

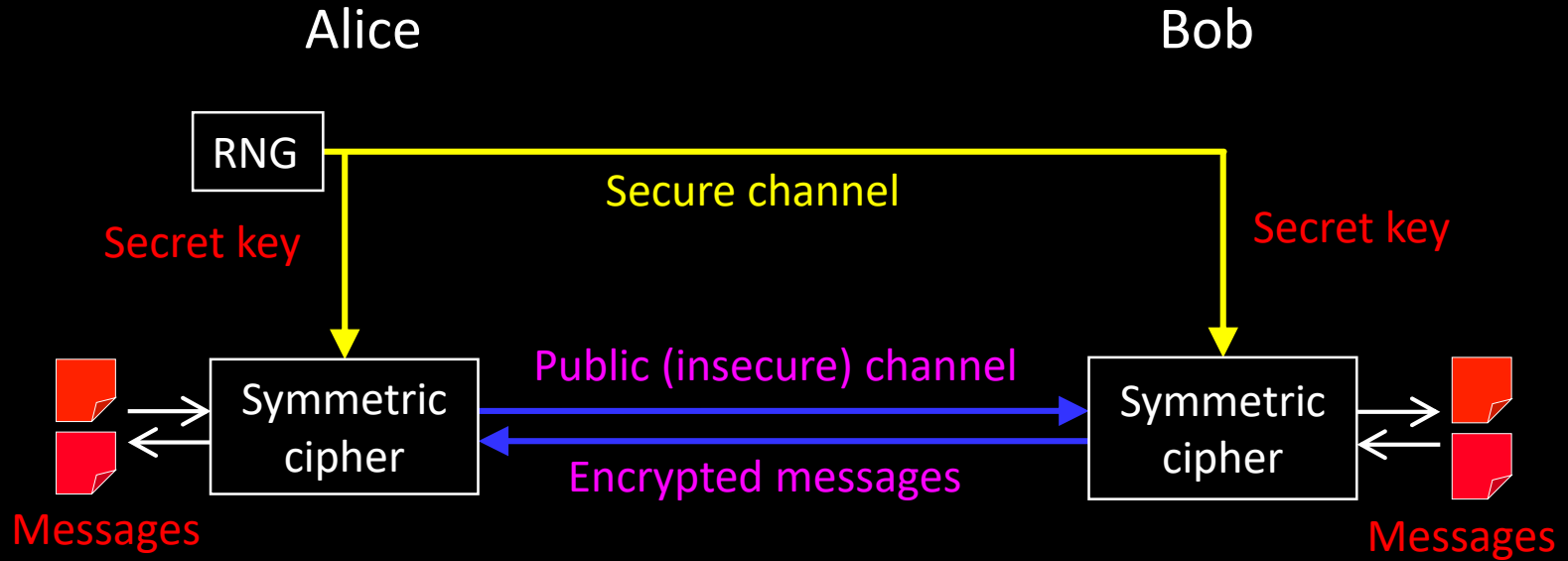
Implementation security of quantum key distribution

Anqi Huang

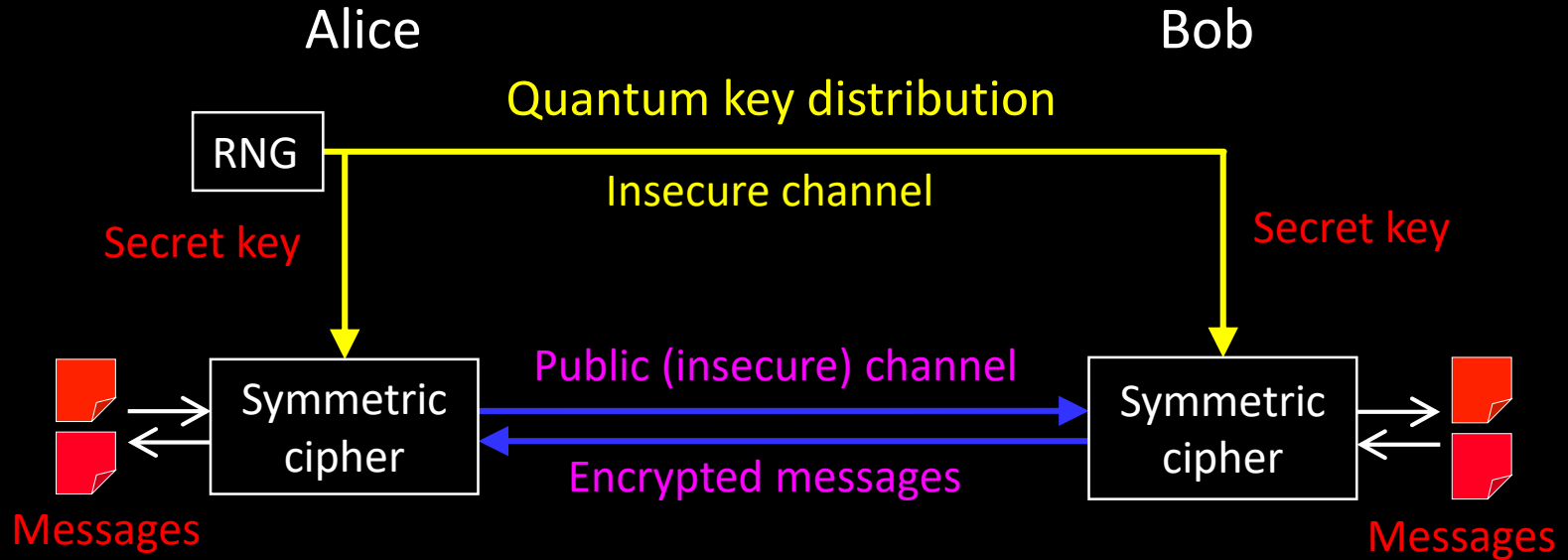
2022-11-08 ITU Workshop



Key distribution for encryption

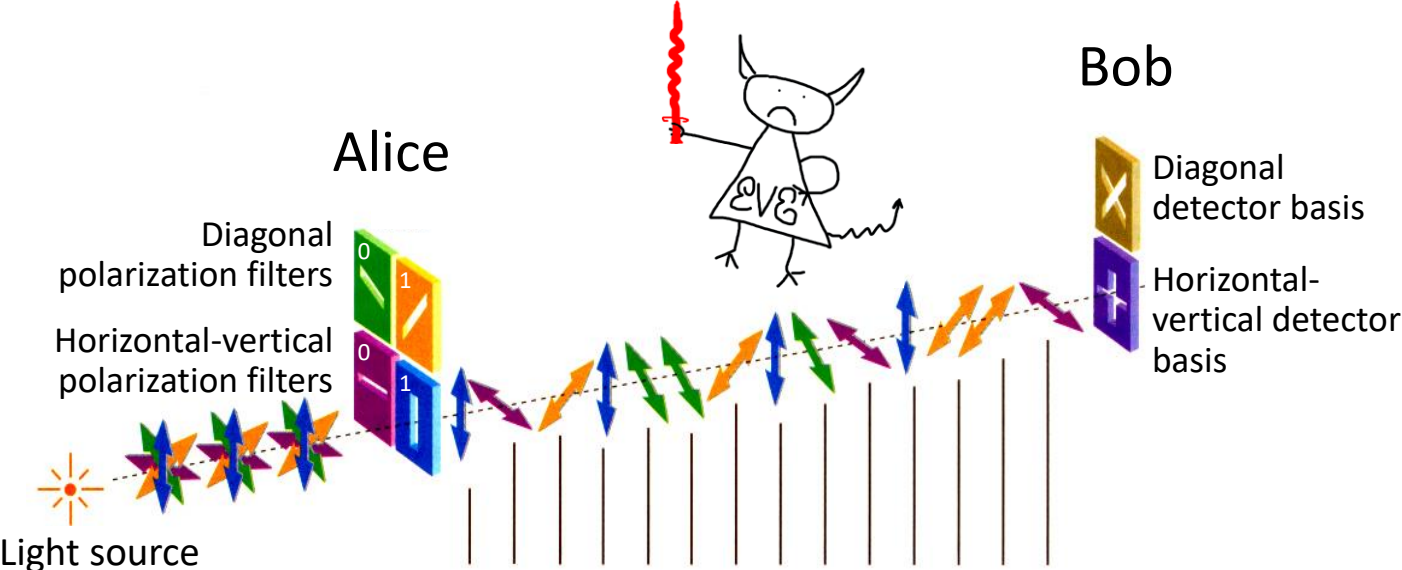


Quantum key distribution



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

Bennett-Brassard 1984 (BB84) QKD protocol



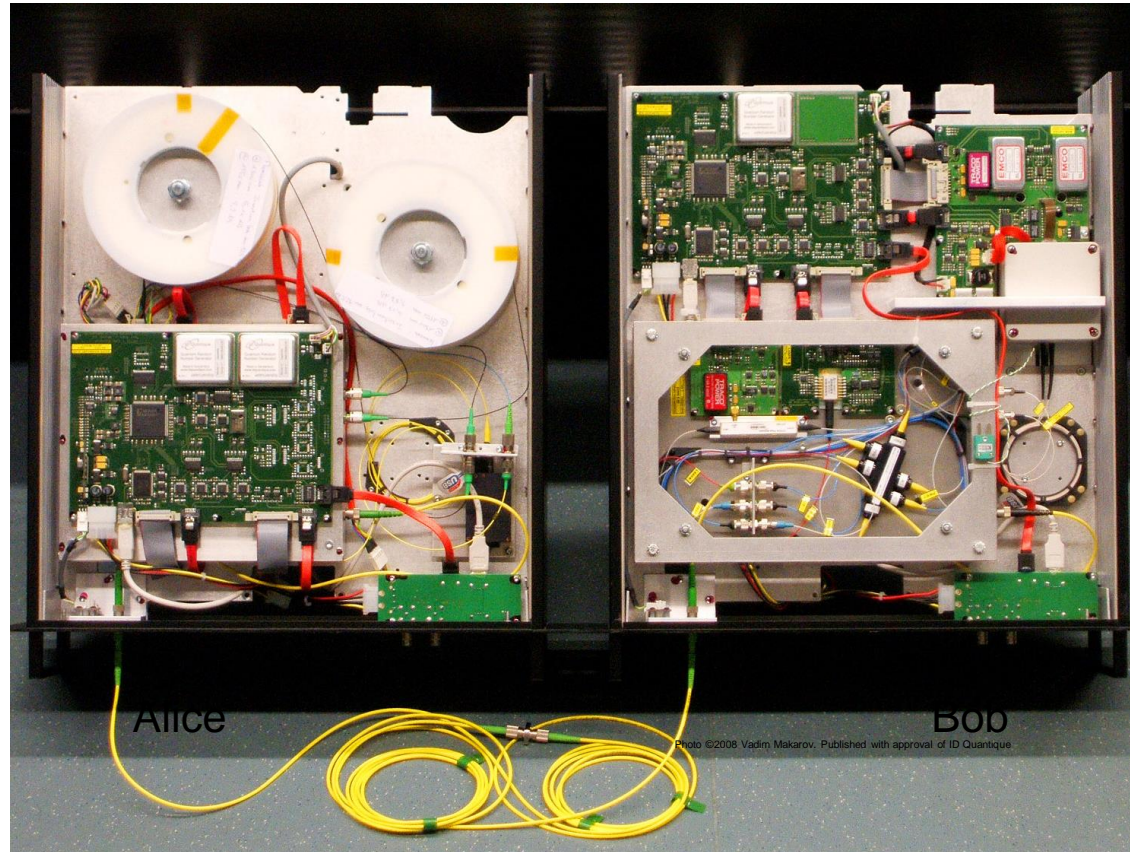
Alice's bit sequence 1 0 1 1 0 0 1 1 0 0 1 1 1 0

Bob's detection basis + X + + X X + + X X + +

Bob's measurement 1 0 0 1 0 0 1 1 0 0 0 1 0 0

Retained bit sequence 1 - - 1 0 0 - 1 0 0 - 1 - 0

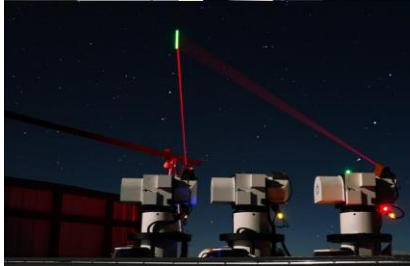
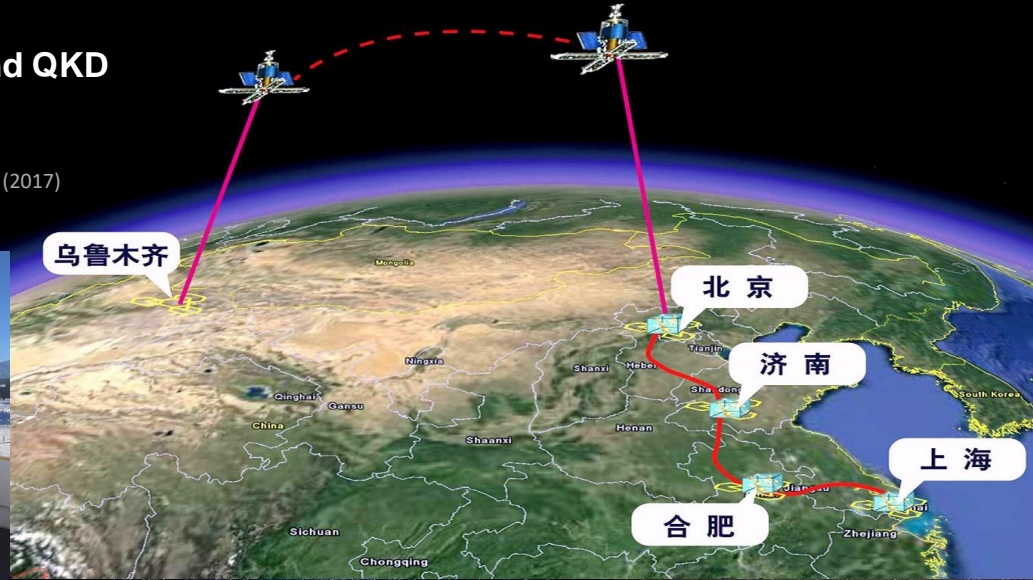
Point-to-point commercial QKD system from ID Quantique



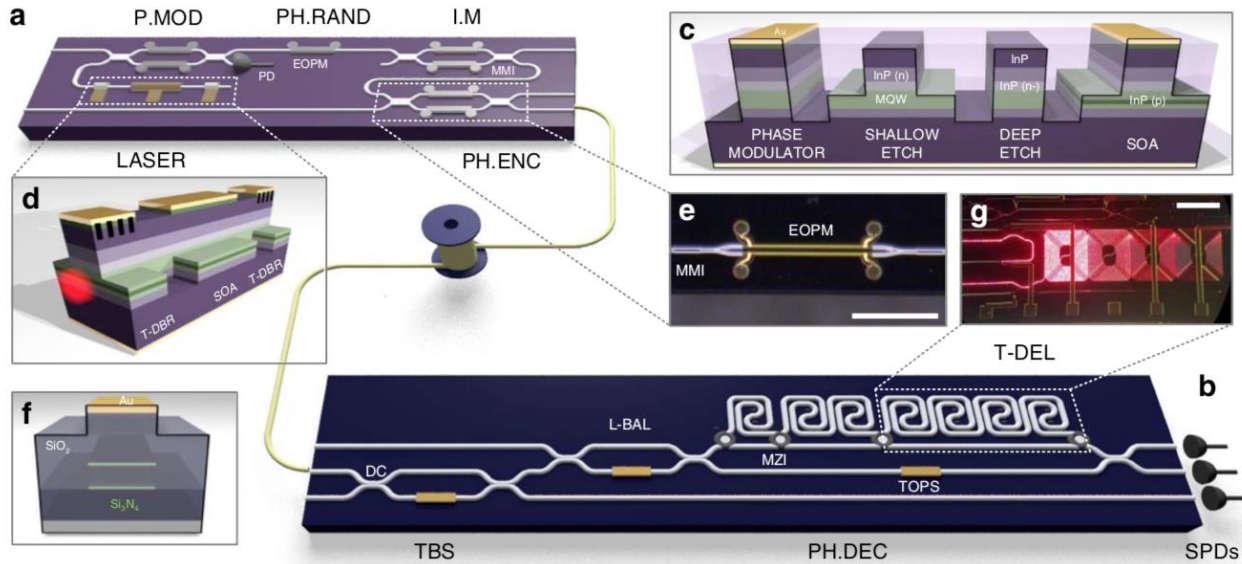
Hybrid QKD network

Satellite-to-ground QKD
at 1 kbit/s

S.-K. Liao et al., Nature 549, 43 (2017)



QKD chips



Challenges for Large-scale Secure Quantum Communication



Security ?



Long distance ?



Applications ?

Challenges for Large-scale Secure Quantum Communication



Security ?

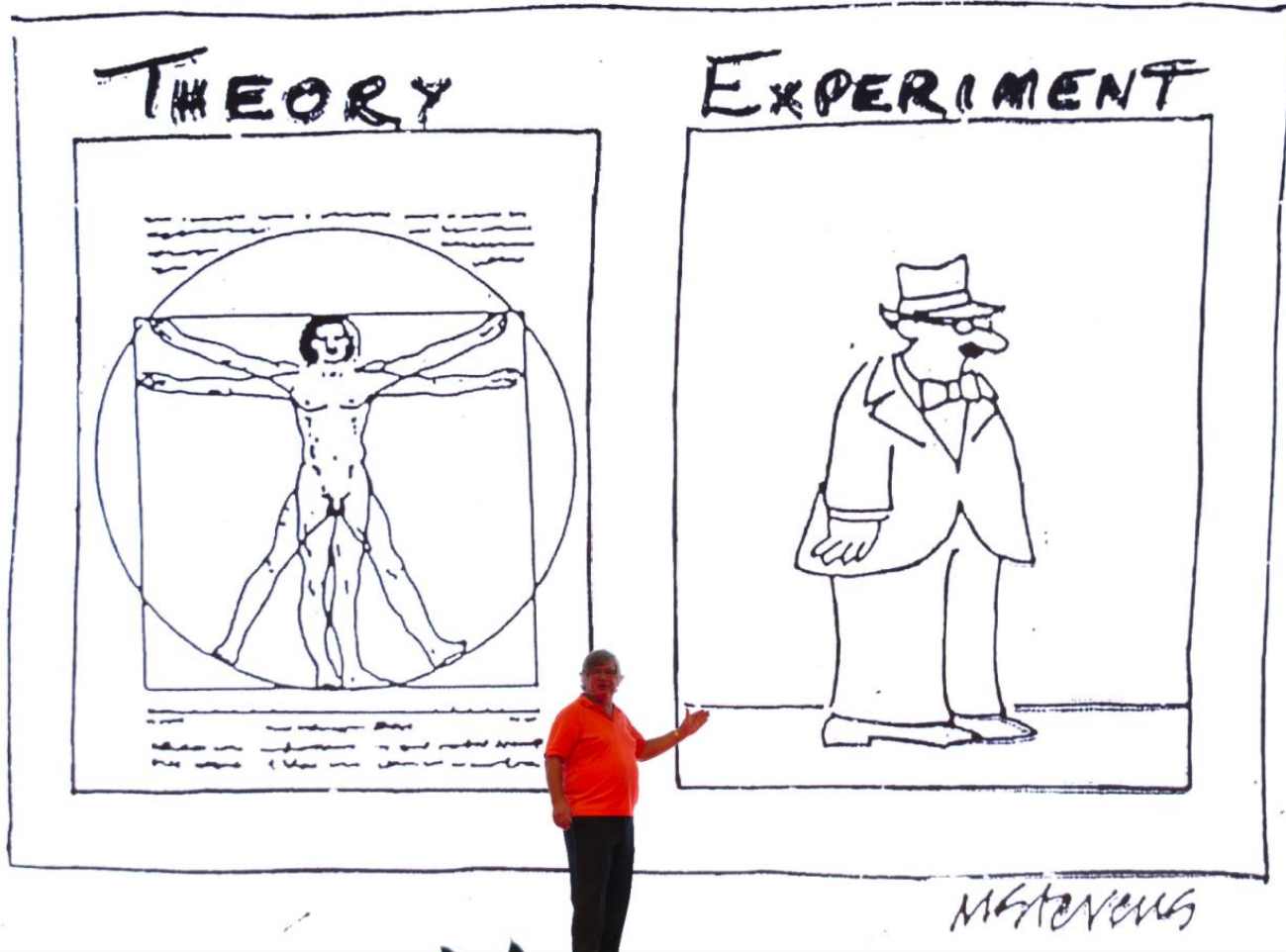


Long distance ?



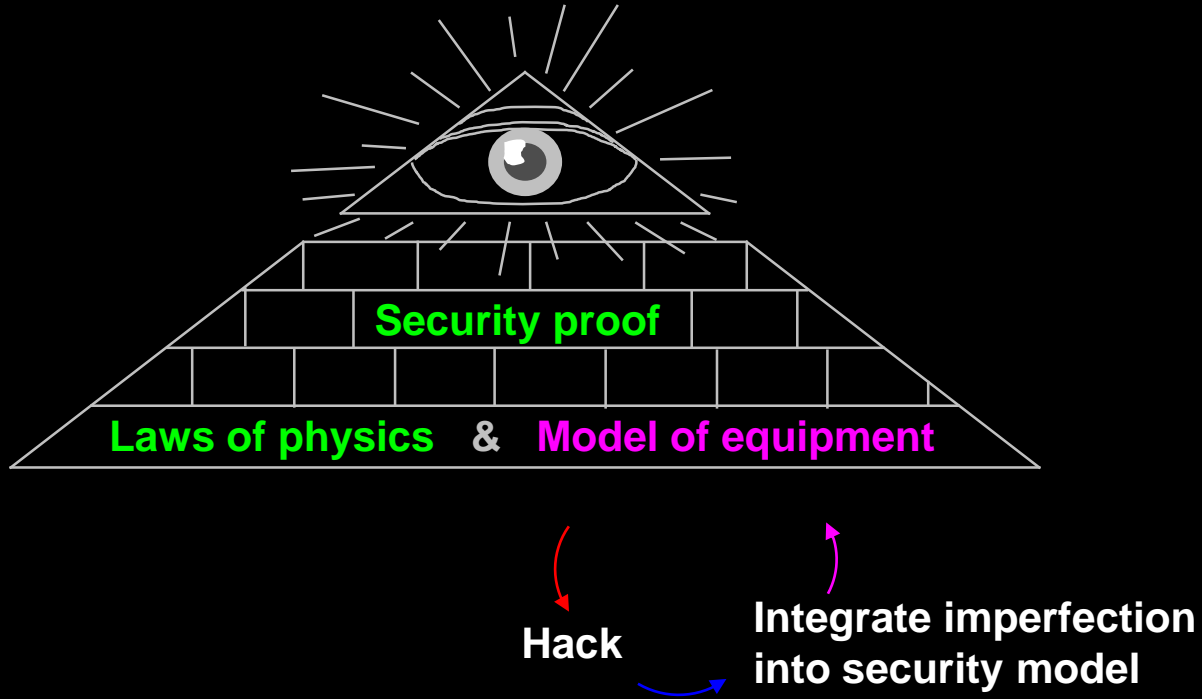
Applications ?

Gap between theory and experiment

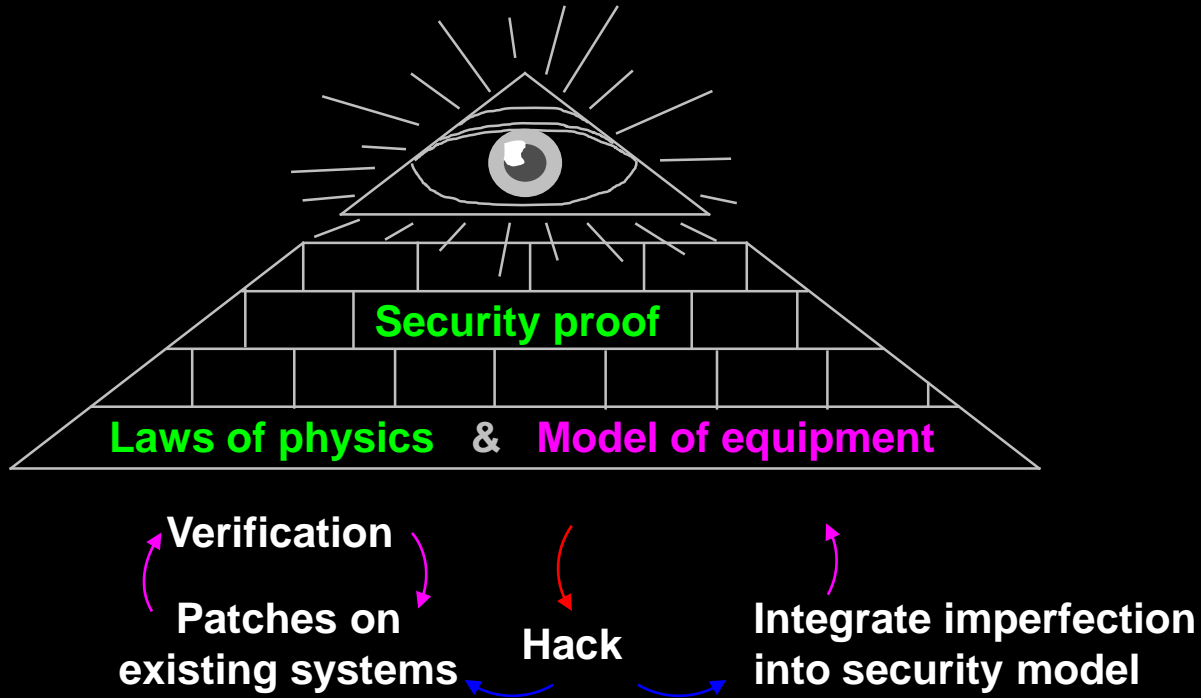


Attack	Target component	Tested system
Distinguishability of decoy states <i>A. Huang et al., Phys. Rev. A</i> 98 , 012330 (2018)	laser in Alice	3 research systems
Intersymbol interference <i>K. Yoshino et al., poster at QCrypt</i> (2016)	intensity modulator in Alice	research system
Laser damage <i>V. Makarov et al., Phys. Rev. A</i> 94 , 030302 (2016); <i>A. Huang et al., Phys. Rev. Appl.</i> 13 , 034017 (2020)	any	5 commercial & 1 research systems
Spatial efficiency mismatch <i>M. Rau et al., IEEE J. Sel. Top. Quantum Electron.</i> 21 , 6600905 (2015); <i>S. Sajeed et al., Phys. Rev. A</i> 91 , 062301 (2015)	receiver optics	2 research systems
Laser-seeding <i>S. Sun et al., Phys. Rev. A</i> 92 , 022304 (2015), <i>A. Huang et al., Phys. Rev. Appl.</i> 12 , 064043 (2019)	laser in Alice	3 research systems
Trojan-horse <i>I. Khan et al., presentation at QCrypt</i> (2014)	phase modulator in Alice	SeQureNet
Trojan-horse <i>N. Jain et al., New J. Phys.</i> 16 , 123030 (2014); <i>S. Sajeed et al., Sci. Rep.</i> 7 , 8403 (2017)	phase modulator in Bob	ID Quantique
Detector saturation <i>H. Qin, R. Kumar, R. Alleaume, Proc. SPIE</i> 88990N (2013)	homodyne detector	SeQureNet
Shot-noise calibration <i>P. Jouguet, S. Kunz-Jacques, E. Diamanti, Phys. Rev. A</i> 87 , 062313 (2013)	classical sync detector	SeQureNet
Pulse illumination <i>Z. Wu, A. Huang et al., Opt. Express</i> 28 , 17 (2020)	single-photon detector	research system
Multi-wavelength <i>H.-W. Li et al., Phys. Rev. A</i> 84 , 062308 (2011)	beam splitter	research system
Deadtime <i>H. Weier et al., New J. Phys.</i> 13 , 073024 (2011)	single-photon detector	research system
Channel calibration <i>N. Jain et al., Phys. Rev. Lett.</i> 107 , 110501 (2011)	single-photon detector	ID Quantique
Faraday-mirror <i>S.-H. Sun, M.-S. Jiang, L.-M. Liang, Phys. Rev. A</i> 83 , 062331 (2011)	Faraday mirror	(theory)
Detector control <i>L. Lydersen et al., Nat. Photonics</i> 4 , 686 (2010); <i>A. Huang et al., IEEE J. Quantum Electron</i> 52 , 11 (2016)	single-photon detector	ID Quantique, MagiQ, research systems

Implementation security of quantum communications

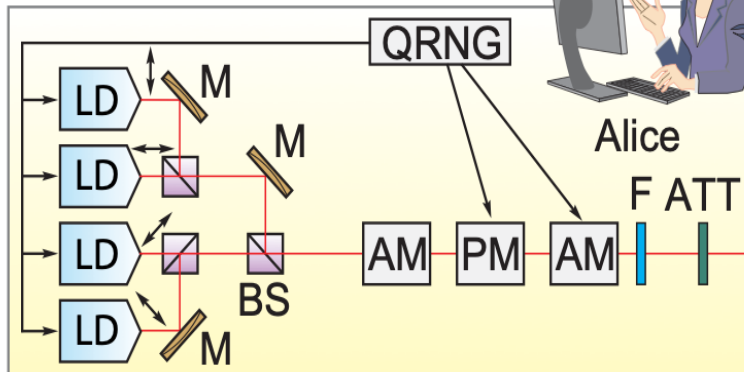


Implementation security of quantum communications

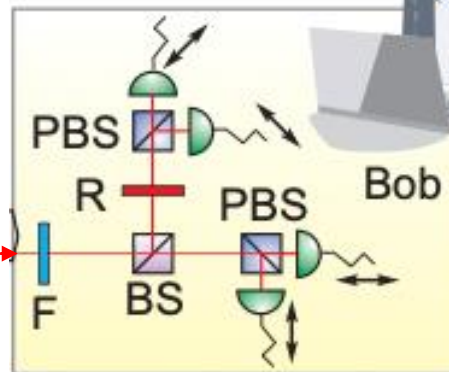


Active attacks on QKD

Sender (Alice)

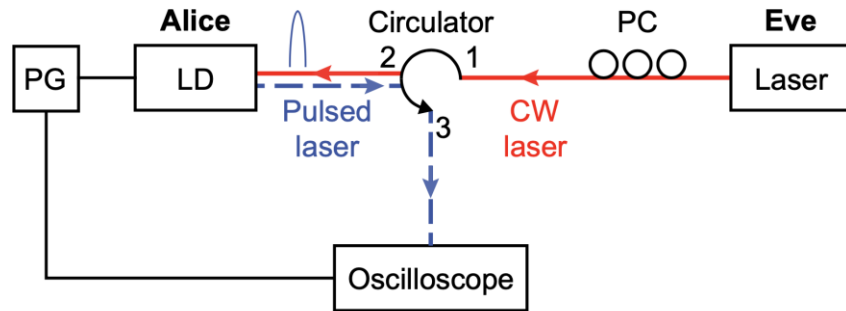
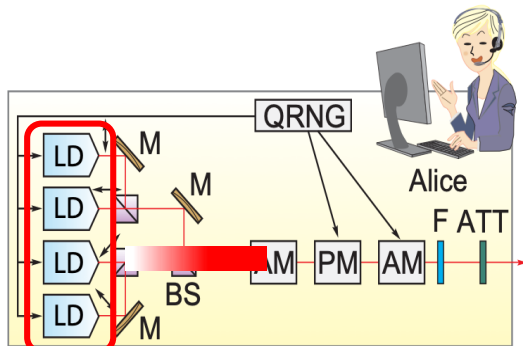


Receiver (Bob)



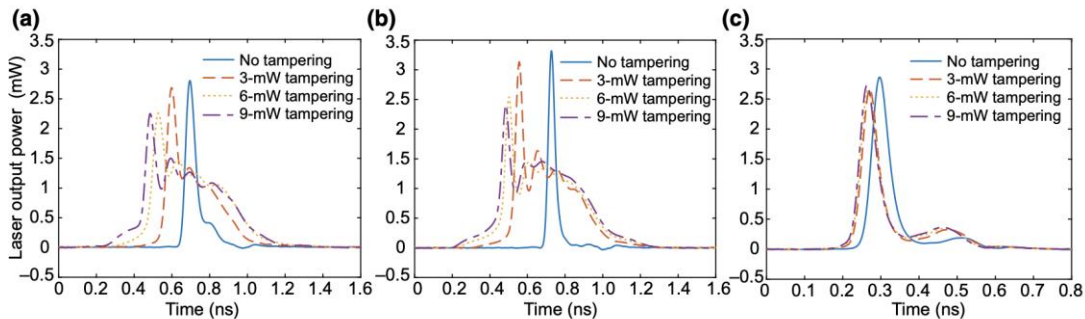
Eavesdropper (Eve)

Active attacks on the source: **Laser seeding attack**



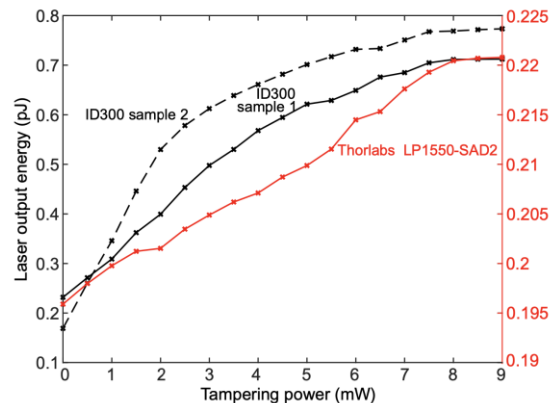
Laser seeding attack

Photon number increases 1.13 ~ 4.57 times

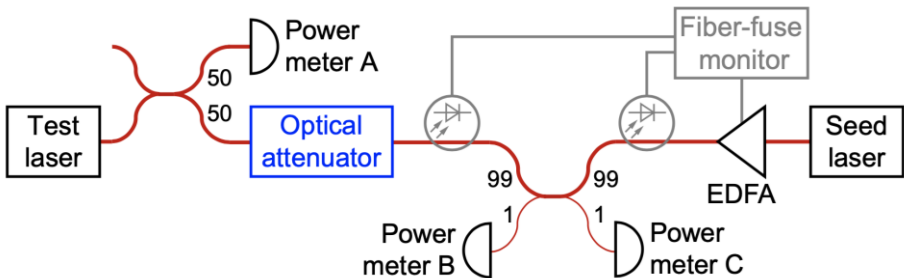
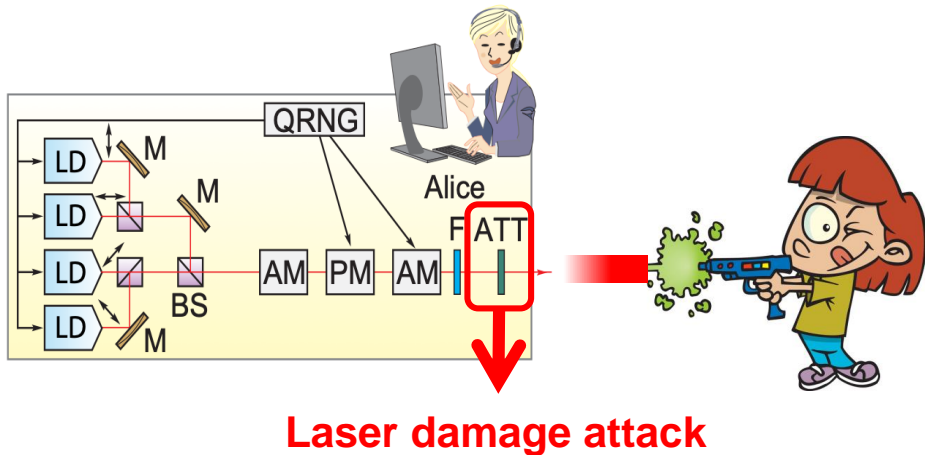


ID Quantique ID300

Thorlabs LP1550



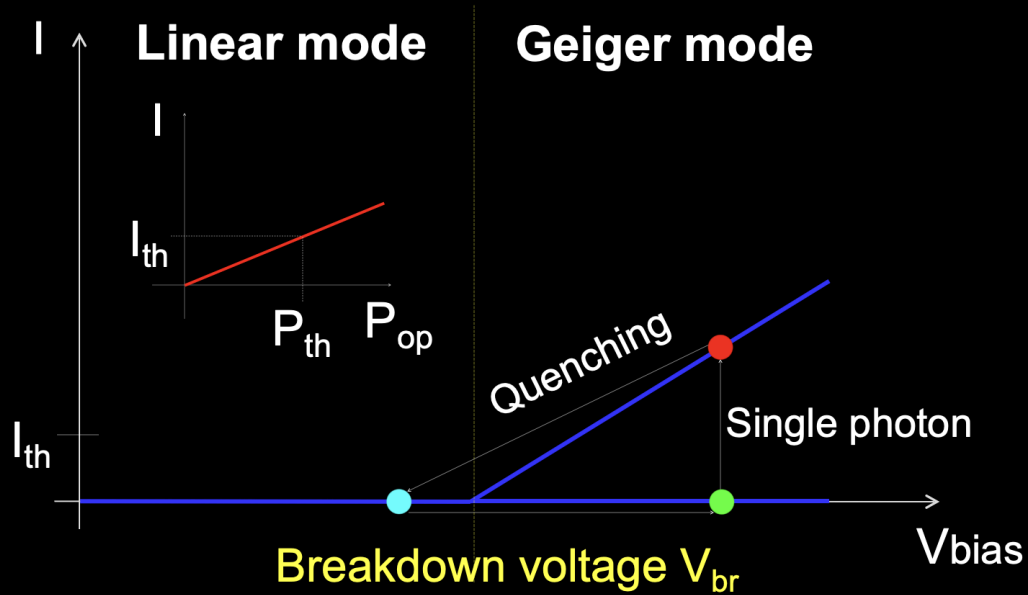
Active attacks on the source: **Laser damage attack**



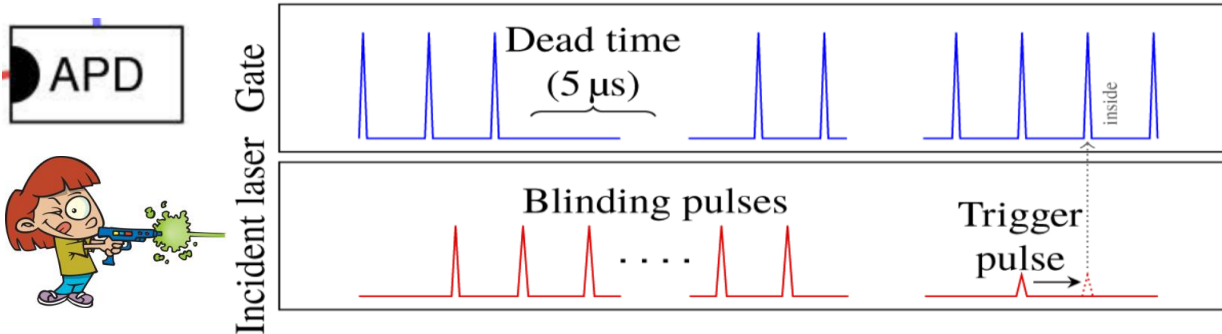
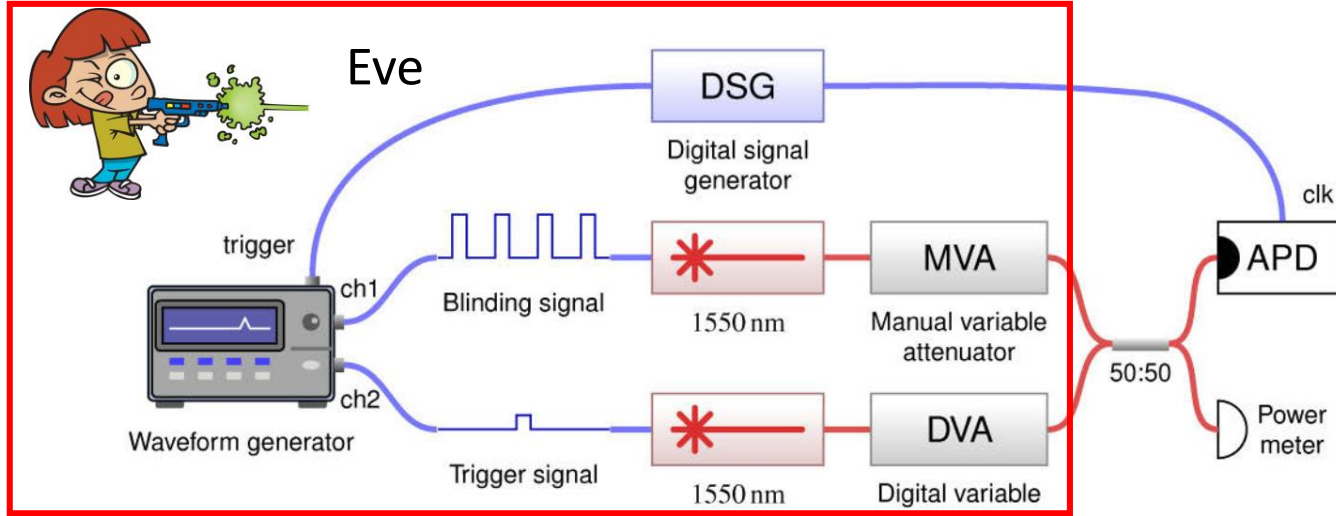
Testing outcomes	Samples		Atten. change (dB)	Attack power (W)
	Total	✓ ✗		
Blocking screw VOA	2	0 0	-	-
Fixed	12	4* 6 ✗	-1.37*	2.5
MEMS VOA	13	8 4 ✓	-5.34	4.2
Variable metal-coating VOA	(25)	(18) 0 ✓	-9.59	2.8

* Temporary short-term decrease

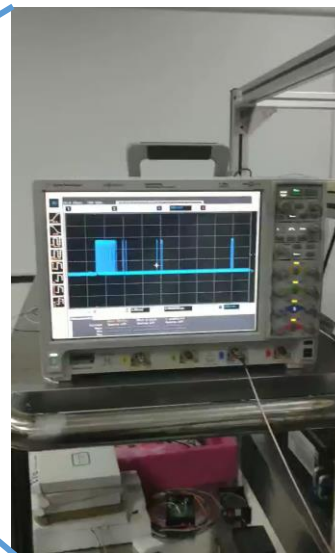
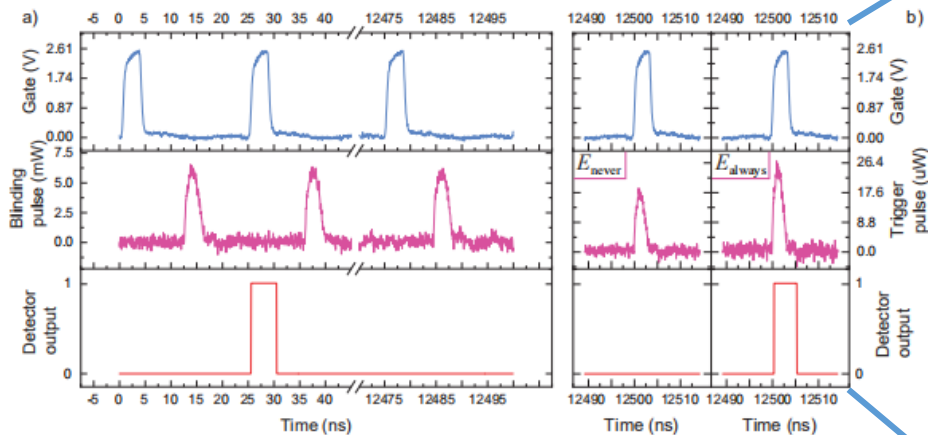
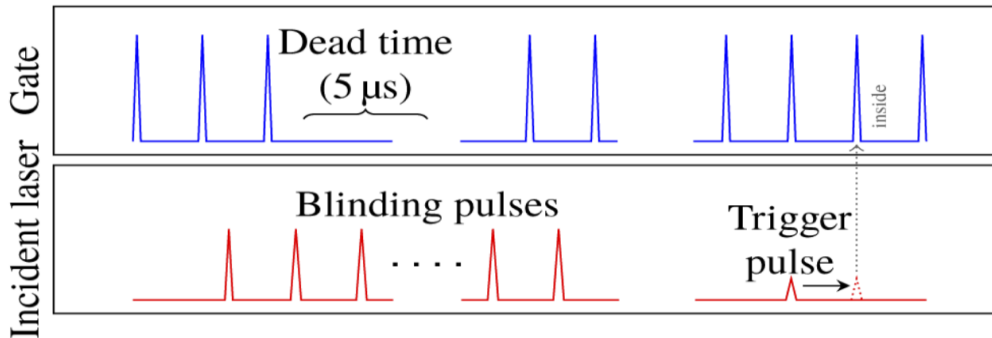
Blinding attack on avalanche photodetectors (APDs)



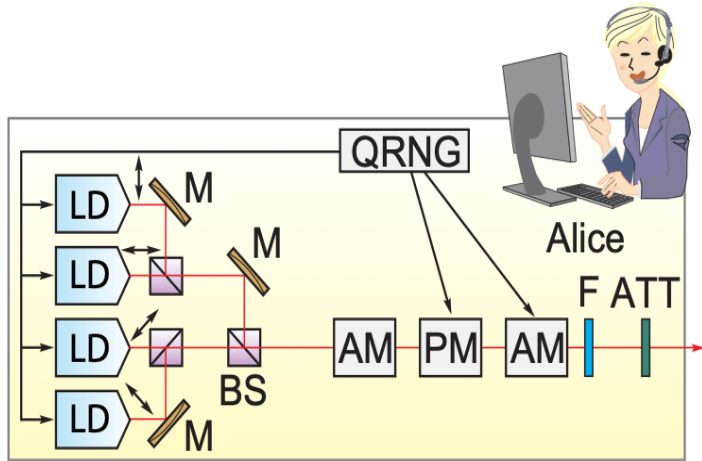
Active attack on the **detection**: pulse illumination attack on APD



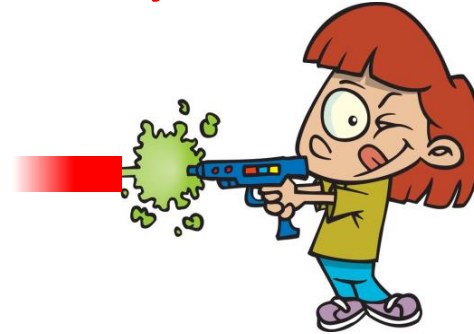
Active attack on the **detection**: pulse illumination attack on APD



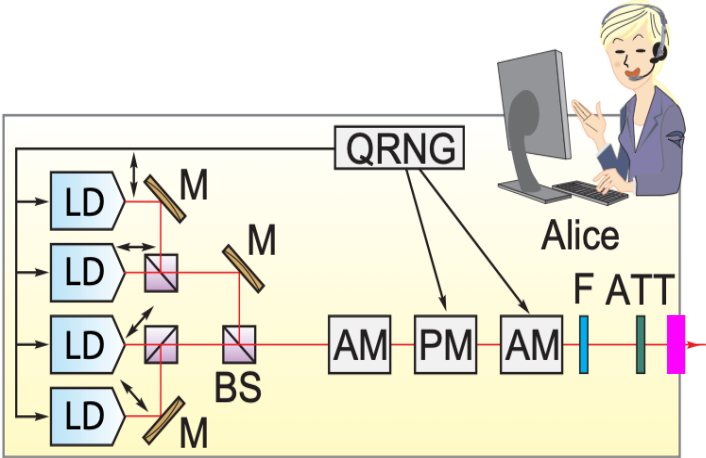
Countermeasure against active attacks on the source



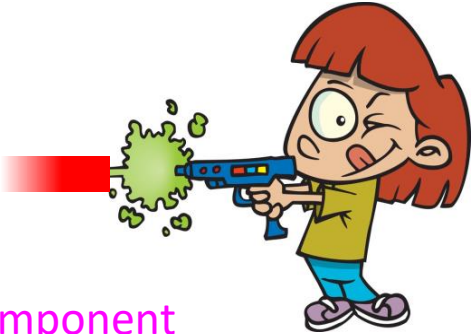
Light injection attacks:
Laser-seeding attack
Laser damage attack
Trojan-horse attack



Countermeasure against active attacks on the source

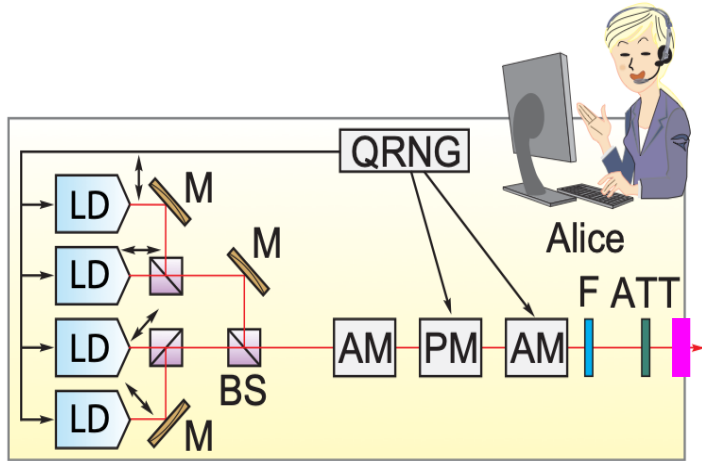


Light injection attacks

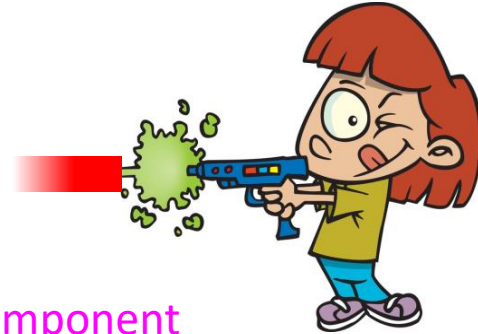


Add an isolation component
(Isolator / circulator)

Countermeasure against active attacks on the source



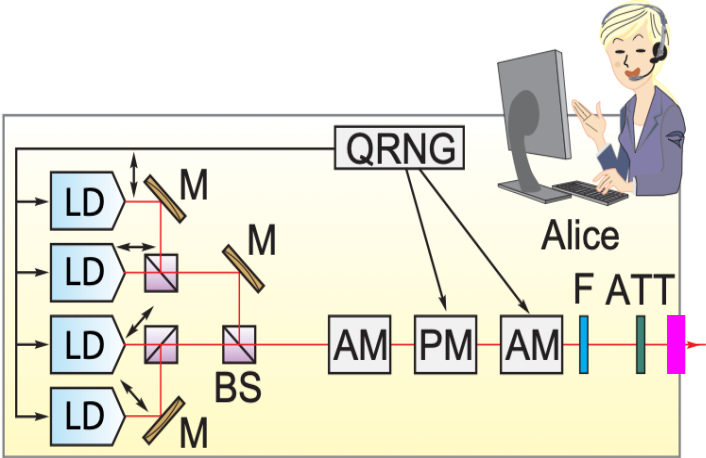
Light injection attacks



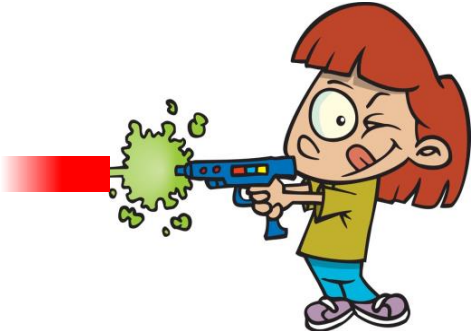
Add an isolation component
(Isolator / circulator)

Is it effective? Should be verified!

Countermeasure verification: isolation component



c.w. high-power laser



Countermeasure verification: isolators

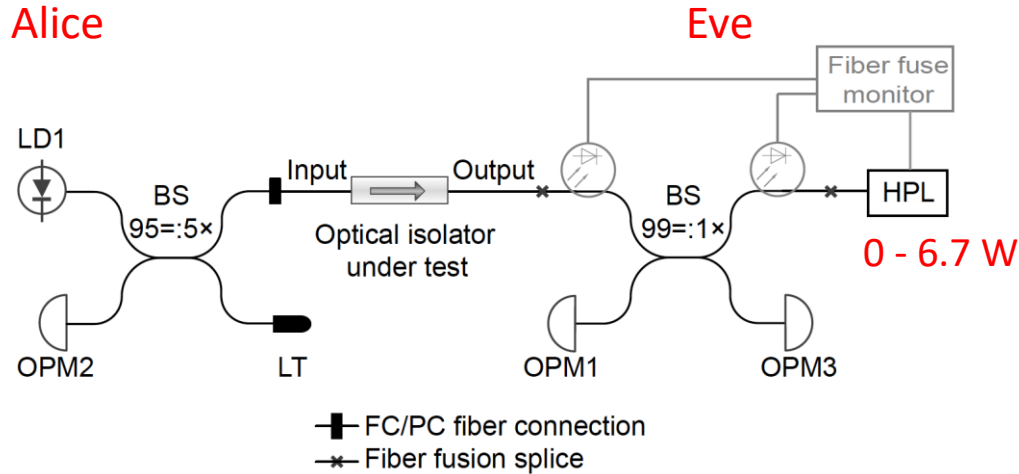
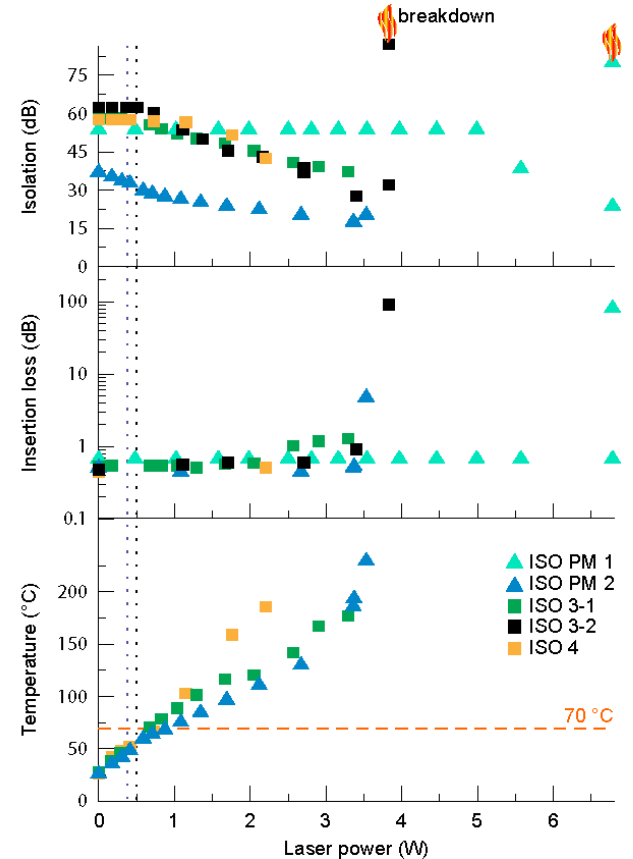
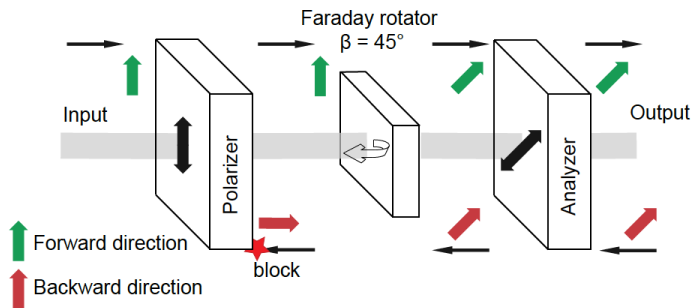


TABLE I: Testing results of isolators. All measurements are at 1550 nm.

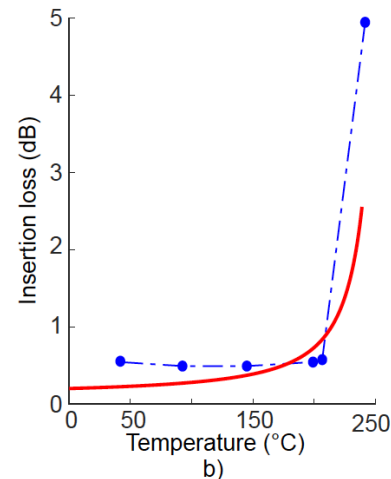
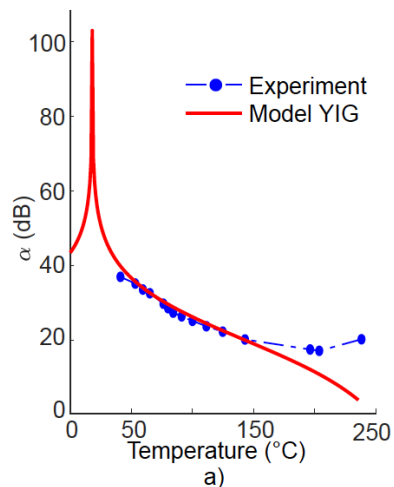
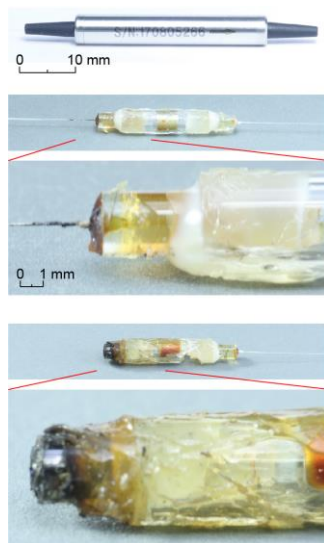
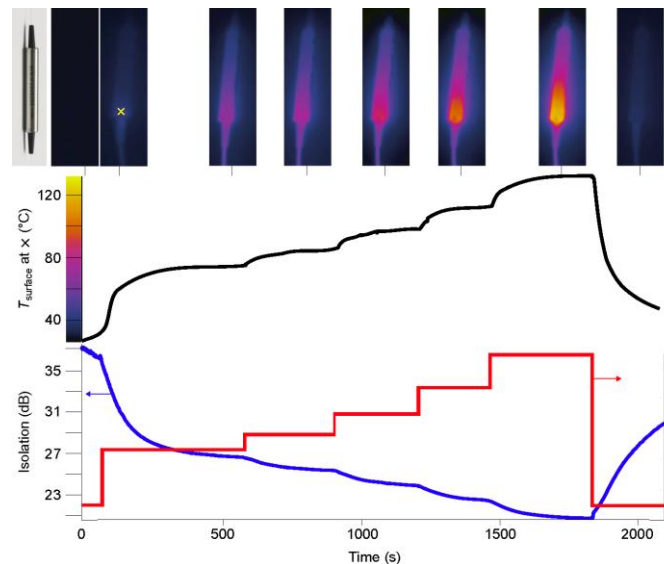
Sample	Specified minimum isolation (dB)	Initial		Minimum isolation (dB)	Maximum decrease of isolation (dB)	Irreversible damage at
		Insertion loss (dB)	Isolation (dB)			
ISO PM 1	46	0.66	53.7	21.8 @ 6.7 W, 360 s	31.9	6.7 W, 900 s
ISO PM 2	28	0.50	37.0	17.2 @ 3.37 W, 820 s	19.8	was not tested
ISO 3-1	46	0.45	58.1	37.1 @ 3.3 W, 260 s	21.0	was not tested
ISO 3-2	46	0.55	62.1	27.6 @ 3.4 W, 800 s	34.5	3.8 W, 90 s
ISO 4	55	0.52	57.6	42.4 @ 2.2 W, 200 s	15.2	was not tested



Countermeasure verification: isolators



$$\alpha(T) = -10 \log \left[\beta + \frac{V(T)}{V(25^\circ\text{C})} \cdot k \right]$$



Countermeasure verification: circulators

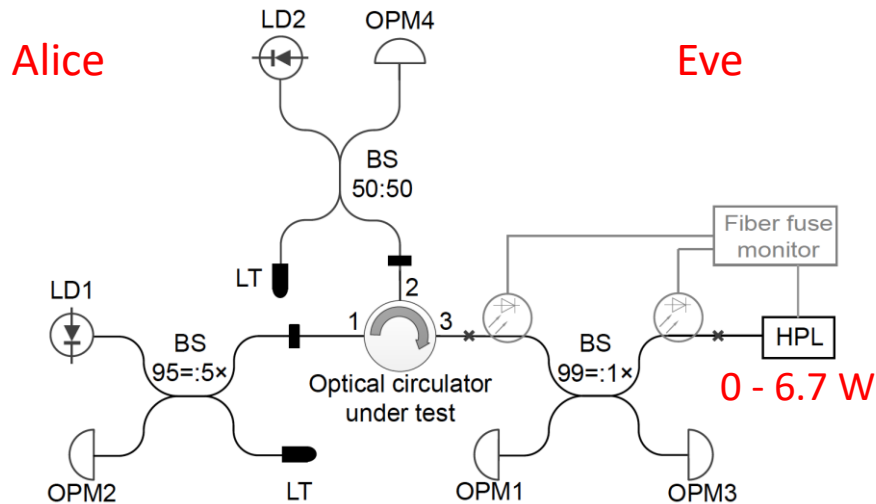
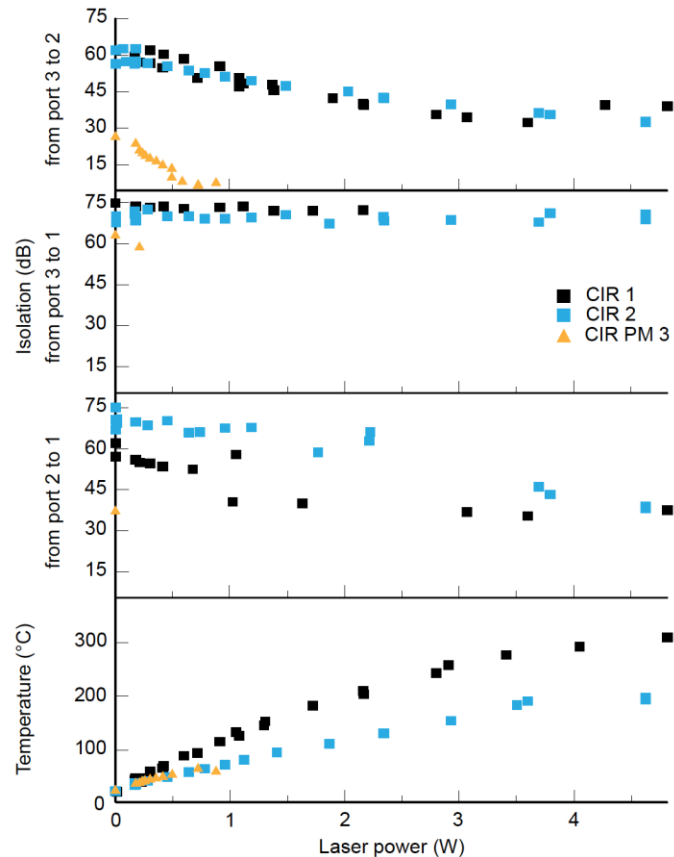


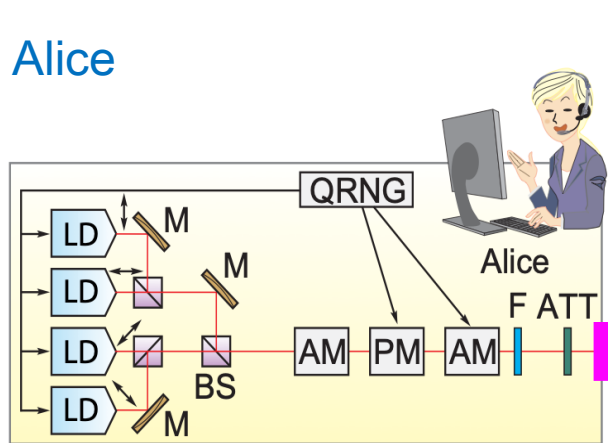
TABLE II: Testing results of circulators. All measurements are at 1550 nm.

Sample	Specified minimum isolation for all ports (dB)	Initial				Minimum isolation (dB)		Maximum decrease of isolation (dB)		Irreversible damage at
		Insertion loss (dB)		Isolation (dB)		2 to 1	3 to 2	2 to 1	3 to 2	
		1 to 2	2 to 3	2 to 1	3 to 2					
CIR 1	45	1.03	1.07	61.4	60.6	34.7 @ 3.6 W	32.2 @ 3.6 W	26.7	28.4	was not tested
CIR 2	40	0.72	0.83	67.0	65.7	38.3 @ 4.6 W	32.3 @ 4.6 W	28.7	33.4	4.6 W, 910 s
CIR PM 3	25	1.00	0.80	37.0	27.0	was not tested	6.4 @ 0.7 W	was not tested	20.6	0.9 W, 90 s

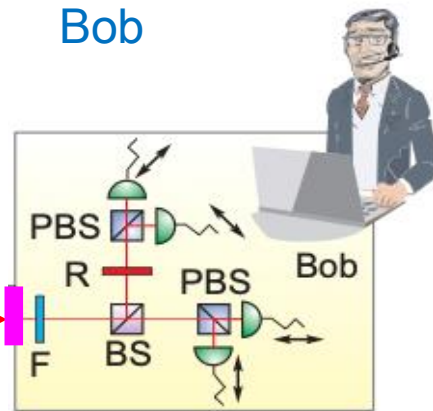


Countermeasure against active attacks on QKD

Alice

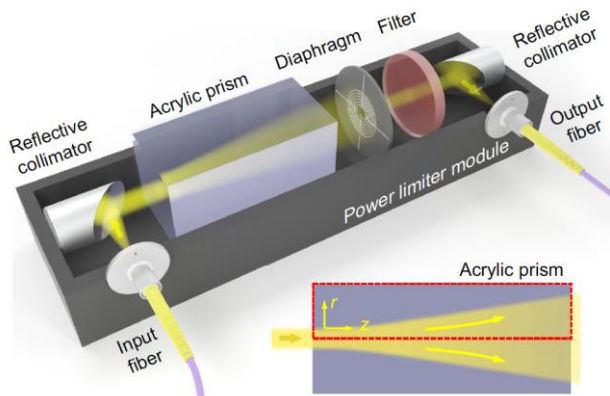


Bob



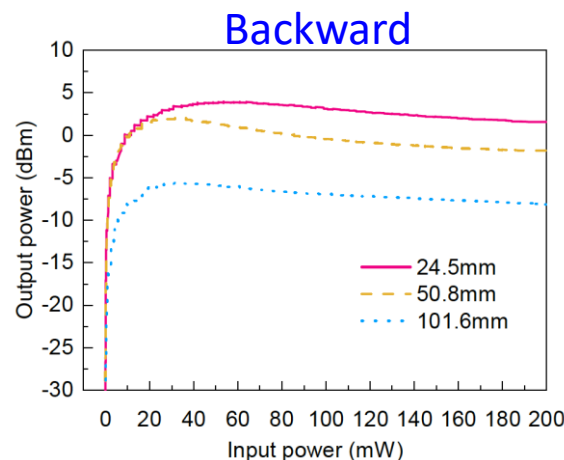
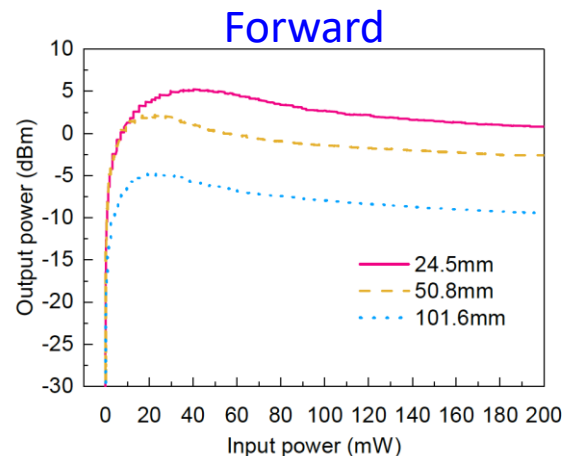
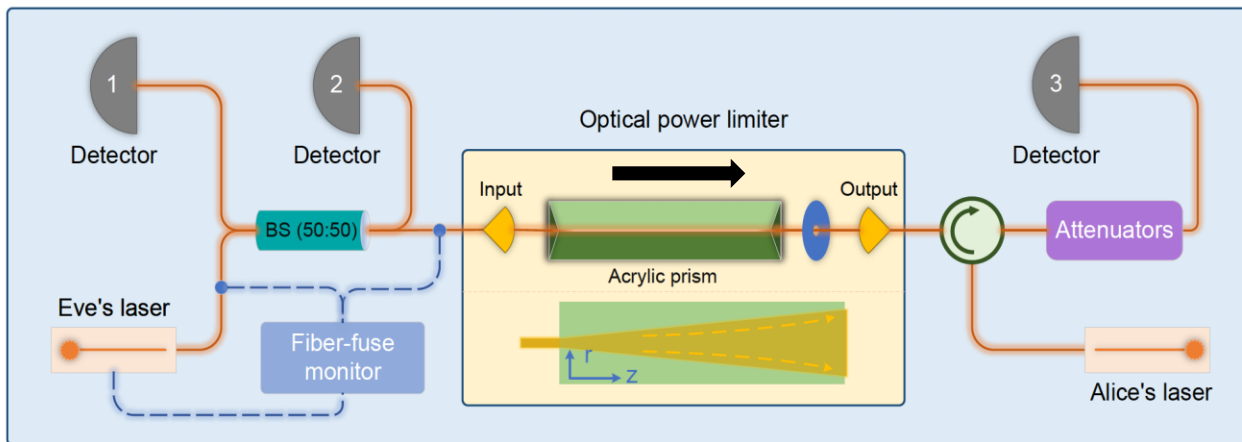
Power limiter

Power limiter



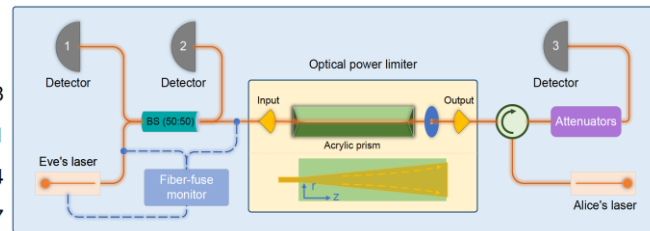
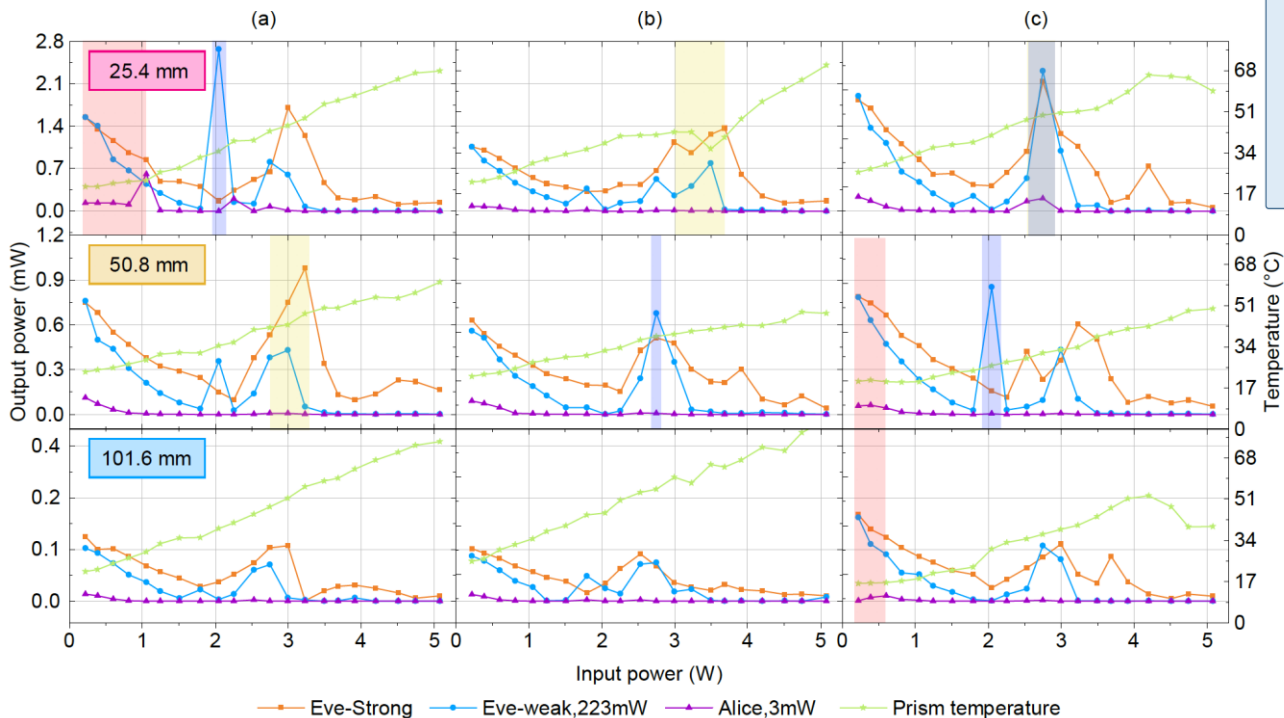
Can limit optical power well?
Should be verified!

Countermeasure verification: Power limiter



Countermeasure verification: Power limiter

c.w. high-power laser testing



Step 1

Eve-strong test: 223 mW - 5W

Step 2

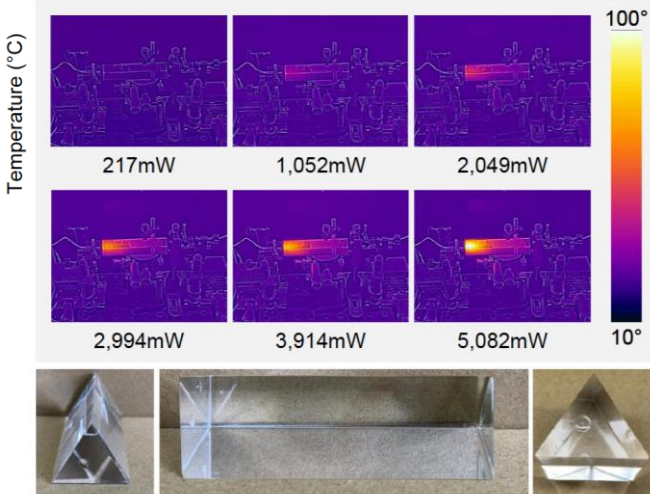
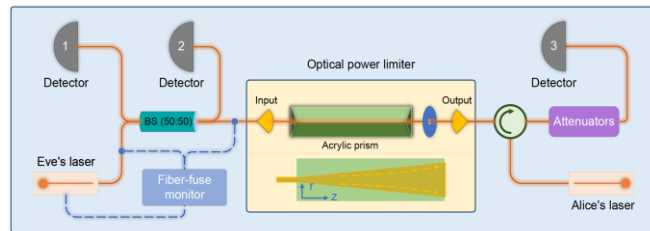
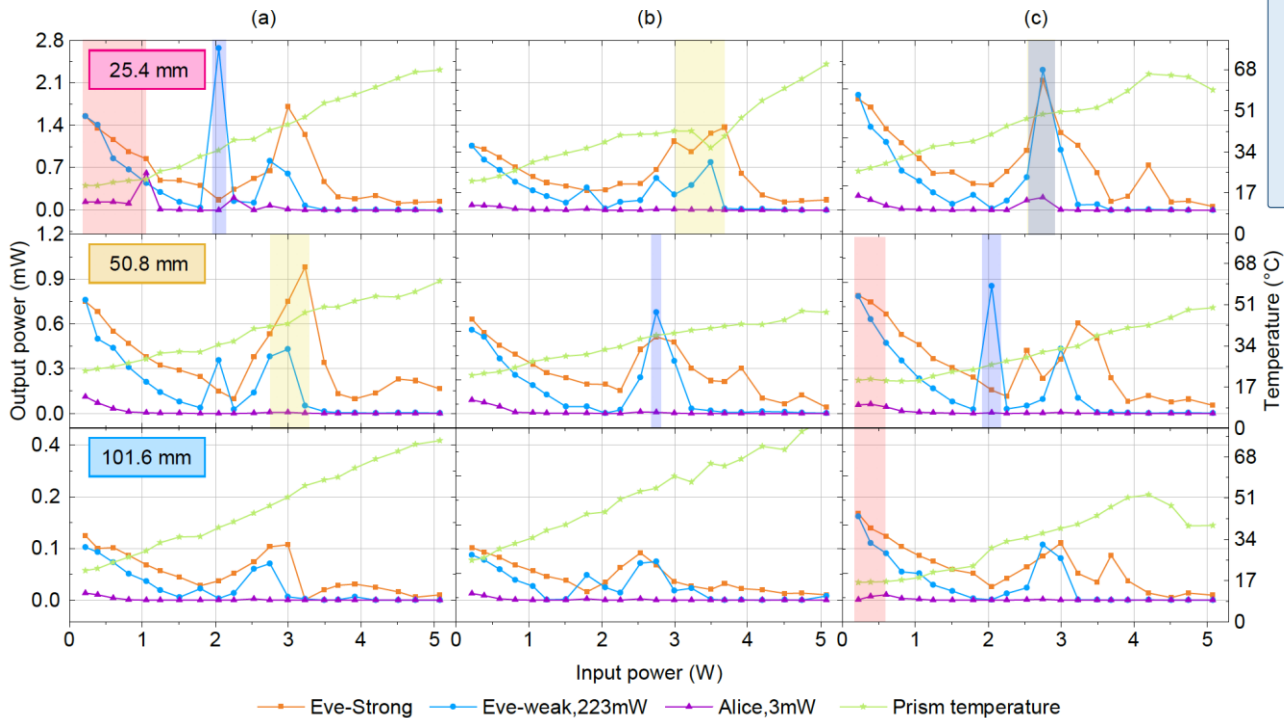
Eve-weak test: 223 mW

Step 3

Alice test: 3 mW

Countermeasure verification: Power limiter

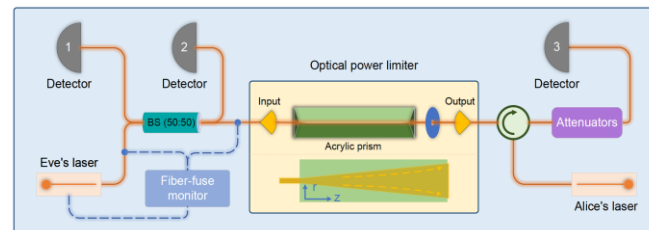
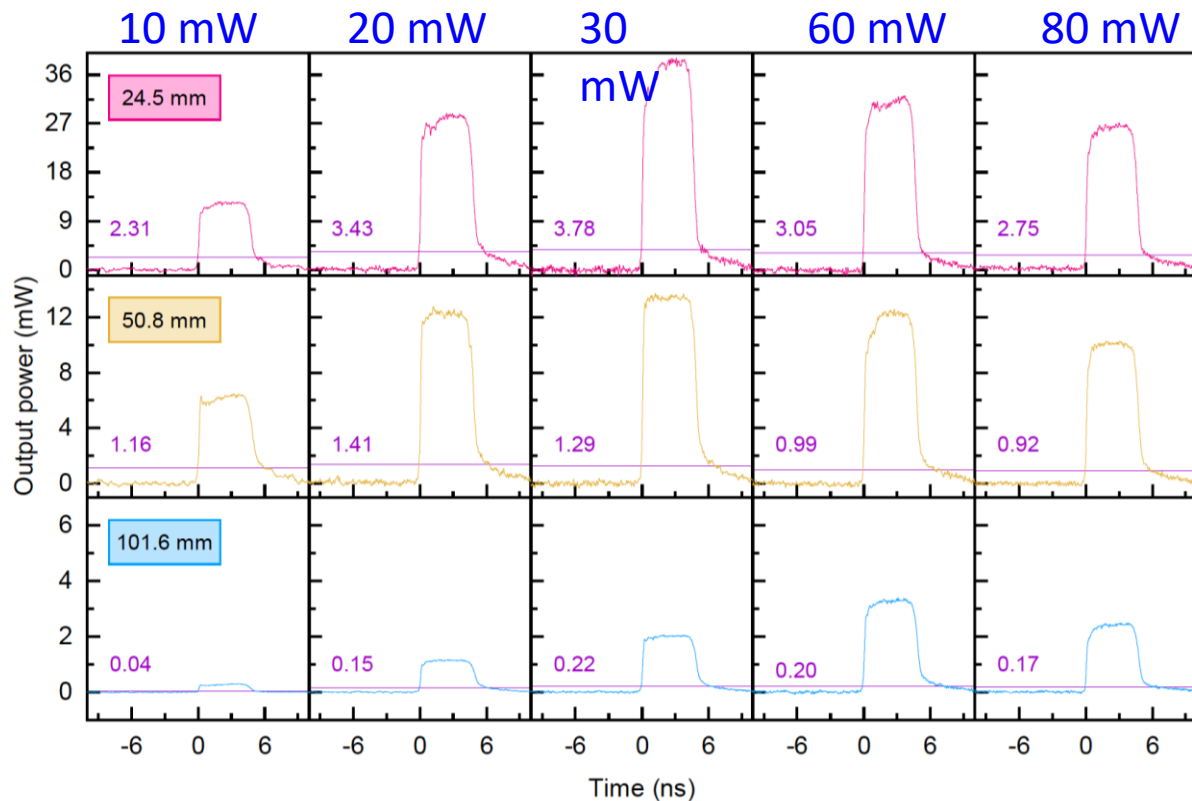
c.w. high-power laser testing



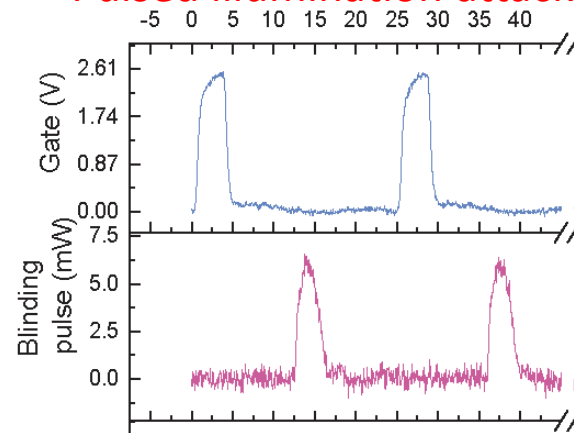
Countermeasure verification: Power limiter

40-MHz pulsed laser testing

Eve average



Pulsed illumination attack



Zhihao Wu, Anqi Huang, and et. al., Opt. Exp. (2020)

Q. Peng, A. Huang, and et. al., manuscript in preparation

Countermeasure verification: Power limiter

1-GHz pulsed laser testing

Eve average

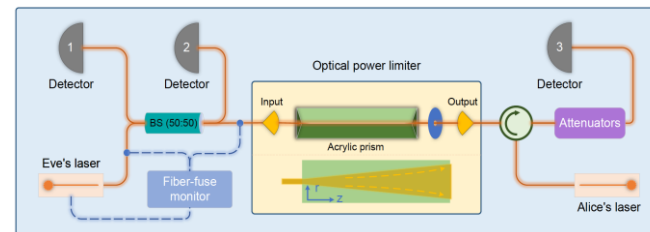
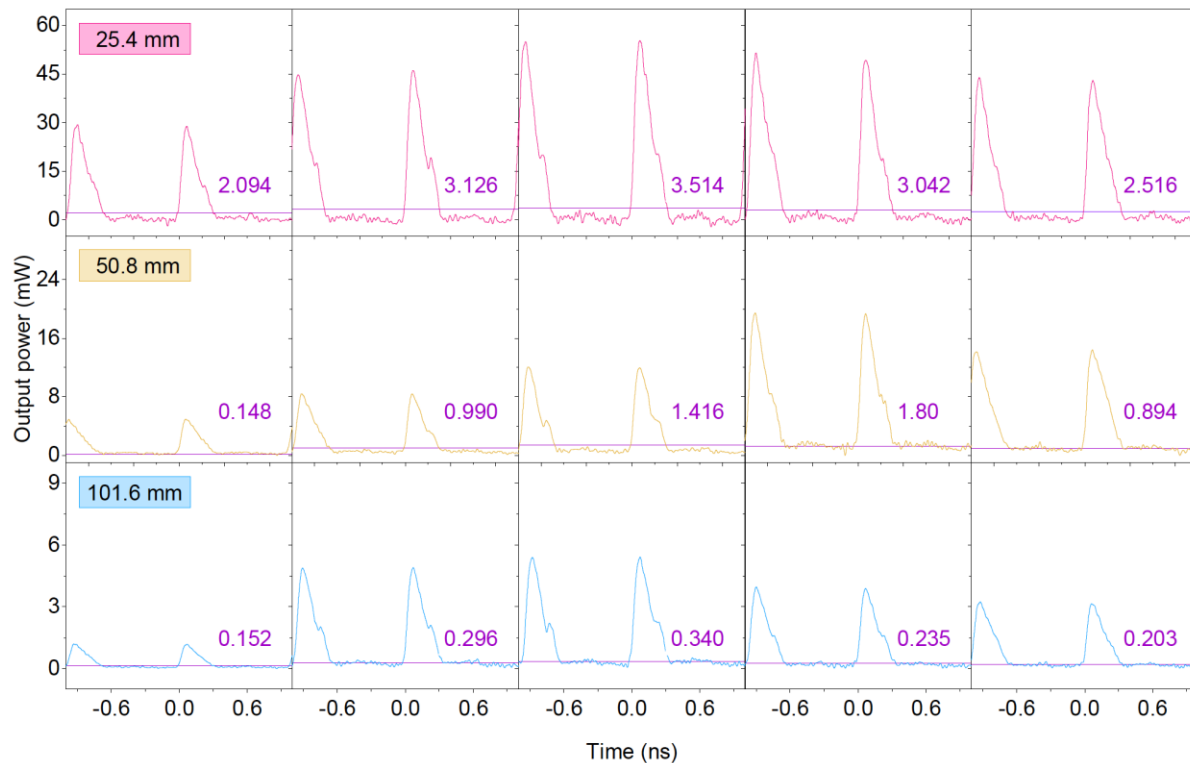
10 mW

20 mW

30

60 mW

80 mW



May help Trojan-horse attack on high-speed QKD system

Take home message

- **The security of a QKD system might be compromised due to practical attacks**
- **Countermeasure shall be verified to investigate the security boundary**

Thank you!

