

# QKD: from the concept to a commercial application

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QKD concept

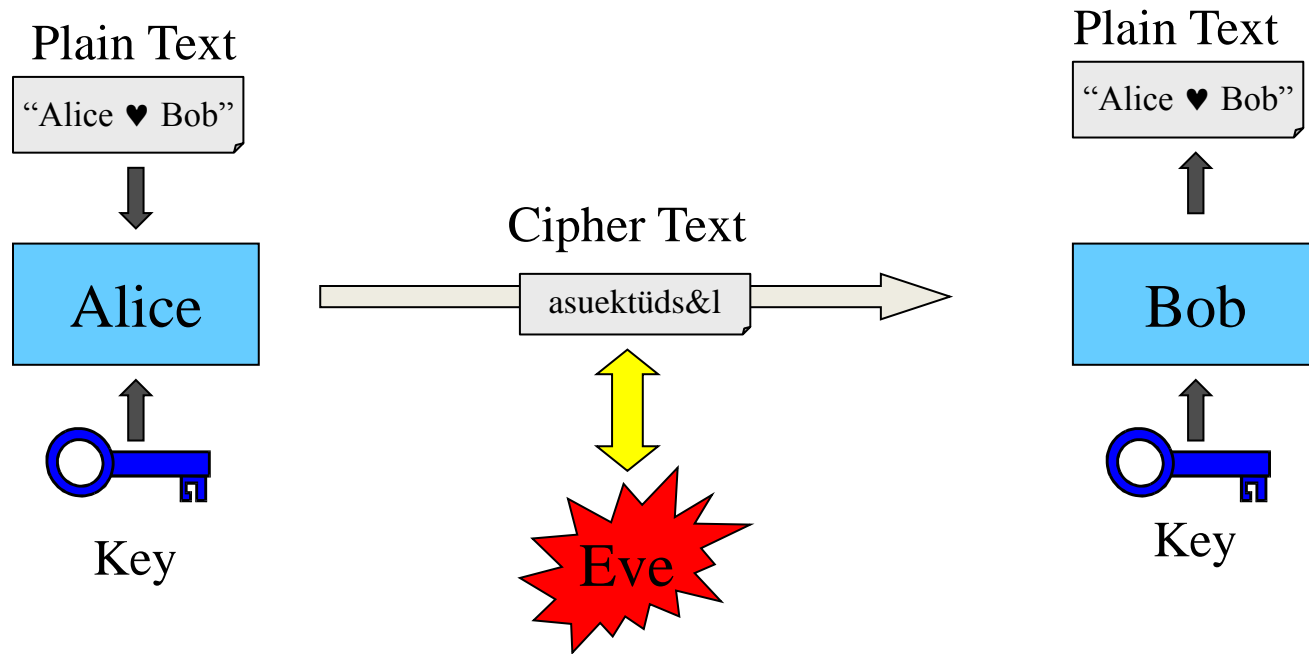
QKD state of the art (academic)

QKD academic and commercial challenges

QRNG concept to application

Steganography

# What's Cryptography?



- ❑ Secure communication between Alice and Bob
- ❑ The spy, Eve, tries to read the encoded message

# Classical Cryptography

- Based on Complexity
  - DES, AES (secret key)
  - RSA (public key)

Security unproven

One-way functions

Integer factorisation

$$107 \times 53 = x$$

$$5671 = y \times z$$



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# Classical Cryptography

- based on Information Theory  
one time pad (Vernam)

plaintext : 001010010010011101010001101001  
key: +101011011011001010100111010101  
cyphertext: 10000100100101011110110111100

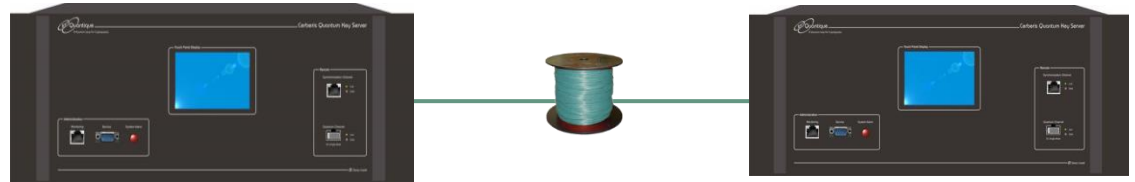
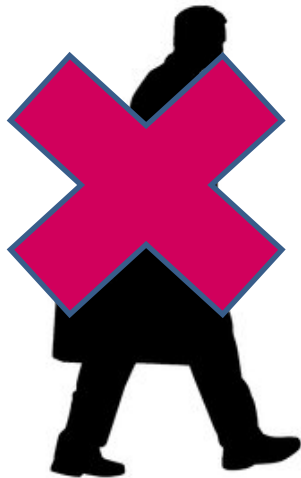
security proven

problem: key distribution



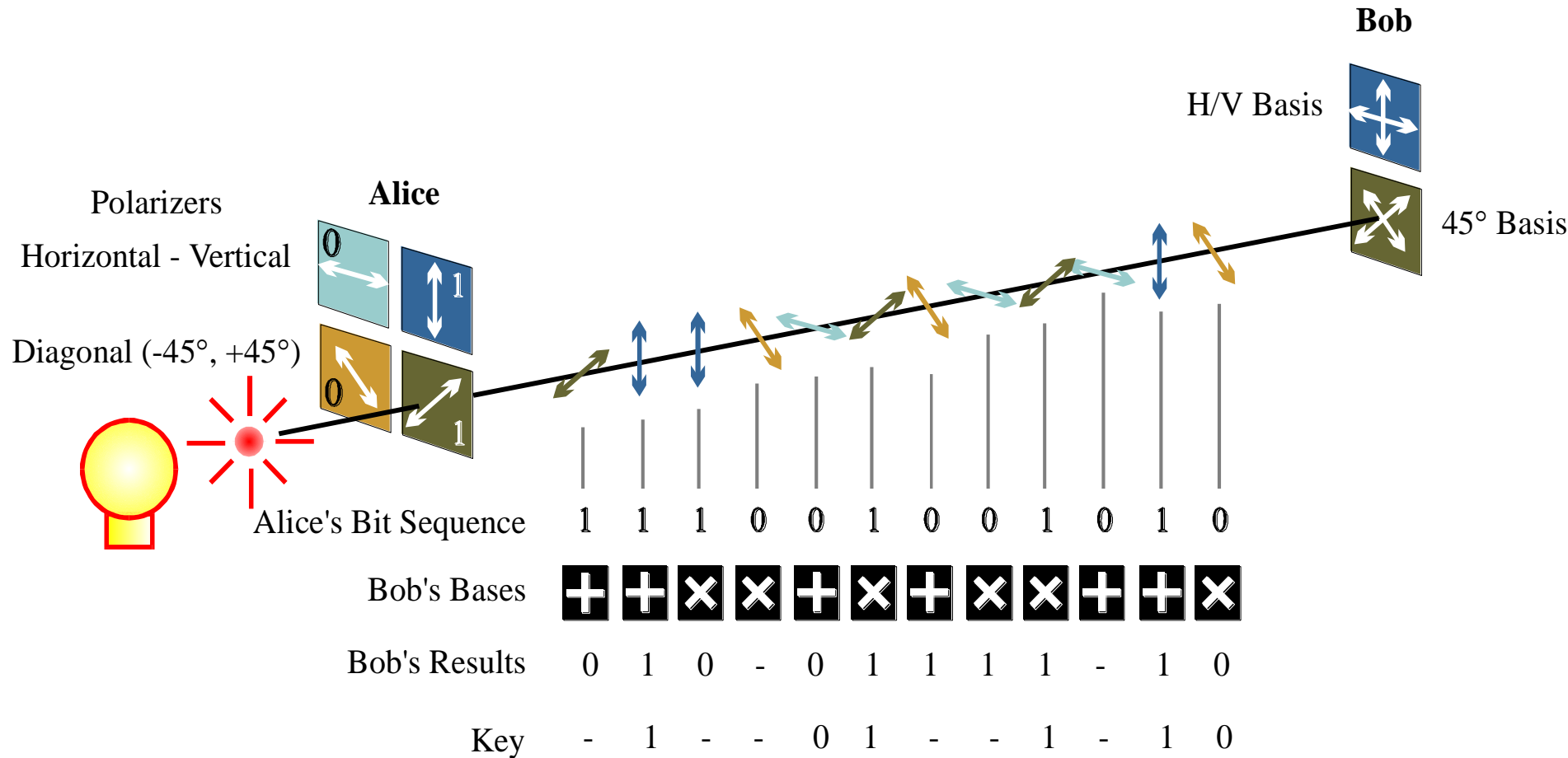
# Quantum Key Distribution

- Quantum Crpytography is not a new coding method
- Send key with individual photons (quantum states)
- The eavesdropper may not measure without perturbation (Heisenbergs uncertainty principle)
- Eavesdropping can be detected by Alice and Bob!

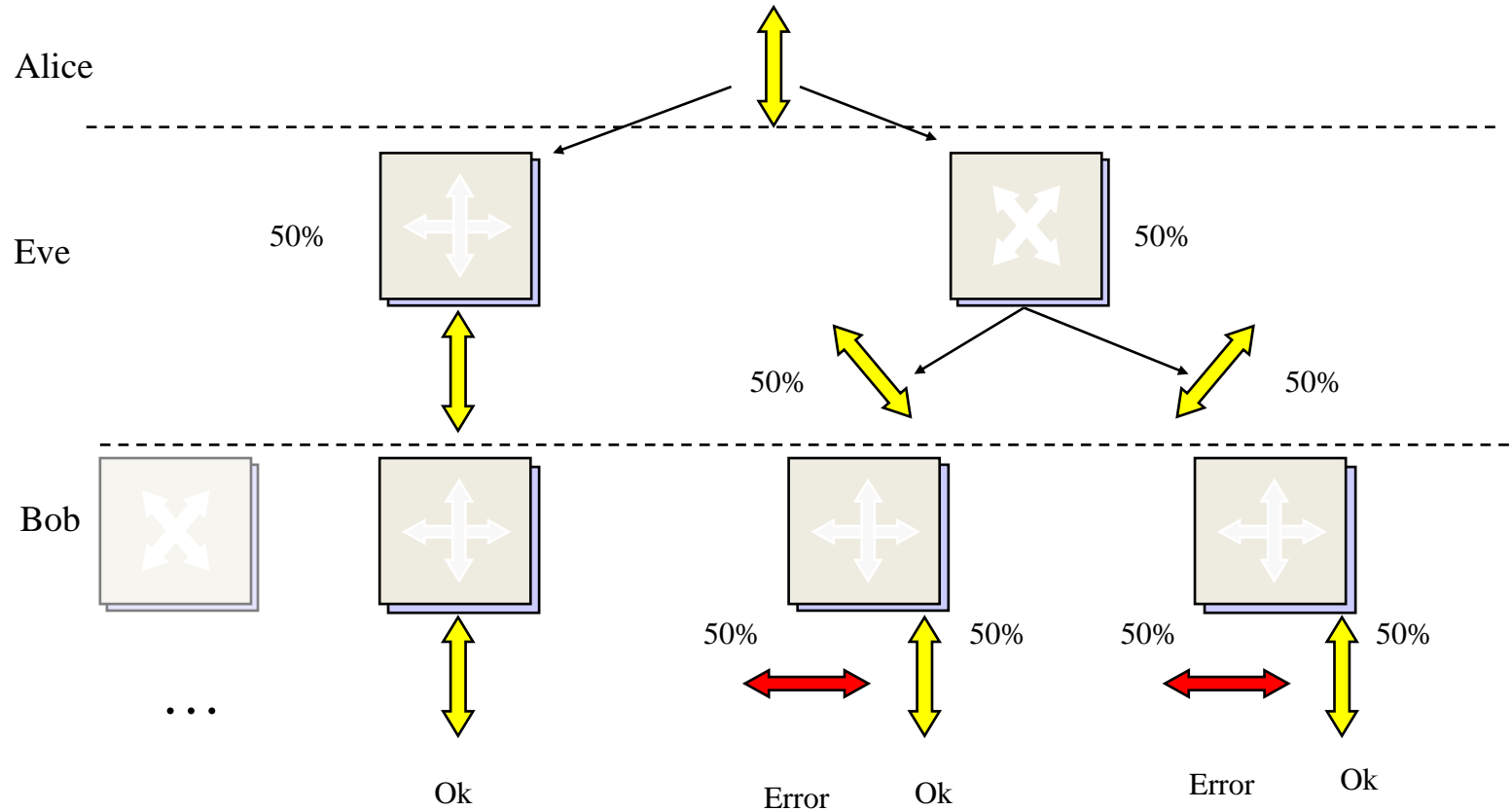


**QKD is proven information theoretically secure!**

# BB84 protocol (Bennett, Brassard, 1984)



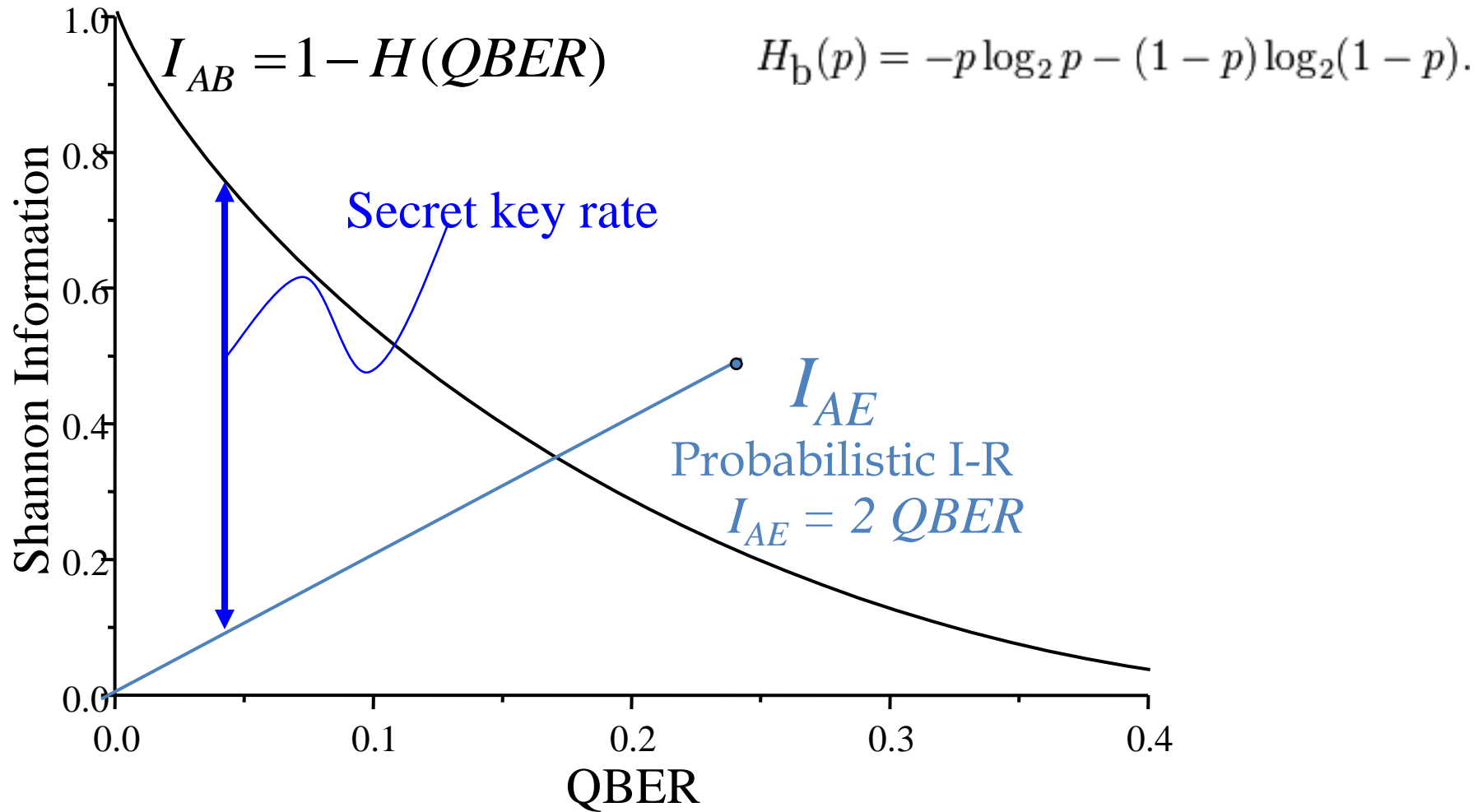
# Eavesdropping (intercept-resend)



Error with 25 % probability

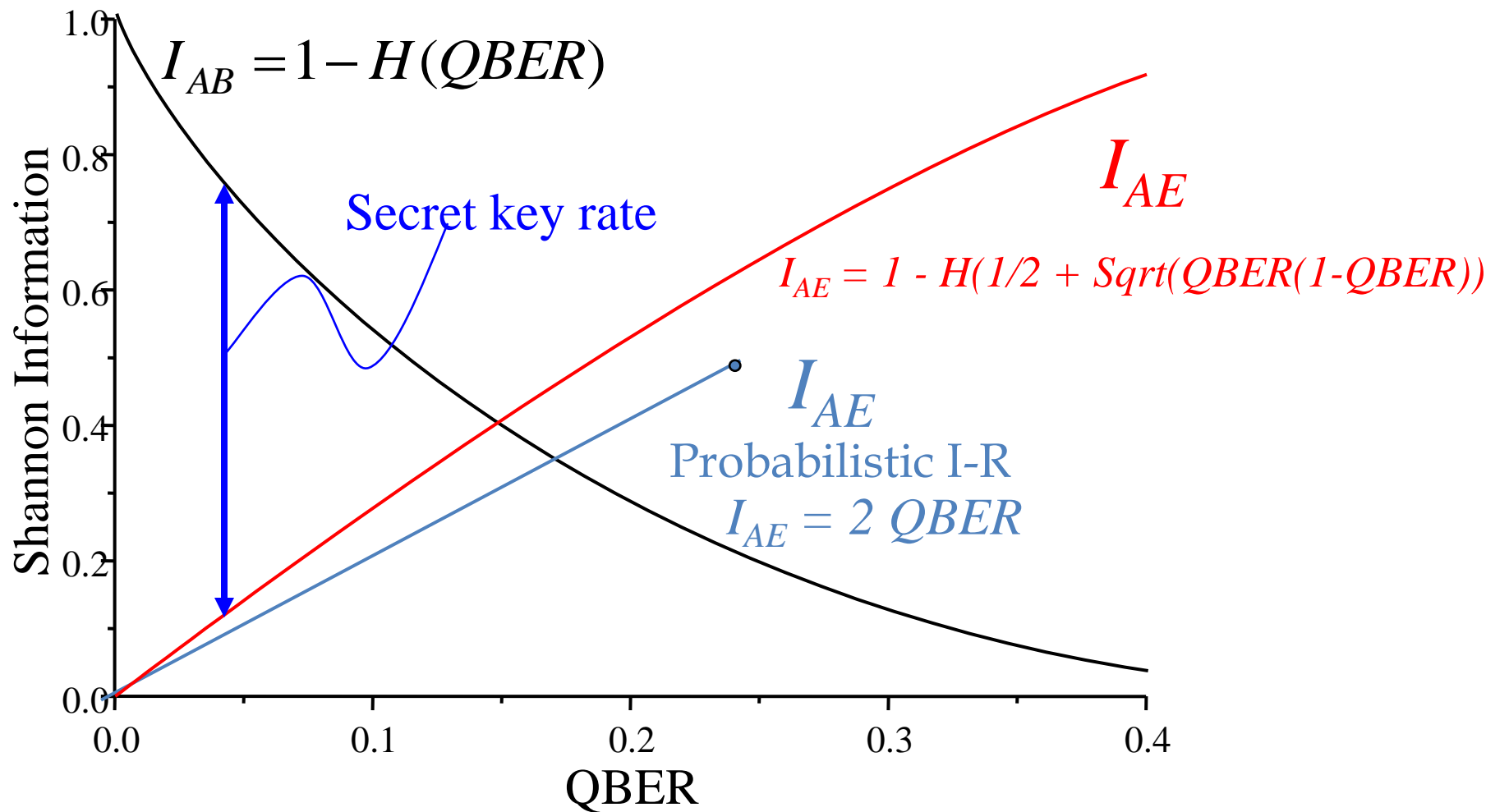
$$I_{AE} = 2 \text{ QBER } (\text{quantum bit error rate})$$

# Eve attacks: information curves

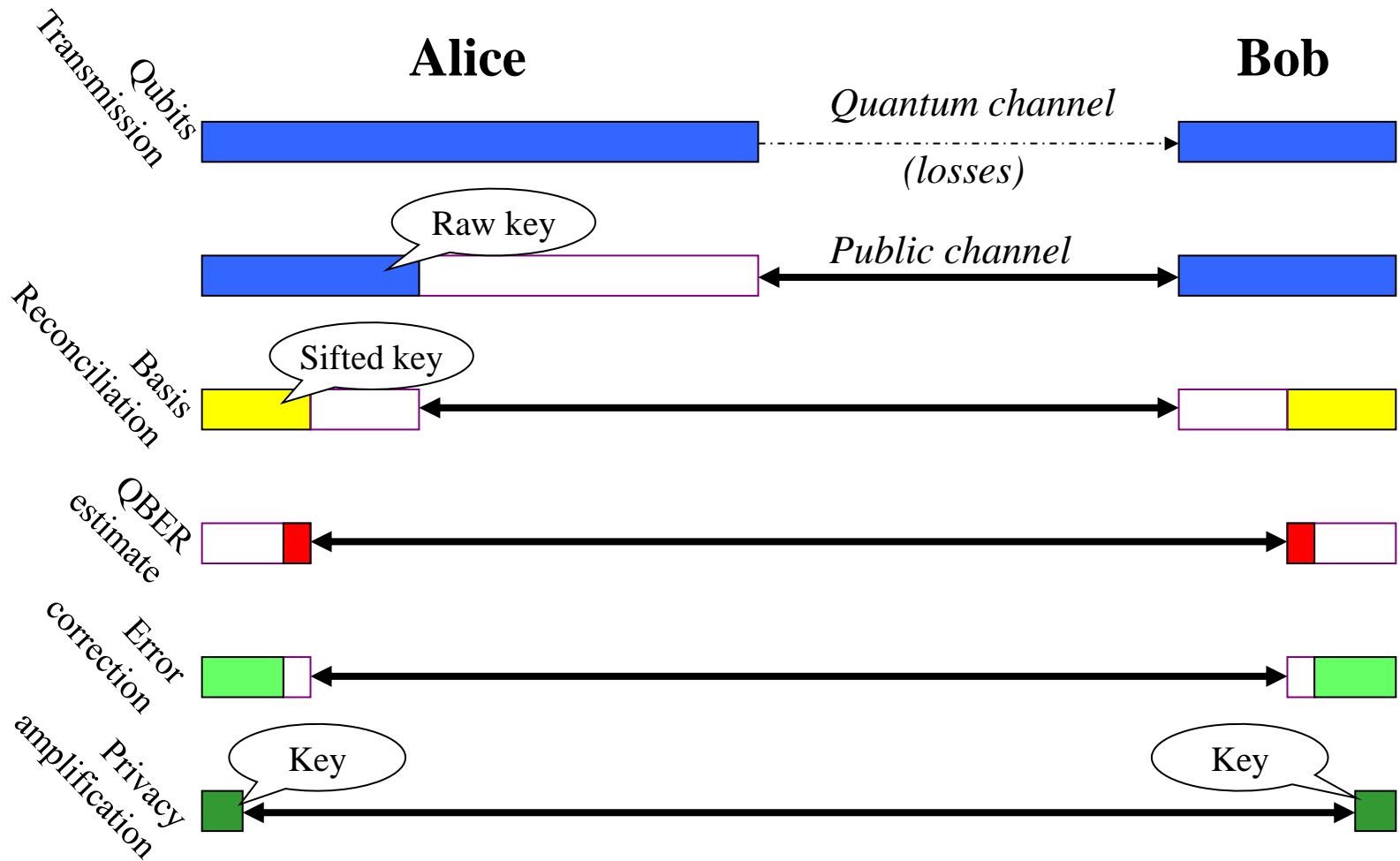




# Incoherent attacks: information curves

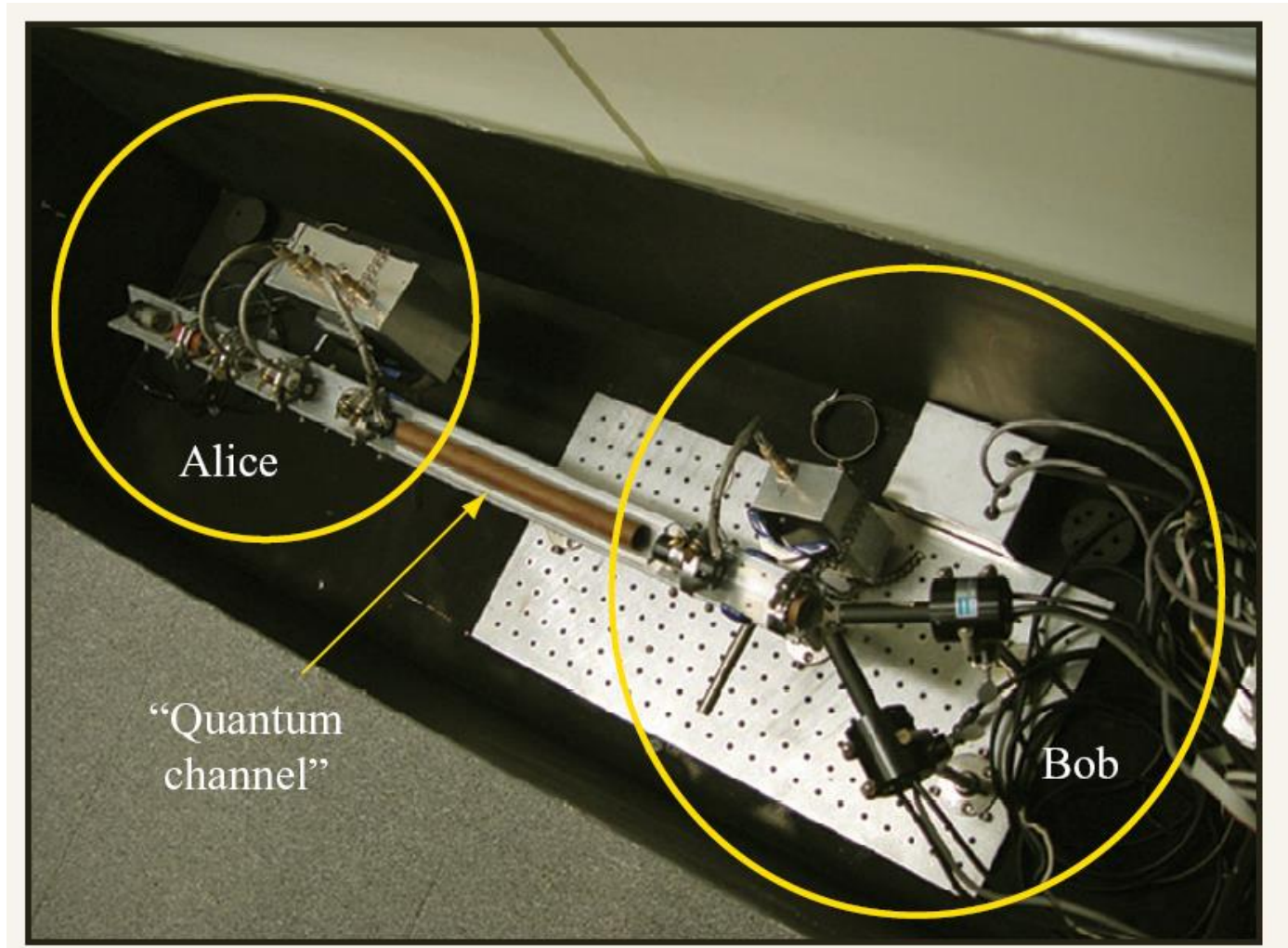


# The steps to a secret key



+ Authentication!!!

# Smolin and Bennett IBM 1989



# Swiss QCRYPT project (2013)





# Provably secure and practical quantum key distribution over 307 km of optical fibre

Boris Korzh<sup>1\*</sup>, Charles Ci Wen Lim<sup>1\*</sup>, Raphael Houlmann<sup>1</sup>, Nicolas Gisin<sup>1</sup>, Ming Jun Li<sup>2</sup>, Daniel Nolan<sup>2</sup>, Bruno Sanguinetti<sup>1</sup>, Rob Thew<sup>1</sup> and Hugo Zbinden<sup>1</sup>

**Proposed in 1984, quantum key distribution (QKD) allows two users to exchange provably secure keys via a potentially insecure quantum channel<sup>1</sup>. Since then, QKD has attracted much attention and significant progress has been made both in**

sends an additional test state,  $|\alpha_t\rangle := |\alpha\rangle|\alpha\rangle$ , to check for phase coherence between any two successive laser pulses. Therefore, phase coherence can be checked in any of these sequences,  $|\alpha_0\rangle|\alpha_1\rangle$ ,  $|\alpha_0\rangle|\alpha_t\rangle$ ,  $|\alpha_t\rangle|\alpha_1\rangle$ ,  $|\alpha_t\rangle$ ,  $|\alpha_t\rangle|\alpha_t\rangle$ , by using an imbalanced

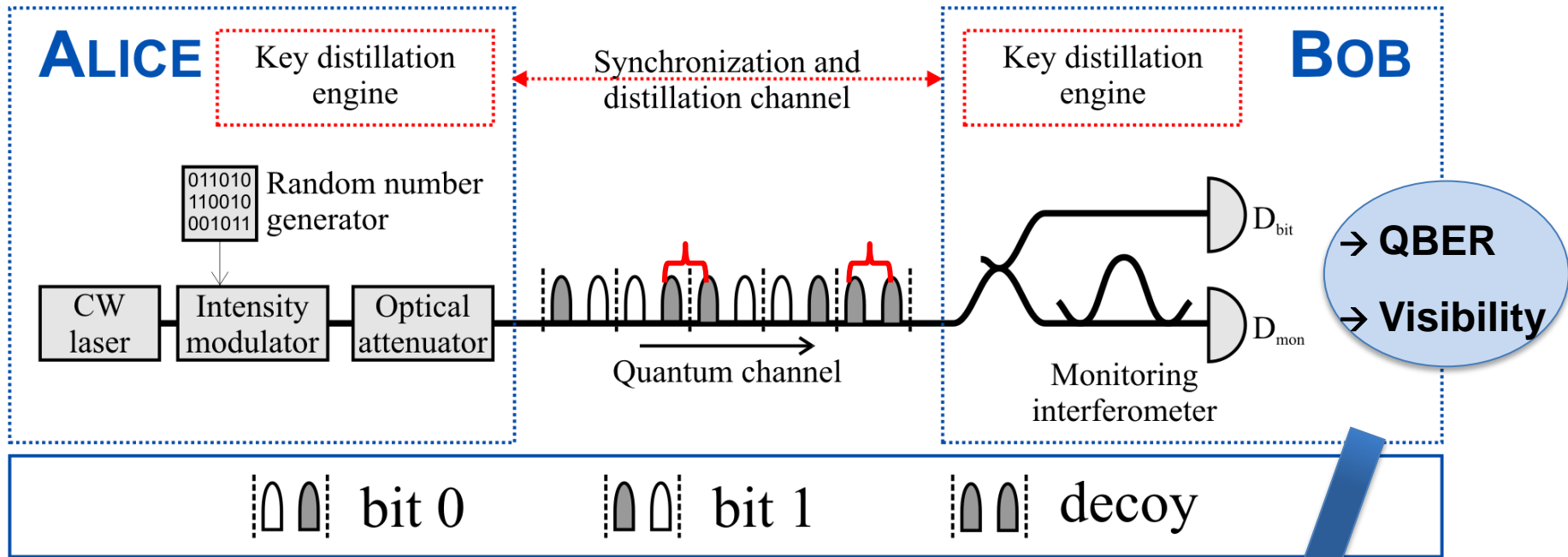
- ☐ Efficient protocol
- ☐ Finite key analysis
- ☐ Low noise detectors
- ☐ Low loss fibres

Nature Photonics 9, 163–168 (2015)



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# Ingredient 1: efficient and simple QKD scheme



## Coherent One Way (COW) Characteristics

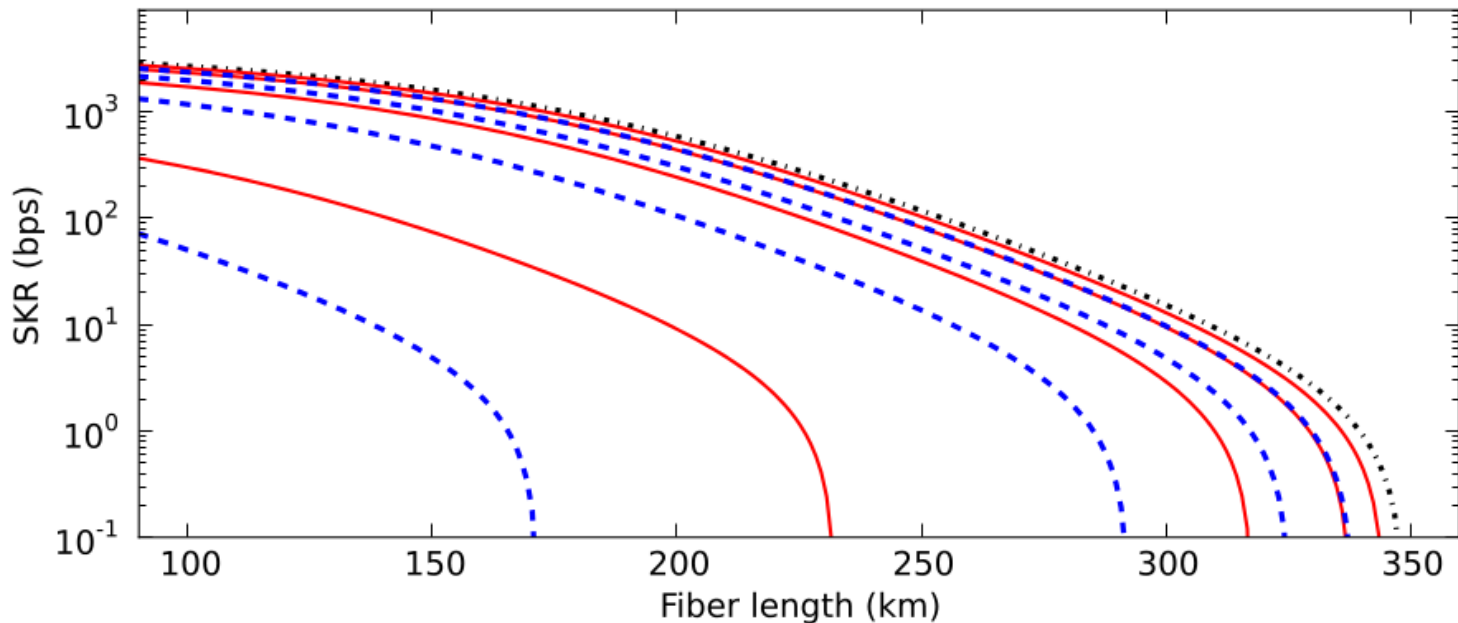
- 1.25 GHz clock (625 MHz bit generation rate)
- No active elements at Bob, robust bit measurement basis
- **Robust against photon number splitting PNS attacks**
- Security proof for collective attacks

check of coherence between qbits

**Reveals action of eavesdropper**  
**Input for key distillation**

# Ingredient 2: tight finite key analysis

Allows around an order of magnitude reduction  
of post-processing block size



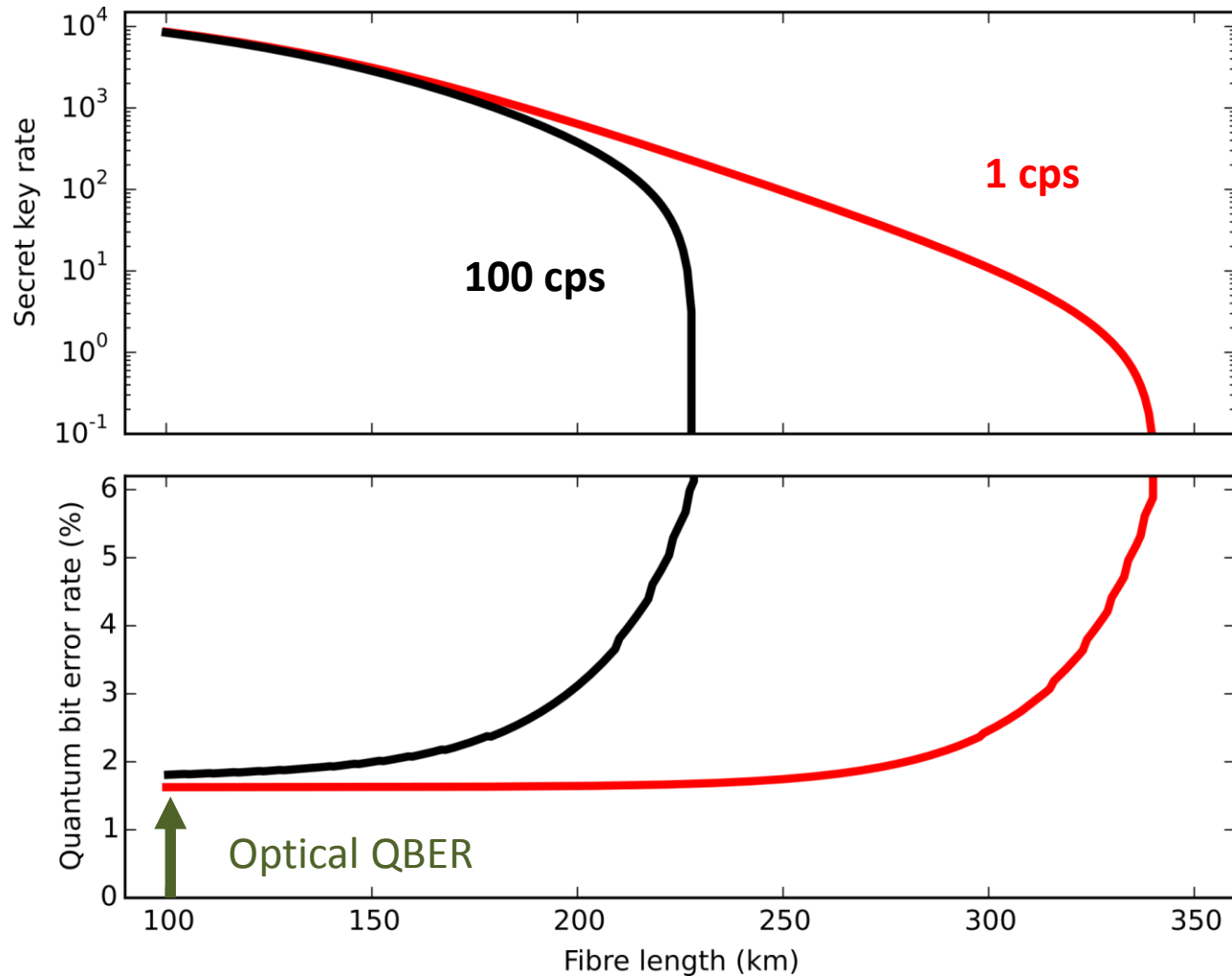
Comparison of secret key rate using different postprocessing block sizes  
( $10^4$ ,  $10^5$ ,  $10^6$ ,  $10^7$  left to right)

**Solid red:** New tail inequality

**Dashed blue:** Previous tail inequality



# Ingredient 3: low noise single photon detectors



*System requirements:*

- Low **dark count rate** of SPD
- Compact ( no SNSPD)





# Ingredient 4: Low Loss Optical Fibres

Total attenuation of an optical fiber:

CORNING

$$\alpha = \alpha_{RS} + \alpha_{IR} + \alpha_{UV} + \alpha_{TM} + \alpha_{OH} + \alpha_{IM} + \alpha_{BL}$$

Diagram illustrating the components of total attenuation ( $\alpha$ ) in an optical fiber, categorized into Intrinsic and Extrinsic losses.

**Intrinsic Losses:**  $\alpha_{RS}$  (Rayleigh Scattering),  $\alpha_{IR}$  (Infrared),  $\alpha_{UV}$  (Ultraviolet).

**Extrinsic Losses:**  $\alpha_{TM}$  (Transition Mode),  $\alpha_{OH}$  (Hydroxyl),  $\alpha_{IM}$  (Impurity),  $\alpha_{BL}$  (Bend Loss).

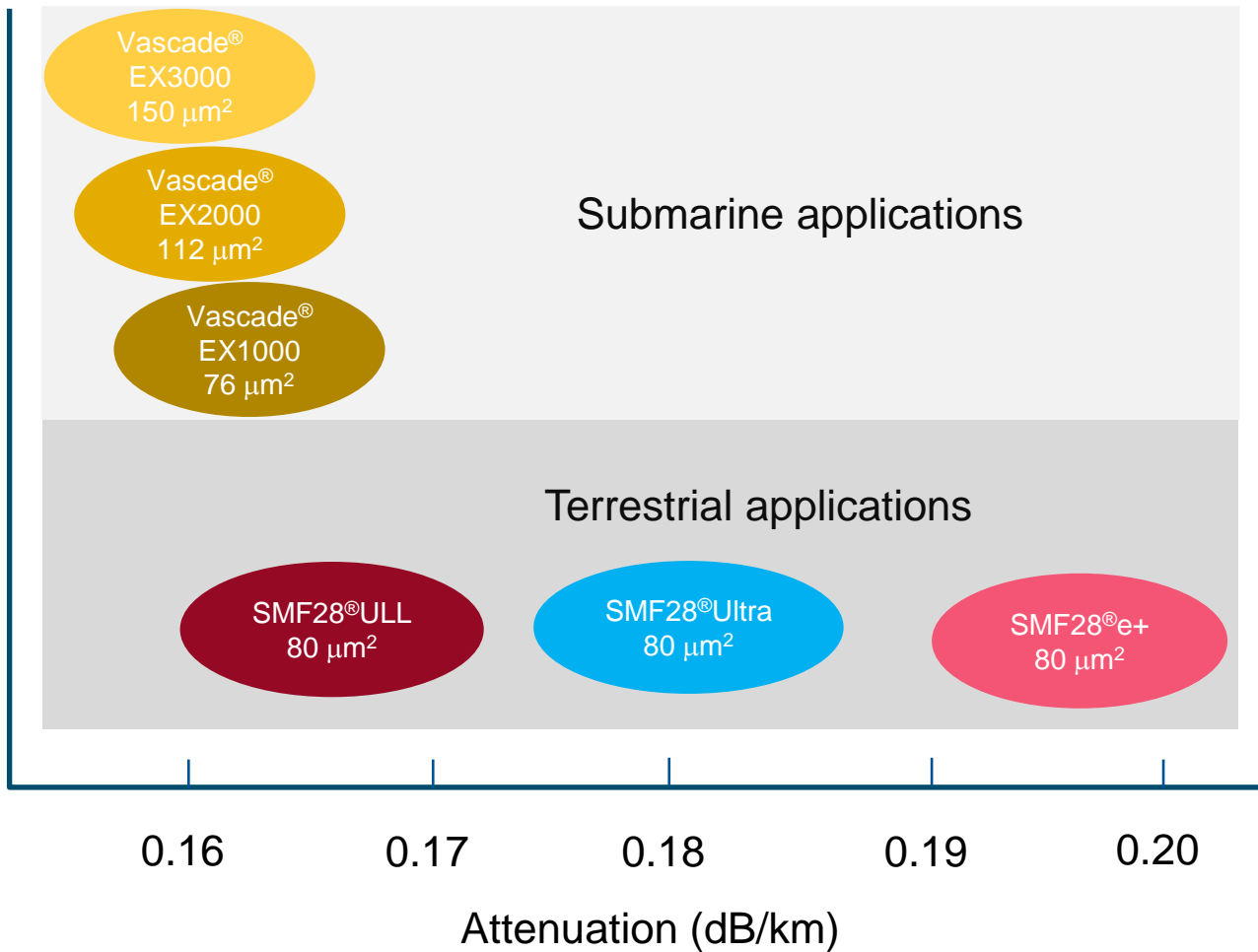
Annotations for Extrinsic Losses:

- $\alpha_{IR}$ : Not major contributors
- $\alpha_{UV}$ : Eliminated by CVD
- $\alpha_{TM}$ : Reduced by Cl dry
- $\alpha_{OH}$ : Reduced stresses
- $\alpha_{IM}$ : Fiber design
- $\alpha_{BL}$ : Coating materials

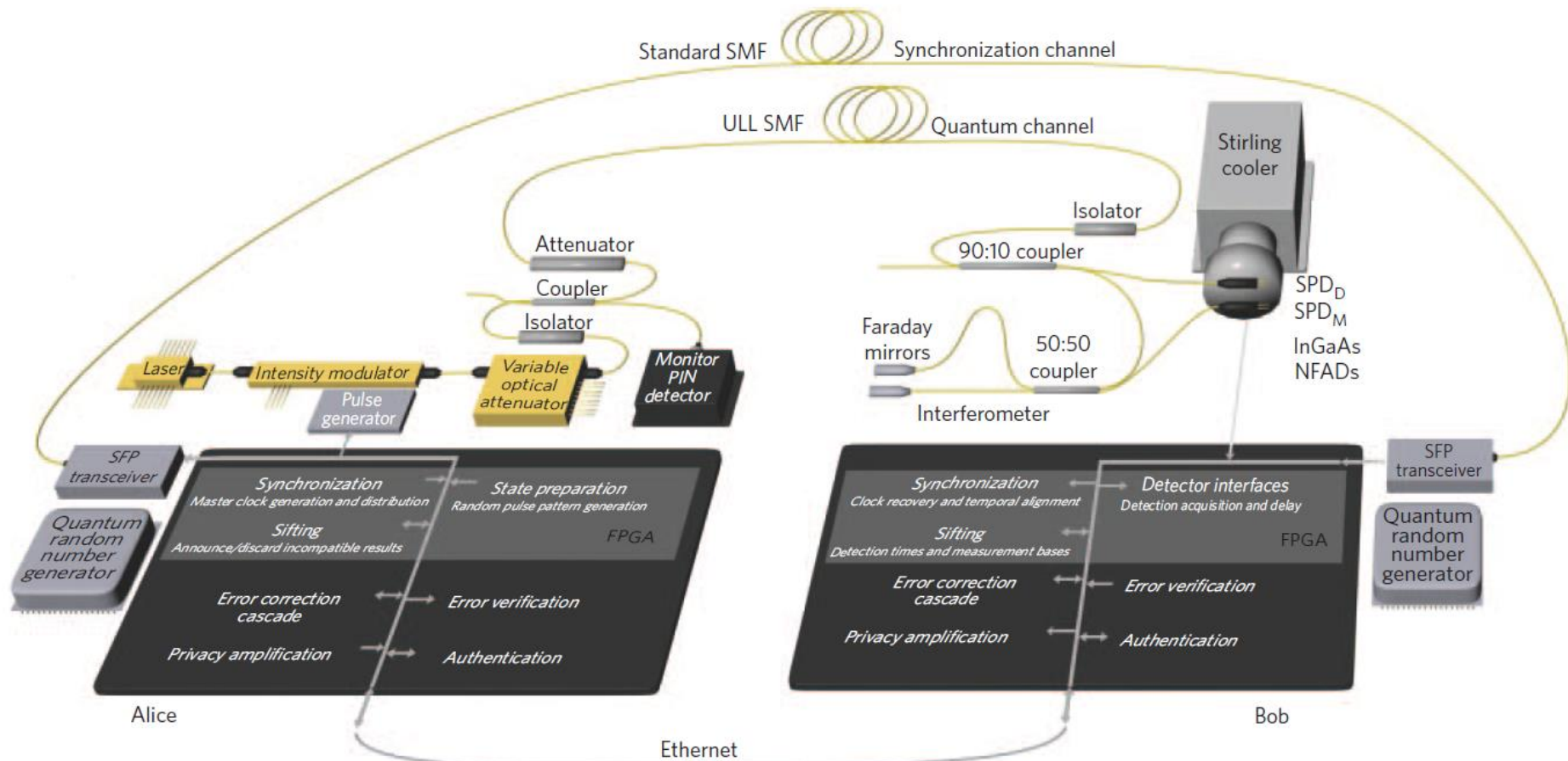
Rayleigh scattering is dominant: density and dopant fluctuations minimized by choosing optimum (small) dopant concentration.

# Ultra low loss fibers

CORNING

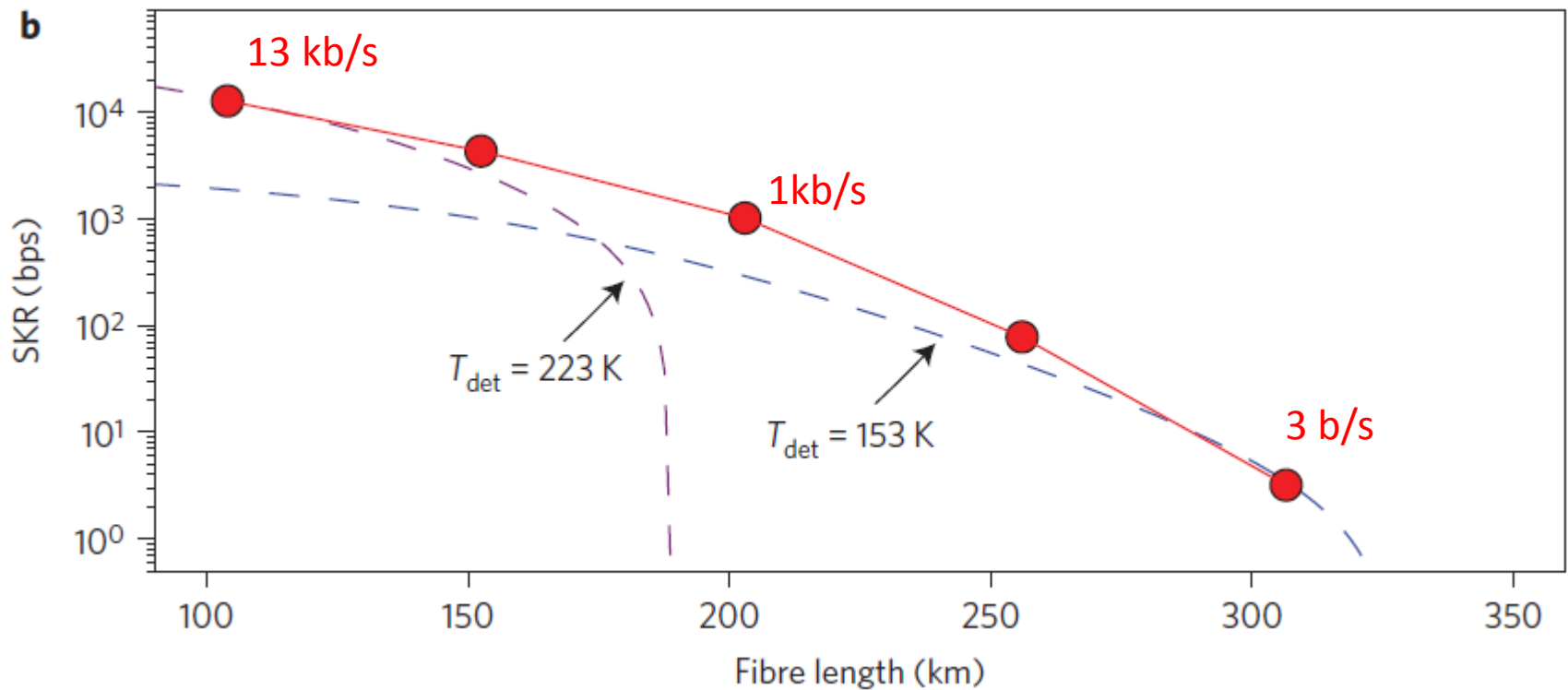


....putting all together:



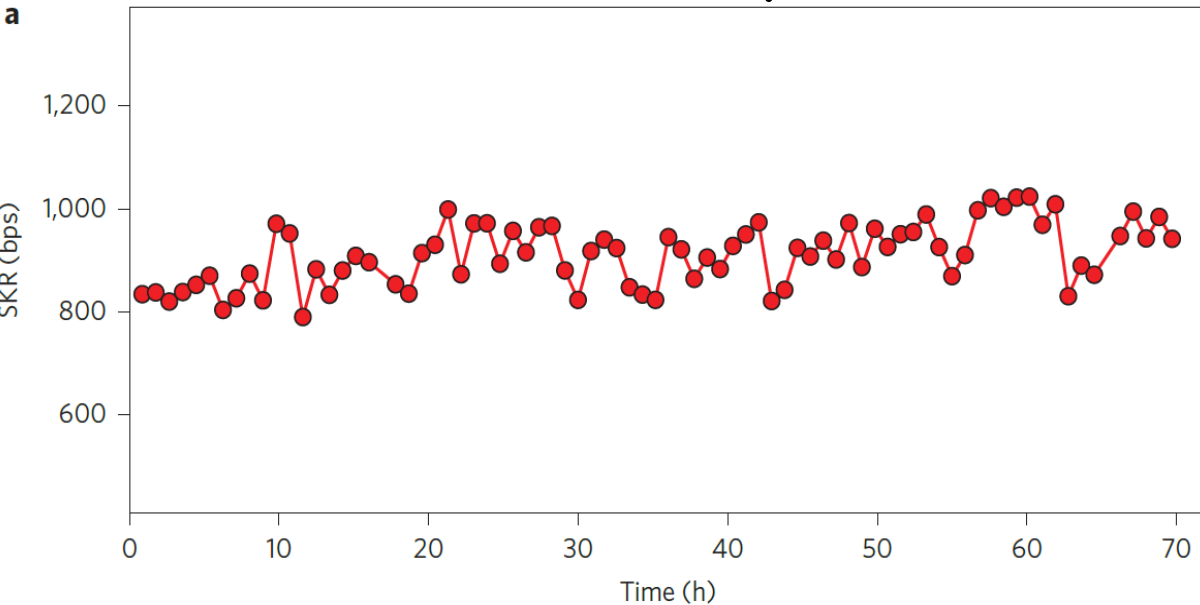
FPGA is essential!

# Results: Secret (finite key) rates vs distance



$$\epsilon_{\text{QKD}} = 4 \times 10^{-9}$$

# Stability over 70h (200km)

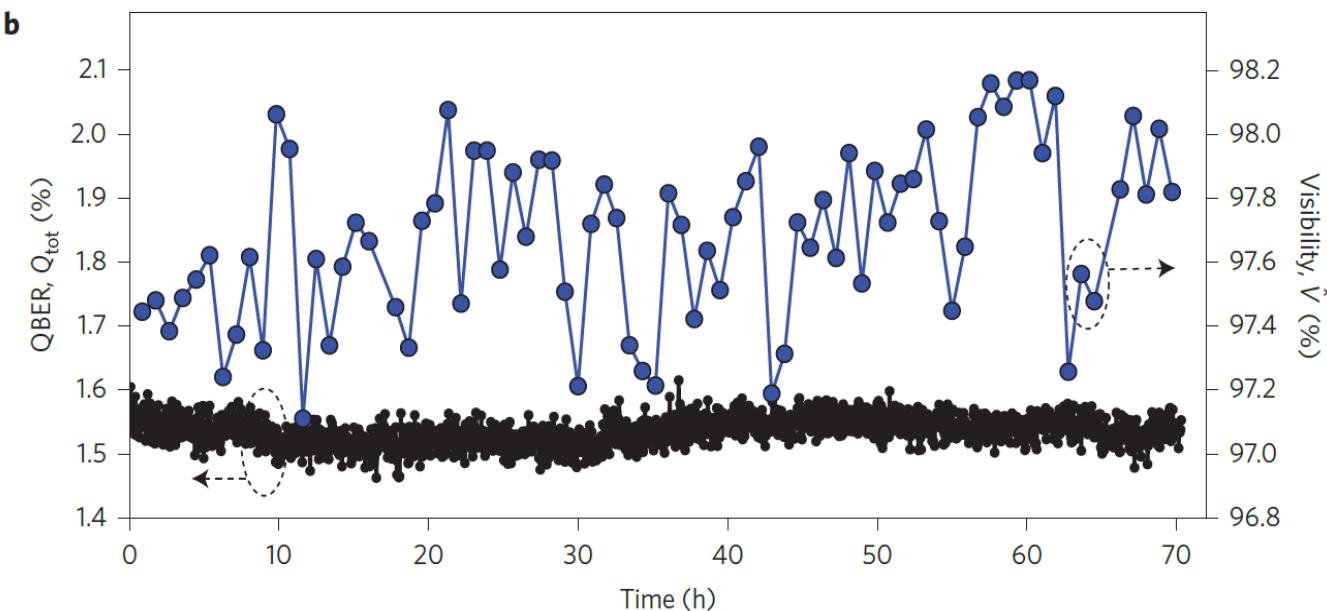


Automatic tracking:

QBER

Temporal alignment:  
*Quantum signal clock  
recovery with 10 ps  
resolution*

Extinction ratio:  
*Modulator bias voltage*



Visibility

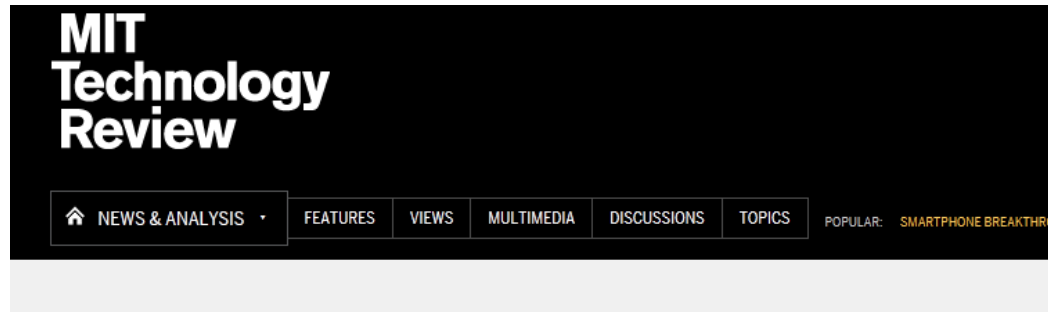
*Adjust Laser current  
(wavelength)*

# Current developments

- ❑ Make it smaller (ATCA Telecom standard),
- ❑ Make it cheaper (integrated optics)
- ❑ Make it faster
- ❑ longer distances (quantum repeater, satellite)



# Practical Security



VIEW

5 COMMENTS



The Physics arXiv Blog  
May 17, 2010

## Commercial Quantum Cryptography System Hacked

Physicists have mounted the first successful attack of its kind on a commercial quantum cryptography system.

commercial quantum cryptography system.

Physicists have mounted the first successful attack of its kind on a

Cryptography System Hacked  
Commercial Quantum

May 17, 2010



# Researchers crack the world's toughest encryption by listening to the tiny sounds made by your computer's CPU

By Sebastian Anthony on December 18, 2013 at 2:27 pm

55 Comments



4096-bit RSA

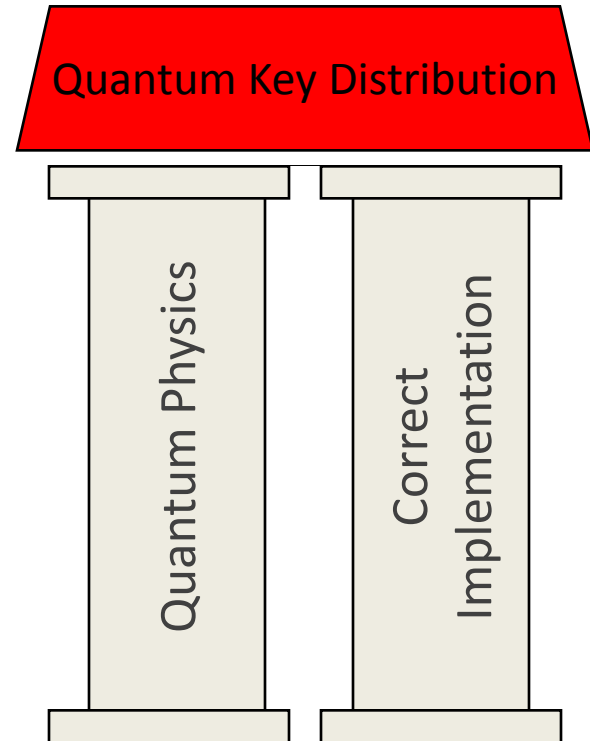
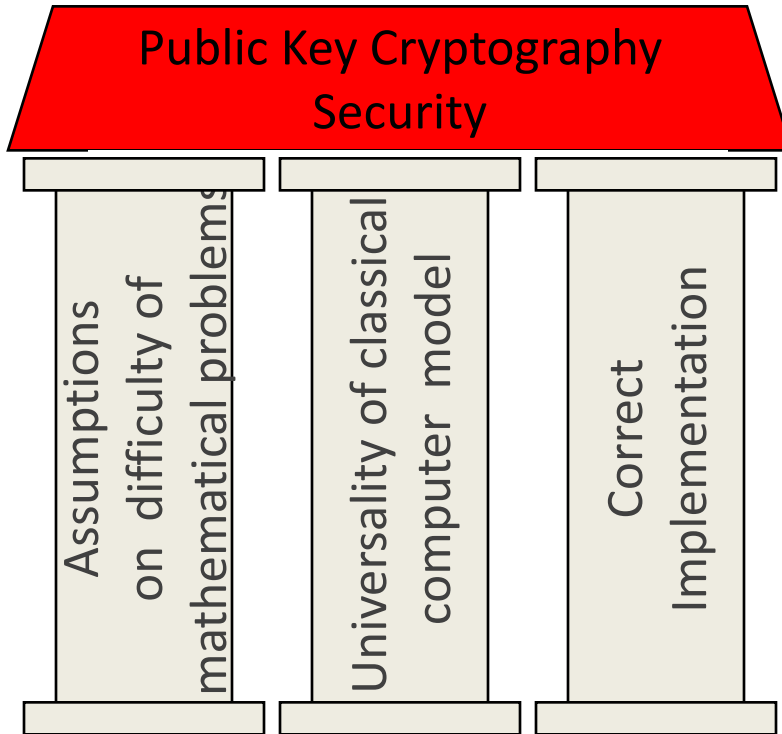
<http://www.tau.ac.il/~tromer/papers/acoustic-20131218.pdf>



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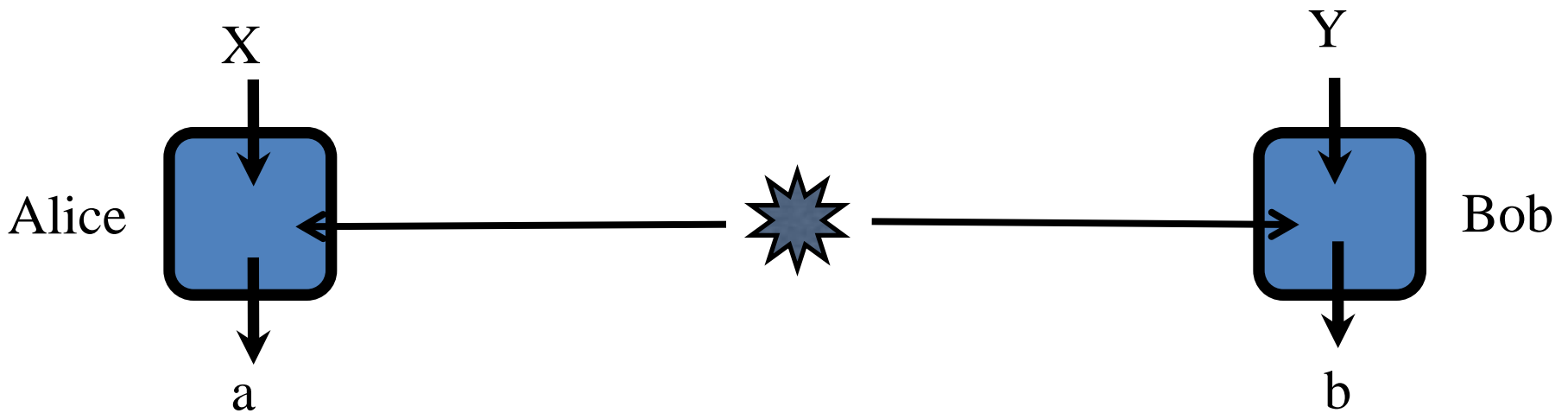


# Pillars of Cryptography



QKD cannot be broken, but a specific implementation can!

# Quantum Correlations for Device Independent Quantum Key Distribution



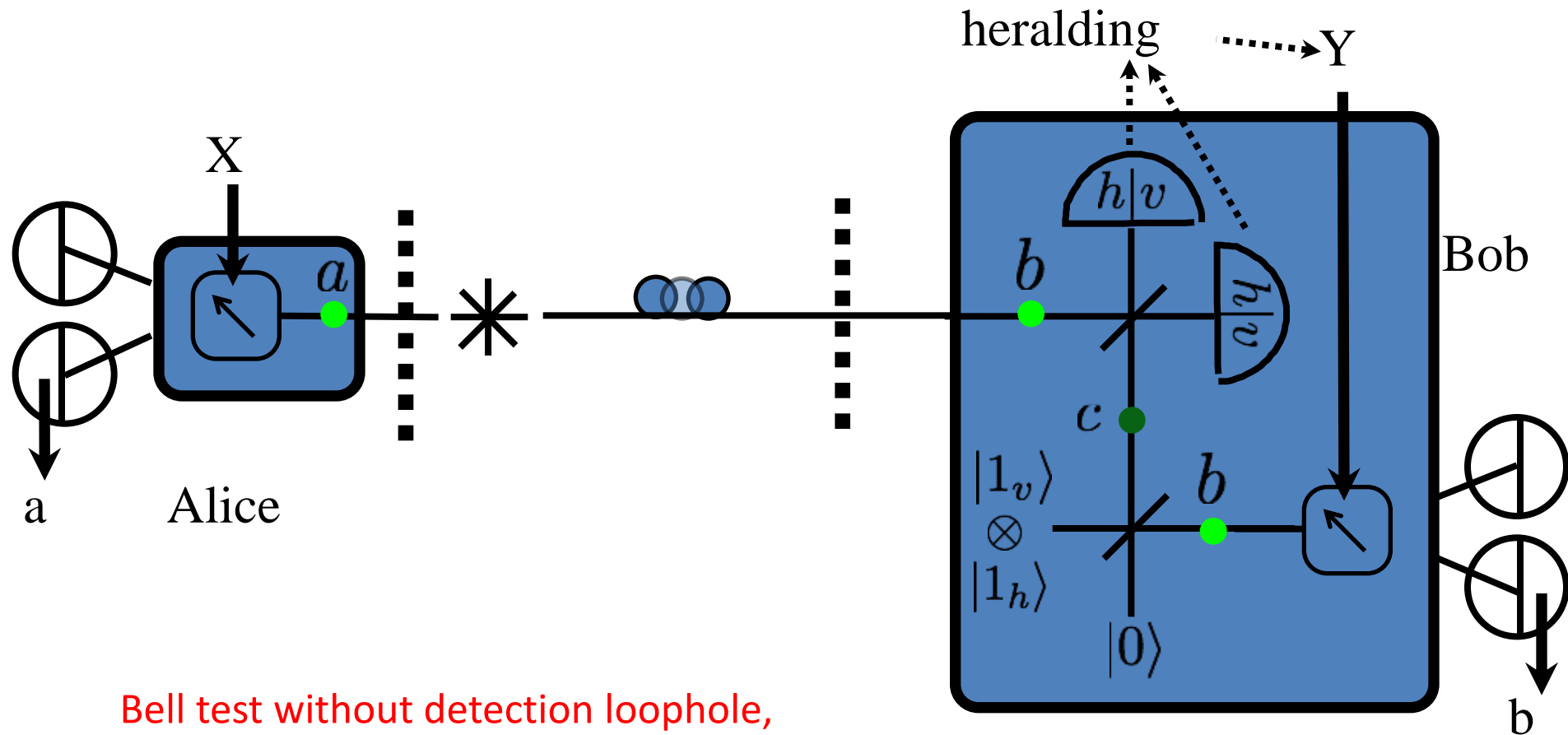
Bell violation guarantees entanglement  
independently of the device!

It is crucial to close the detection loophole!

Required efficiency 82.8%

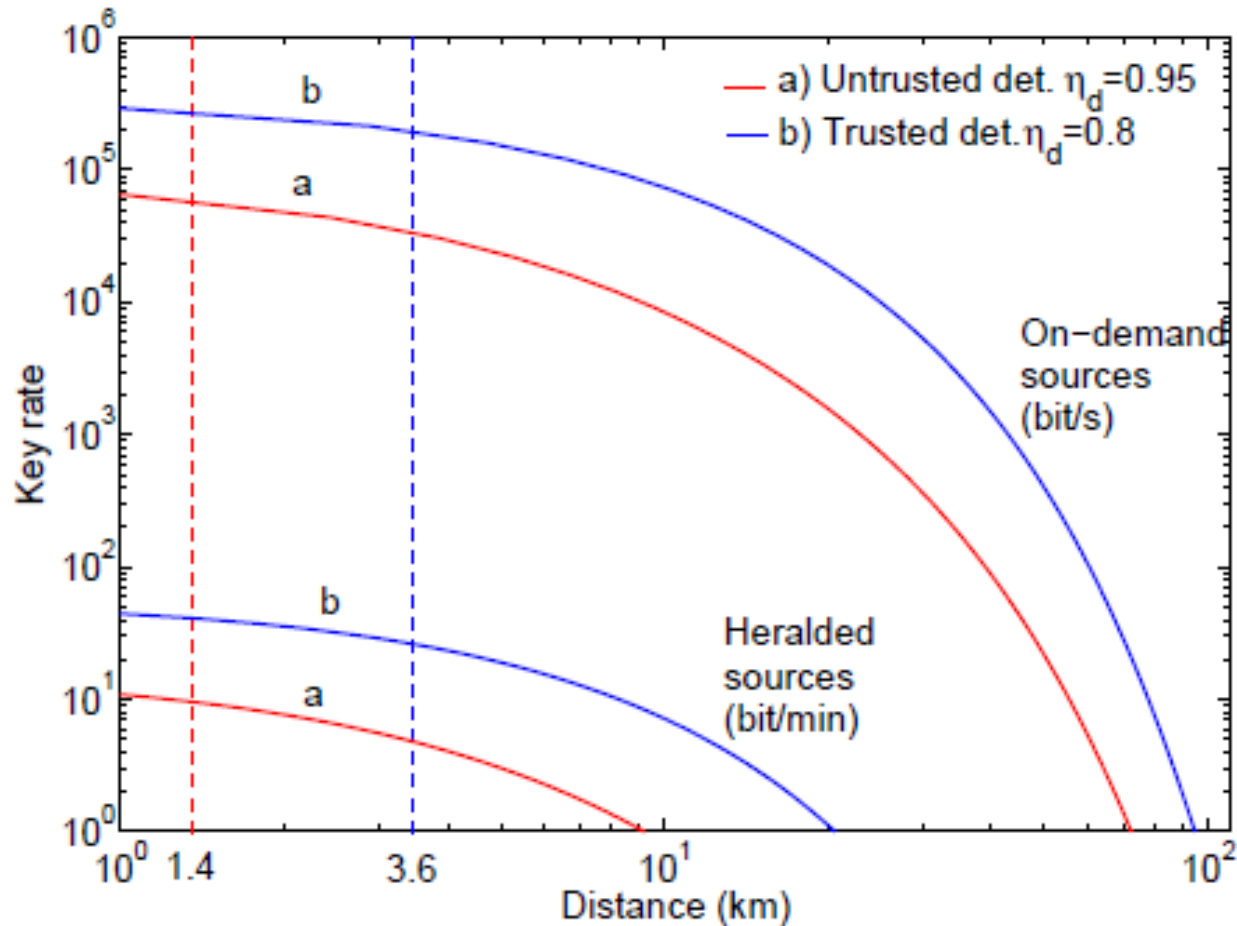
Transmission efficiency of 10 km of telecom fiber is roughly 60% !

# Qubit amplifier



Bell test without detection loophole,  
conditioned on the heralding signal

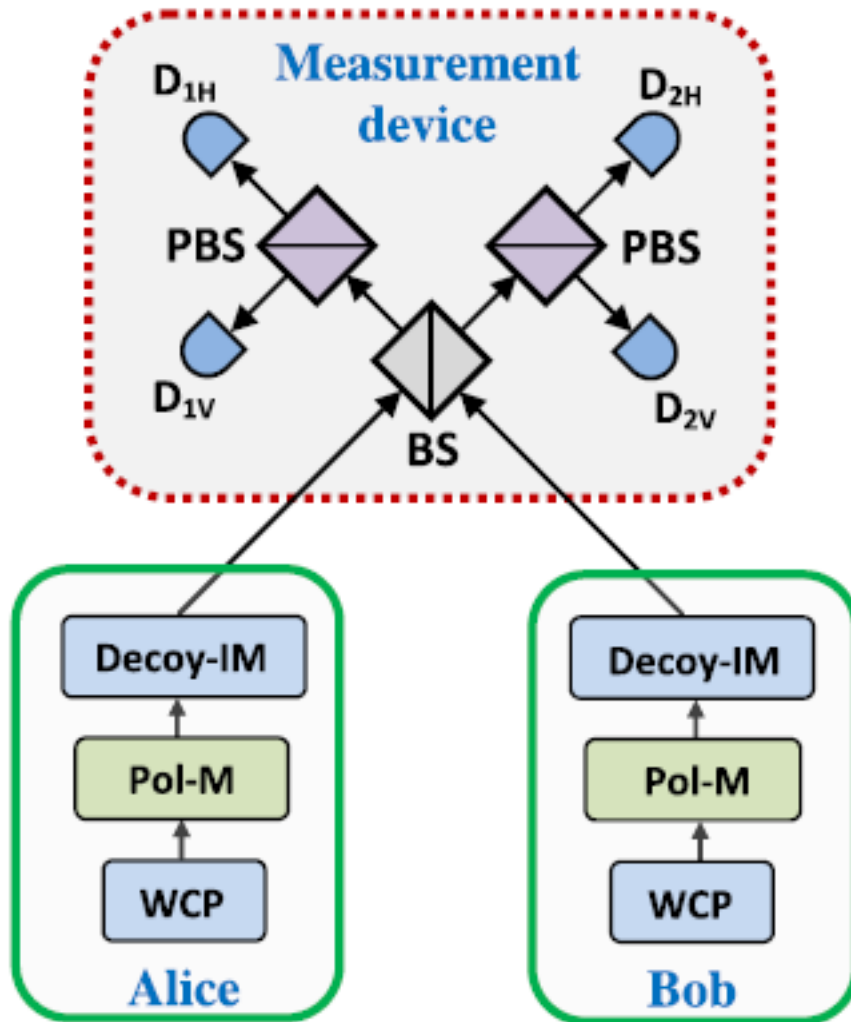
# Without a Single Photon Sources on demand, DI-QKD is completely unrealistic



$P(1) = 95\%$ , Repetition rate 10 GHz

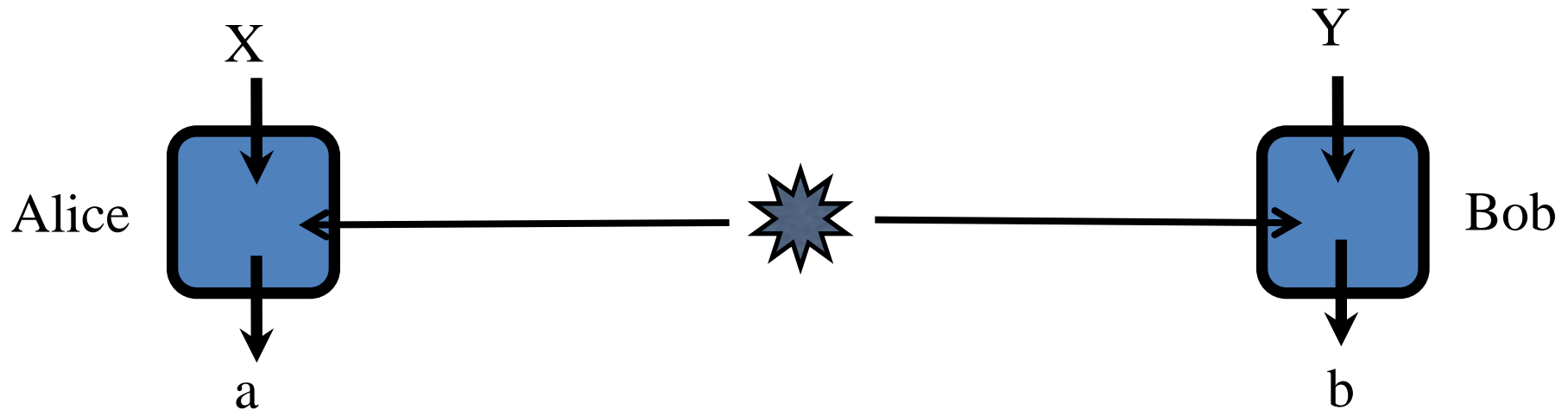
# Measurement Device Independent (MDI) QKD

(basic idea: «BSM measurement by central untrusted agent)



Lo et. al., PRL 2011

Where are the limits?  
What's the device? What's the secure office?

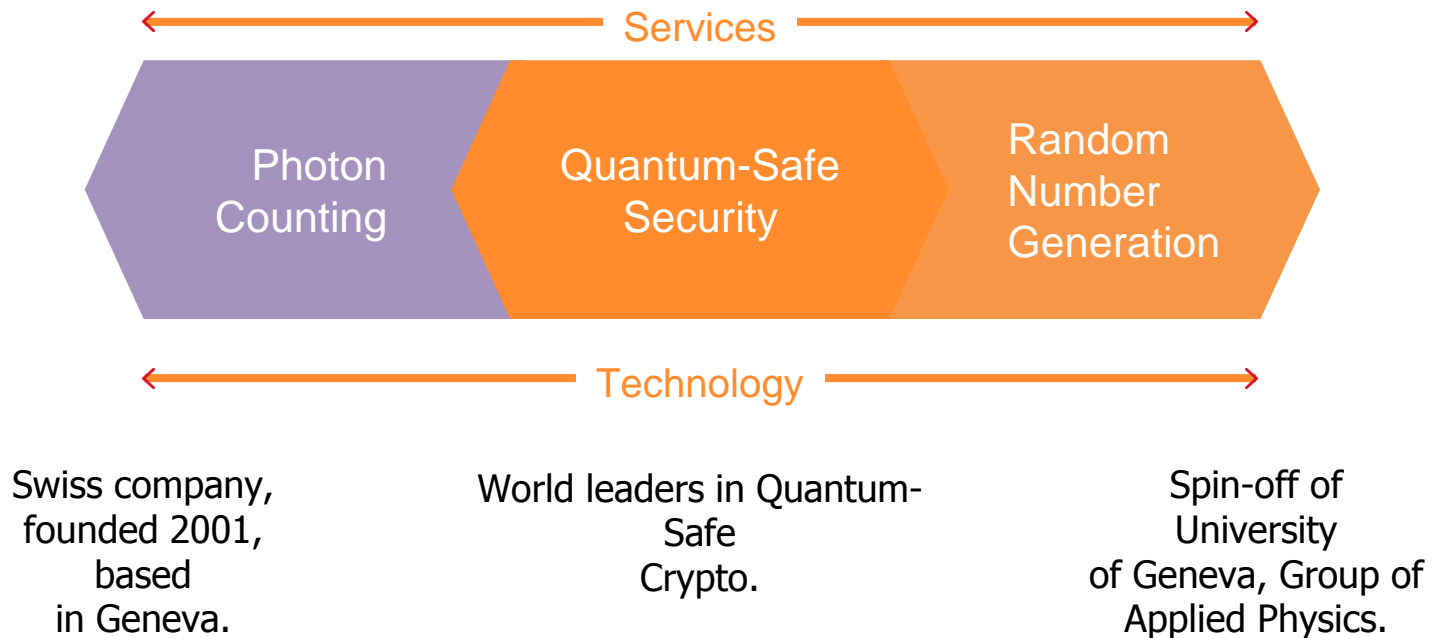


What is the main concern?  
Imperfect device? Manufacturer not trustworthy?

- Standardization (ETSI)
- Open hardware / open software solution

What are the concerns of a QKD company?

# ID Quantique



# Quantum-Enabled Network Encryption: Today

► Transparent Layer 2 Encryption

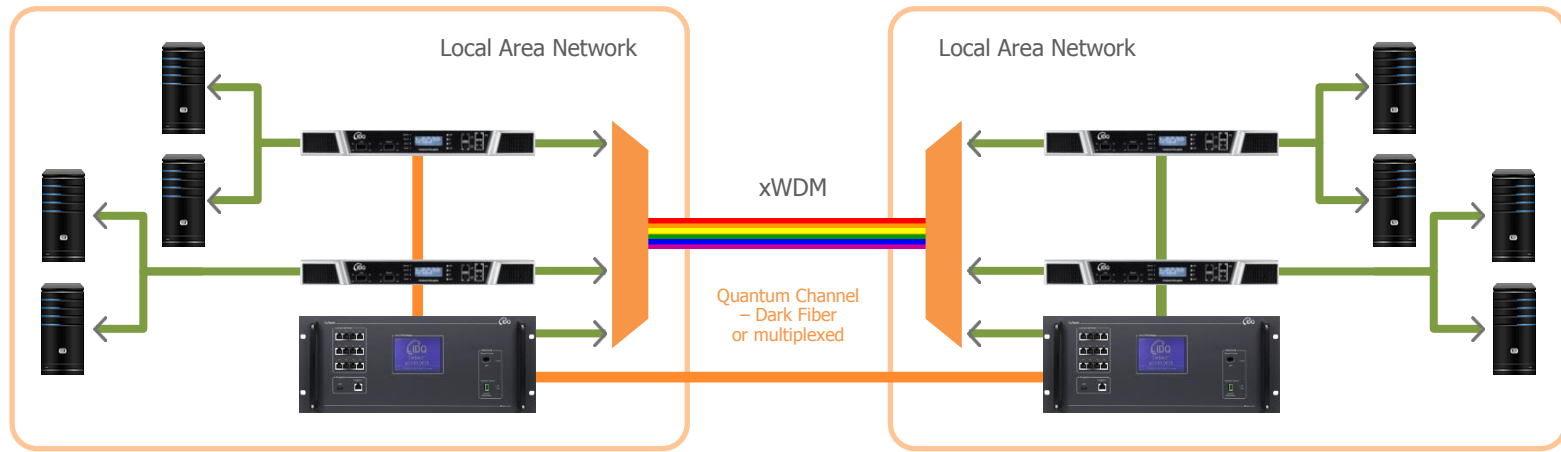
- AES-256 up to 100Gbps
- Multiprotocol (Ethernet, Fibre Channel)

► Provably secure key distribution

- Distilled key distribution rate: 1000 bps over 25km/6dB
- Range: 100km



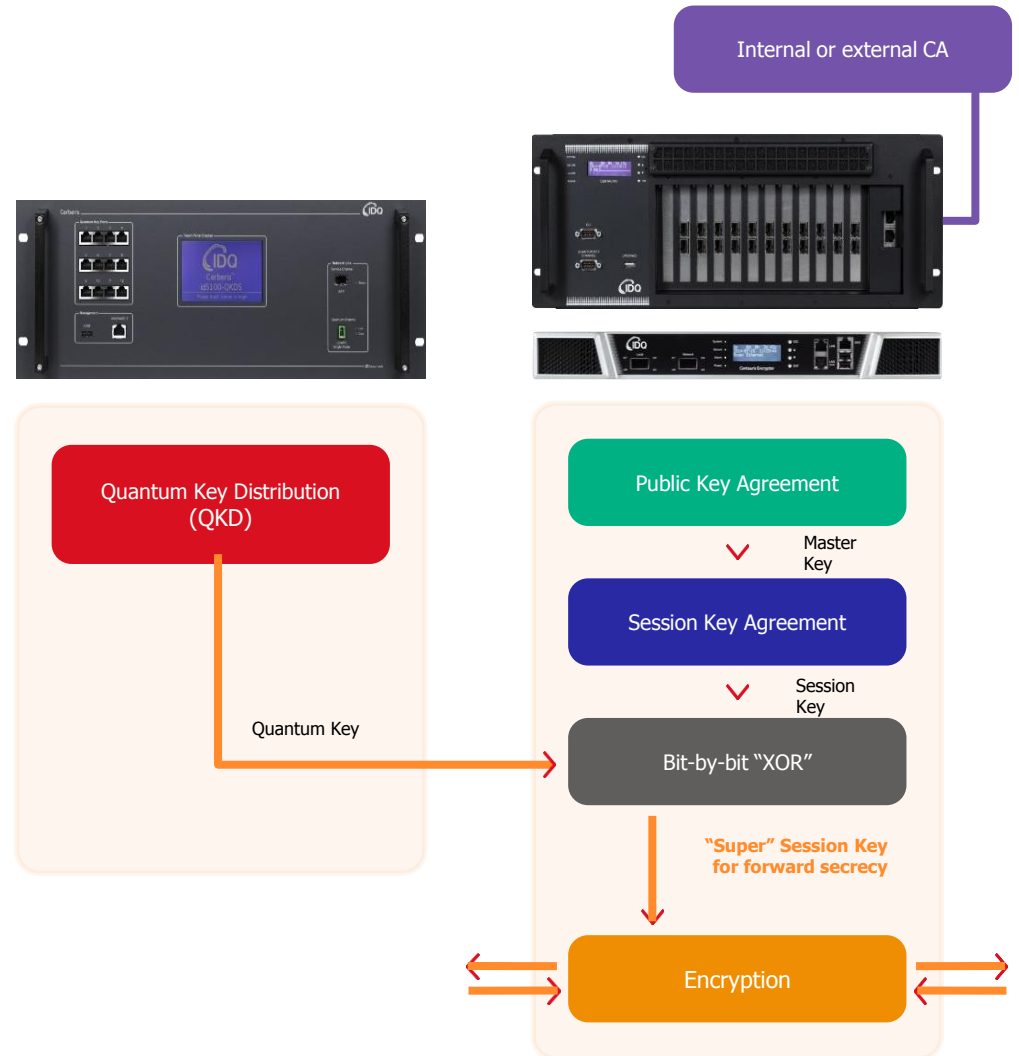
Quantum key server





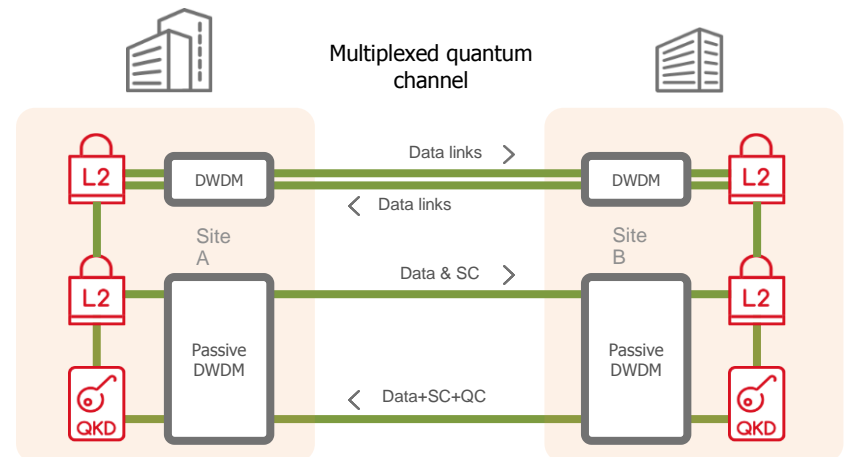
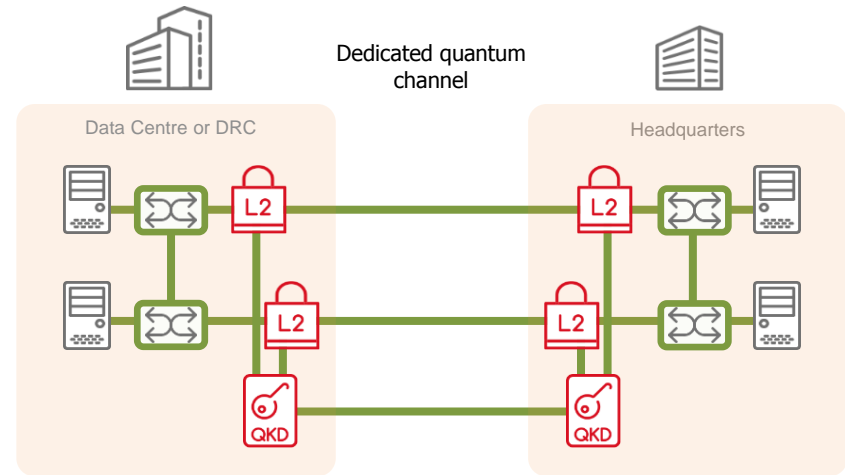
# QKD Dual Key Agreement

- Quantum keys are based on high quality entropy (encryption key) from provably random QRNG.
- Quantum Key is mixed with the standard AES session key.
- Advantages:
  - Maintains existing encryptor certifications (eg. FIPS, CC).
  - Generates "super session" key which guarantees forward secrecy.
  - Eavesdropping protection.
  - No single point of vulnerability back to public-key exchange or manual key exchange (where the initial keys remain static for a long period of time). In contrast each quantum key is independent & uncorrelated, and automatically updated every minute.



# European Banks: QKD in Data Center Interconnect

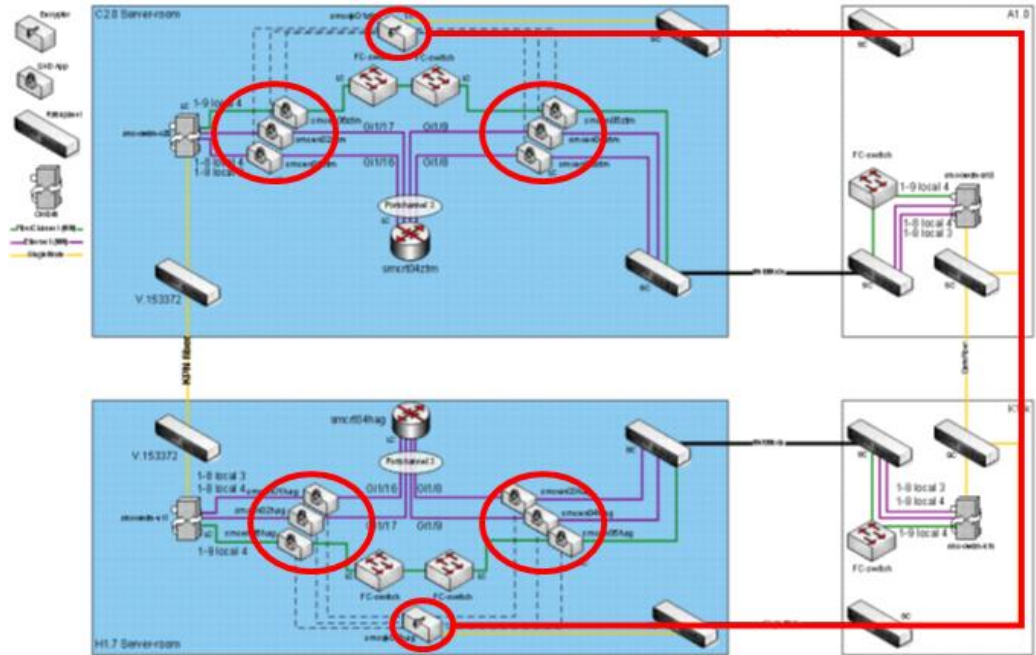
- ▶ European banks secure critical links between bank headquarters and data recovery centers, and inside MAN.
  - All digital assets of bank pass over over DCI link.
- ▶ Supports AES 256 bit key exchange every hour, with additional quantum key buffer.
- ▶ Quantum channel:
  - Both on dedicated dark fibre (up to 100km).
  - Or multiplexed with data over single fibre (up to ~30 kms).



# QKD in Data Centers for Financial Companies

**Atos** **SIEMENS**

- ▶ QKD-secured data center link large financial institution in the Netherlands.
- ▶ Installed in 2010.
  - High-speed encryption
  - 4 x Ethernet 1G links
  - 2 x FC-4 links



# Quantum Random Number Generator

## ❑ Why RNG?

Game/Simulation/Classical Cryptography (RSA, DSA ...)/  
Quantum Key Distribution

## ❑ Why Physical RNG?

*"Anyone who considers arithmetical methods of producing random digits is, of course, in a state of sin."* John von Neumann (1951)

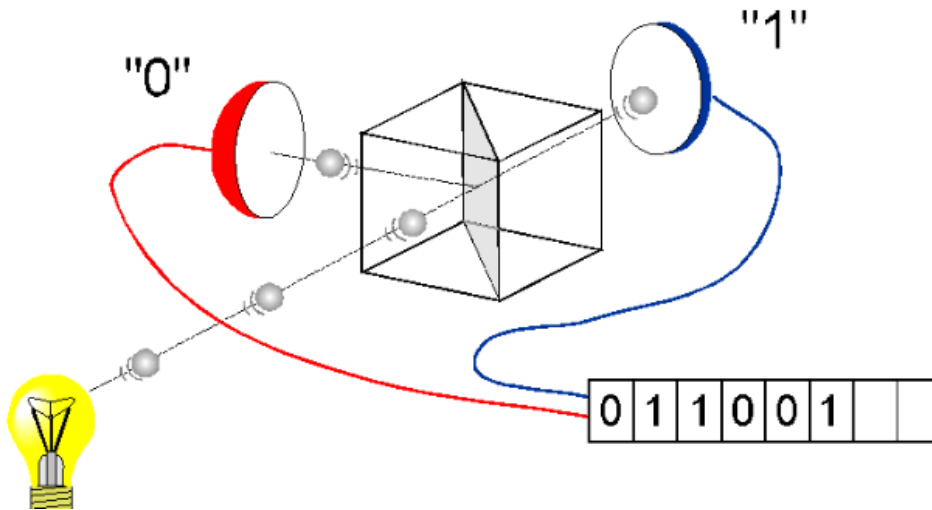
## ❑ Why Quantum RNG?

Random classical noise could be predictable  
Possibility to estimate/certify the entropy



# Realisations of QRNGs

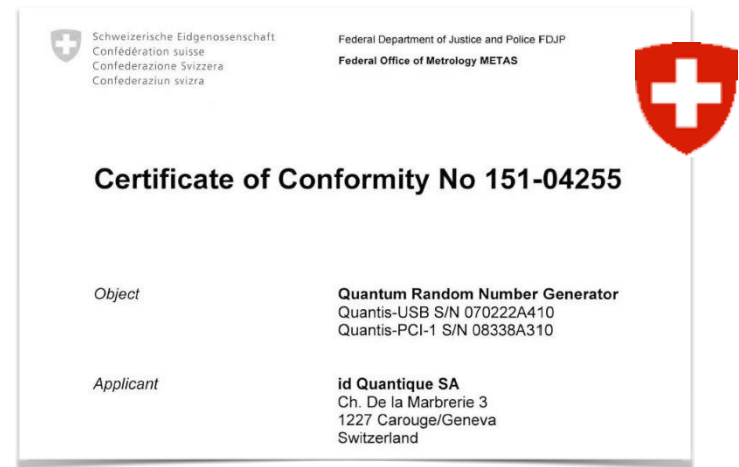
- using single photons



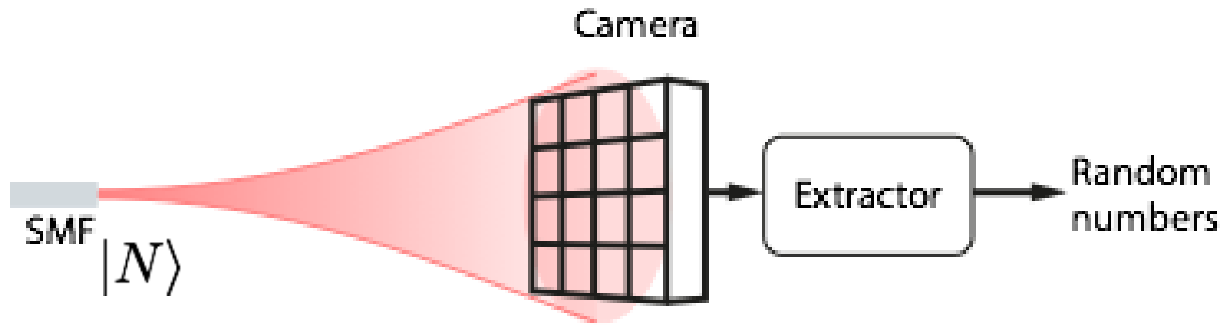
Rate: 4 Mbit/s per module

# Evaluation and Certification

- National Metrology Laboratory
  - Focus: Physical Principle, Statistical Properties
  - Products covered: PCI, PCIe, USB (+ component)
- Gaming Test Houses
  - Focus: Statistical Properties, Software, Scaling
  - Products covered: PCI, PCIe, USB (+ component)
- National Security Government Agencies
  - Focus: Physical Principle, Implementation
  - Products covered: Component



- Exploiting photon statistics (shot noise)



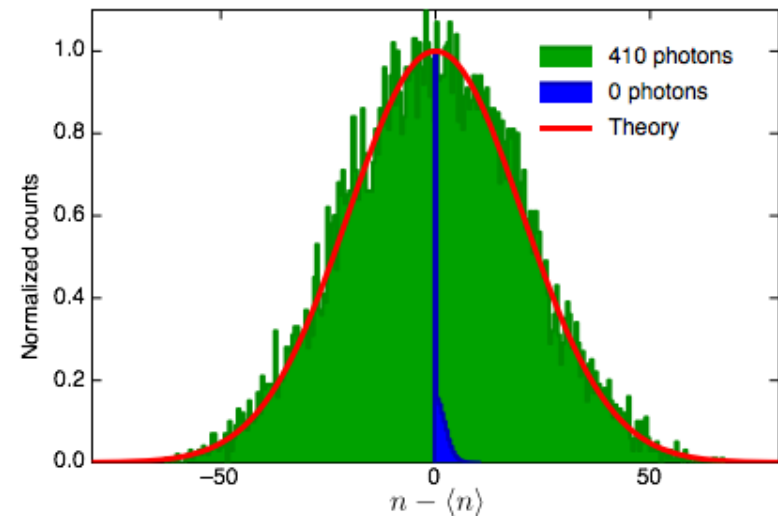
$$\langle n \rangle = N \times P_{\text{det/pixel}} + \text{Noise}$$

$$\sigma_n = \sqrt{N \times P_{\text{det/pixel}} + \sigma_{\text{Noise}}^2}$$

If  $N \times P_{\text{det/pixel}} \gg \sigma_{\text{Noise}}^2$

Possibility to  
extract quantum randomness

Example with a Nokia N10



# Application of shot noise: Quantum Secure Steganography

PHYSICAL REVIEW A **93**, 012336 (2016)

**Perfectly secure steganography: Hiding information in the quantum noise of a photograph**

Bruno Sanguinetti,<sup>1,\*</sup> Giulia Traverso,<sup>2</sup> Jonathan Lavoie,<sup>1</sup> Anthony Martin,<sup>1,†</sup> and Hugo Zbinden<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>*Group of Applied Physics, University of Geneva, Switzerland*

<sup>2</sup>*Fachbereich Informatik, Technische Universität Darmstadt, Germany*

(Received 28 April 2015; revised manuscript received 19 November 2015; published 21 January 2016)

Disclaimer: We are physicists....



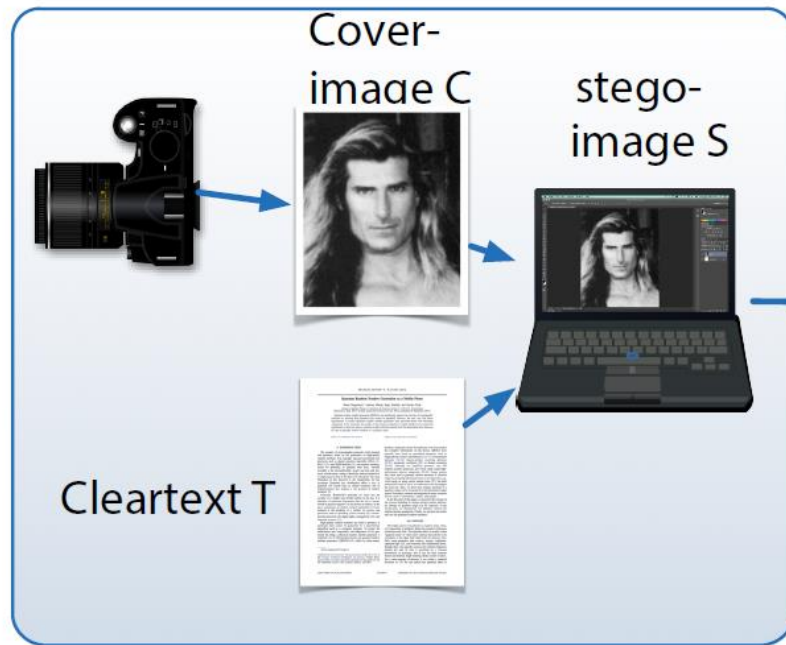
# What is Steganography?

- ❑ from Greek *steganos*, or "covered," and *graphie*, or "writing"): hiding of a secret message within an ordinary message
- ❑ Cryptography guarantees secrecy, but not privacy.
- ❑ Steganography important in countries with untrustworthy, totalitarian regimes
- ❑ Universal Declaration of Human Rights: Art. 19

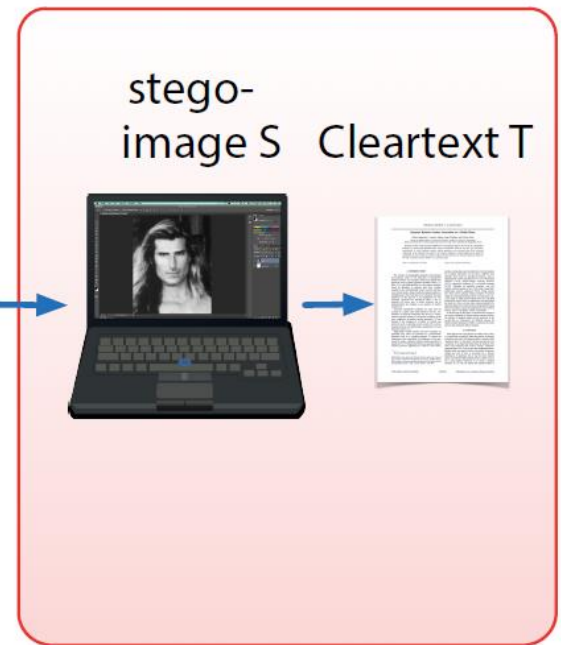


# Hiding secret information in a picture

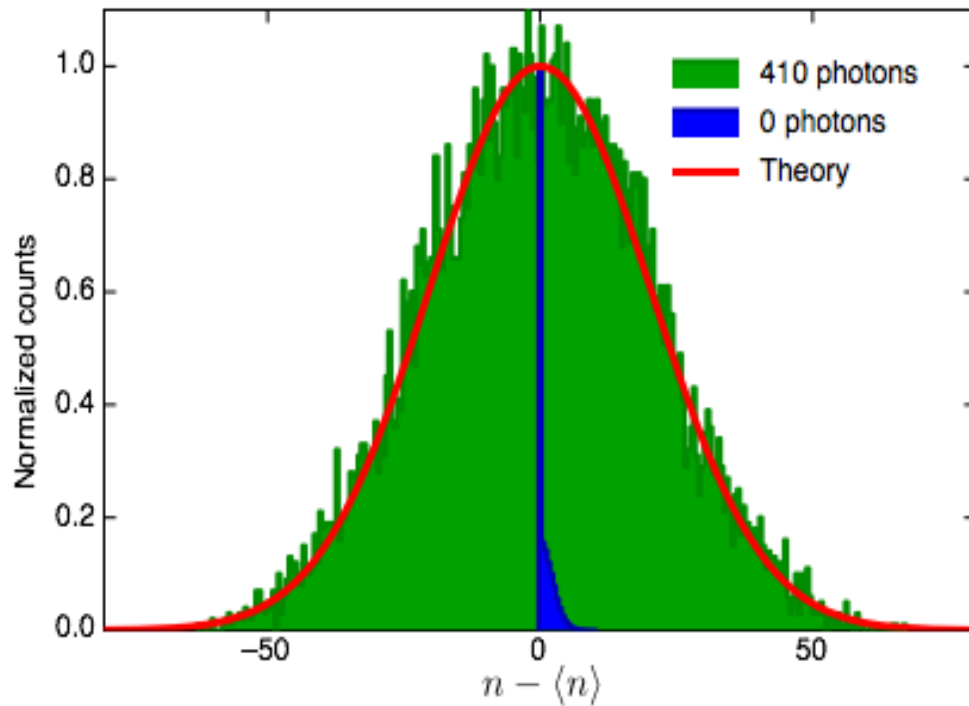
Alice



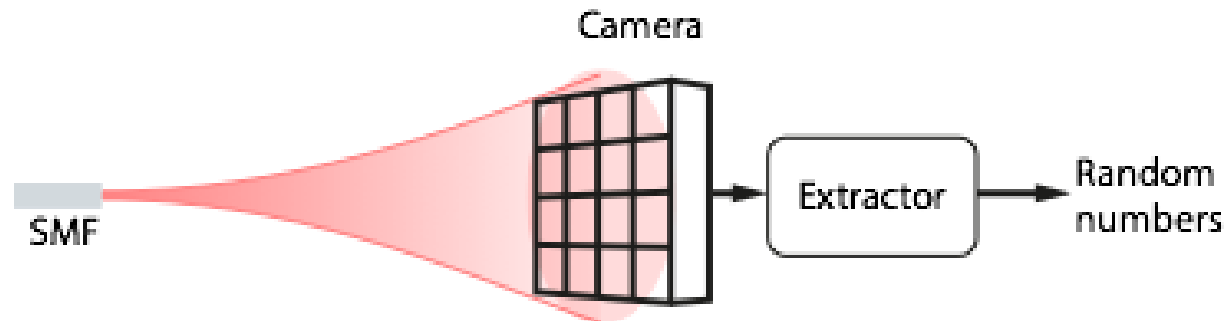
Bob



- Steganography exploiting shot noise

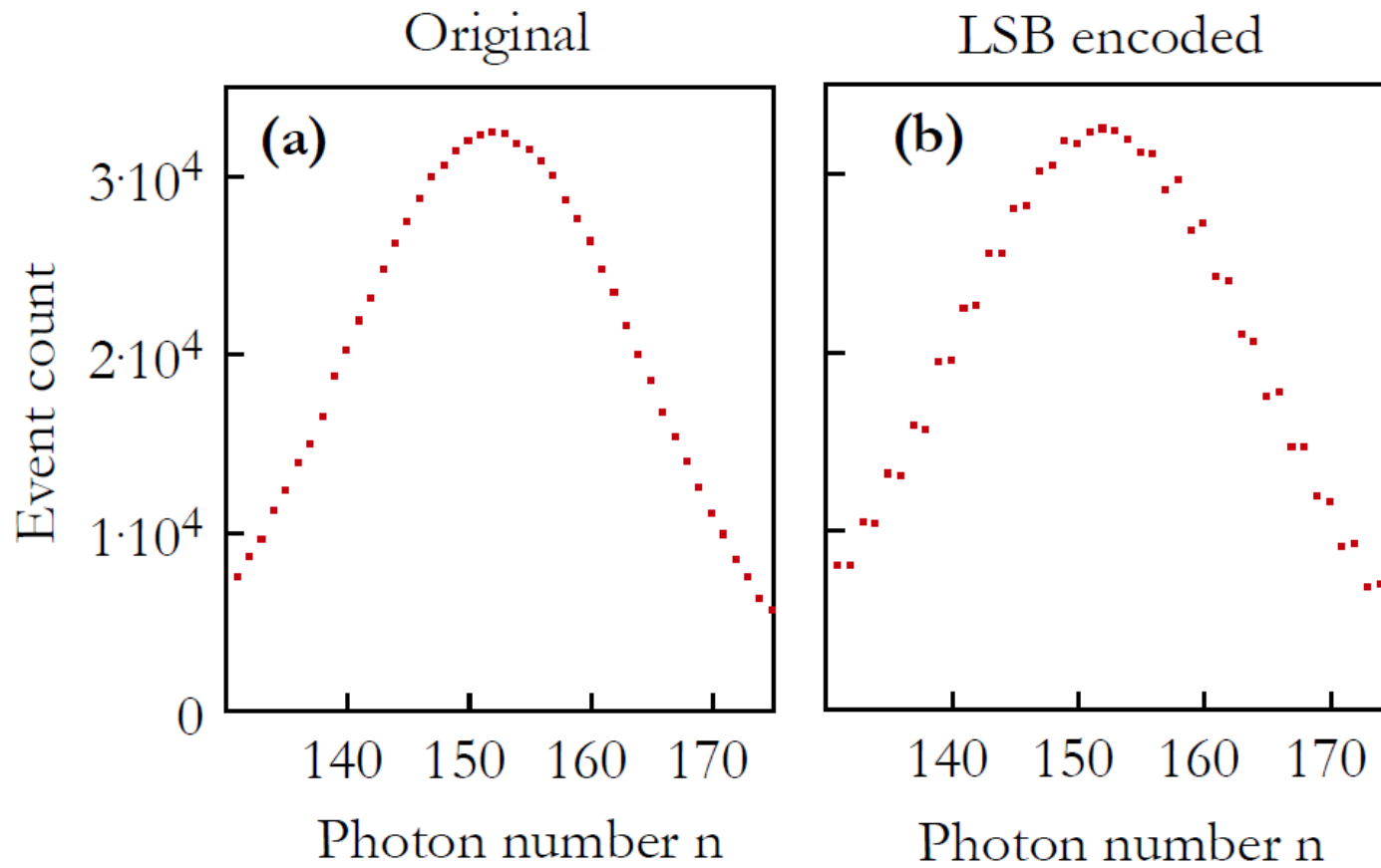


Example with a Nokia N10



# Naive idea

- ❑ Use least significant bit to transmit (OTP) encoded data



Simulated Histogram of the pixel values of a homogeneous area



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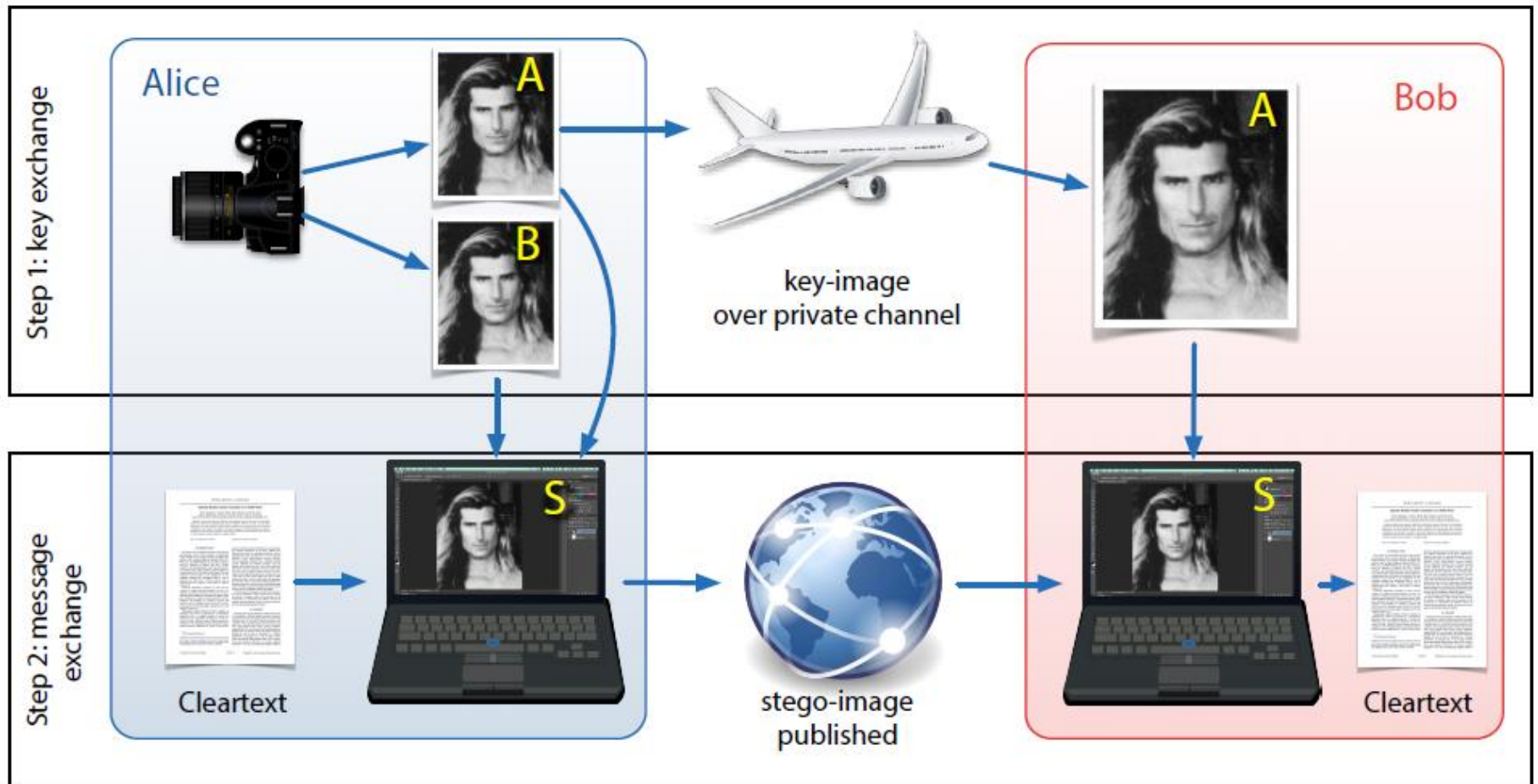
# Better idea

- ❑ Take photographs of a static object in rapid succession
- ❑ Assumptions:
  1. state of object and camera unchanged between to consecutive pictures  $K$  and  $C$
  2. Each pixel is statistical independent (no crosstalk).
- ❑ Protocol: given Text  $T$ , create a new picture  $S$  as follows:

$$S_i := \begin{cases} K_i, & \text{if } T_i = 0 \\ C_i, & \text{if } T_i = 1 \end{cases} \quad T_i := \begin{cases} 0, & \text{if } S_i = K_i \\ 1, & \text{if } S_i \neq K_i. \end{cases}$$

- ❑  $S$  cannot be distinguished from any real photograph

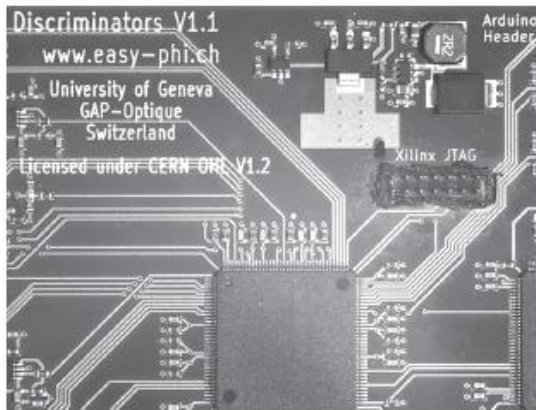
# Private key steganography



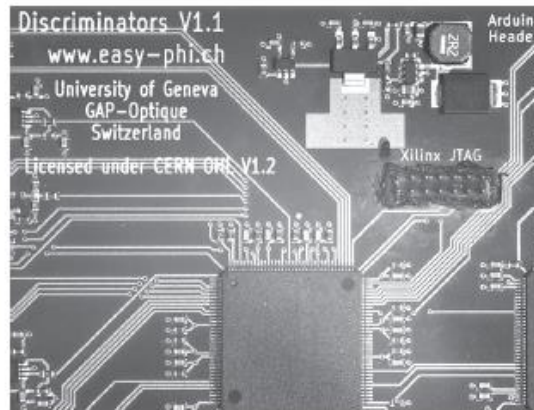
# Experimental realisation

- ❑ Tests with scientific mono-chrome and consumer colour cameras with raw image files
- ❑ 8 Mpix 16 bit tiff files

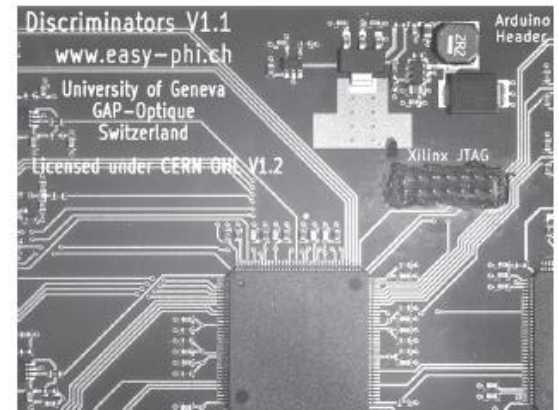
Key-image *A*



Auxiliary image *B*



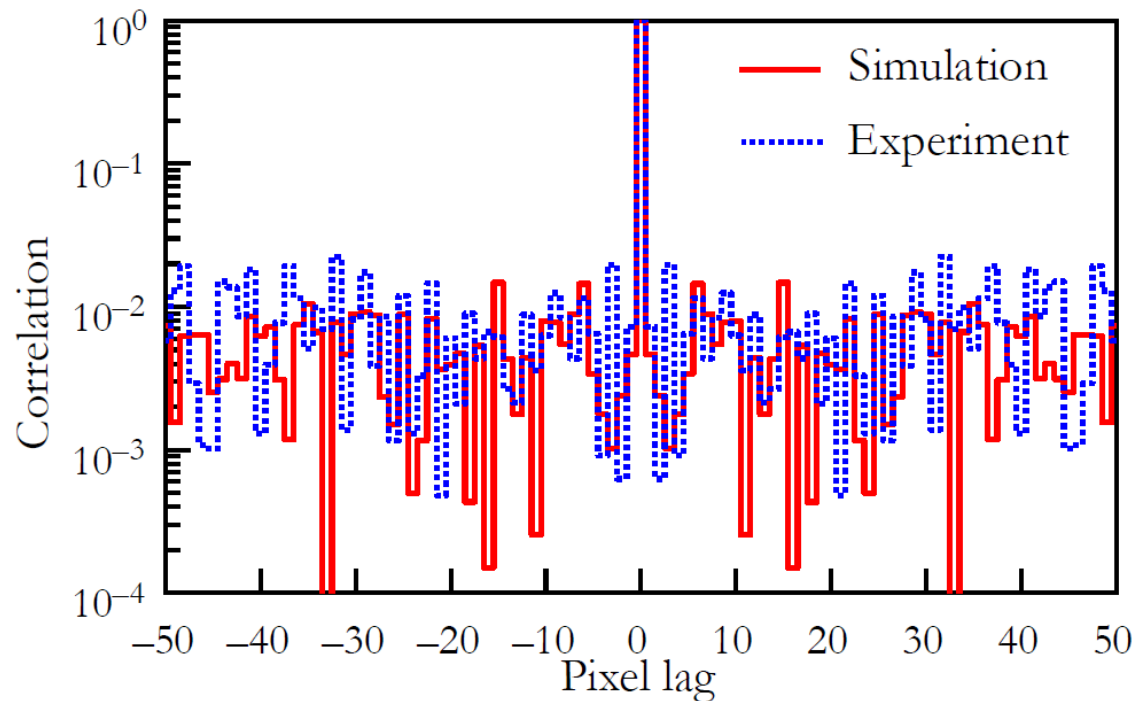
Stego-image *S*



- ❑ error-correction applied (Reed-Solomon code)

# Results

- ❑ It works!
- ❑ no cross-pixel correlations
- ❑ stability depends on experimental situation



investigations  
bits can be



# Merci!



□ PhD positions available!



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