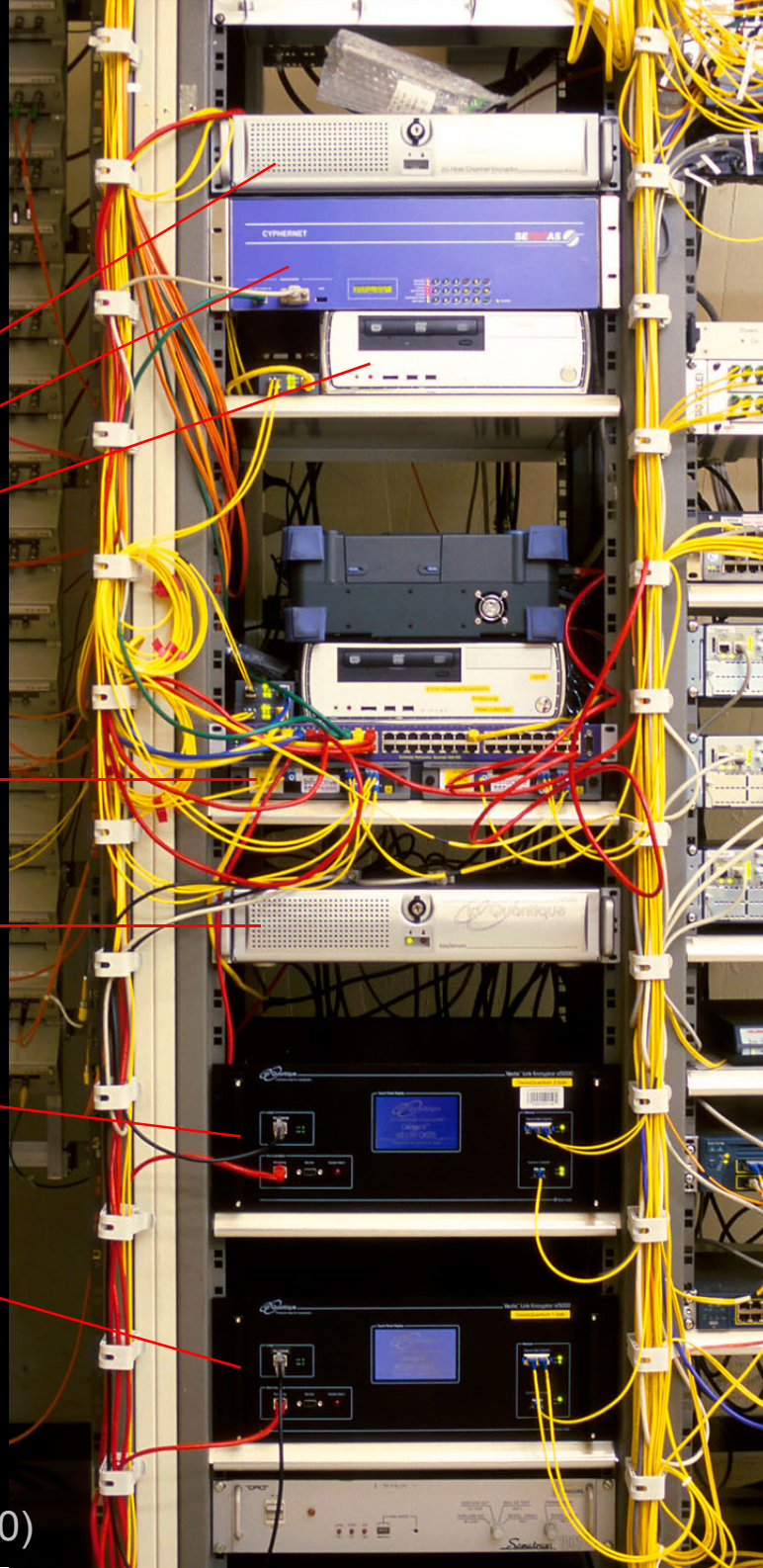
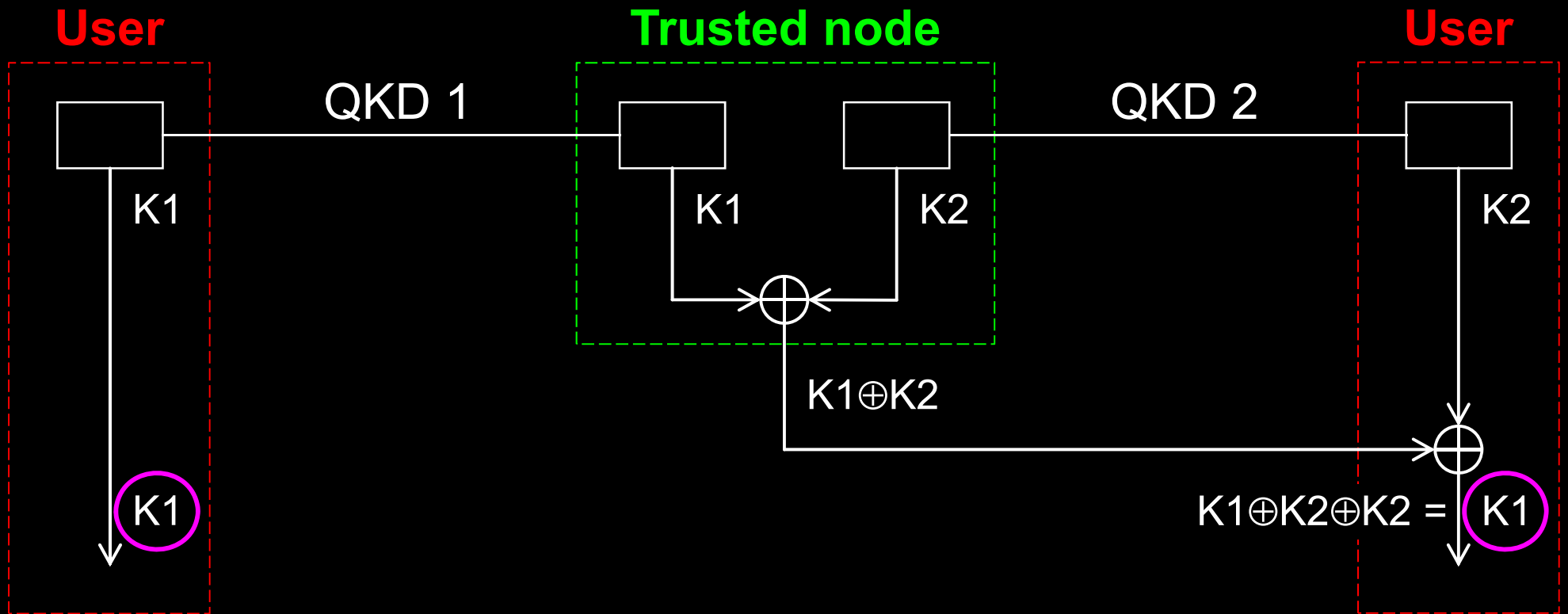
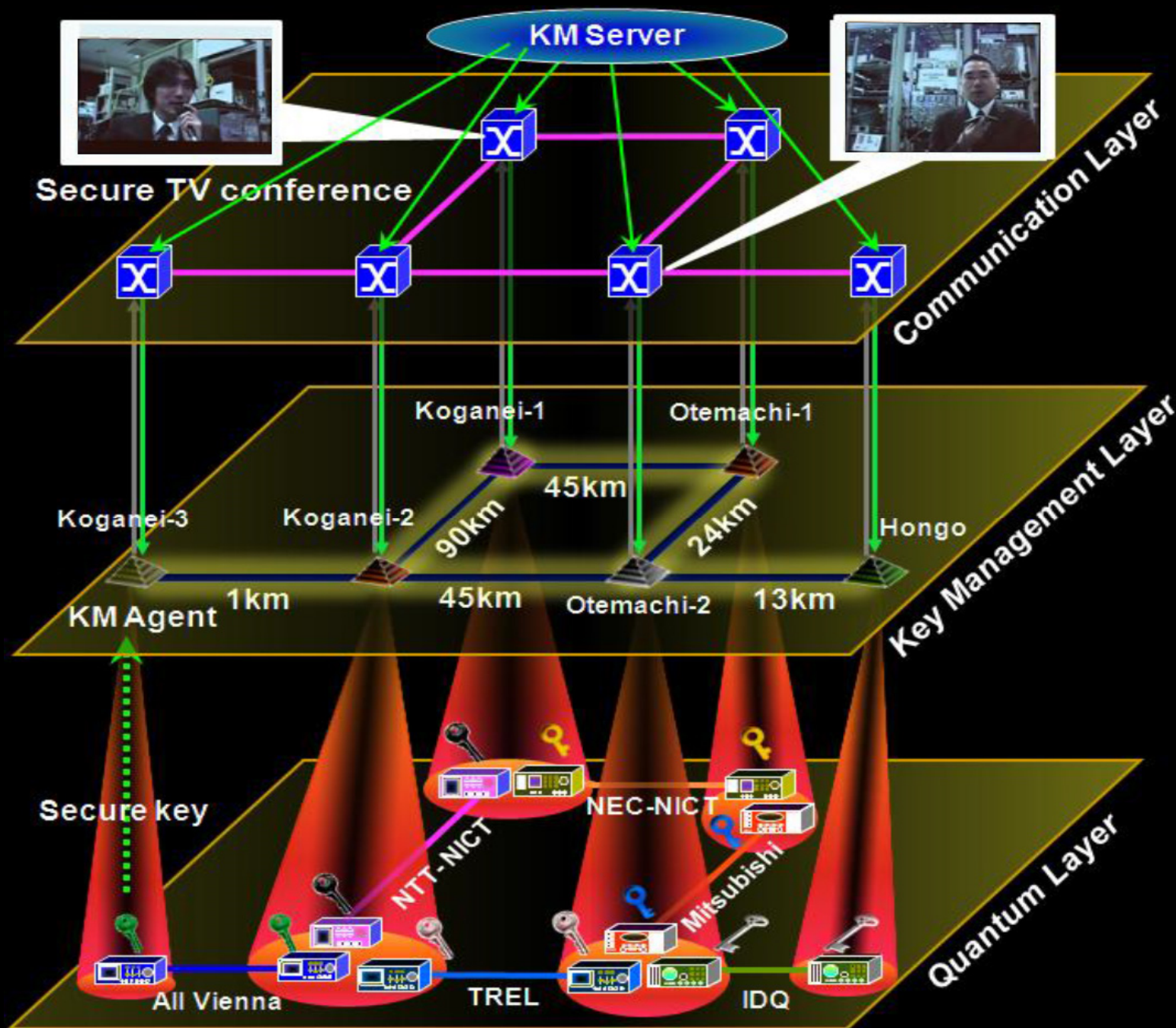


Photo ©2010 Vadim Makarov

# Trusted-node repeater



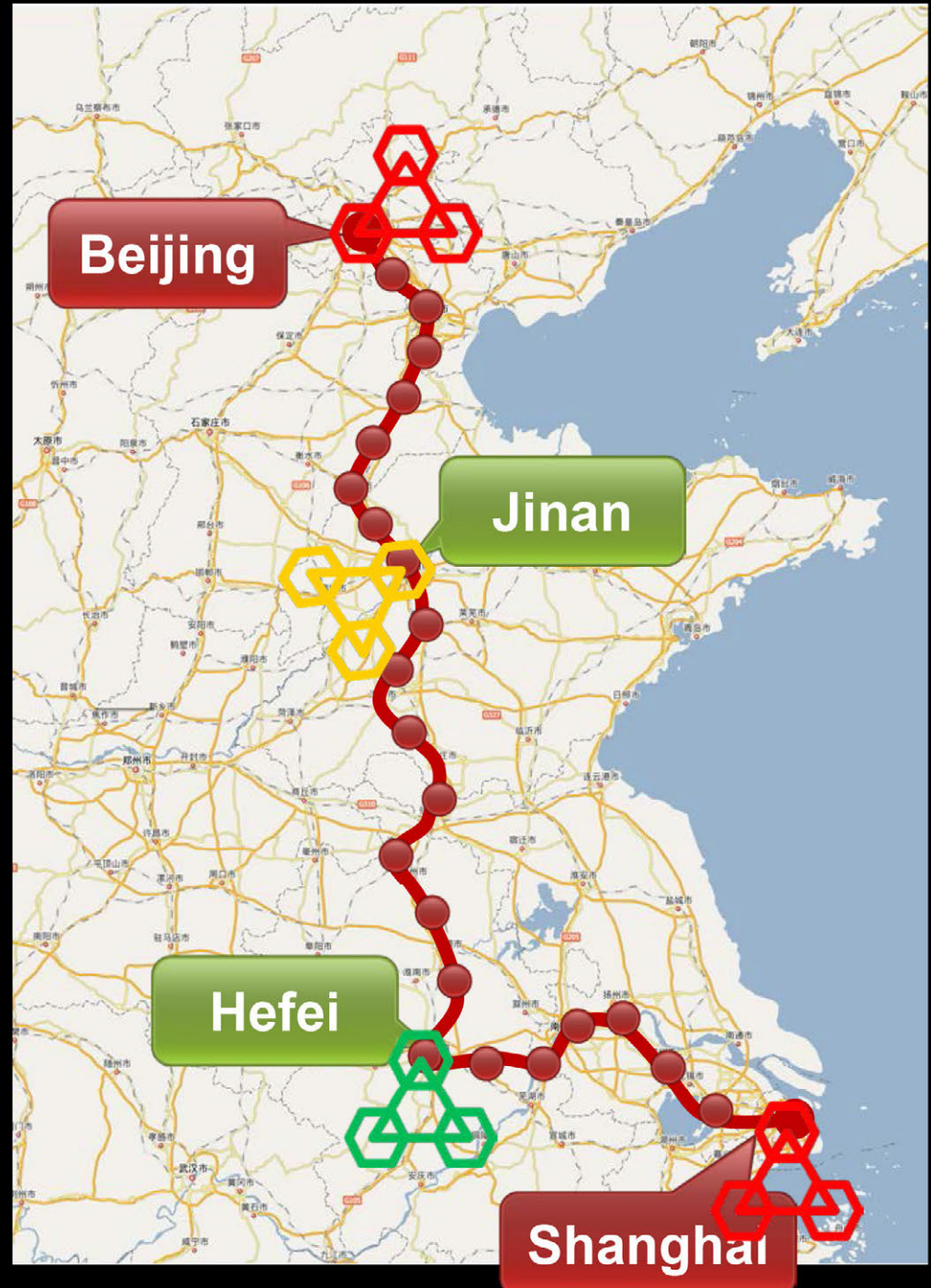
# Trusted-node network



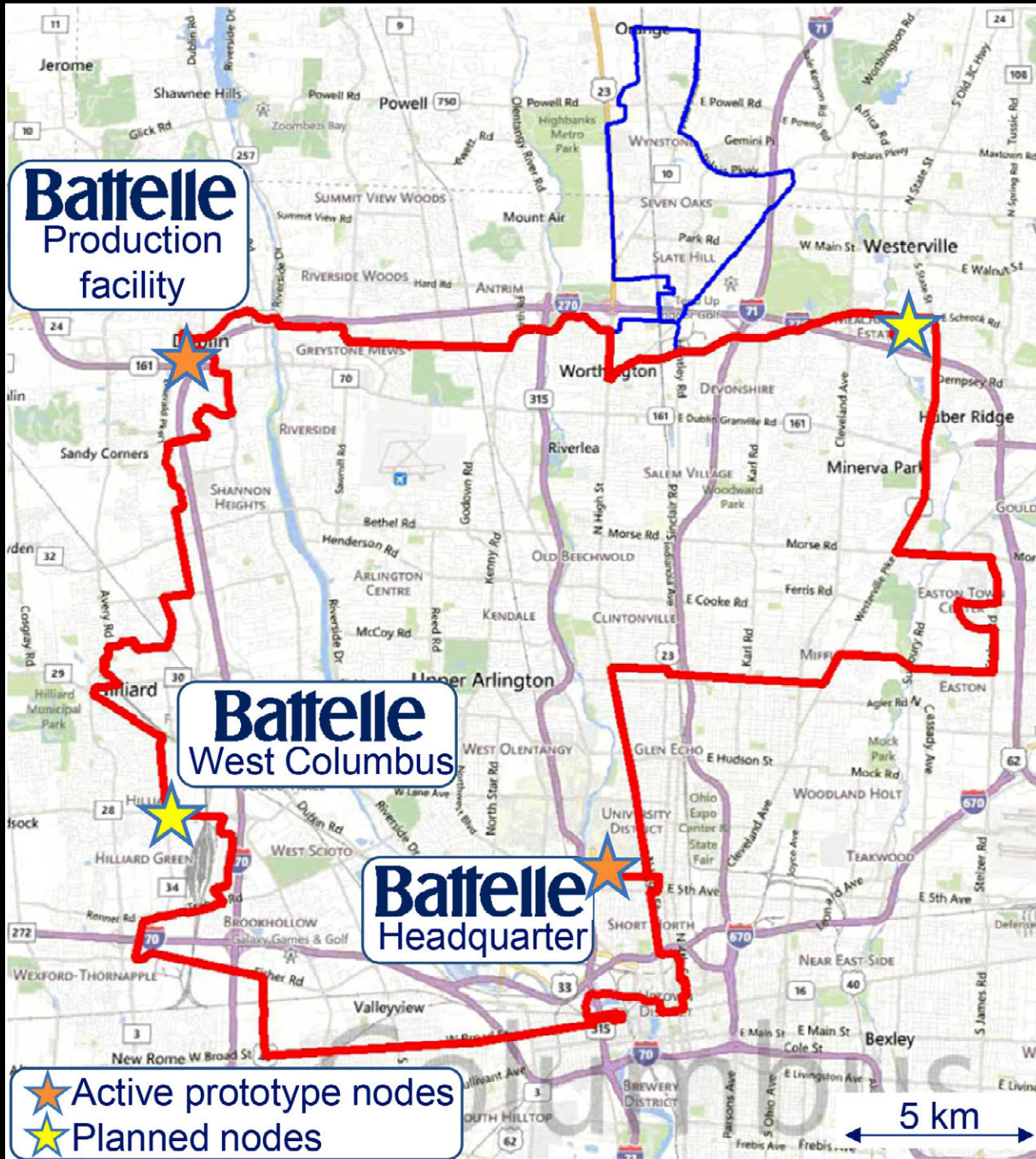


# Quantum Backbone

- Total Length 2000 km
- 2013.6-2016.12
- 32 trustable relay nodes
- 31 fiber links
- Metropolitan networks
  - Existing: Hefei, Jinan
  - New: Beijing, Shanghai
- Customer: China Industrial & Commercial Bank; Xinhua News Agency; CBRC



# The Battelle quantum network



## Plans:





# Quantum communication primitives

## Advantages over classical primitives:

Unconditionally secure?

Less resources?

Other quantum advantages?

Key distribution



Secret sharing



Digital signatures



Superdense coding



Fingerprinting



Oblivious transfer

Impossible



Bit commitment

Impossible



Coin-tossing



Cloud computing



Bell inequality testing

Teleportation

Entanglement swapping



(no classical equivalent)

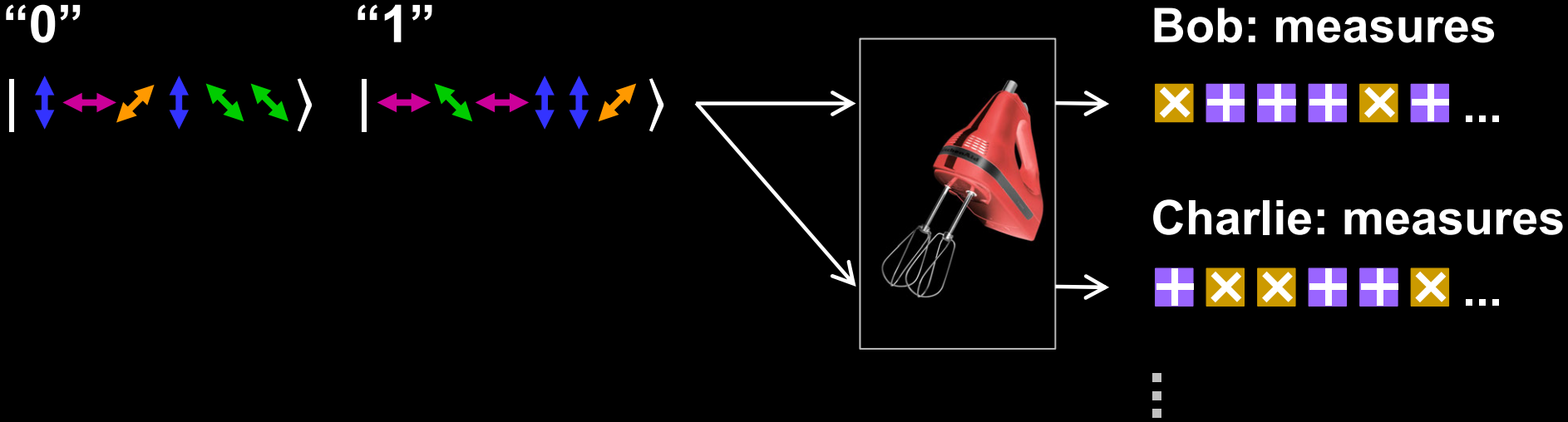
Random number generators



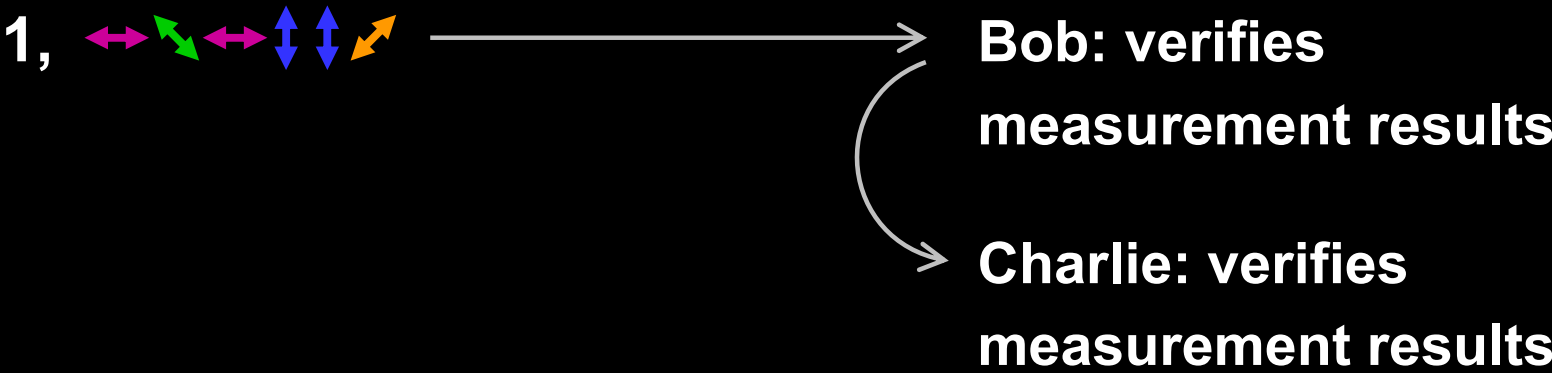
# Quantum digital signatures

Alice:

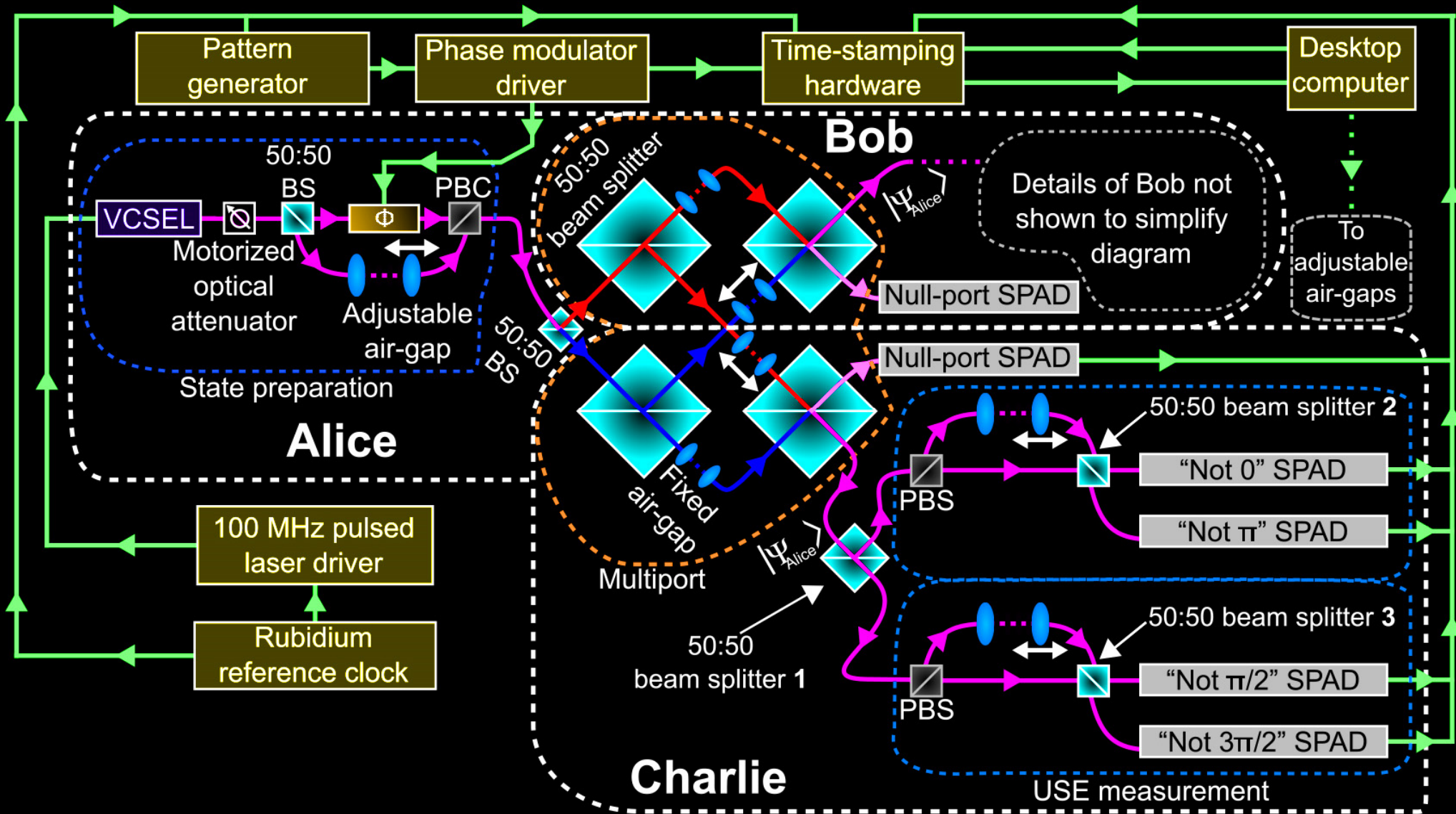
## 1. Distributes latent signatures



## 2. Signs: reveals bit and latent sequence

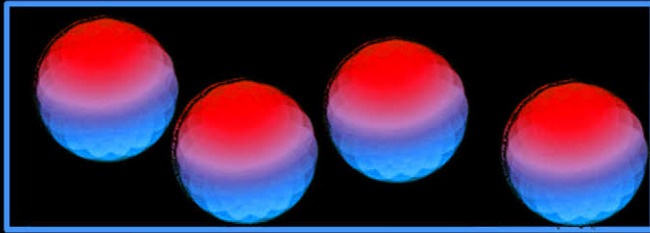


# Quantum digital signatures



# Blind quantum computing

Client

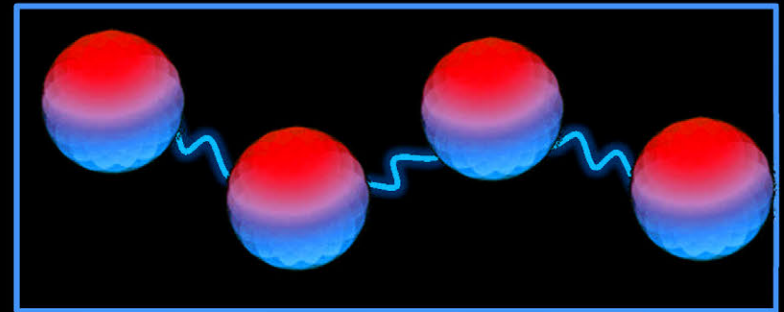


Prepares qubits and sends them to quantum server

„sends single parts of computer“



Quantum Server



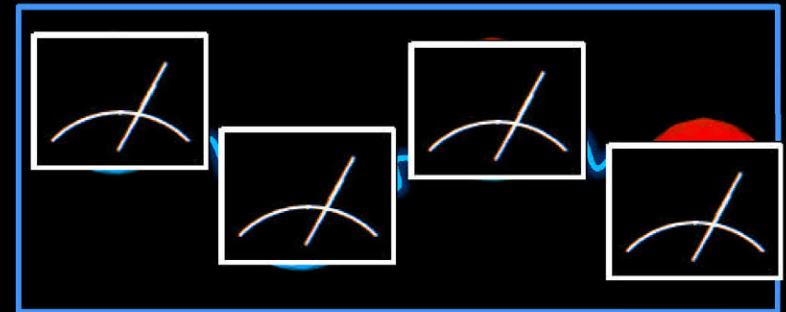
Entangles qubits

„assembles computer“



Computes and sends measurement instructions (adapted to state of the qubits)

„sends computer program“

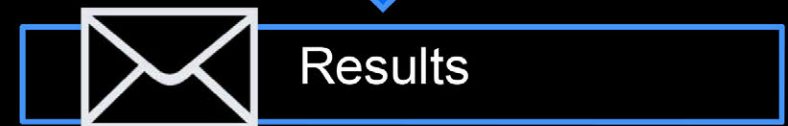
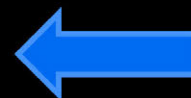


Qubits are unknown, instructions seem like random operations

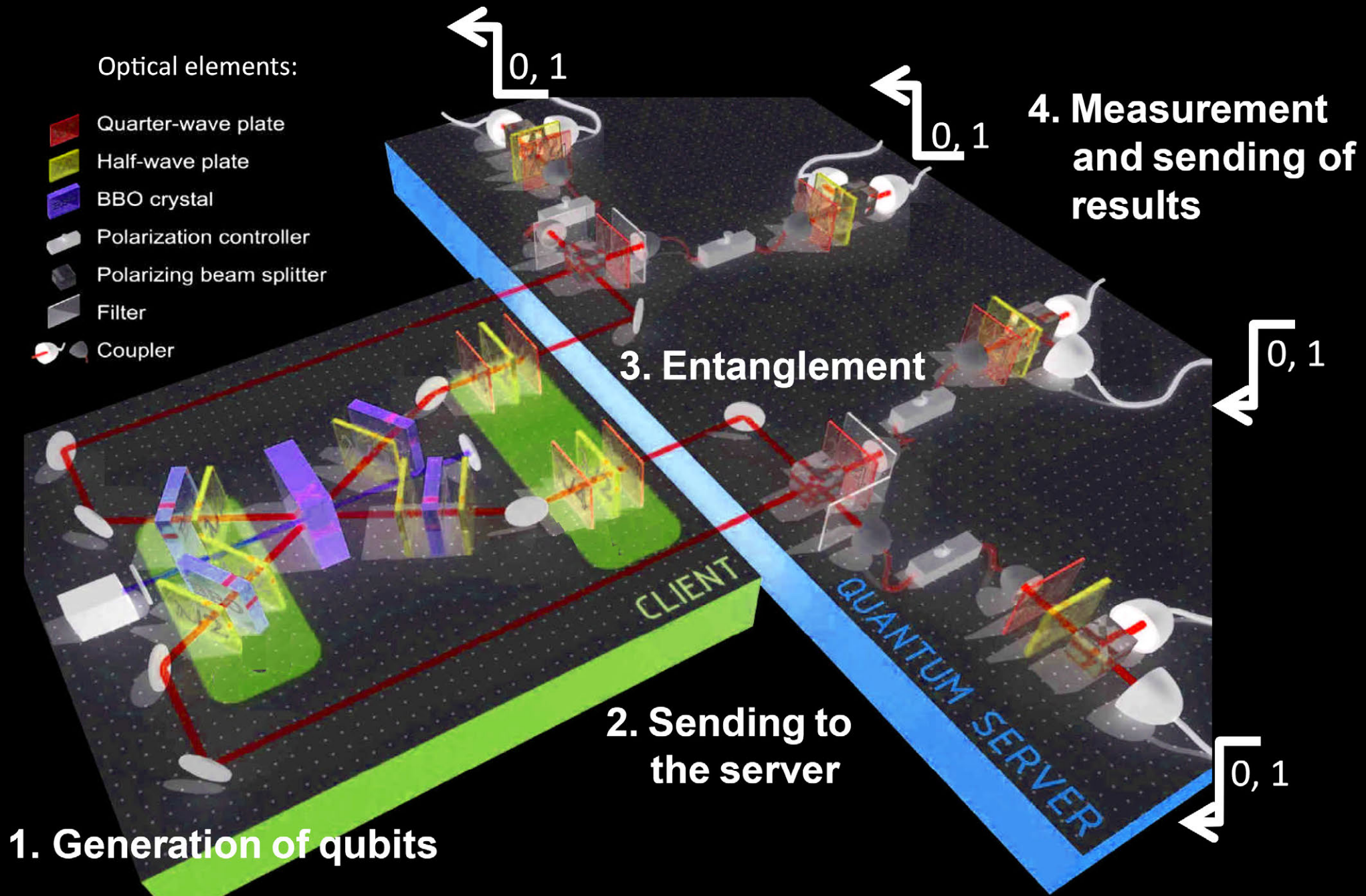
„computes, but does not know computer“



Client can interpret and use the results

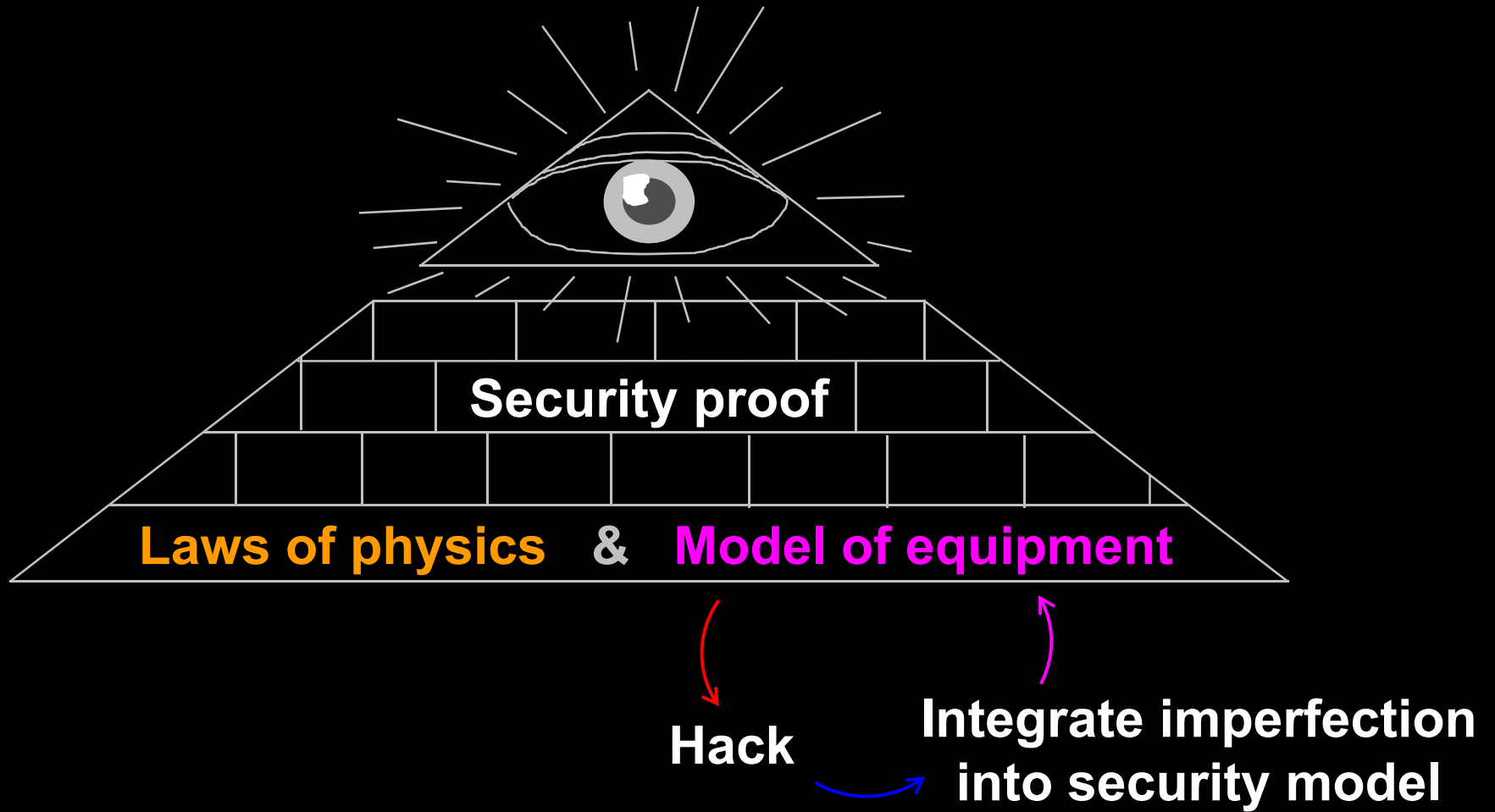


# Blind quantum computing





# Security model of QKD



<b>Attack</b>	<b>Target component</b>	<b>Tested system</b>
<b>Laser damage</b> <i>V. Makarov et al., arXiv:1510.03148</i>	any	ID Quantique, research system
<b>Spatial efficiency mismatch</b> <i>M Rau et al., IEEE J. Quantum Electron.</i> <b>21</b> , 6600905 (2015); <i>S. Sajeed et al., Phys. Rev. A</i> <b>91</b> , 062301 (2015)	receiver optics	research system
<b>Pulse energy calibration</b> <i>S. Sajeed et al., Phys. Rev. A</i> <b>91</b> , 032326 (2015)	classical watchdog detector	ID Quantique
<b>Trojan-horse</b> <i>I. Khan et al., presentation at QCrypt (2014)</i>	phase modulator in Alice	SeQureNet
<b>Trojan-horse</b> <i>N. Jain et al., New J. Phys.</i> <b>16</b> , 123030 (2014)	phase modulator in Bob	ID Quantique*
<b>Detector saturation</b> <i>H. Qin, R. Kumar, R. Alleaume, Proc. SPIE</i> 88990N (2013)	homodyne detector	SeQureNet
<b>Shot-noise calibration</b> <i>P. Jouguet, S. Kunz-Jacques, E. Diamanti, Phys. Rev. A</i> <b>87</b> , 062313 (2013)	classical sync detector	SeQureNet
<b>Wavelength-selected PNS</b> <i>M.-S. Jiang, S.-H. Sun, C.-Y. Li, L.-M. Liang, Phys. Rev. A</i> <b>86</b> , 032310 (2012)	intensity modulator	(theory)
<b>Multi-wavelength</b> <i>H.-W. Li et al., Phys. Rev. A</i> <b>84</b> , 062308 (2011)	beamsplitter	research system
<b>Deadtime</b> <i>H. Weier et al., New J. Phys.</i> <b>13</b> , 073024 (2011)	single-photon detector	research system
<b>Channel calibration</b> <i>N. Jain et al., Phys. Rev. Lett.</i> <b>107</b> , 110501 (2011)	single-photon detector	ID Quantique
<b>Faraday-mirror</b> <i>S.-H. Sun, M.-S. Jiang, L.-M. Liang, Phys. Rev. A</i> <b>83</b> , 062331 (2011)	Faraday mirror	(theory)
<b>Detector control</b> <i>I. Gerhardt et al., Nat. Commun.</i> <b>2</b> , 349 (2011); <i>L. Lydersen et al., Nat. Photonics</i> <b>4</b> , 686 (2010)	single-photon detector	ID Quantique, MagiQ, research system

\* Attack did not break security of the tested system, but may be applicable to a different implementation.

# Example of vulnerability and countermeasures

## ✂ Photon-number-splitting attack

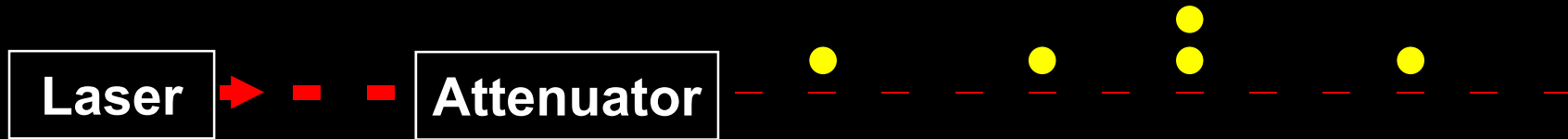
C. Bennett, F. Bessette, G. Brassard, L. Salvail, J. Smolin, J. Cryptology **5**, 3 (1992)

G. Brassard, N. Lütkenhaus, T. Mor, B. C. Sanders, Phys. Rev. Lett. **85**, 1330 (2000)

N. Lütkenhaus, Phys. Rev. A **61**, 052304 (2000)

S. Félix, N. Gisin, A. Stefanov, H. Zbinden, J. Mod. Opt. **48**, 2009 (2001)

N. Lütkenhaus, M. Jahma, New J. Phys. **4**, 44 (2002)



## ★ Decoy-state protocol

W.-Y. Hwang, Phys. Rev. Lett. **91**, 057901 (2003)

## ★ SARG04 protocol

V. Scarani, A. Acín, G. Ribordy, N. Gisin, Phys. Rev. Lett. **92**, 057901 (2004)

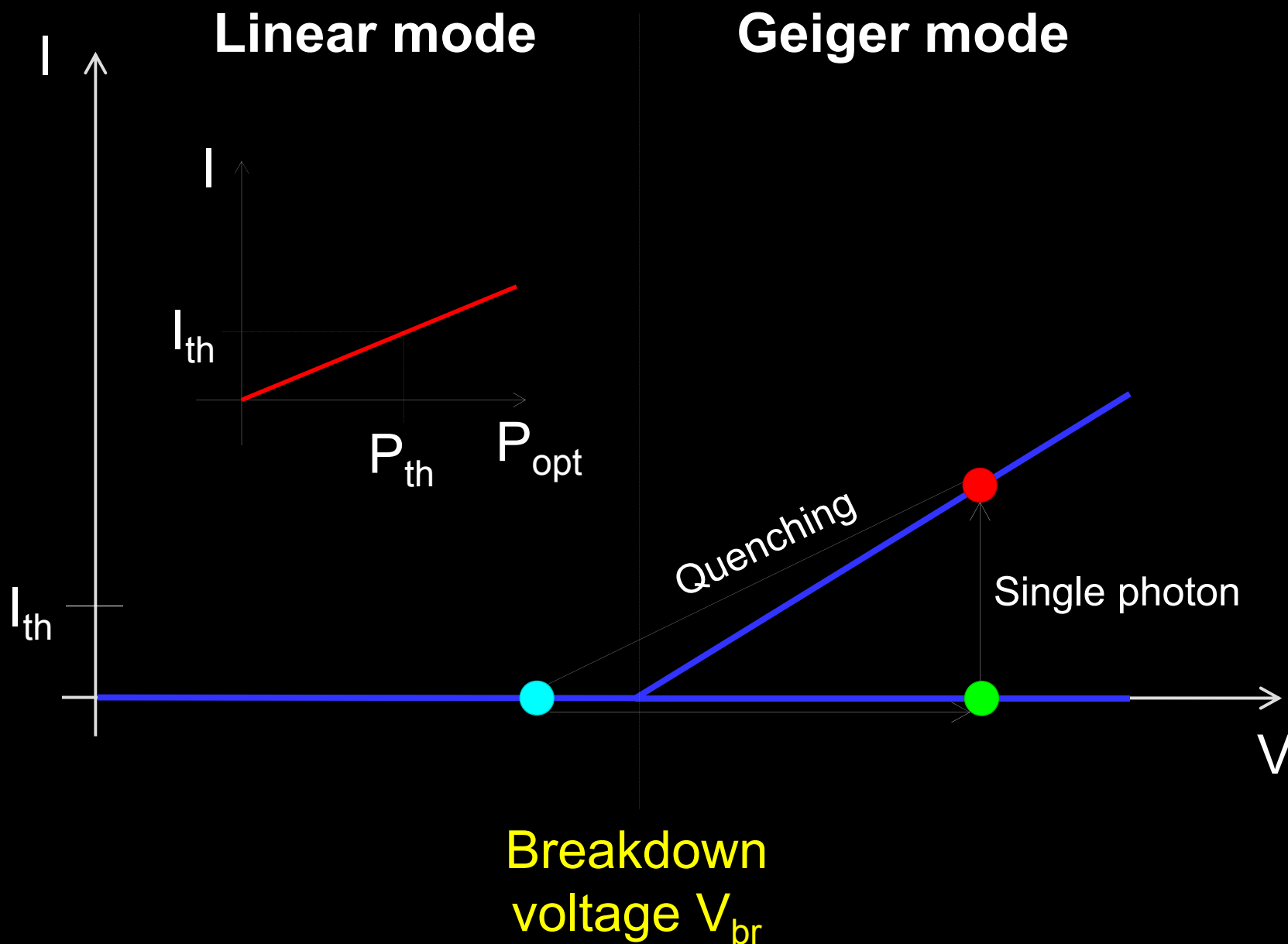
## ★ Distributed-phase-reference protocols

K. Inoue, E. Waks, Y. Yamamoto, Phys. Rev. Lett. **89**, 037902 (2002)

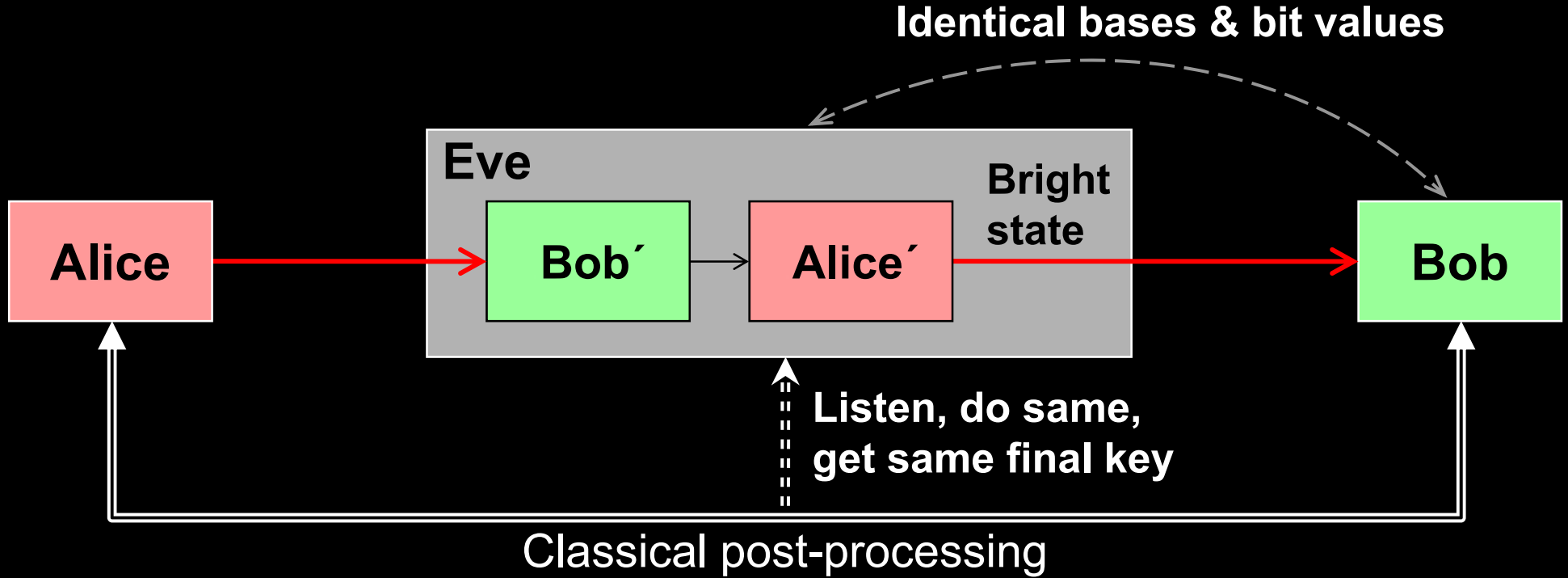
K. Inoue, E. Waks, Y. Yamamoto, Phys. Rev. A. **68**, 022317 (2003)

N. Gisin, G. Ribordy, H. Zbinden, D. Stucki, N. Brunner, V. Scarani, arXiv:quant-ph/0411022v1 (2004)

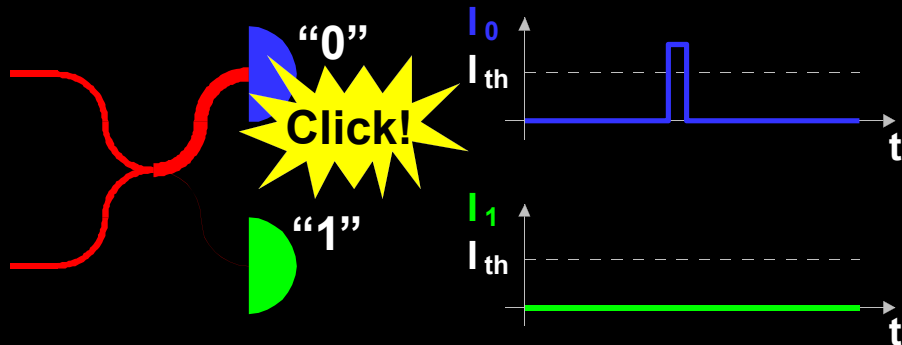
# Attack example: avalanche photodetectors (APDs)



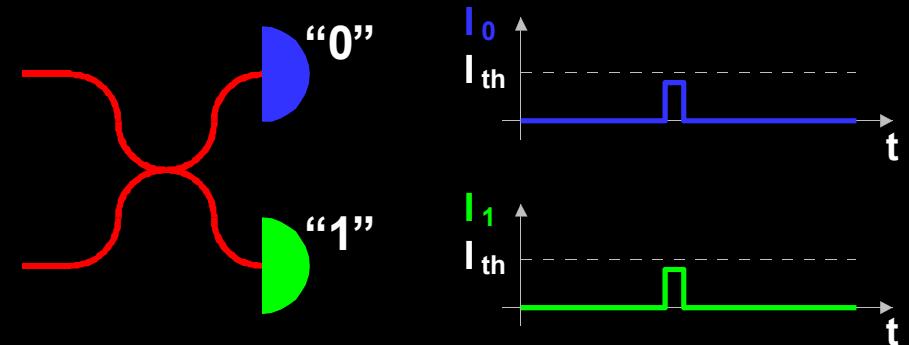
# Faked-state attack in APD linear mode



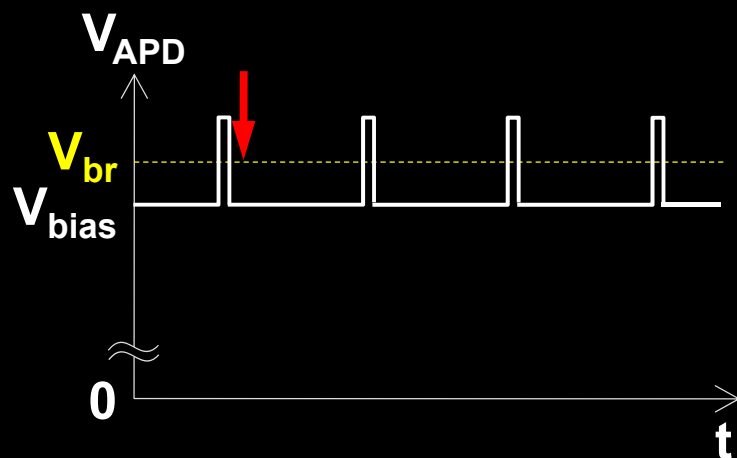
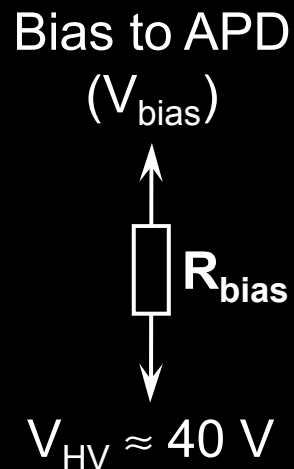
Bob chooses same basis as Eve:



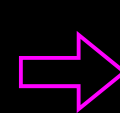
Bob chooses different basis:



# Blinding APD with bright light

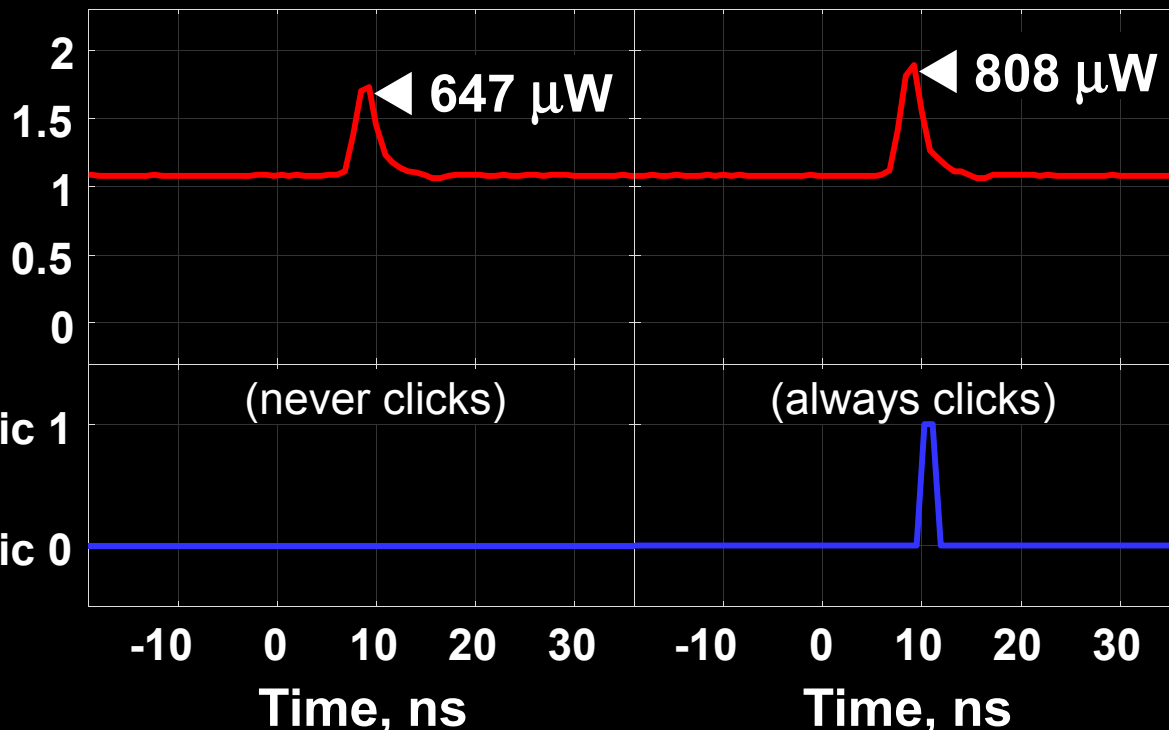


Eve applies CW light



**Detector blind!**  
Zero dark count rate

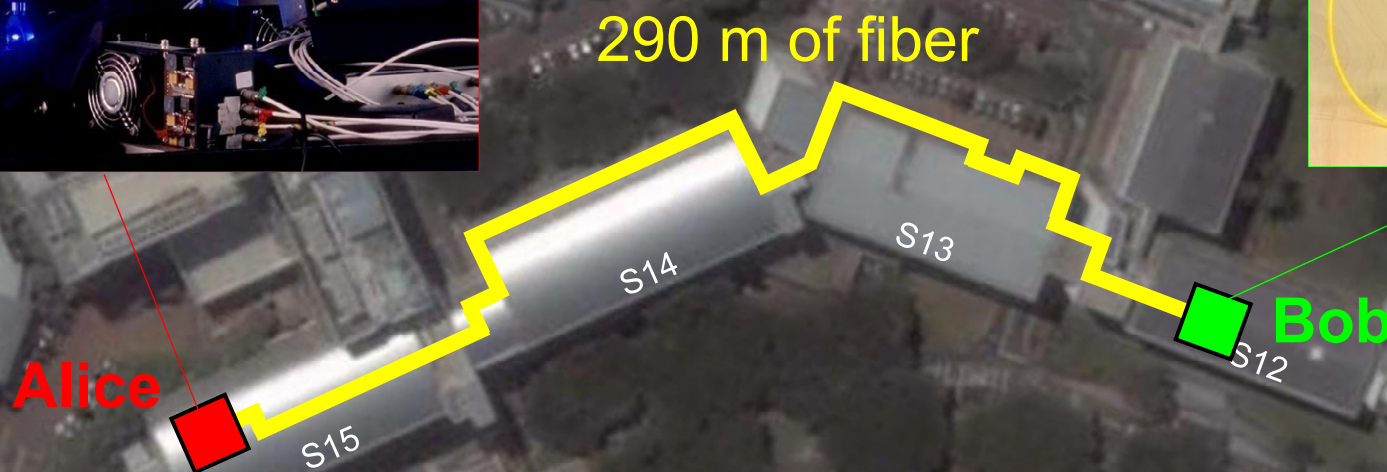
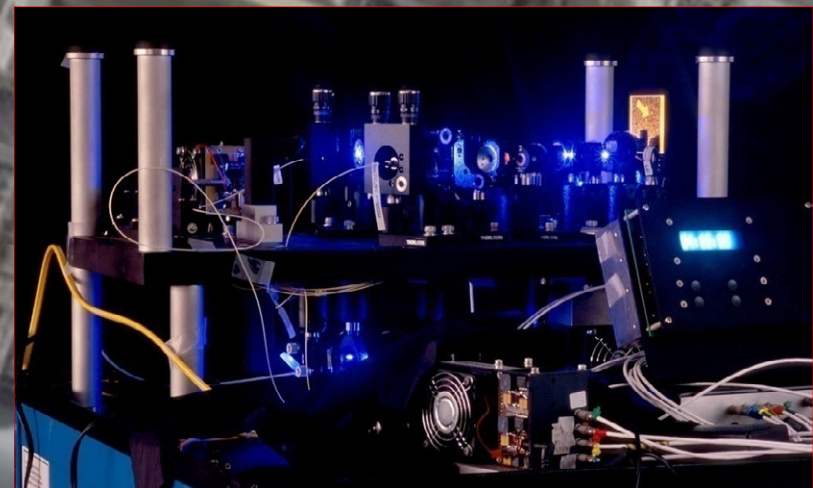
Input illumination, mW



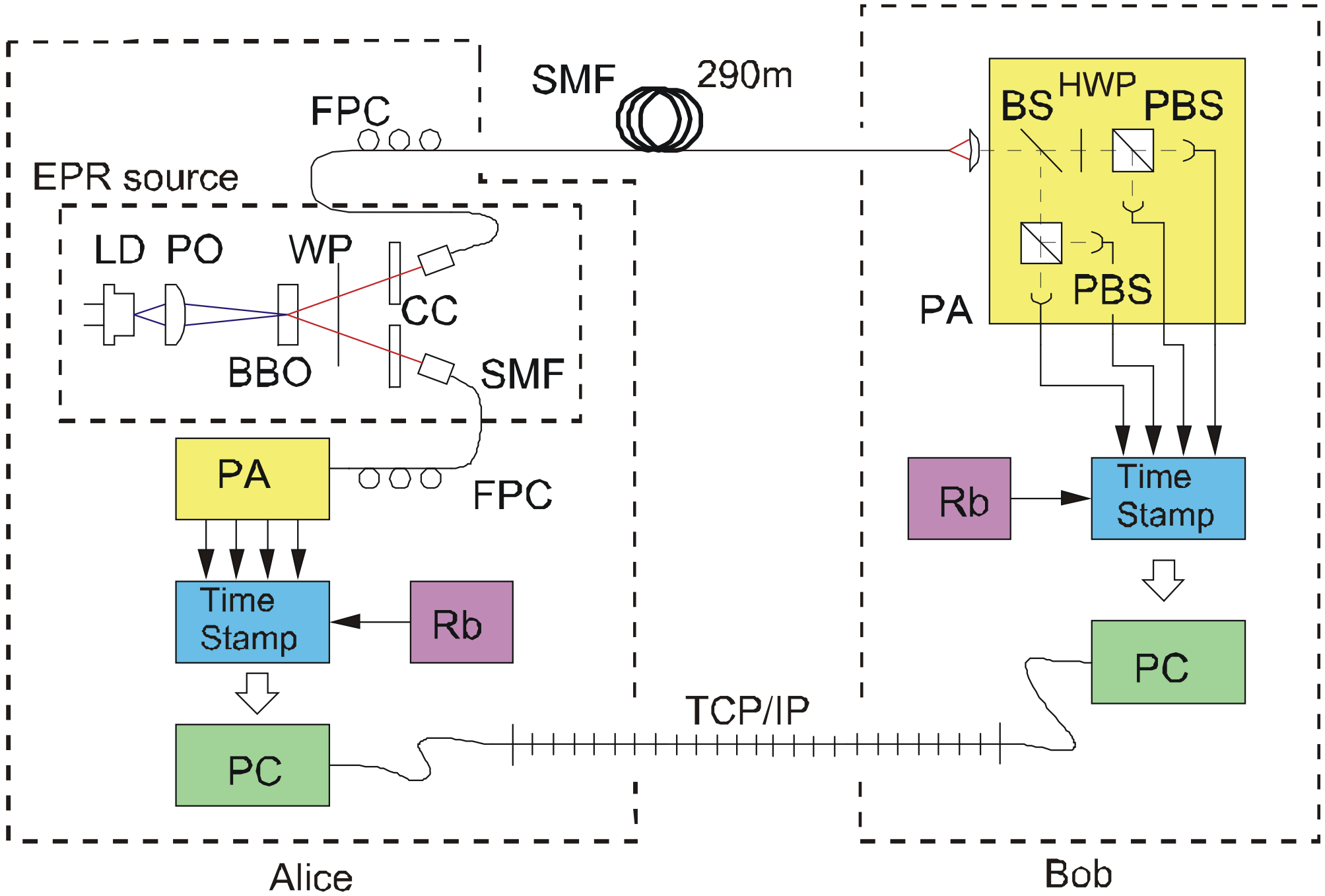
ID Quantique  
Clavis2

# Eavesdropping 100% key on installed QKD line

on campus of the National University of Singapore, July 4–5, 2009



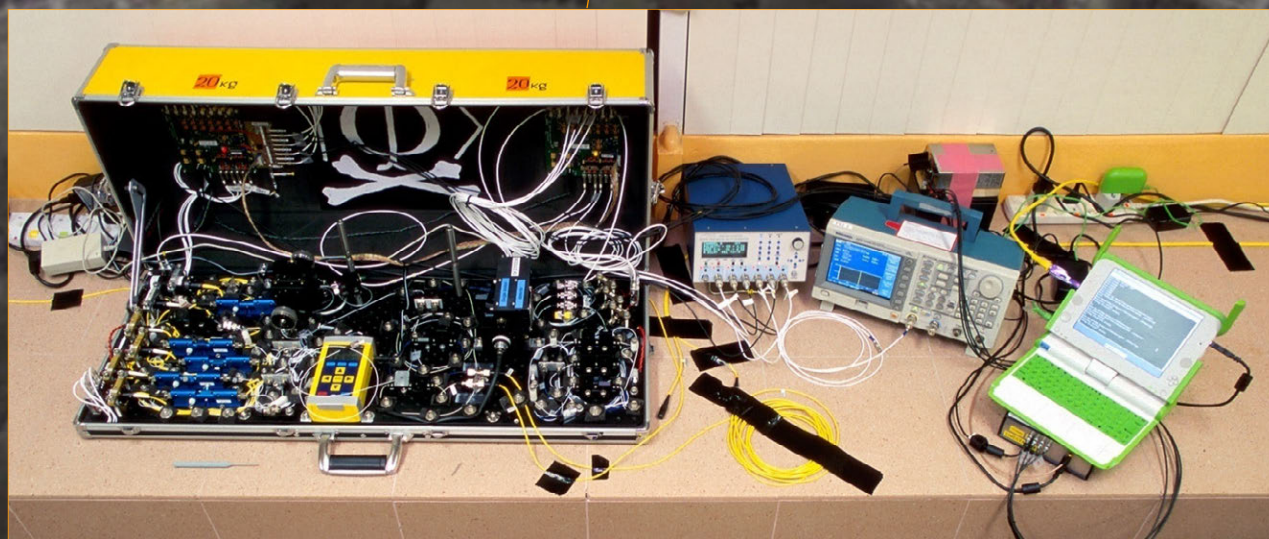
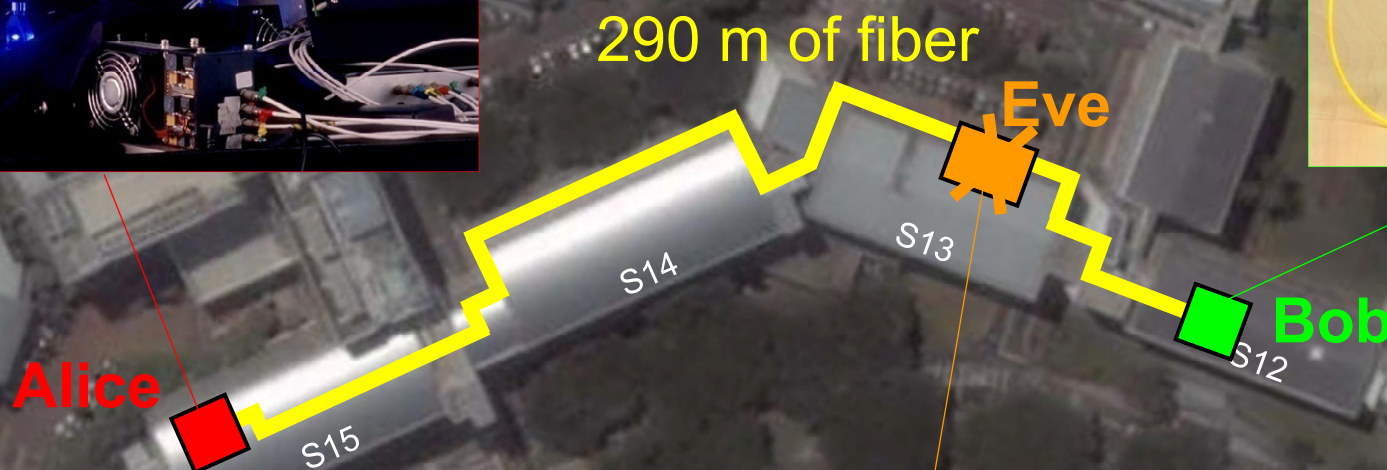
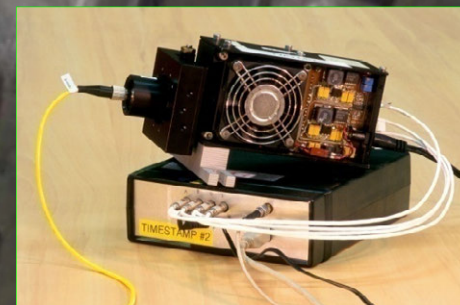
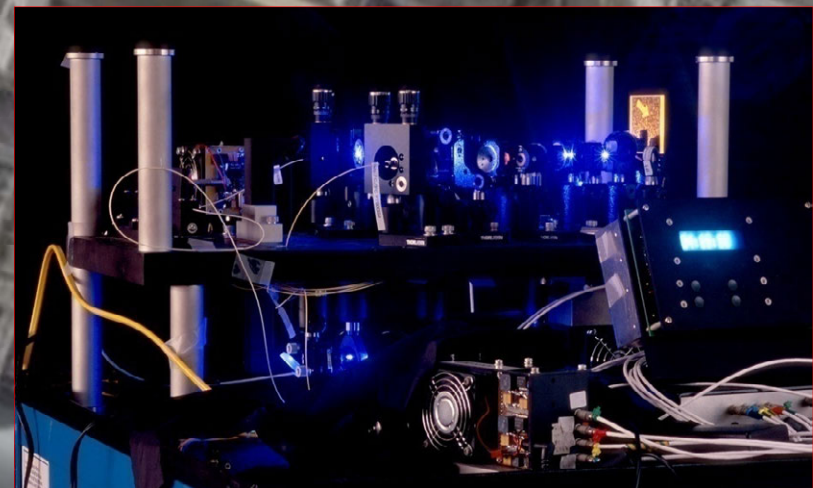
# Entanglement-based QKD





# Eavesdropping 100% key on installed QKD line

on campus of the National University of Singapore, July 4–5, 2009

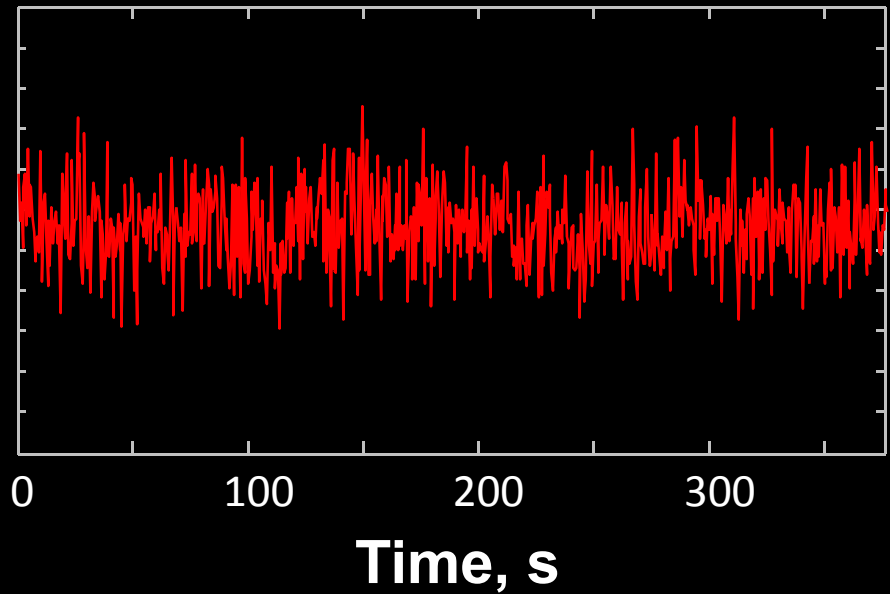
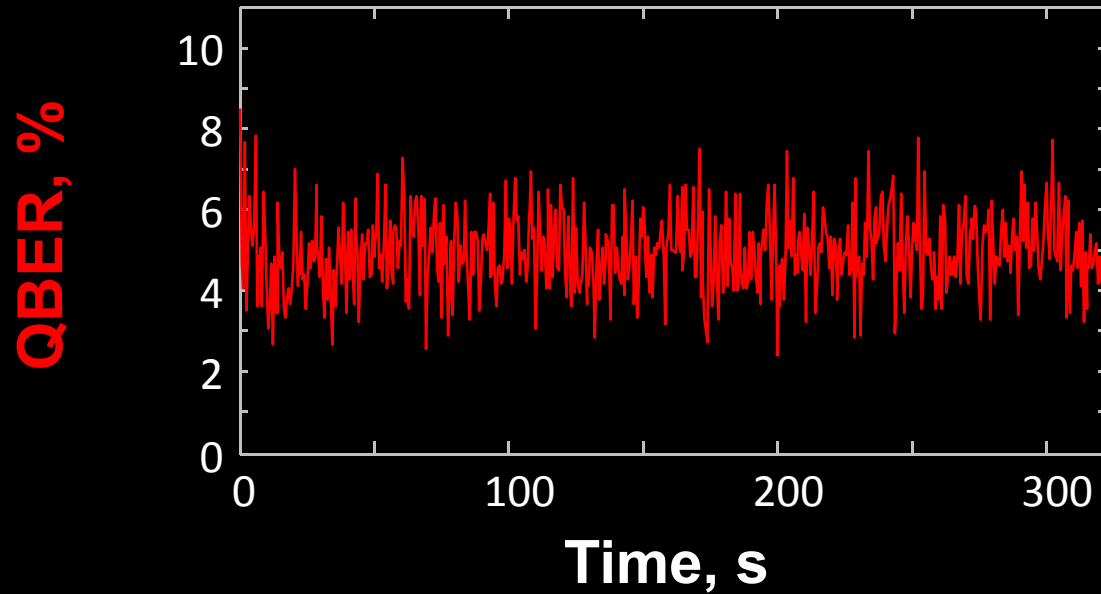
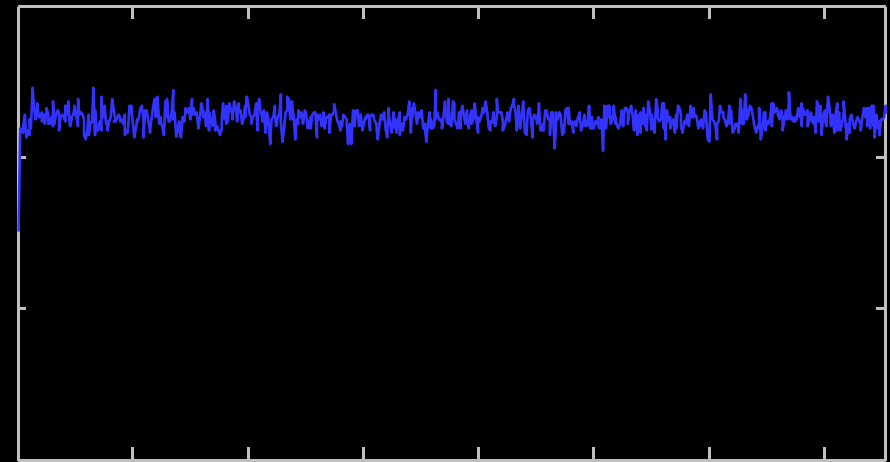
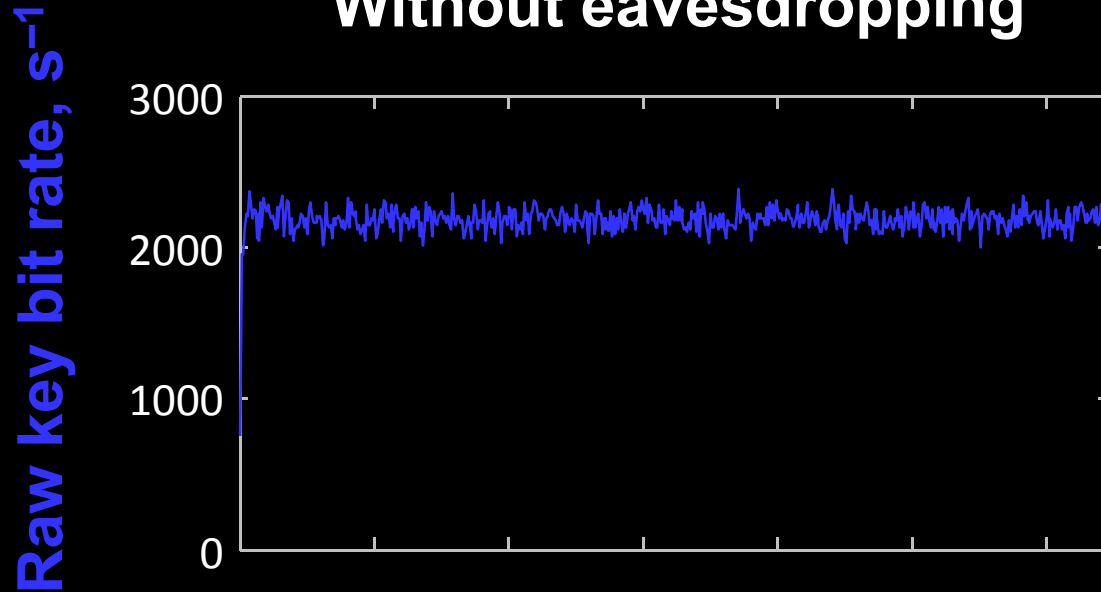


I. Gerhardt, Q. Liu *et al.*,  
Nat. Commun. 2, 349 (2011)

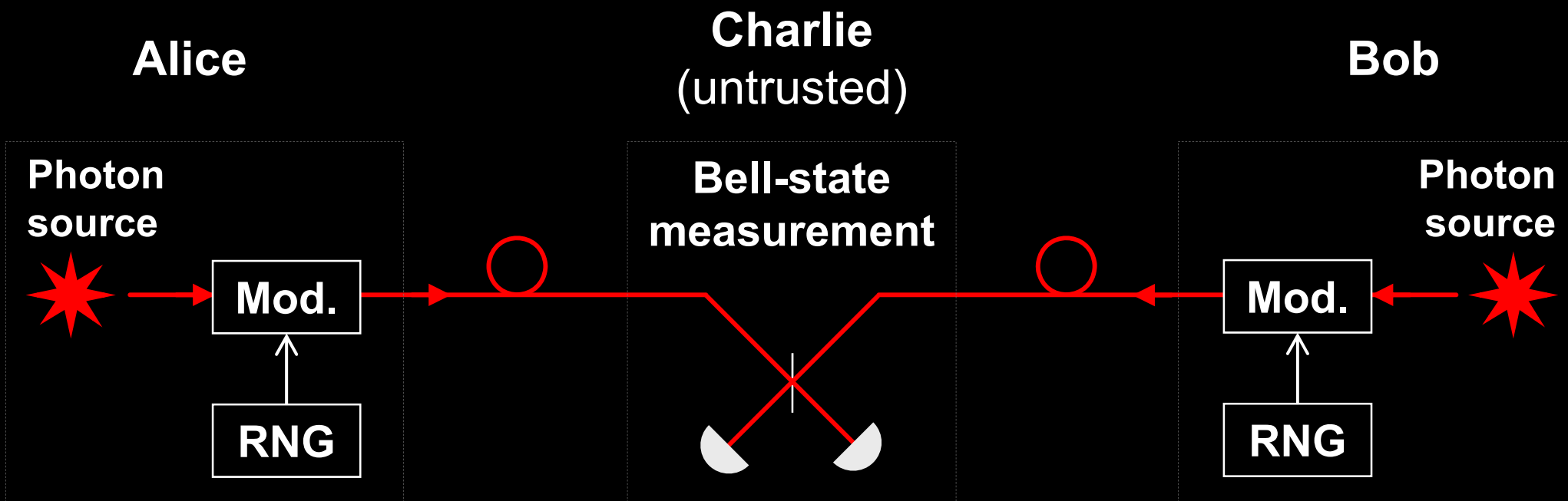
# Eve does not affect QKD performance

## Without eavesdropping

## During eavesdropping



# Countermeasure to detector attacks



## Measurement-device-independent QKD

# Measurement-device-independent QKD: experiments

## Calgary, 28 km

A. Rubenok *et al.*, arXiv:1204.0738v2

## Rio de Janeiro, 17 km

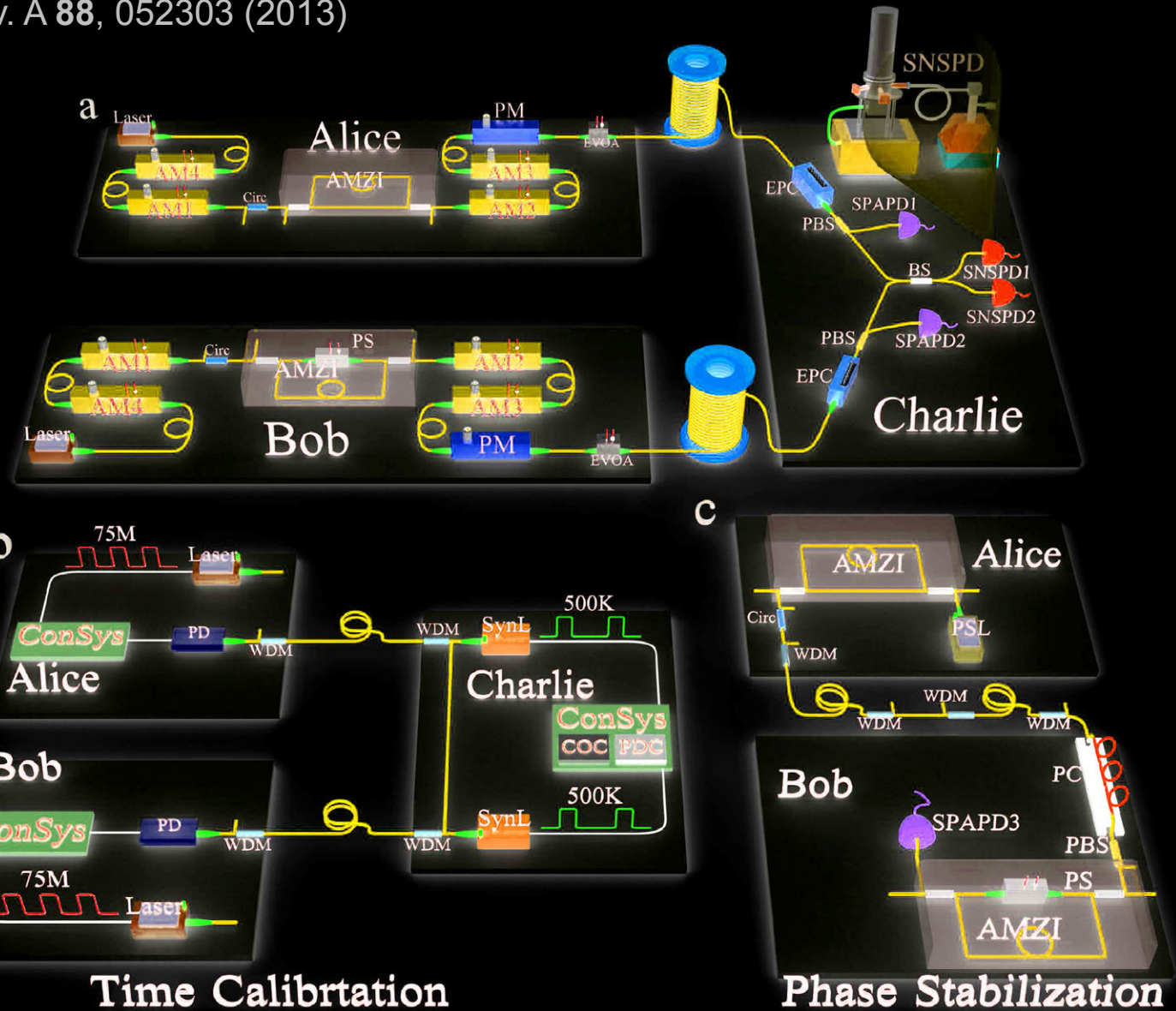
T. Ferreira da Silva *et al.*, Phys. Rev. A **88**, 052303 (2013)

## Toronto, 10 km

Z. Tang *et al.*, Phys. Rev. Lett. **112**, 190503 (2014)

## Hefei, 200 km

Y.-L. Tang *et al.*, arXiv:1407.8012



# Industrial countermeasure (ID Quantique)

2004-11-10

**First commercial Clavis1 system is shipped to a customer**



2009-10-22

**✂ Report about detector blinding attack sent to company**

2010-10-08

**Company applies for a patent on randomization of detector efficiency as a countermeasure**



**Lim *et al.* preprint about the countermeasure arXiv:1408.6398**

2014-08-27

2014-11-18

**★ Implementation of countermeasure delivered by company to our lab (firmware update for Clavis2)**

2015-04-17

**✂ Countermeasure testing report sent to company**

# Testing random-gate-removal countermeasure against detector blinding attack

(unpublished)

Anqi Huang  
Quantum Hacking Lab  
2015-10-26

# Introduction: timeline

2004-11-10

First commercial Clavis1 system is shipped to a customer



2009-10-22

✂ Report about detector blinding attack sent to company

2010-10-08

Company applies for a patent on randomization of detector efficiency as a countermeasure



Lim *et al.* preprint about the countermeasure arXiv:1408.6398

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★ Implementation of countermeasure delivered by company to our lab (firmware update for Clavis2)

2015-04-17

? Countermeasure testing report sent to company



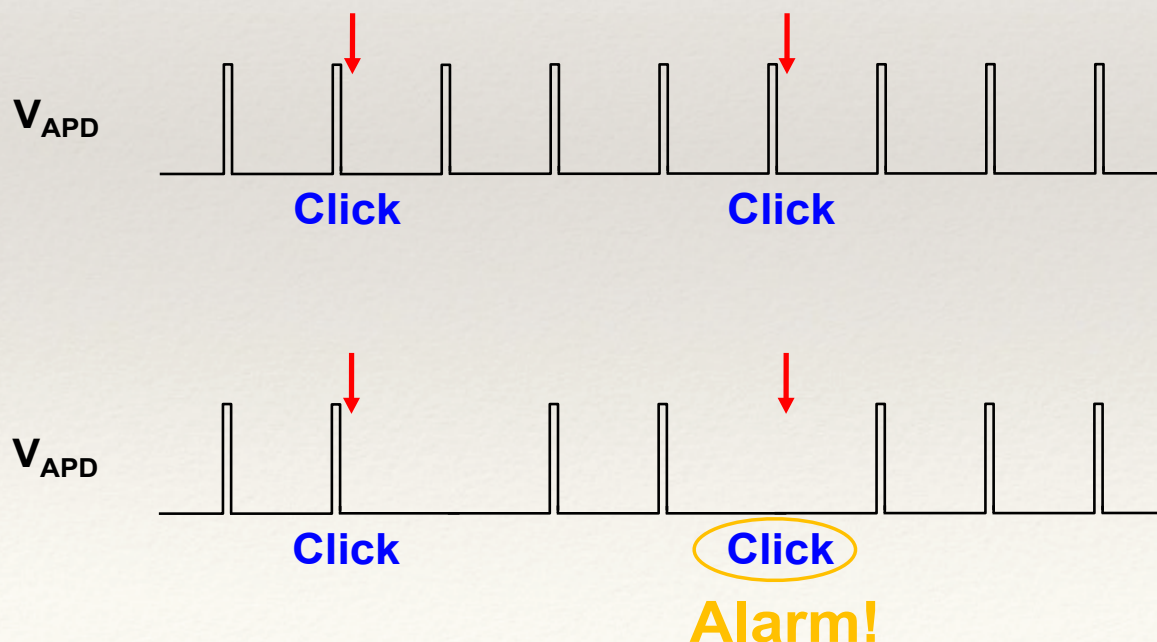
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# Introduction: random-gate-removal countermeasure

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- ❖ Goal: introduce an information gap between Eve and Bob
- ❖ Implementation:

The gate is suppressed randomly with 2% probability (zero efficiency)

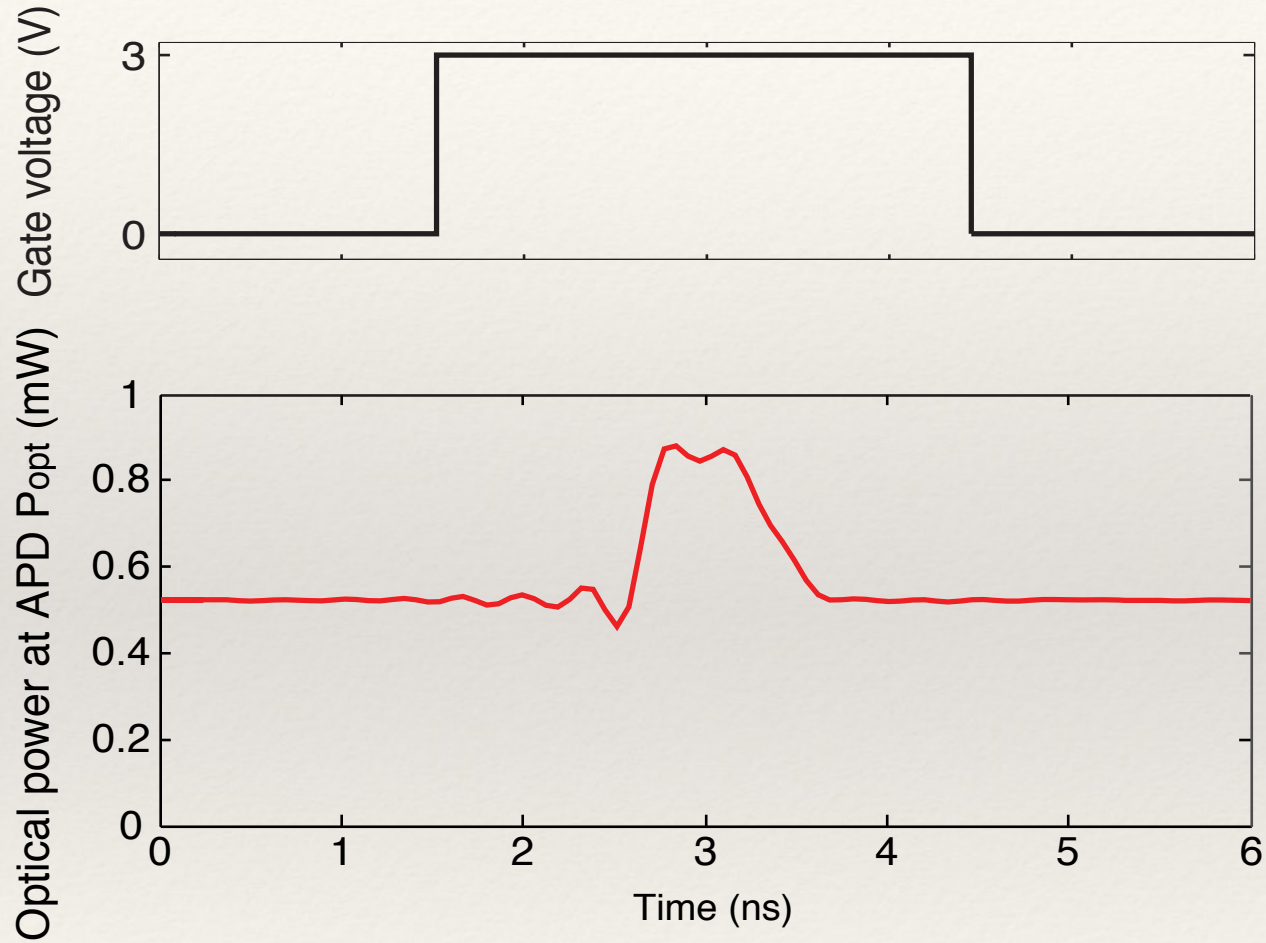




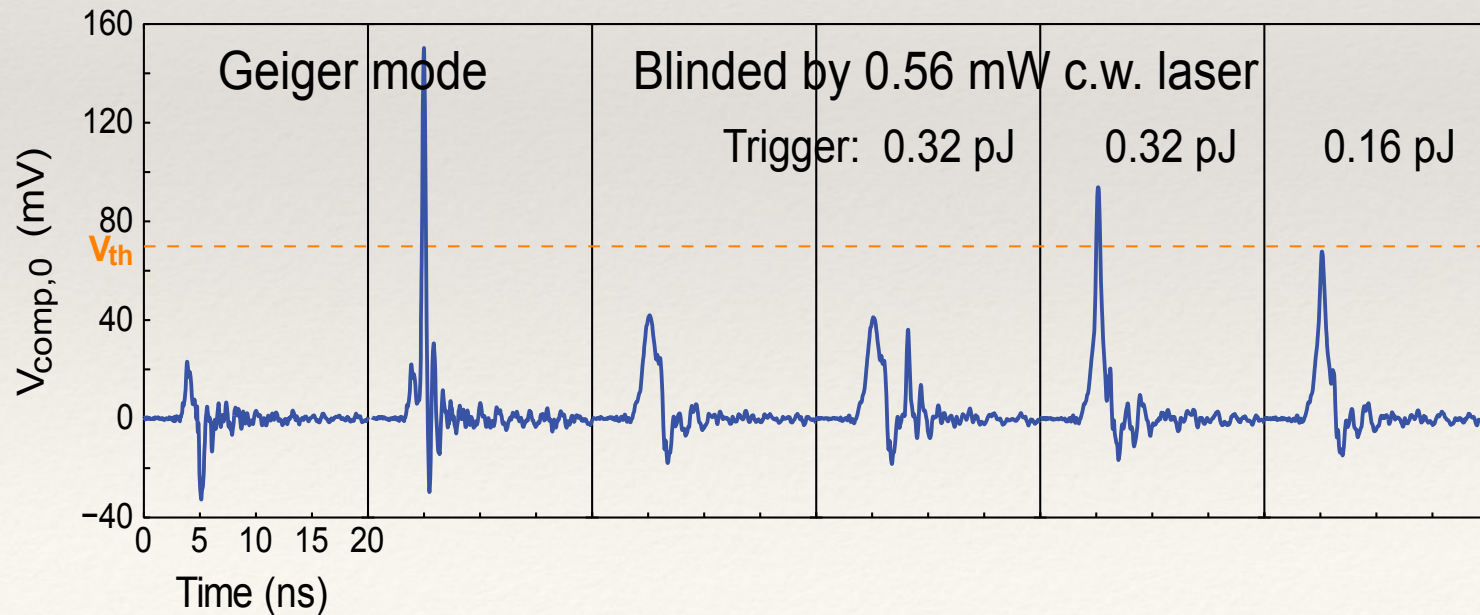
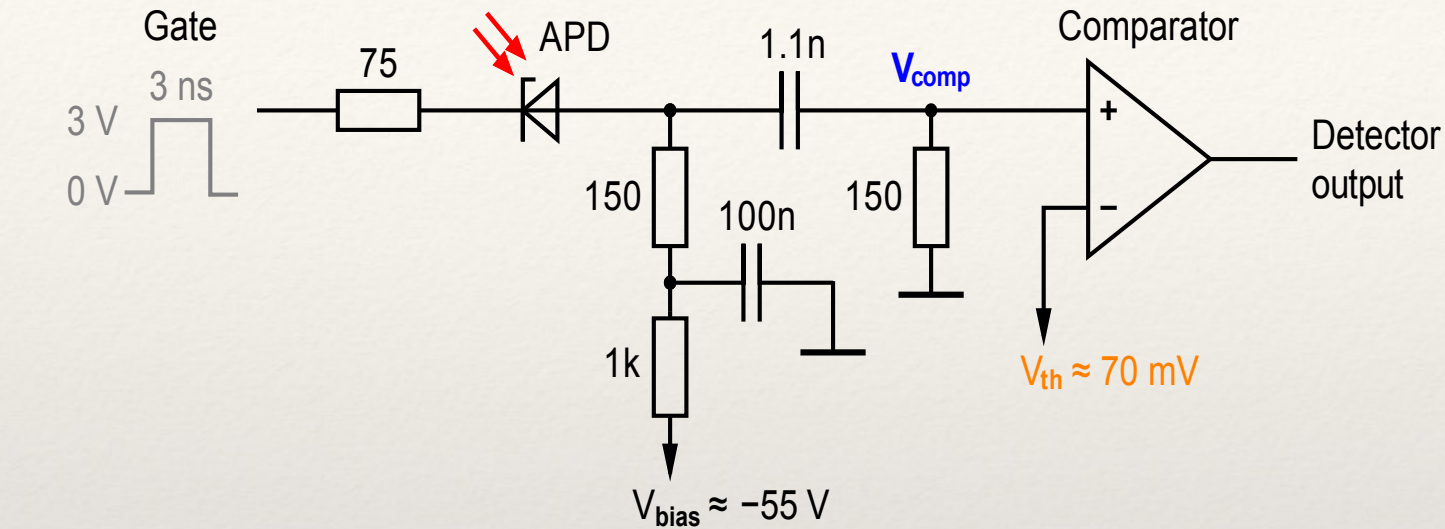
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# Hack the countermeasure

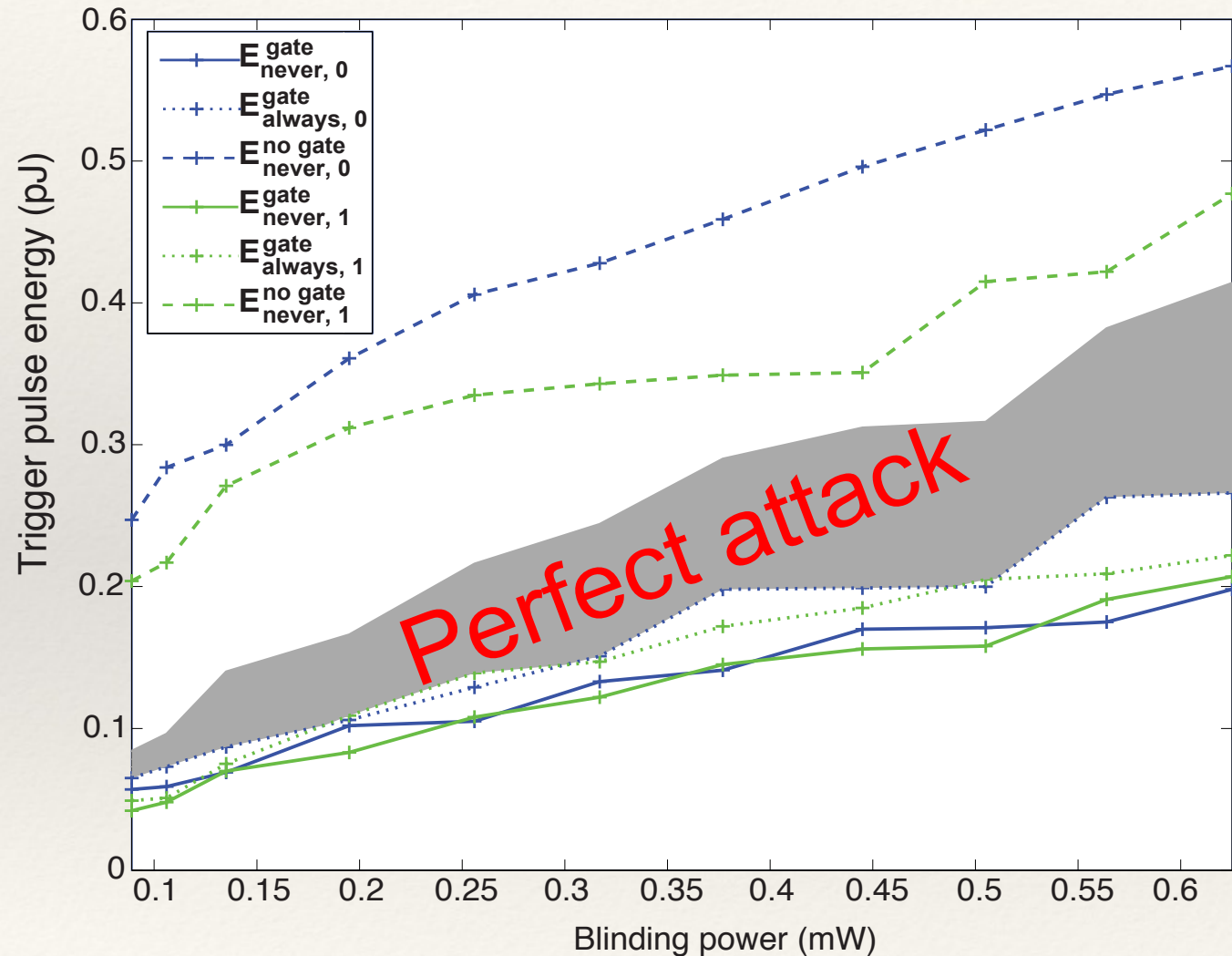
---



# Hack the countermeasure



# Hack the countermeasure



## Thresholds:

- If energy of trigger pulse  $E \leq E_{\text{never}, i}^{\text{gate}}$   
detectors never click when the gate is applied.
- If  $E \geq E_{\text{always}, i}^{\text{gate}}$   
detectors always click when the gate is applied.
- If  $E \leq E_{\text{never}, i}^{\text{no gate}}$   
detectors never click when the gate is not applied.

Click thresholds versus c.w. blinding power. Shaded area shows the range of trigger pulse energies of the attack.

---

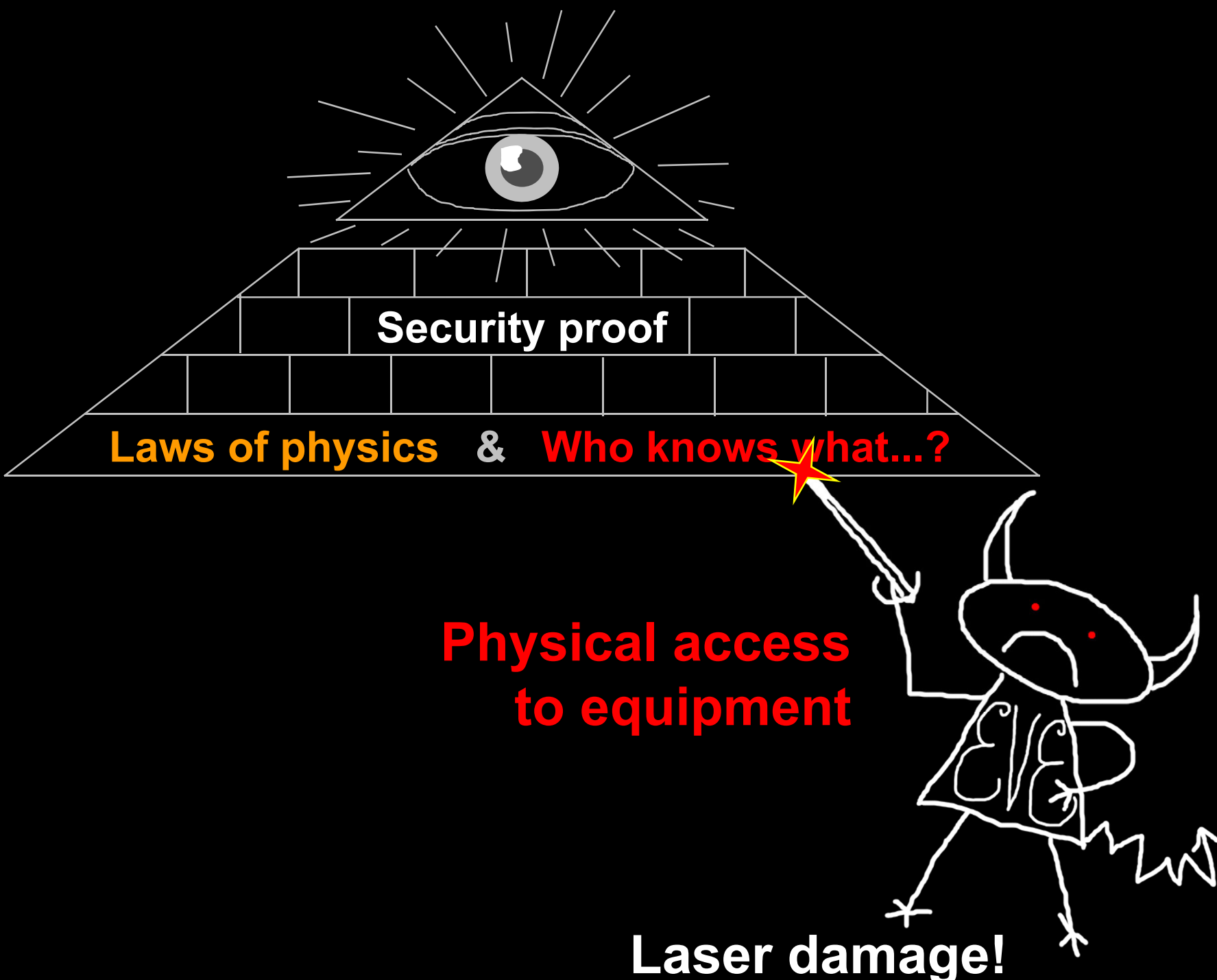
# Conclusion

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Countermeasure doesn't work!



# Limits on physical security



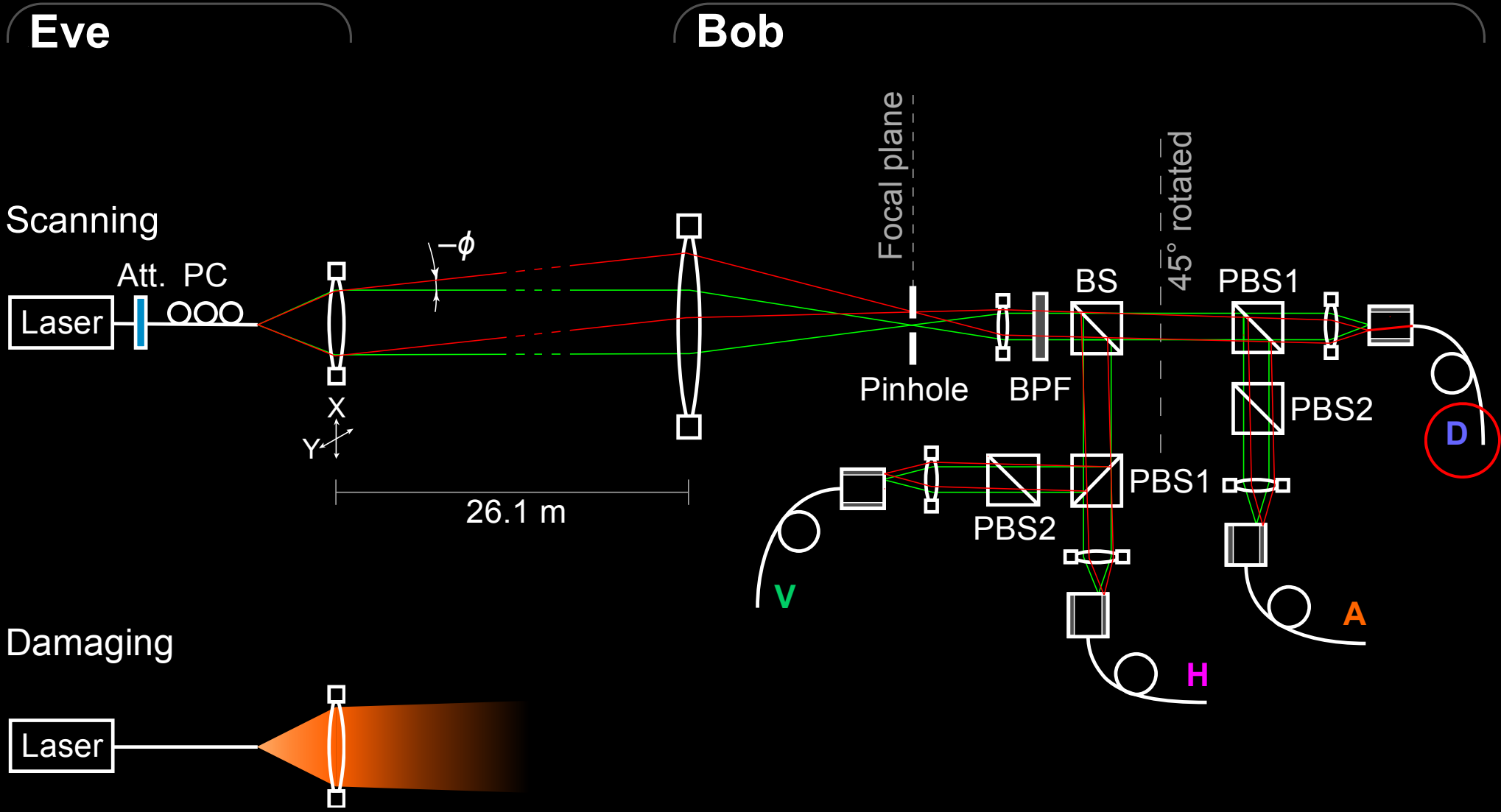
Security proof

Laws of physics & Who knows what...?

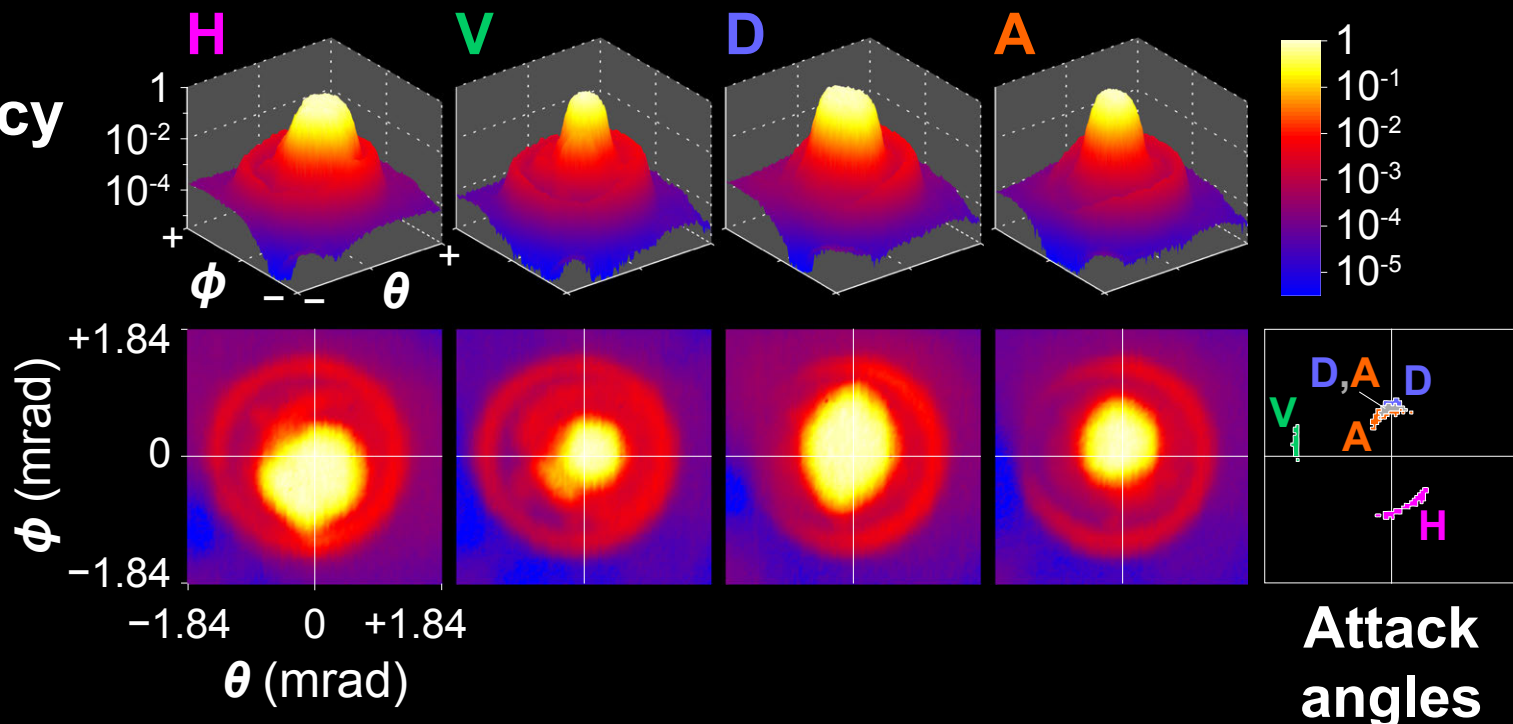
Physical access to equipment

Laser damage!

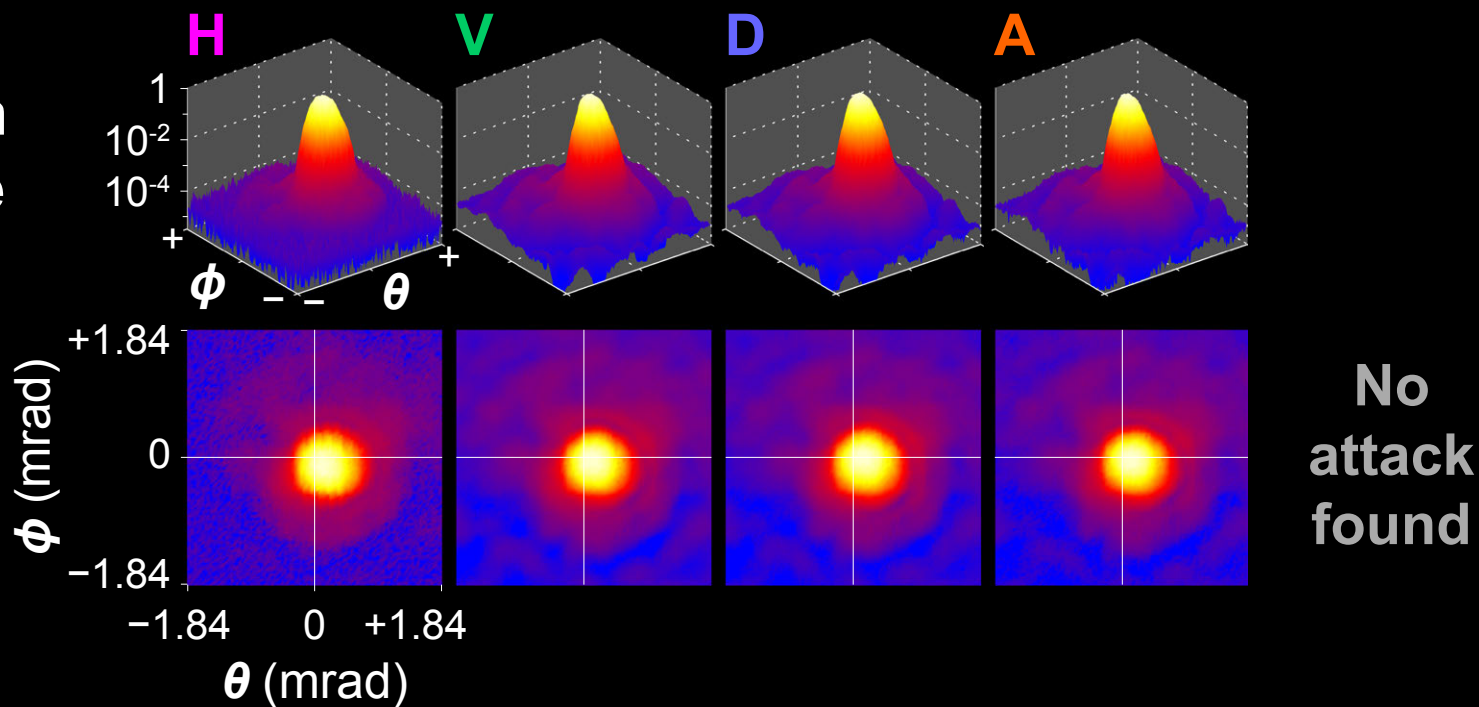
# Efficiency mismatch in QKD receiver



# Detector efficiency without pinhole



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

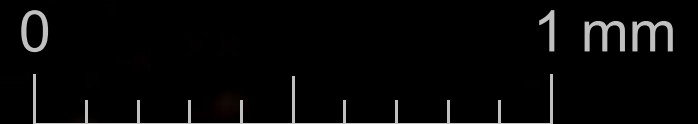




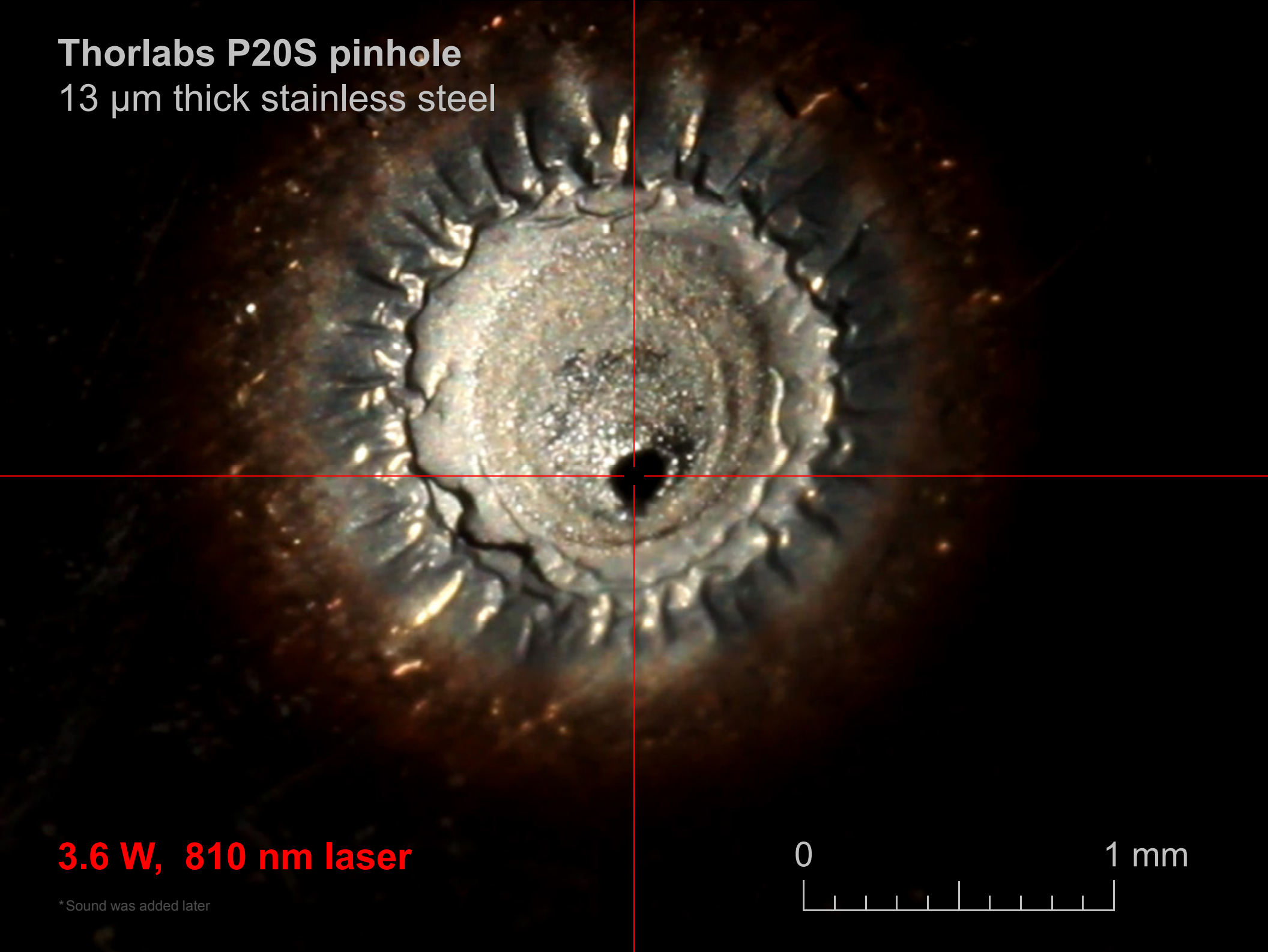
**Thorlabs P20S pinhole**  
13  $\mu\text{m}$  thick stainless steel

**3.6 W, 810 nm laser**

\* Sound was added later

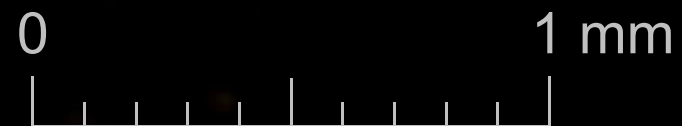


**Thorlabs P20S pinhole**  
13  $\mu\text{m}$  thick stainless steel

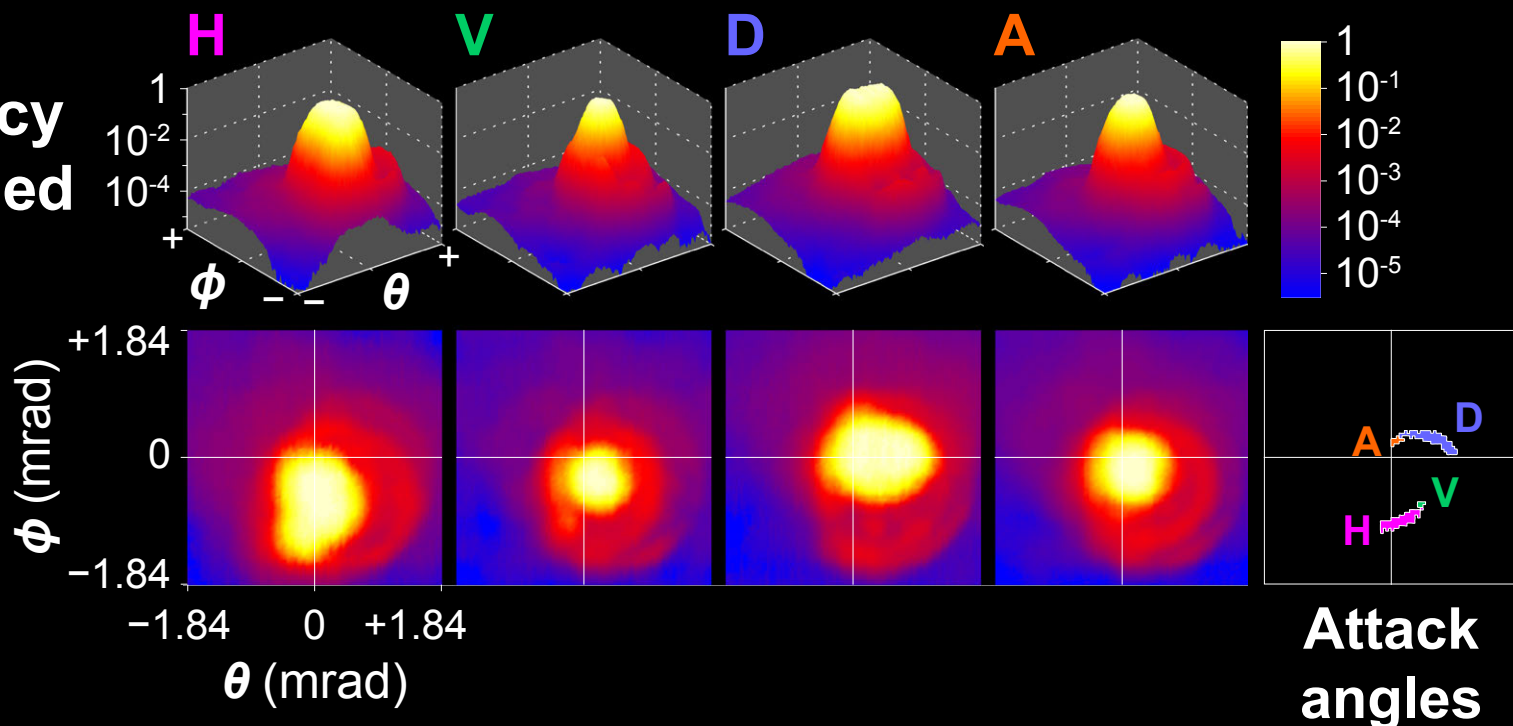


**3.6 W, 810 nm laser**

\* Sound was added later



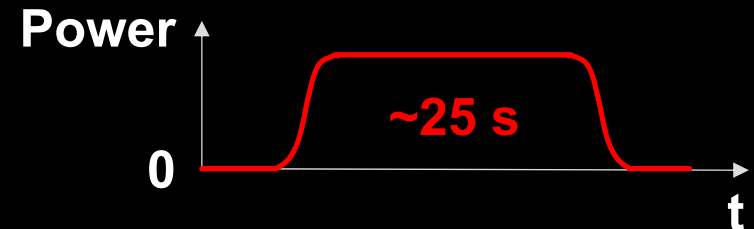
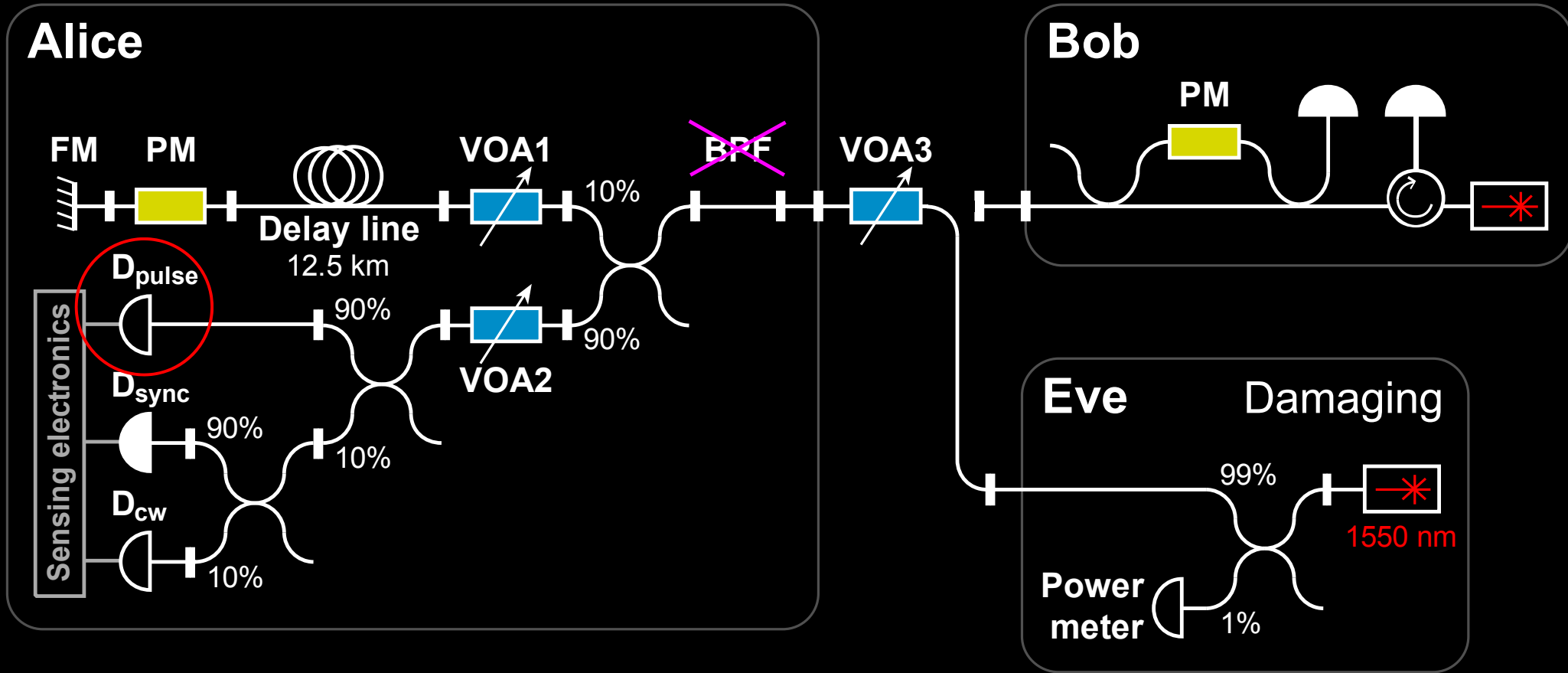
# Detector efficiency with laser-damaged pinhole



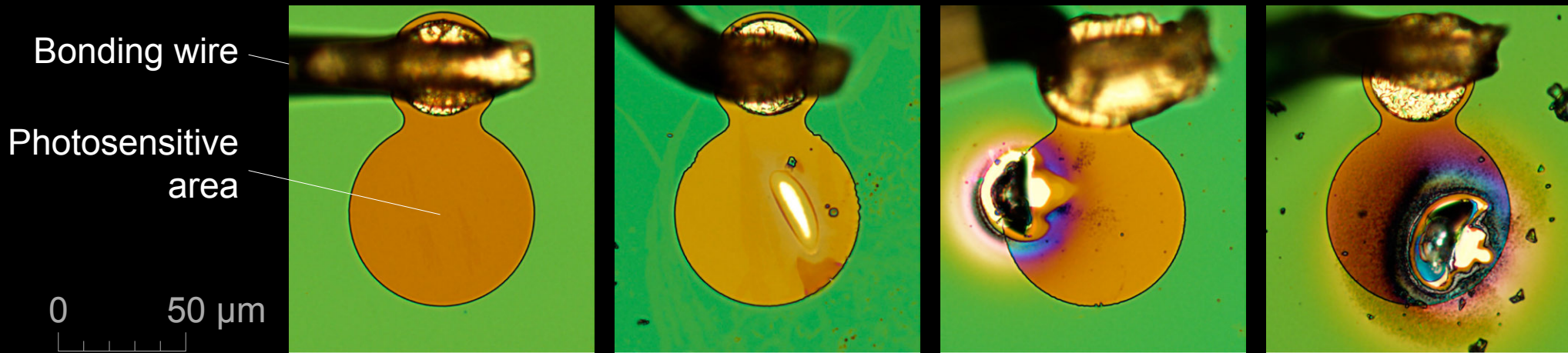
# Attack performance



# Laser damage in commercial QKD system Clavis2



# InGaAs p-i-n photodiode $D_{\text{pulse}}$ (JDSU EPM 605LL)



Damaging power at Alice's entrance (W)

none

1.0

1.5

1.7

Loss of photo-sensitivity (dB)

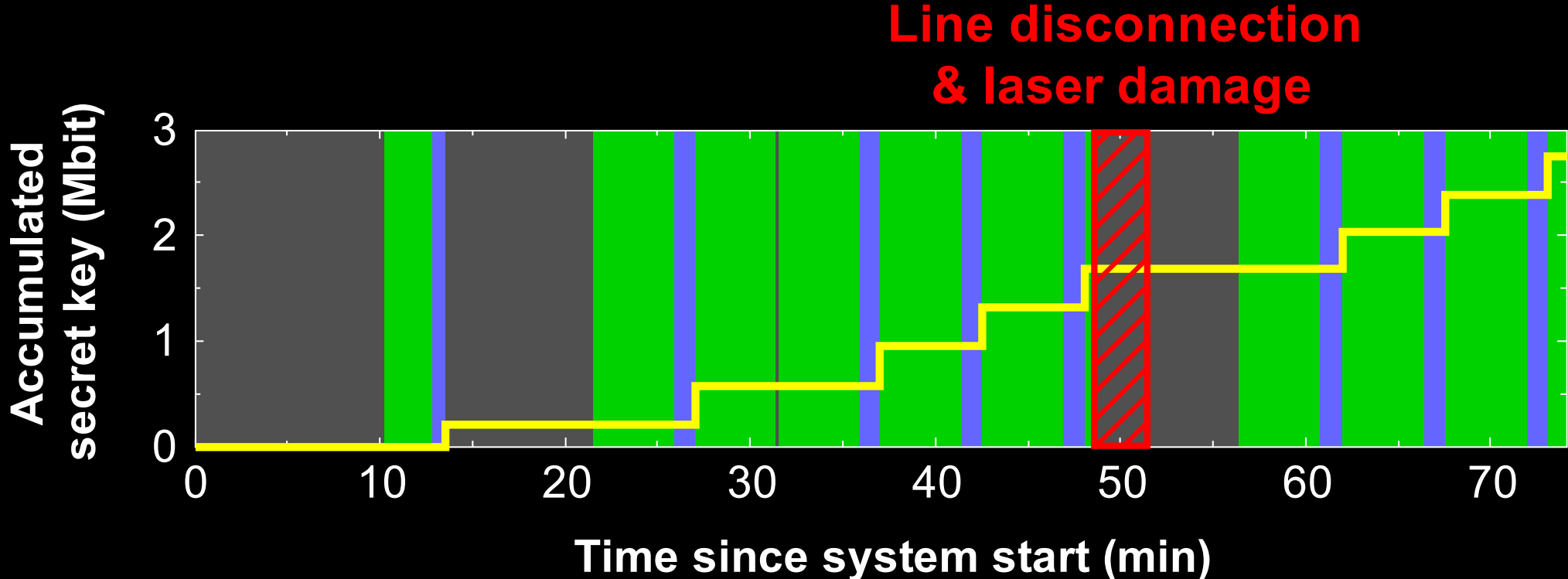
undamaged

1.6

5.5

completely lost photosensitivity

# QKD system log



Line disconnection  
& laser damage

- System service & recalibration routines
- Qubit exchange
- Classical post-processing

# Credits



**Shihan Sajeed**  
**Sarah Kaiser**  
**Anqi Huang**  
**Poompong Chaiwongkhot**  
**Jean-Philippe Bourgoin**  
**Carter Minshull**  
**Thomas Jennewein**  
**Norbert Lütkenhaus**  
**Vadim Makarov**

**POLYTECHNIQUE  
MONTREAL**



**Mathieu Gagné**  
**Raman Kashyap**



**Mathilde Soucarros**  
**Matthieu Legré**

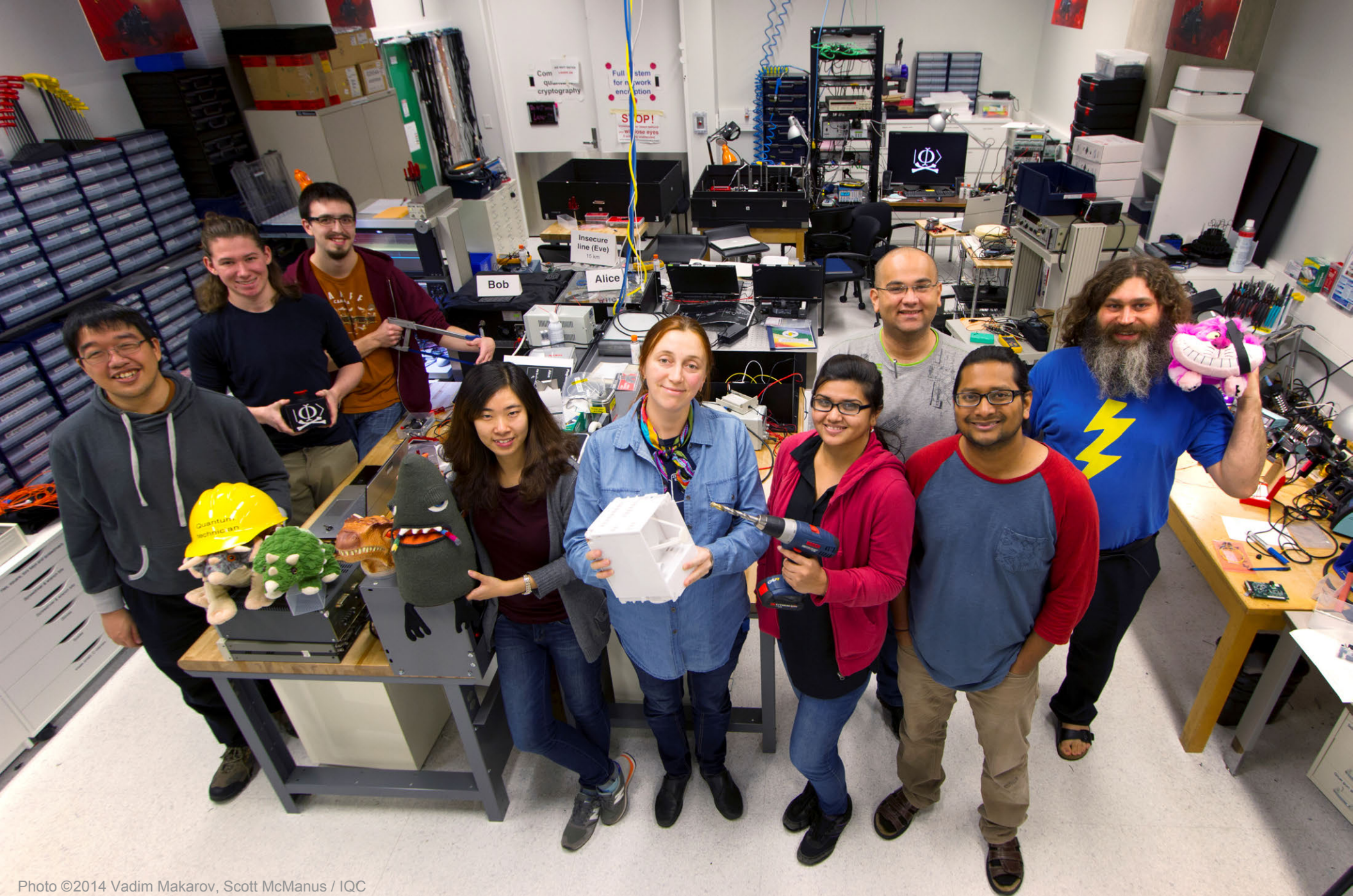


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