

Quantum Key Distribution with BB84

BY  @QUANTUMCHEAP

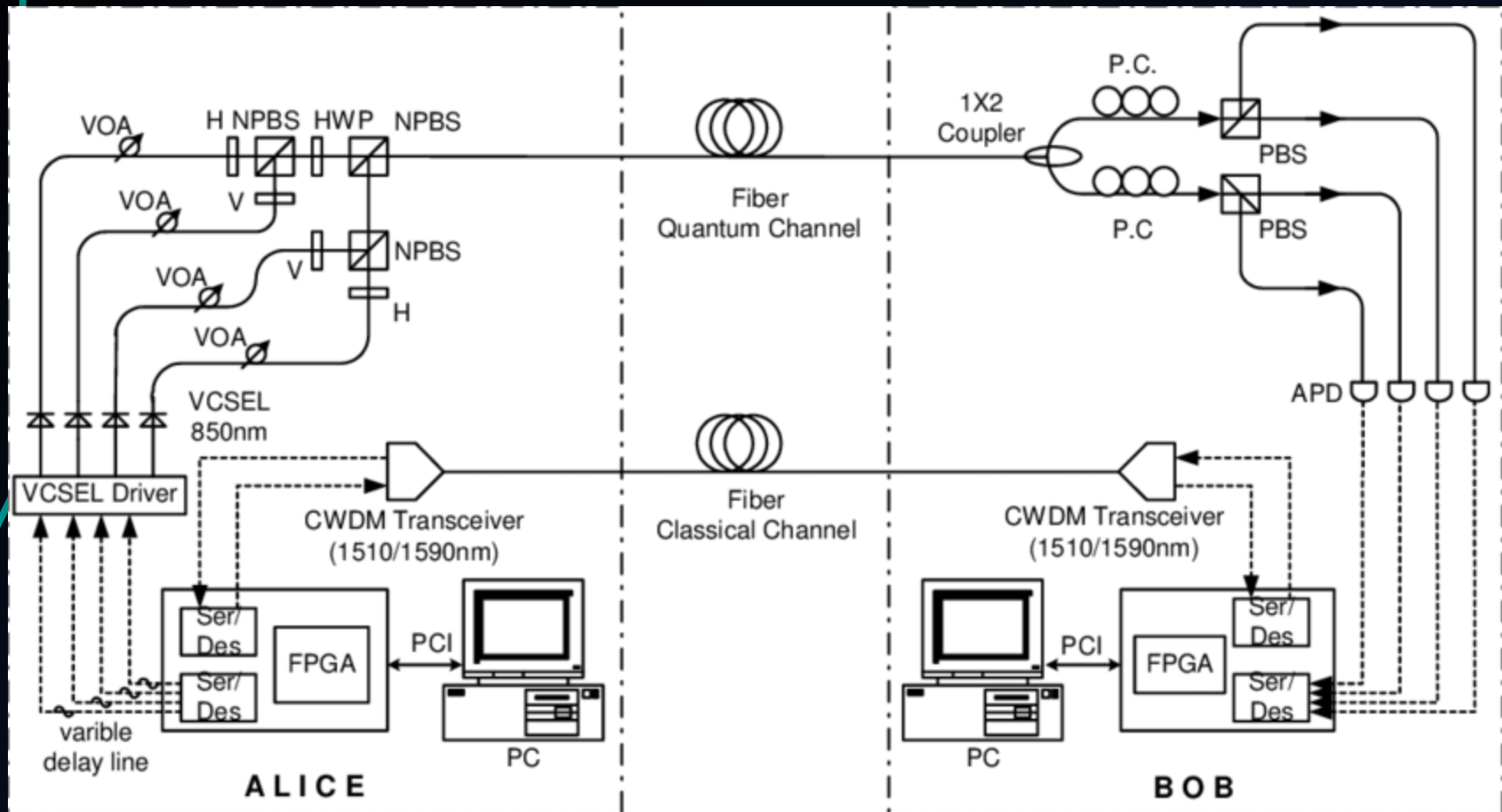
Quantum Key Distribution

- is a secure communication method which implements a cryptographic protocol involving components of quantum mechanics
- There's an inherent ability for the two communicators to detect the presence of an eavesdropper (since measuring a quantum system disturbs the system)

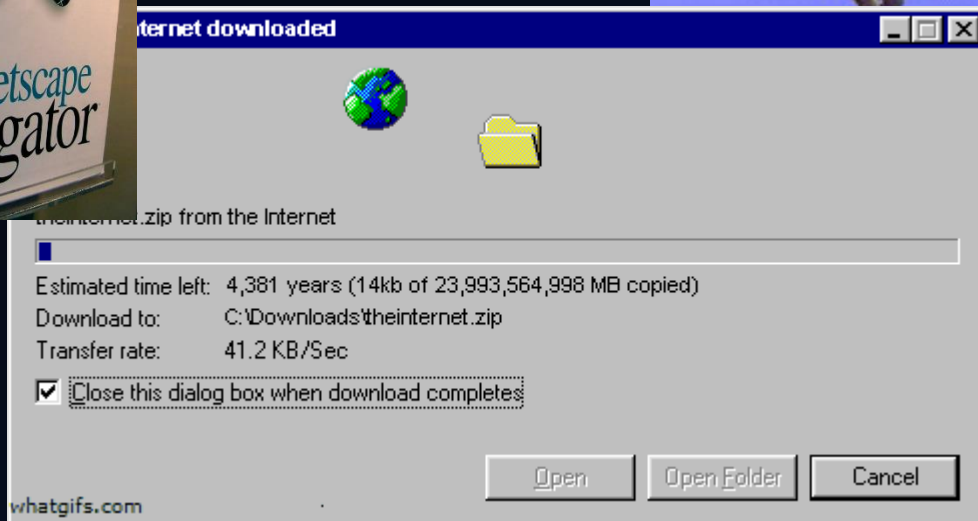
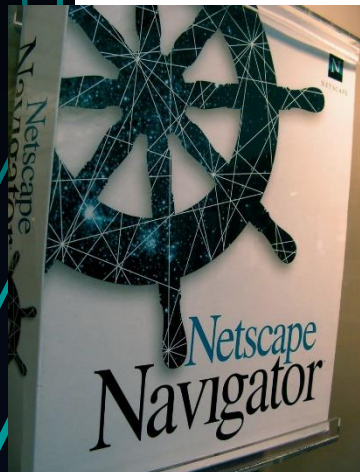
BB84

- developed by Charles Bennett and Gilles Brassard in 1984
- It is the first quantum cryptography protocol
- It is usually explained as a method of securely communicating a private key from one party to another for use in one-time pad encryption.

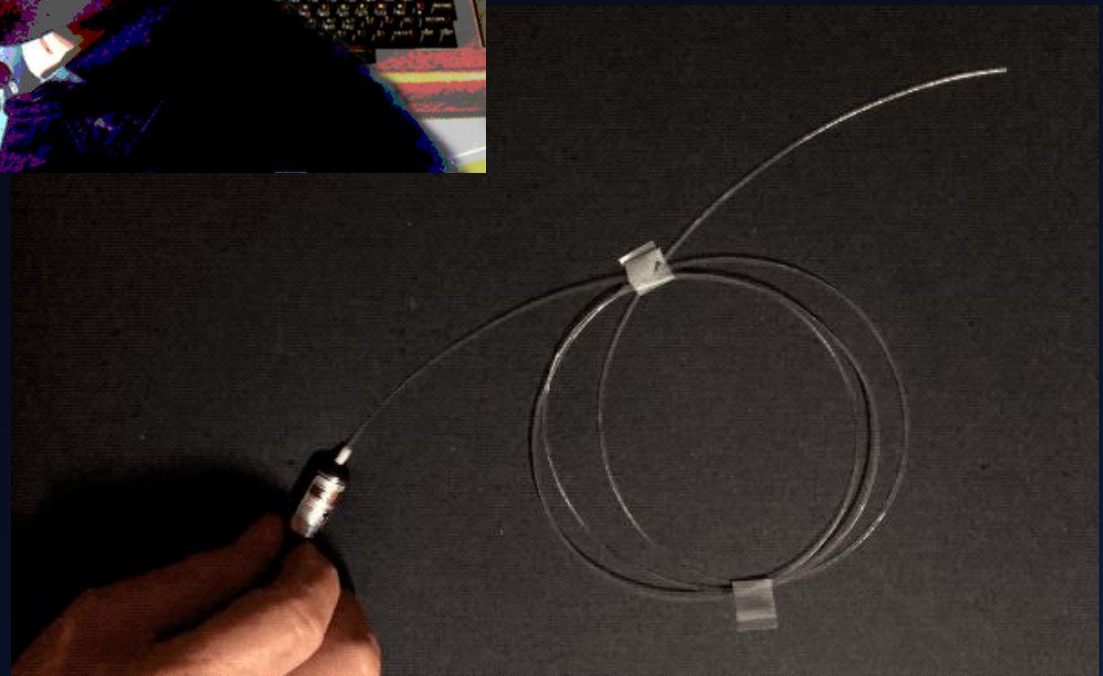
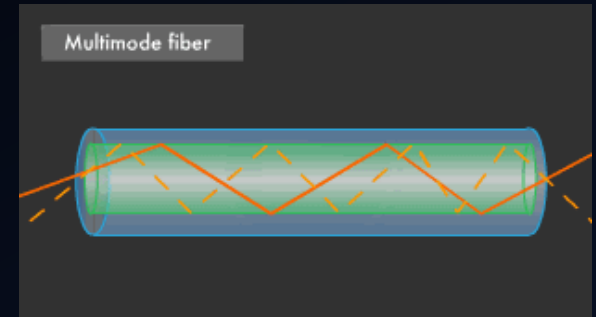
The Setup



The Setup – Classic Channel



The Setup – Quantum Channel

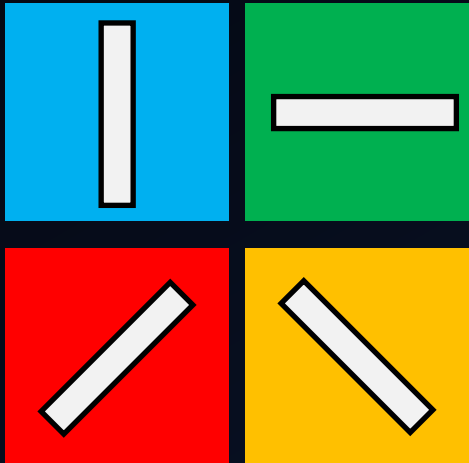


The Setup – Quantum Channel



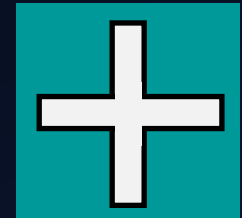
1

0



Measurement Basis

Rectilinear



Diagonal



The Setup – Quantum Channel

Alice has two pairs of polarizers to send photons through. Each pair are perpendicular to each other (0° and 90°) and (45° and 135°).



single-photon light source

The Setup – Quantum Channel

Mea

Bob measures the polarization of the photons with two special polarizers. There is a rectilinear polarizer (0° and 90°) and a diagonal polarizer (45° and 135°).

Rectilinear



Diagonal



The receiver randomly selects which bases to measure each photon.

Polarization Demo



0° rotation

100%

pass-through



45° rotation

50%

pass-through

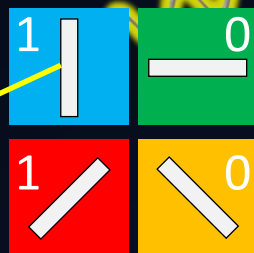


90° rotation

0%





pass-through

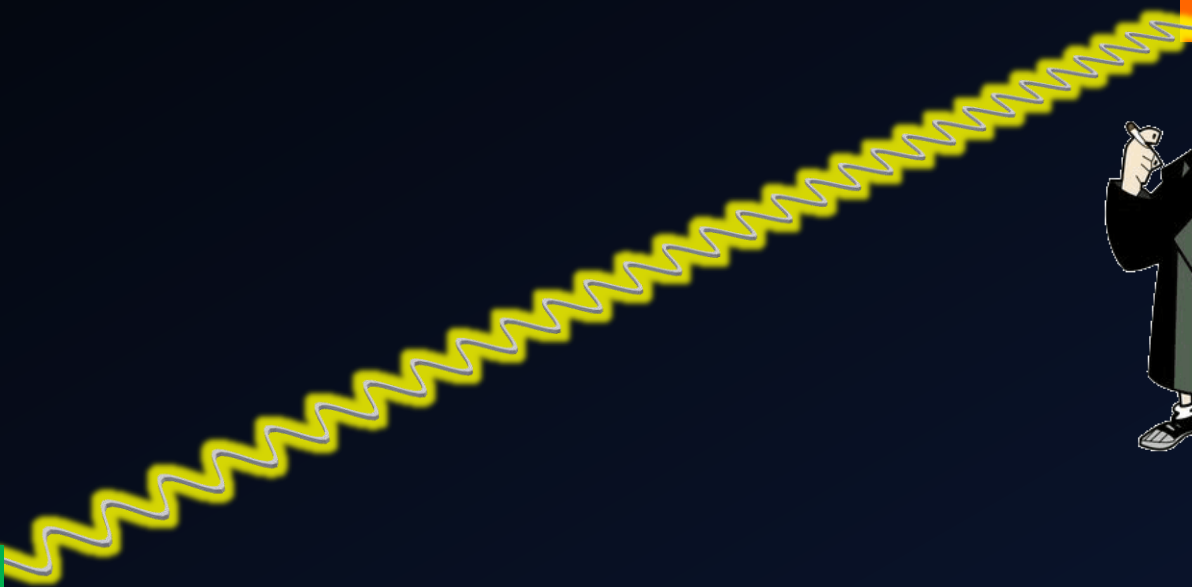
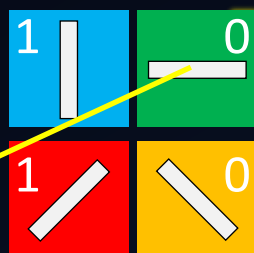
Photon polarization Alice sends								
Bob's random measuring basis								
Photon polarization Bob measures								












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Photon polarization Alice sends								
Bob's random measuring basis								
Photon polarization Bob measures								















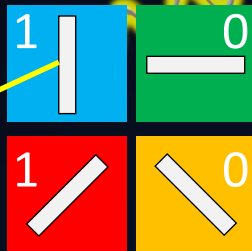
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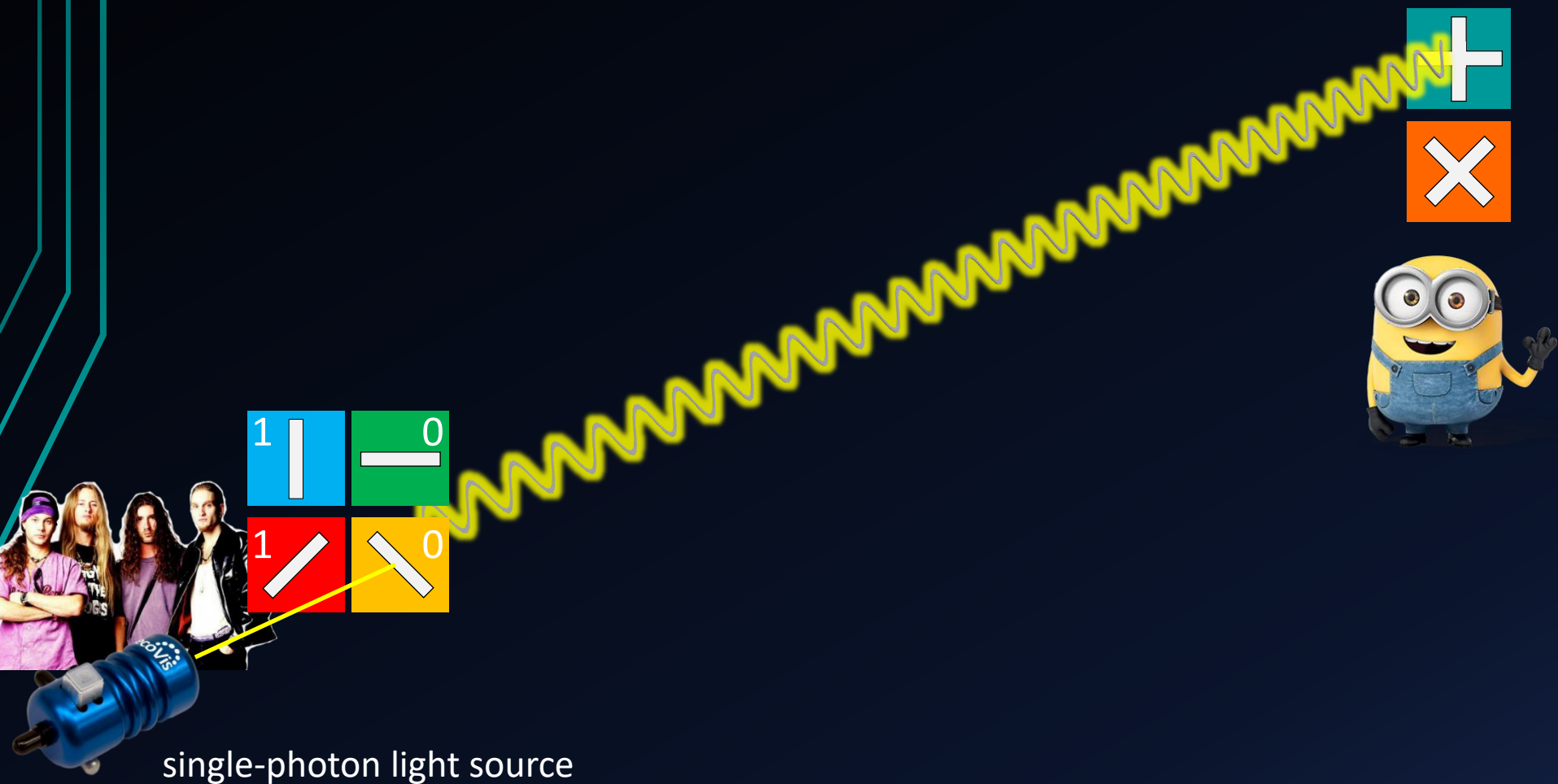
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single-photon light source
























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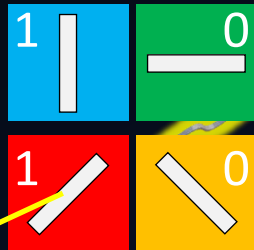


Photon polarization Alice sends								
Bob's random measuring basis								
Photon polarization Bob measures								



























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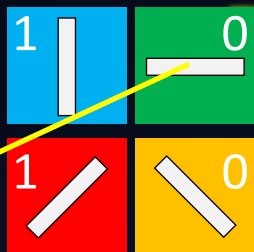
Photon polarization Alice sends								
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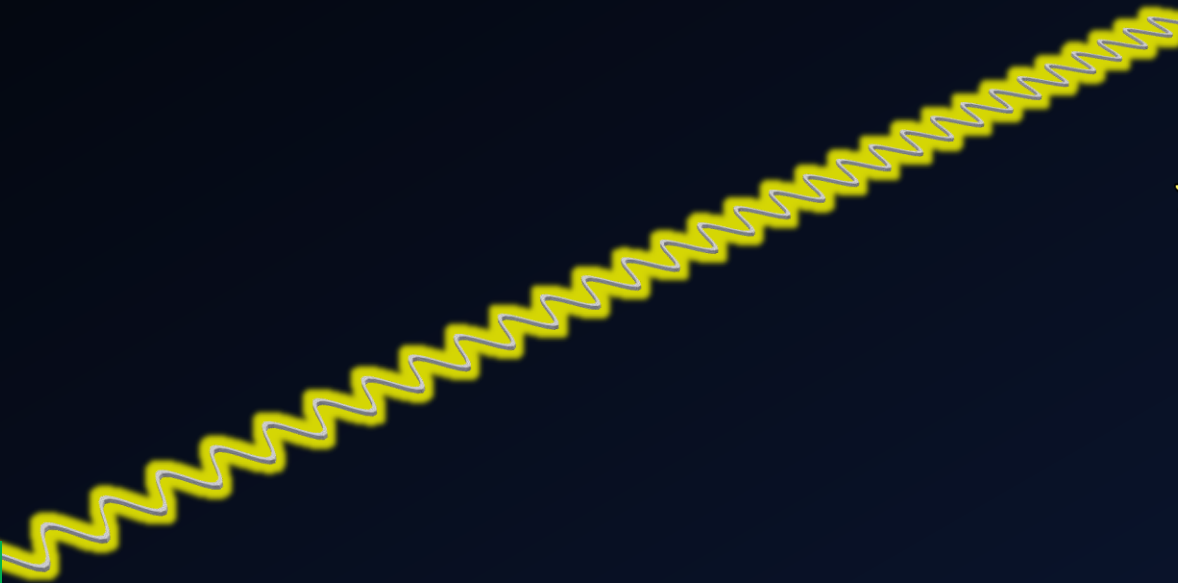
single-photon light source



Photon polarization Alice sends								
Bob's random measuring basis								
Photon polarization Bob measures								



single-photon light source



Back on the classic channel...

Bob and Alice compare which basis they used to send and receive each qubit

Photon polarization Alice sends								
Alice's sending basis								
Bob's random measuring basis								
Photon polarization Bob measures								
PUBLIC DISCUSSION OF BASIS								
Shared secret key	1		0			1		0

The bits corresponding to matching bases become the key!

Key = "1010"



Why Does This Work?

Mission accomplished?








...or “mission accomplished”?



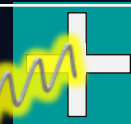
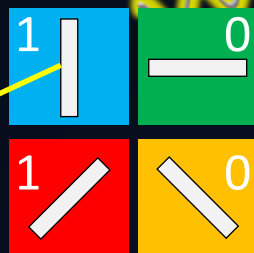
We've got an eavesdropper!



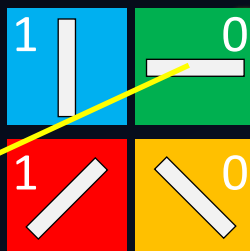
Photon polarization Alice sends								
Eve's random measuring basis								
Polarization Eve measures and sends								
Bob's random measuring basis								
Photon polarization Bob measures								



















single-photon light source

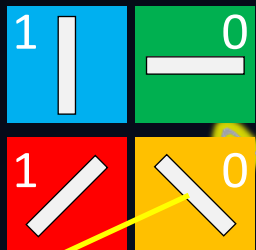
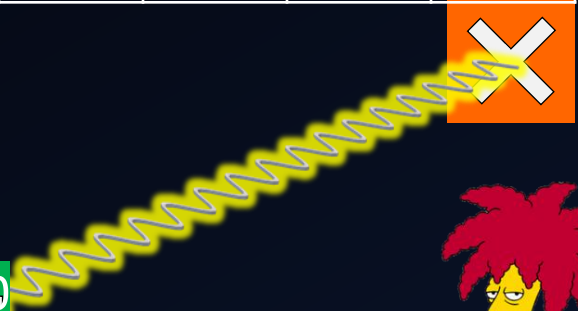


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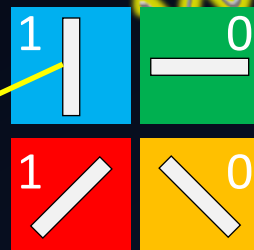
single-photon light source

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Photon polarization Bob measures								




























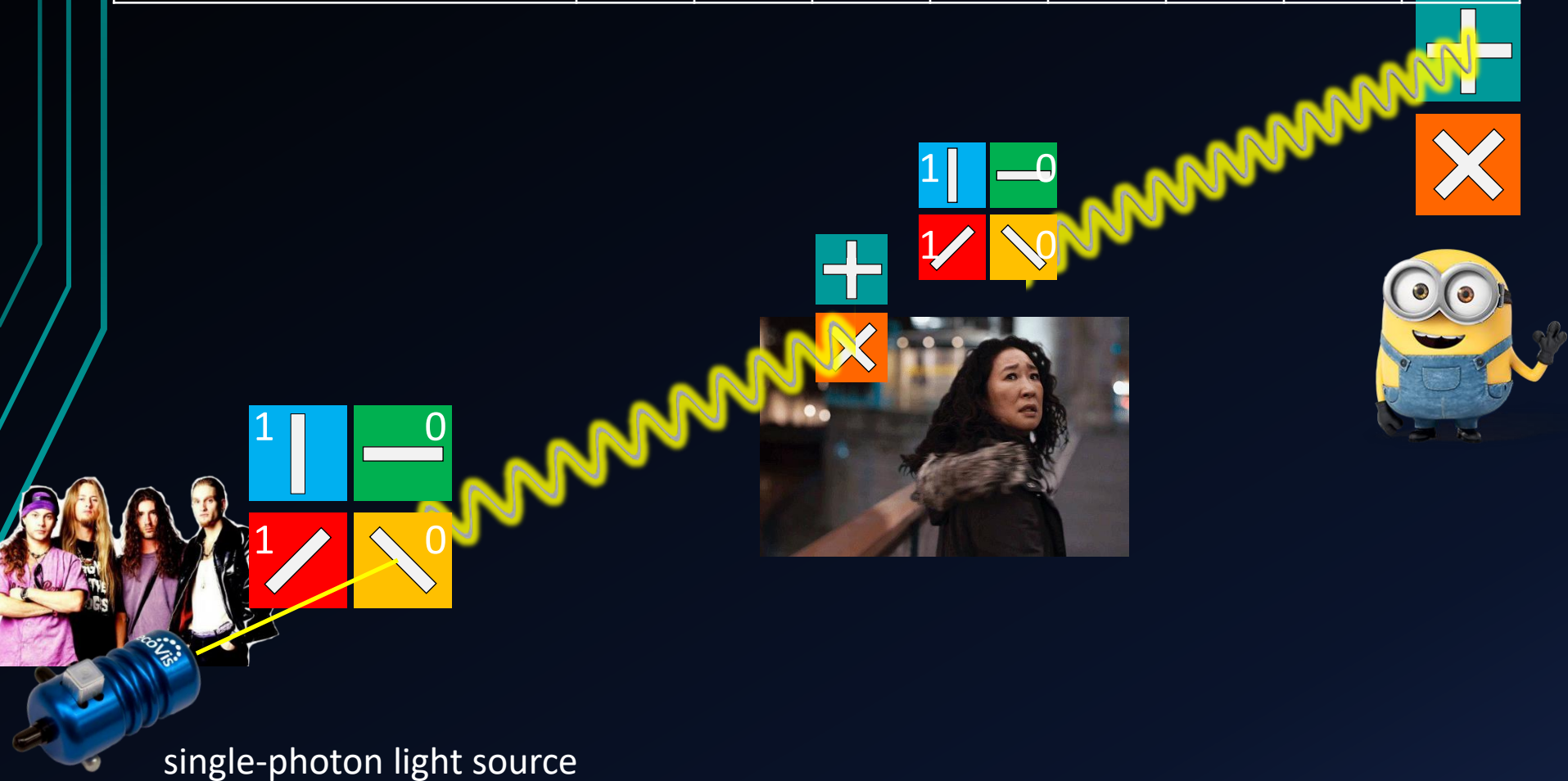
single-photon light source

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Polarization Eve measures and sends								
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single-photon light source

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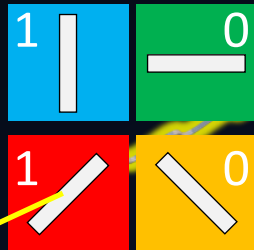


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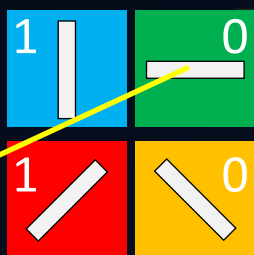
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single-photon light source














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single-photon light source



Back on the classic channel...

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Alice's sending basis								
Eve's random measuring basis								
Polarization Eve measures and sends								
Bob's random measuring basis								
Photon polarization Bob measures								
PUBLIS DISCUSSION OF BASIS								
Shared secret key	1		1			1		0
Errors in key	✓		✗			✓		✓

What do we do now?

- (Assuming Alice chooses randomly) the probability Eve chooses the incorrect basis is 50%.
- If Bob measures Eve's photon in the same basis that Alice sent, he gets a random result, i.e., an incorrect result with probability of 50%.
- So, the probability an intercepted photon generates an error in the key string is then $50\% \times 50\% = \mathbf{25\%}$

Alice and Bob will then publicly compare n of their key bits. The probability of finding mis-matched bits and the eavesdropper is

$$P = 1 - \left(\frac{3}{4}\right)^n$$

So, to detect an eavesdropper with probability 99.9999999%, Alice and Bob would only need to compare **72** bits.

The Steps

- Alice sends a bunch of qubits
 - Random bits with random polarizations
- Bob measures the qubits
 - With either rectilinear (+) or diagonal (X) basis
- Bob and Alice find out which qubits were measured correctly by publicly comparing each others' bases
 - The bits with matching basis become the key
- They publicly compare a set of those bits
 - if they match, the remaining bits become the key
 - If they don't match, there may have been an eavesdropper. So they start all over again.

A meme featuring three people in Halloween costumes. On the left and right are two individuals dressed as the Ghoulies from the movie The Goonies, wearing white face paint with black eye sockets and a wide, toothy grin, with one having a bright orange wig. In the center is a man with a wide, enthusiastic smile, wearing a black shirt with a red and white skull pattern. The text 'ANY QUESTIONS?' is overlaid in large, bold, white letters with a black outline.

ANY QUESTIONS?