

Can Eve control PerkinElmer actively-quenched detector?

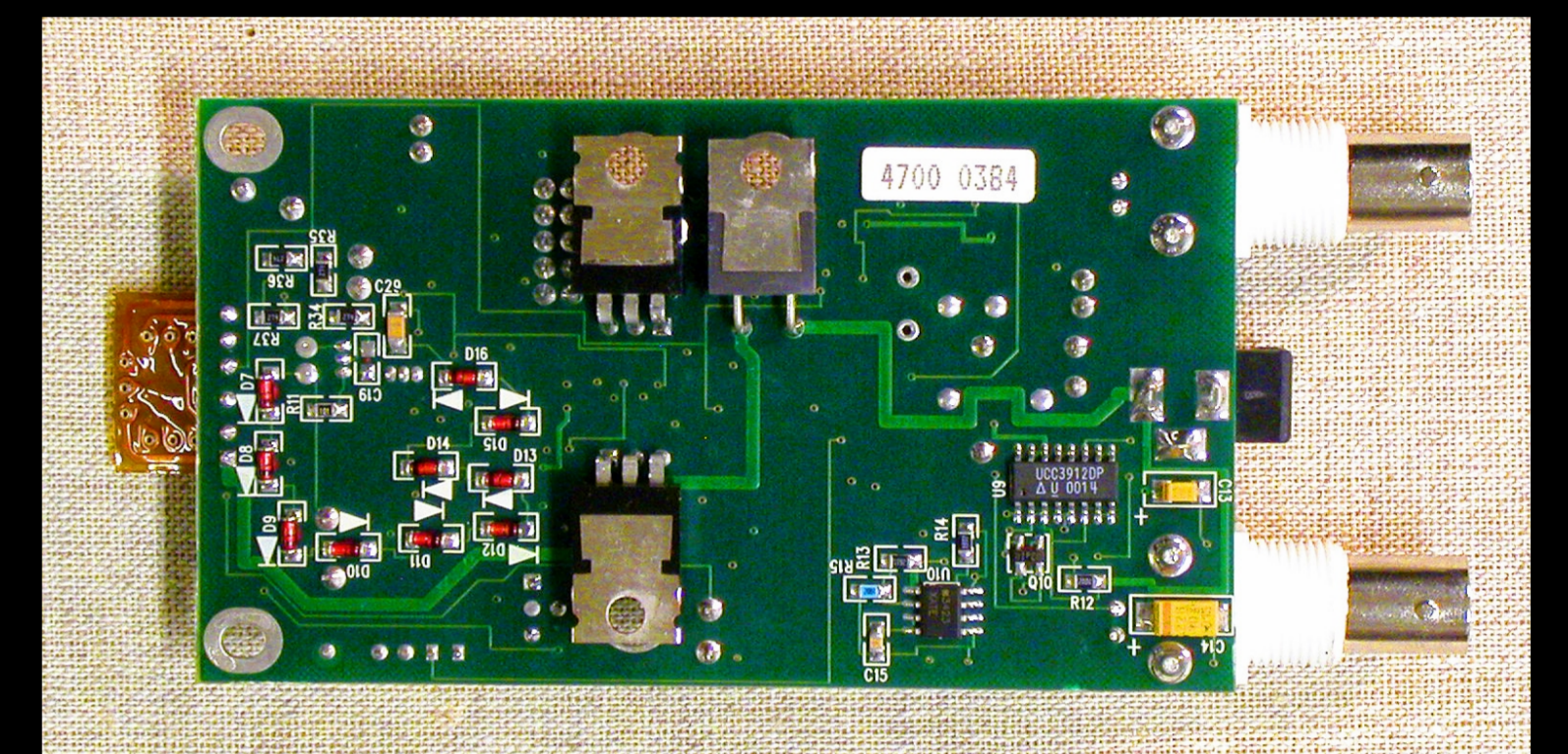
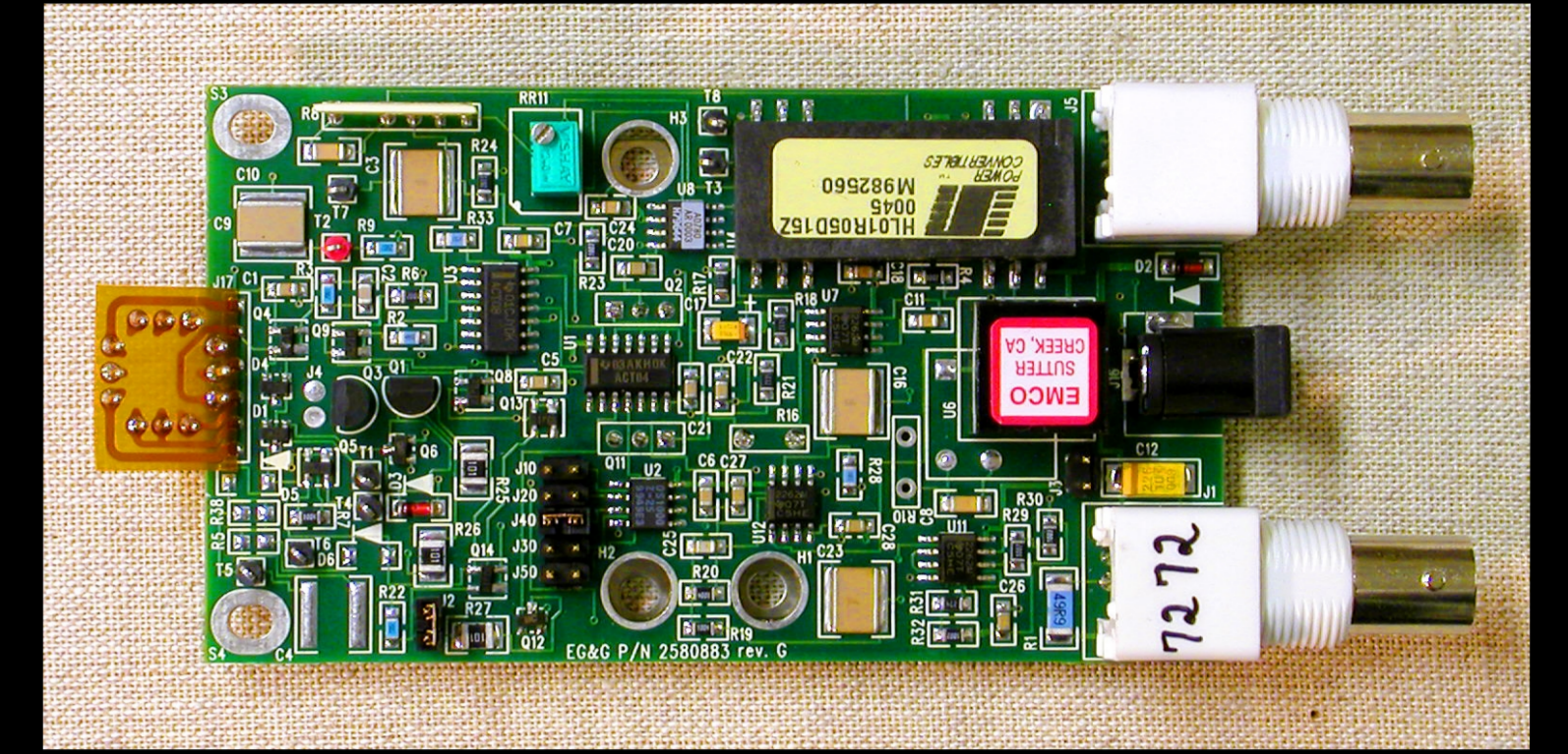
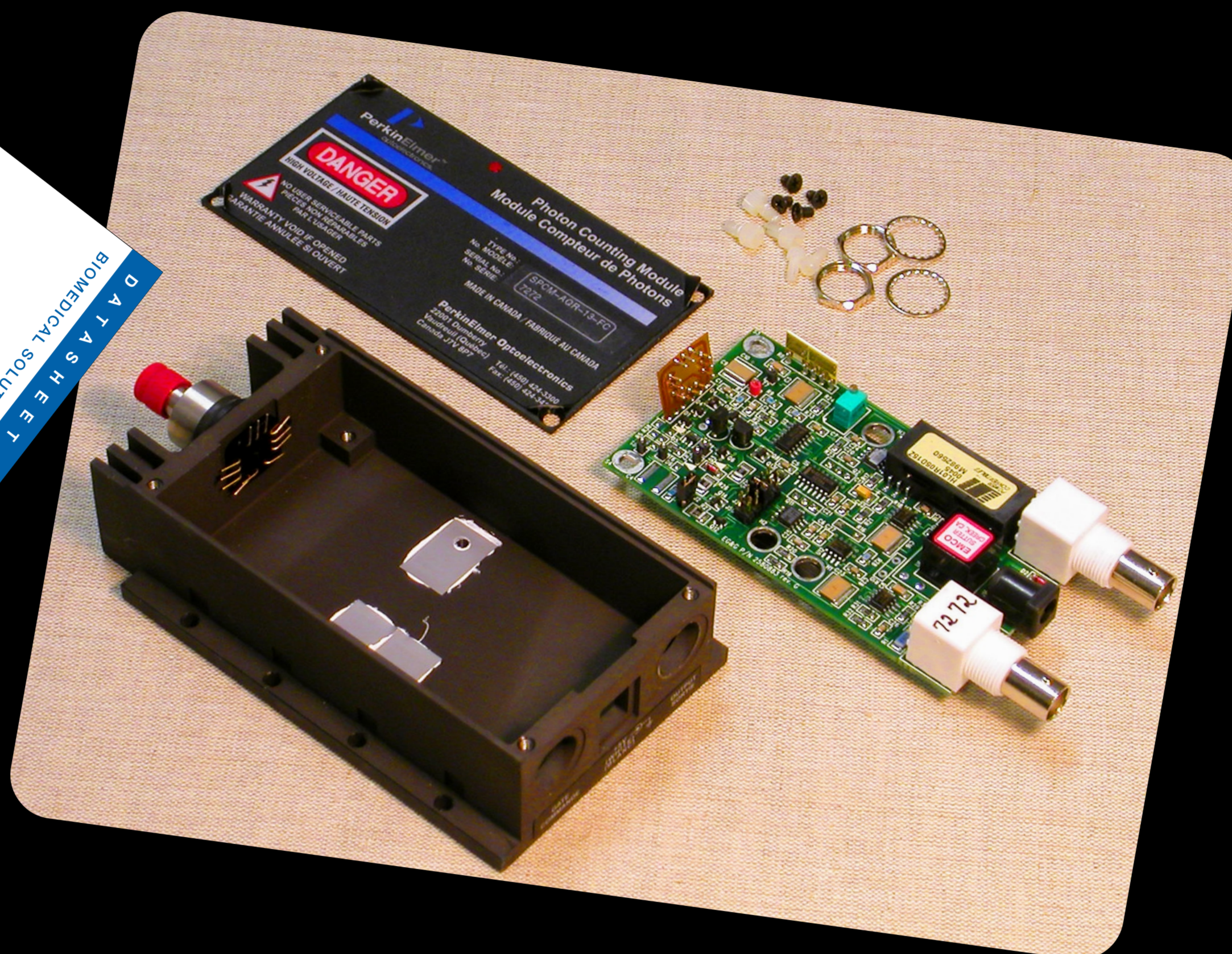
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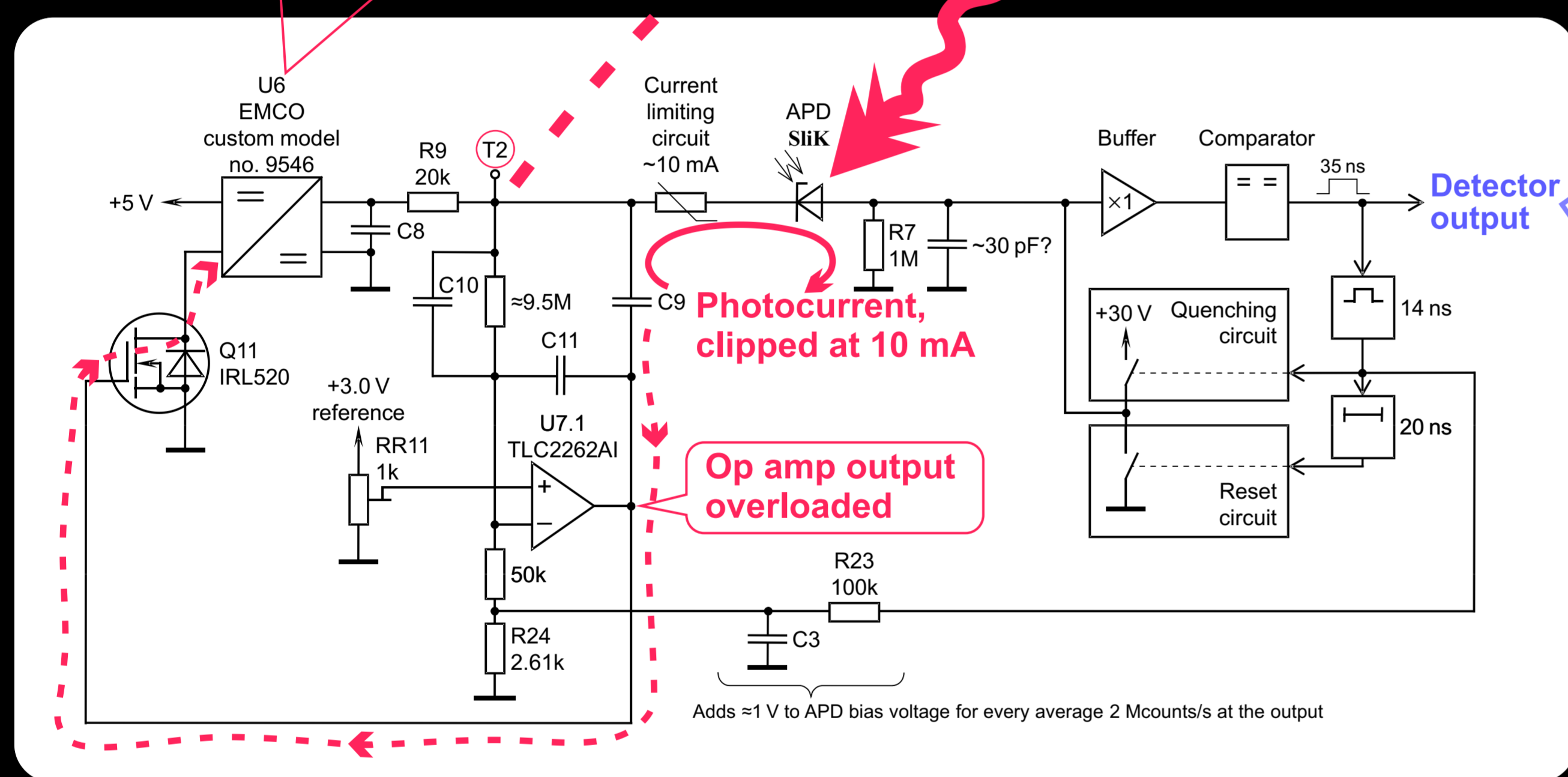
I. The suspect, reverse-engineered



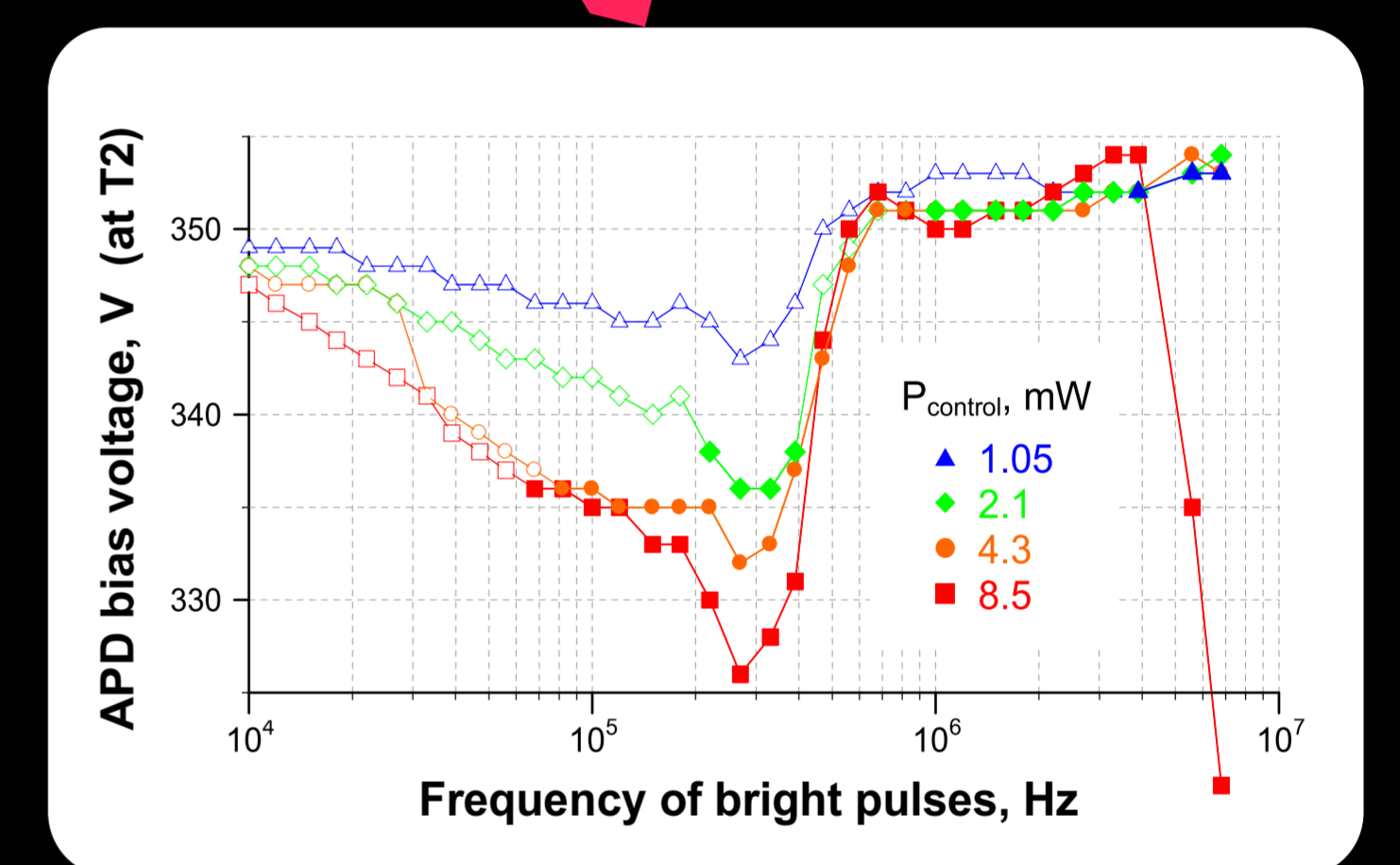
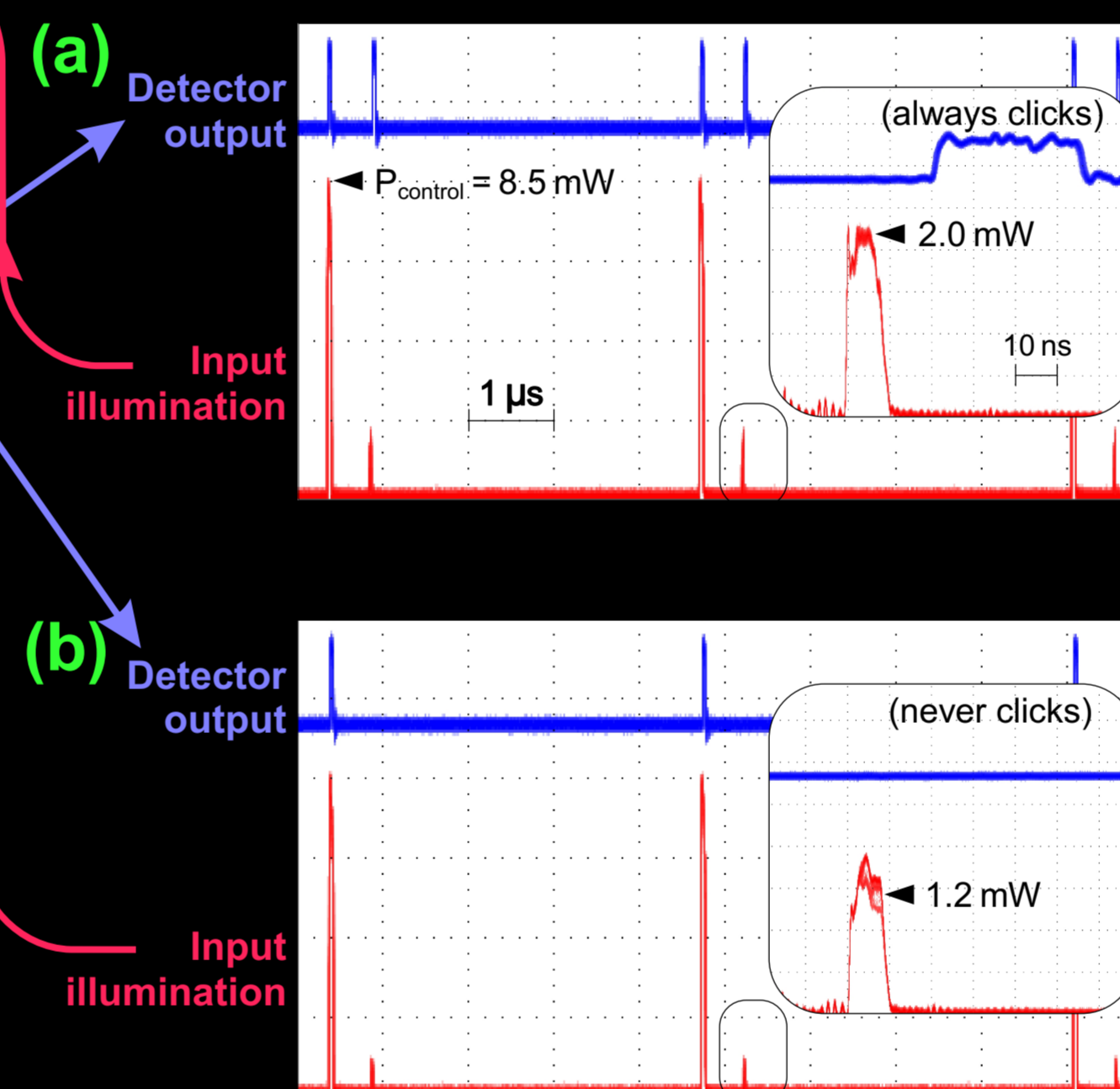
II. Control method №4

Input power interrupted, output bias voltage lowers

Let's apply bright optical control pulses, 50 ns wide

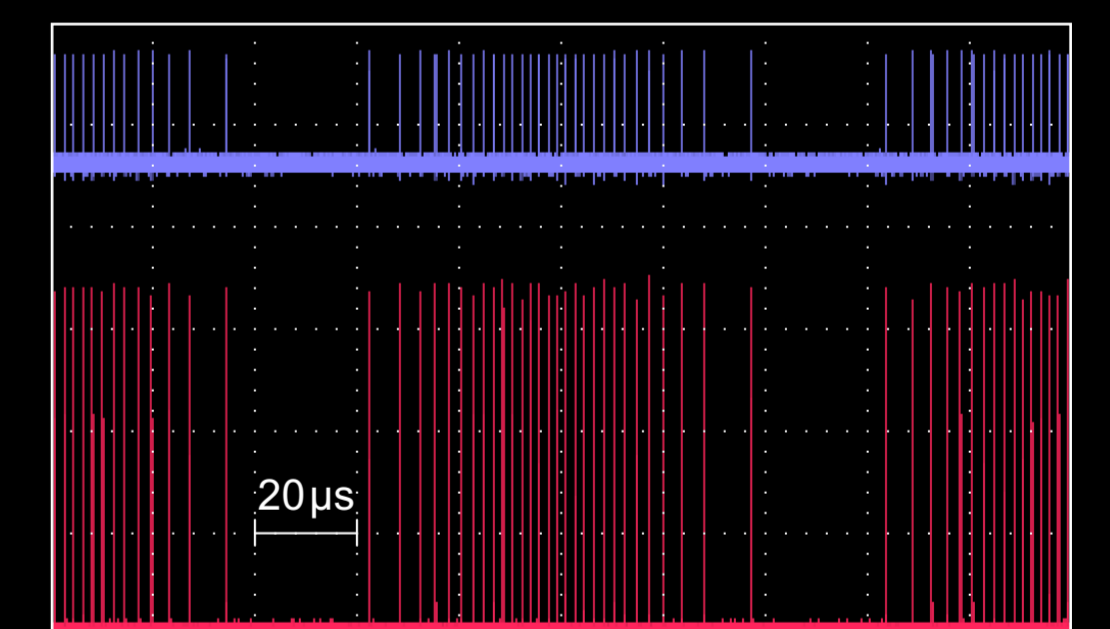


arXiv:0809.3408 [quant-ph]

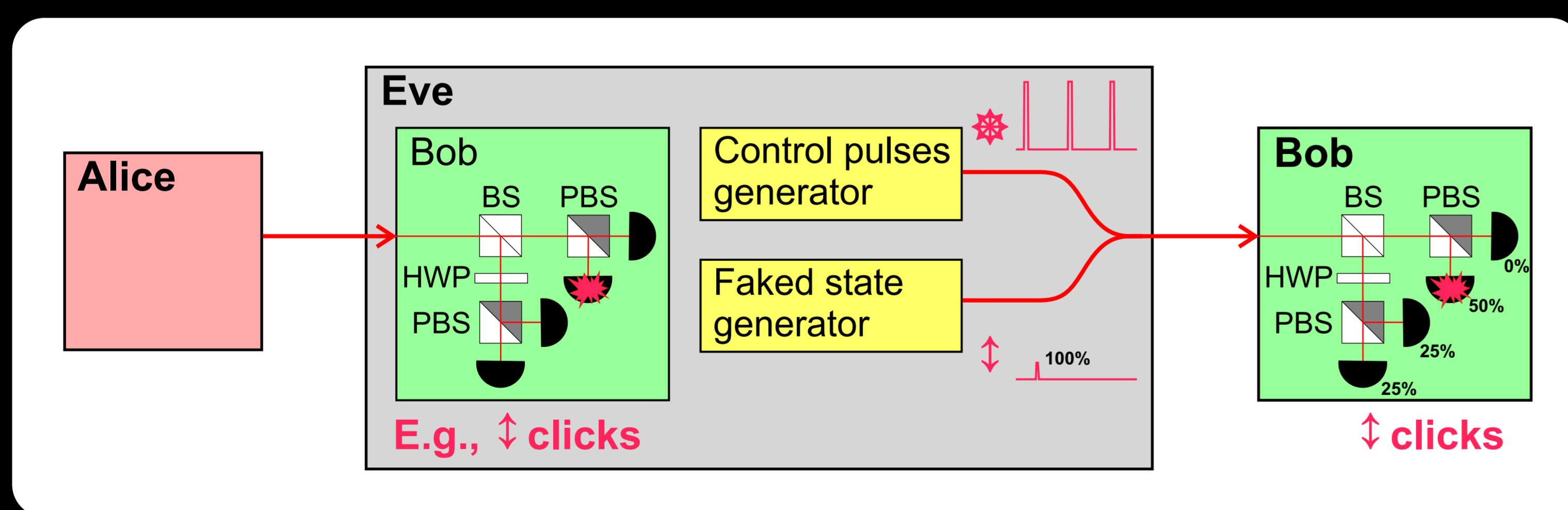


Filled symbols: full control, no spontaneous counts, detector only reacts to bright pulses

Note: control pulses can be irregularly spaced:



III. Proposed attack



Side effect: simultaneous clicks from control pulses, >70 kHz. Eve can try to masquerade them as out-of-sync clicks or as background counts.

Possibly affected experimental quantum cryptosystems

1. C. Erven *et al.*, arXiv:0807.2289 [quant-ph].
2. V. Fernandez *et al.*, IEEE J. Quantum Electron. **43**, 130 (2007); K. J. Gordon *et al.*, Opt. Express **13**, 3015 (2005); IEEE J. Quantum Electron. **40**, 900 (2004).
3. X. Shan *et al.*, Appl. Phys. Lett. **89**, 191121 (2006).
4. K. J. Resch *et al.*, Opt. Express **13**, 202 (2005).
5. W. T. Buttler *et al.*, Phys. Rev. Lett. **84**, 5652 (2000); *ibid.* **81**, 3283 (1998); Phys. Rev. A **57**, 2379 (1998).

There may be a few more... people don't always specify which model of detector they use.

