

Quantum Communication

Towards Quantum Networks using Engineered Solid-State Quantum-Light Sources

Tobias Heindel



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Quantum Communication Systems

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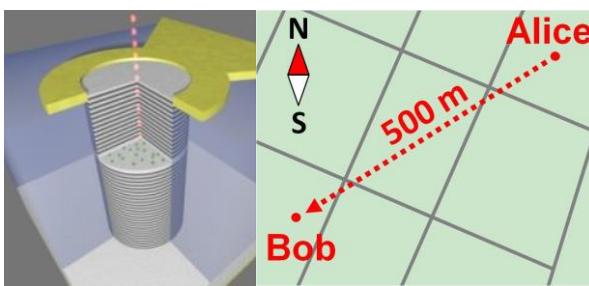
Overall Outline



Part I: *Intro & Basics*

- About Us
- Quantum Key Distribution (QKD)
- Single-Photon Generation in the Solid-State
- Review on Single-Photon QKD

Basics



Part II: *Early Work*

- Efficient Single-Photon LEDs
- Free-space QKD in-lab and in Munich City
- Deterministic Device Technology
- Quantum Optics & Spin-Photon Interfaces

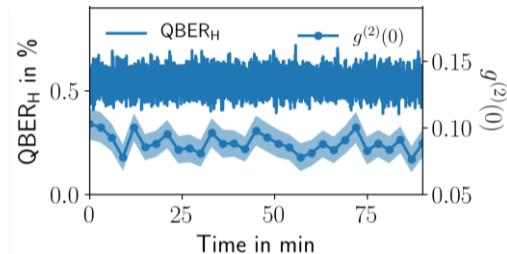
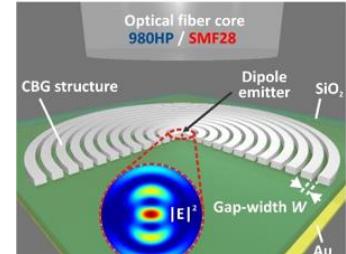
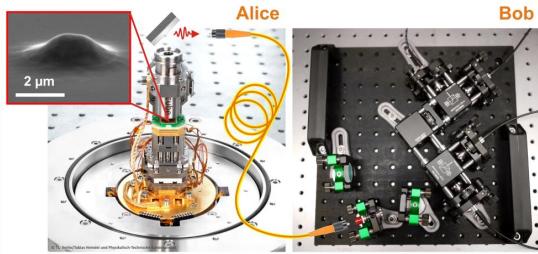
PhD + Postdoc



Part III: *Towards Quantum Networks*

- Tools for Optimization and Certification
- Plug'n'Play Quantum Light Sources
- Benchtop QKD Testbeds
- Emerging Materials
- Berlin Quantum Network Activities

Own Group



Quantum Communication

Part I: Intro & Basics

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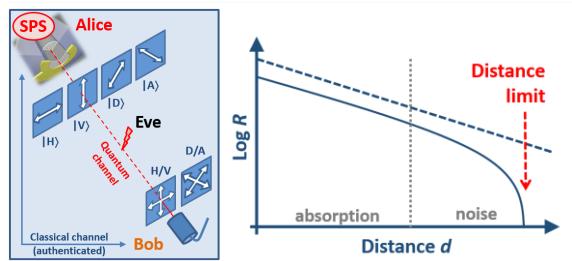


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Outline – Part I

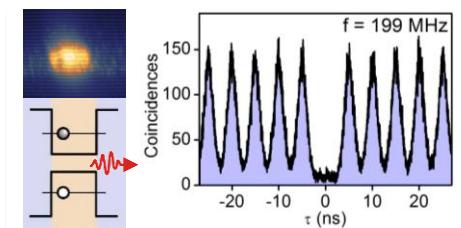


About Us

- QuCom Group @ Berlin
- Research & Vision

Quantum Communication Intro

- Point-to-Point QKD Protocols (BB84, E91, ...)
- Advanced Protocols (MDI-QKD, QuRepeater)
- Beyond QKD



Single-Photon Generation in the Solid-State Quantum Dots and the Purcell Effect

REVIEW

ADVANCED QUANTUM TECHNOLOGIES
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Quantum Communication
Using Semiconductor Quantum Dots

Single-Photon QKD A Brief Review



The Team



Group
Quantum Communication Systems



Group Website

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You?



Collaborators



Group

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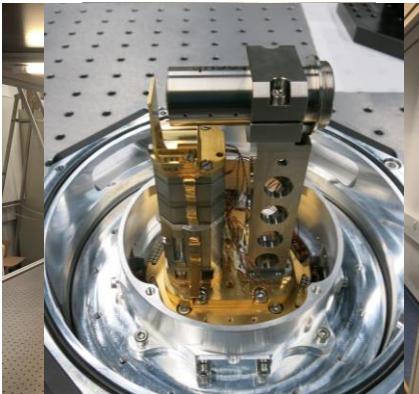
Armando Rastelli
JKU Linz

You?

Equipment

attoDry800 cryo-optical table

- World's first (attoDRY800)² incl. 2x closed-cycle cryos



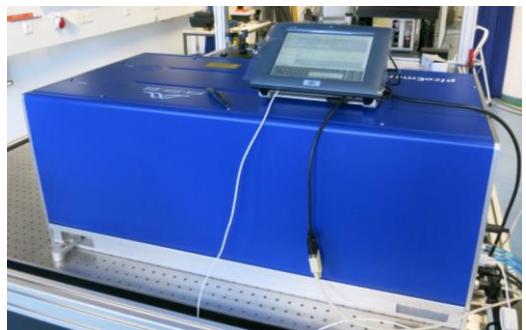
12-Channel SNSPD System

- 4 Chs @ 780 nm
- 4 Chs @ 900 nm
- 4 Chs @ 1.3/1.5 μ m



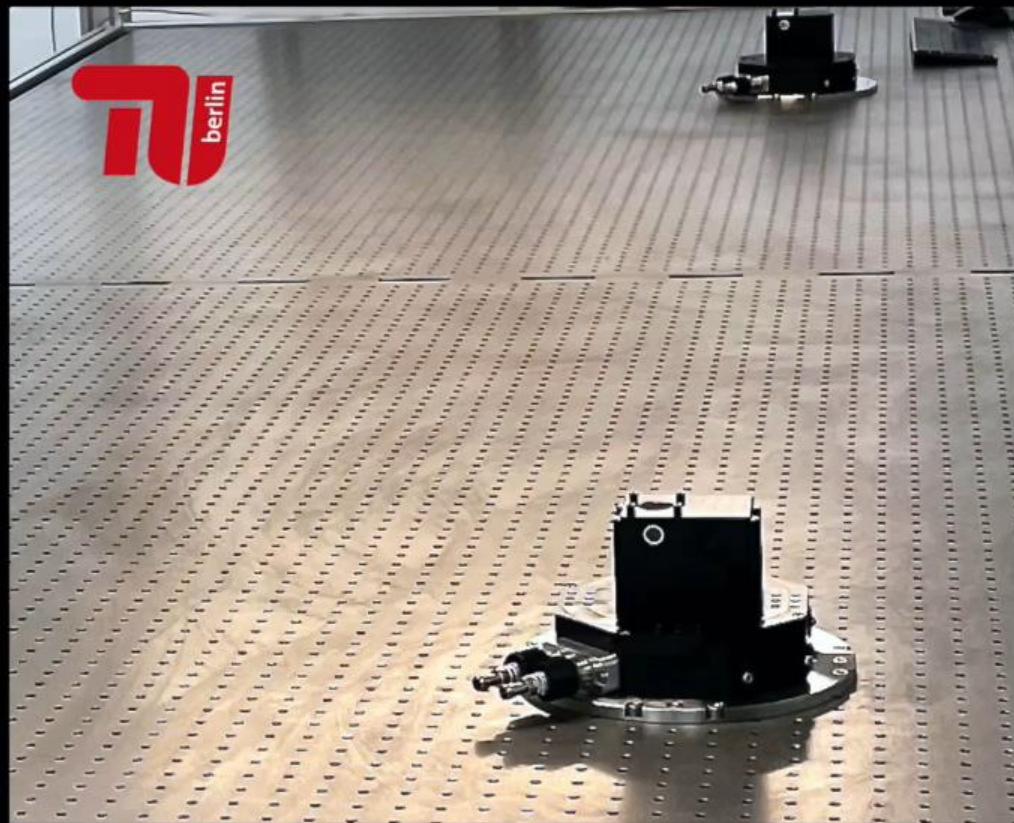
Hands-free ps-OPO-Lasersystem + 2x Pulse Shaper

- Tuning range: 700 – 1900 nm, 2 ps, 80 MHz



Installation Time-lapse of World's First (ATTODRY 800)²

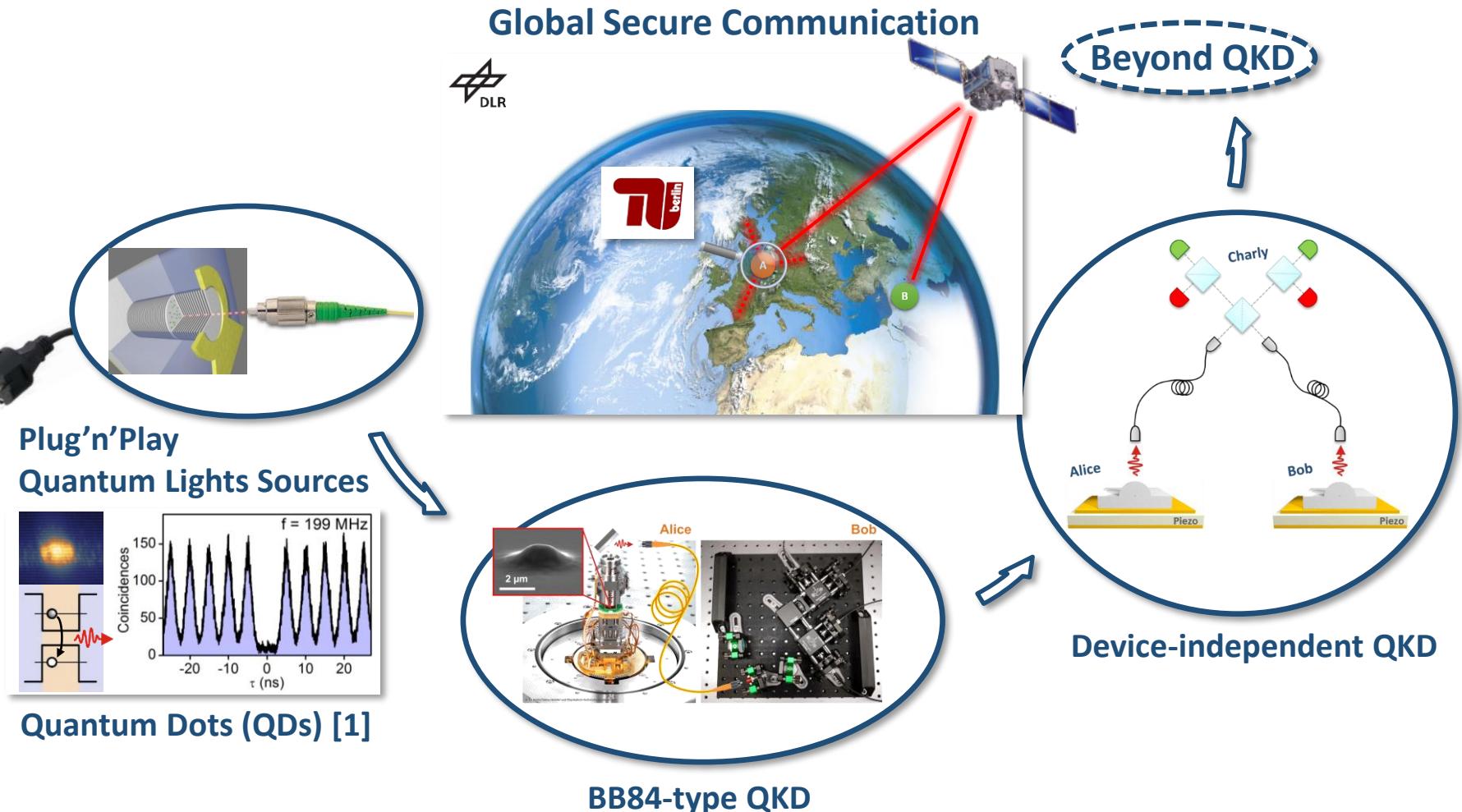
Quantum Communication Group of Tobias Heindel - TU Berlin 2022





 Group Website

Research & Vision



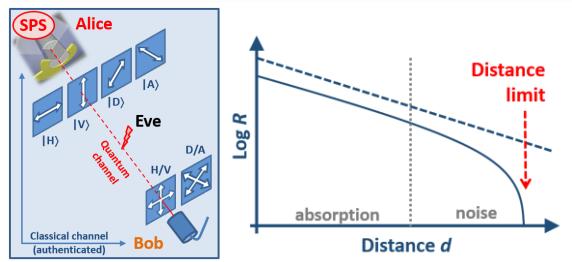
[1] P. Michler et al., *Science* **290**, 2282 (2000)

Outline – Part I



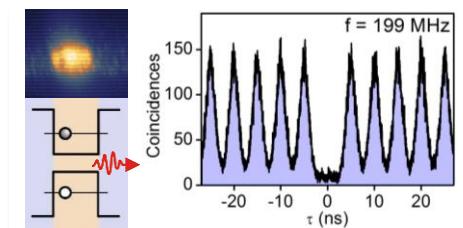
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Quantum Communication Intro

- Point-to-Point QKD Protocols (BB84, E91, ...)
- Advanced Protocols (MDI-QKD, QuRepeater)
- Beyond QKD



Single-Photon Generation in the Solid-State Quantum Dots and the Purcell Effect

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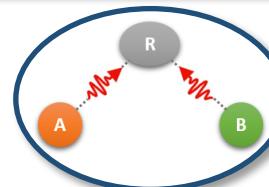
Quantum Communication
Using Semiconductor Quantum Dots

Single-Photon QKD A Brief Review

Direct Point-to-Point QKD
(BB84, E91, ...)



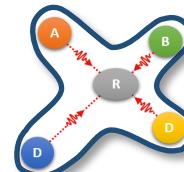
Advanced Protocols
(MDI-QKD, Entanglement Swapping, ...)



Global Quantum Communication Networks

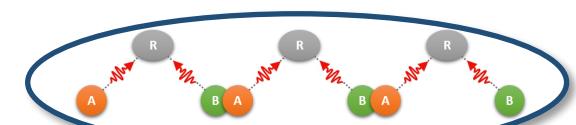


MDI-QKD



Star-like Topology
→ City Networks

Quantum Repeater



Chaining
→ Long-distance Links

The BB84 Protocol

One-Time Pad

- The only information theoretically secure encryption
→ **Symmetric, random, and secret key for one-time use**

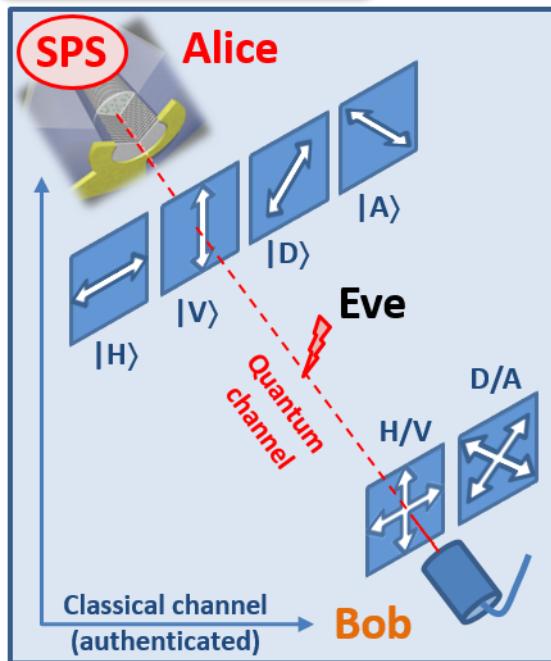


QUANTUM CRYPTOGRAPHY: PUBLIC KEY DISTRIBUTION AND COIN TOSSING

Charles H. Bennett (IBM Research, Yorktown Heights NY 10598 USA)
Gilles Brassard (dept. IRO, Univ. de Montreal, H3C 3J7 Canada)

International Conference on Computers, Systems & Signal Processing Bangalore, India December 10-12, 1984

BB84 – Scheme [1]



- Sending and receiving single photons in randomly chosen polarization
→ **Raw Key**
- Keep only bits measured in same polarization basis (otherwise delete bit)
→ **Sifted Key = $\frac{1}{2}$ Raw Key** - Should be perfectly correlated (ideal hardware)
- Spy „Eve“ introduces errors in **Sifted Key**
→ Determine quantum bit error ratio (QBER) from subsets of the sifted key
→ Secret key distillation possible if QBER < $\sim 12\%$
- Error correction and privacy amplification
→ **Secure Key**

[1] C. H. Bennett und G. Brassard, *Proc. of IEEE International Conference on Computers, Systems and Signal Processing*, Bangalore, India S. 175–179 (1984)

The BB84 Protocol

BB84 - Example [1]

Sifting (50%)

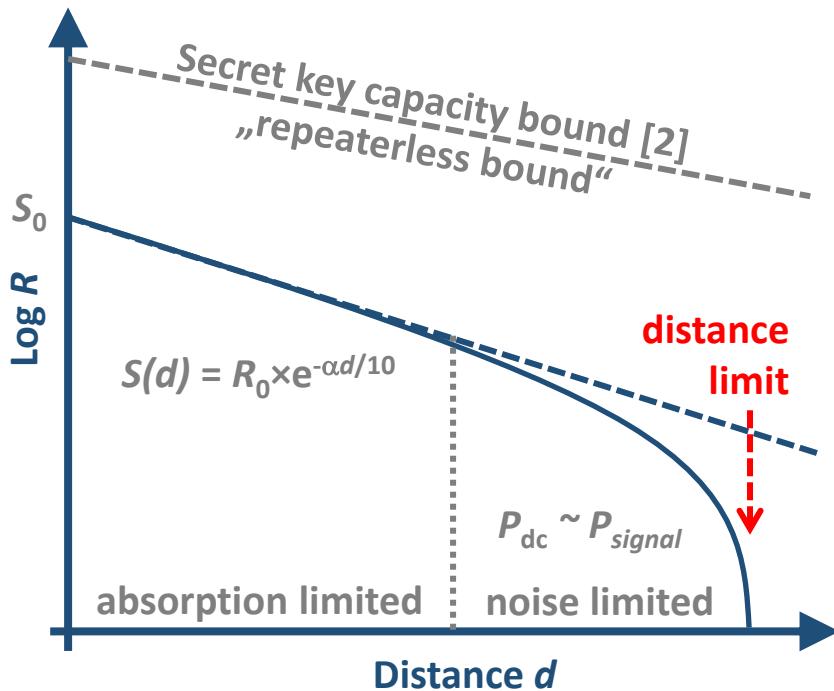
Error (25%)

for „intercept-resend“

BB84 Protocol		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	...
Alice	Bit	X	0	0	X	X	1	0	X	1	1	X	0	...
	Basis	↗↖	↗↖	↗↖	↗↖	↗↖	↗↖	↗↖	↗↖	↗↖	↗↖	↗↖	↗↖	...
	Polarisation	↔	↔	↔	↔	↔	↔	↔	↔	↔	↔	↔	↔	...
Eve	Basis	↗↖	↗↖	↗↖	↗↖	↗↖	↗↖	↗↖	↗↖	↗↖	↗↖	↗↖	↗↖	...
	Bit	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	...
	Polarisation	↔	↔	↔	↔	↔	↔	↔	↔	↔	↔	↔	↔	...
Bob	Basis	↗↖	↗↖	↗↖	↗↖	↗↖	↗↖	↗↖	↗↖	↗↖	↗↖	↗↖	↗↖	...
	Bit	X	0	0	X	X	1	0	X	0	1	X	0	...

[1] C. H. Bennett und G. Brassard, Proc. of IEEE International Conference on Computers, Systems and Signal Processing, Bangalore, India S. 175–179 (1984)

Rate vs. Loss [1,2]



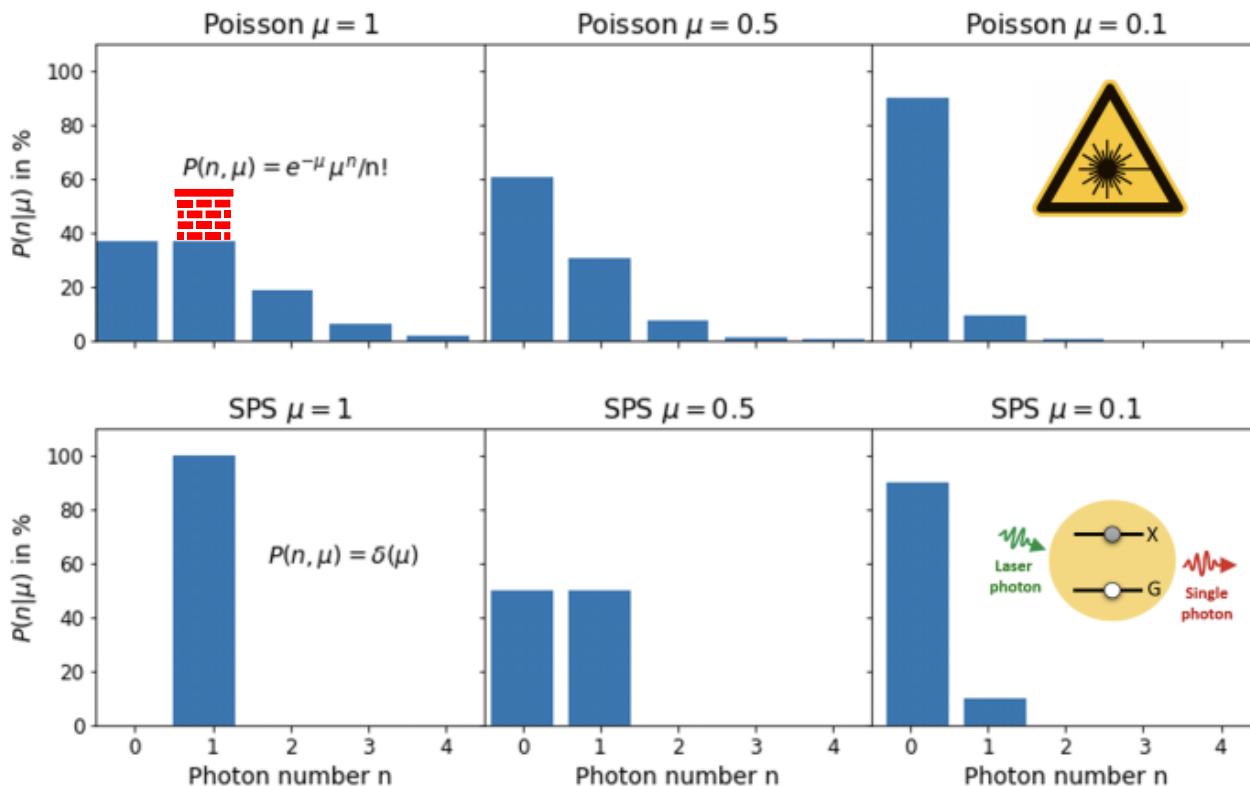
- Absorption-limited linear regime
→ Channel attenuation (0.2 dB/km @ 1.55 μm)
- Noise-limited multi-exponential regime
→ Detector dark counts
- Current record using attenuated lasers (WCPs)
→ 421 km communication distance [3]
- Secret key capacity bound [2]
→ Limit for direct point-to-point QKD
→ Advanced schemes required (e.g. qua-repeaters)

[1] R. Alléaume et al., *New J. Phys.* **11**, 075002 (2009)

[2] S. Pirandola et al., *Nat. Commun.* **8**, 15043 (2017)

[3] A. Boaron et al., *Phys. Rev. Lett.* **121**, 190502 (2018)

Multi Photons and Pair Generation



$$P_{1,WCP} \leq 0.37$$

$$P_{2,WCP} = \frac{e^{-\mu} \mu^2}{2}$$

WCPs require protocol
“add-on”
→ Decoy States [1,2]

$$P_{1,SPS} \leq 1$$

$$P_{2,SPS} \leq \frac{1}{2} \mu^2 g^{(2)}(0)$$

[1] W.-Y. Hwang, Phys. Rev. Lett. 91, 057901 (2003)

[2] X.-B. Wang, Phys. Rev. Lett. 94, 230503 (2005)

Calculating Secret Key Rates

KQD Performance (point to point)

Asymptotic Secret Key after GLLP [1,2]

...infinitely long bit strings!

$$S_{\infty} = S_{\text{sift}} \left[A \left(1 - h \left(\frac{e}{A} \right) \right) - f_{\text{EC}} h(e) \right]$$

Single-Photon Yield:

$$A = 1 - \frac{p_m}{p_{\text{click}}}$$

Error Correction Efficiency:

$$f_{\text{EC}} \approx 1.1 \dots 1.3$$

Binary Shannon Entropy

$$h(x) = -x \log_2(x) - (1-x) \log_2(1-x)$$

QBER:

$$e = \frac{N_{\text{false}}}{N_{\text{false}} + N_{\text{correct}}}$$

Noise

Sifted Key Rate

$$p_{\text{sifted}} = \frac{p_{\text{click}}}{2}$$

Efficiency

Multi Photon Probability

$$p_m \leq \frac{\mu^2 g^{(2)}(0)}{2}$$

Purity

[1] D. Gottesman, H.-K. Lo, N. Lütkenhaus, and J. Preskill, Quant. Inf. Comput. 5, 325-360 (2004)

[2] P. Chaiwongkhot, S. Sajeed, L. Lydersen, and V. Makarov, Quantum Science and Technology 2, 044003 (2017)

QKD Performance (point to point)

Secret Key including *Finite-Size-Effects* [1]

... bit string of finite length $N = n + m$

$$S_{\text{finite}}(N, \epsilon) = nA \left[1 - h\left(\frac{\tilde{e}}{A}\right) \right] - nf_{\text{EC}}h(e) - \Delta(n)$$

key generation



parameter estimation

Overall Security Parameter: ϵ

Modified QBER:

$$\tilde{e} = e + \delta(m, \epsilon)$$

Additional Corrections:

$$-\Delta(n, \epsilon)$$

The protocol is ϵ -secure if:

$$(1 - P^{\text{abort}}) \cdot \frac{1}{2} \left\| \rho_{A,B,E}^{\text{pass}} - \rho_{U,U} \otimes \rho_E \right\|_1 \leq \epsilon$$

Different sub-steps can fail:

$$\epsilon = \epsilon_{\text{EC}} + \tilde{\epsilon} + \epsilon_{\text{PE}} + \epsilon_{\text{PA}}$$

Typically: $\epsilon \approx 10^{-9}$

Like a decomposition
of technical failures:



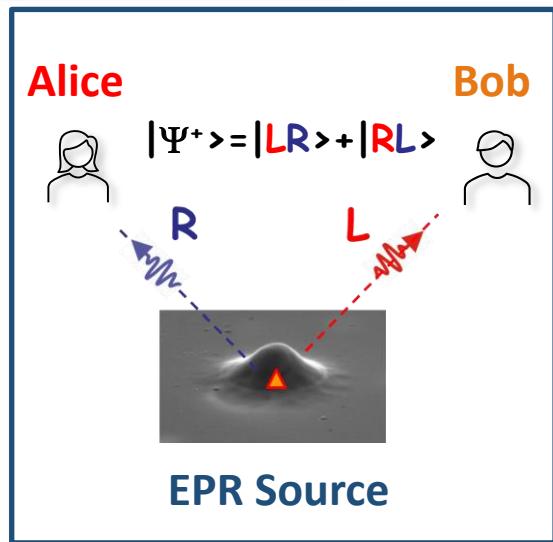
protocol is ϵ -secure
 \Leftrightarrow prob. of failure $\leq \epsilon$

$$\epsilon_{\text{plane}} = \epsilon_{\text{wings}} + \epsilon_{\text{motor}} + \epsilon_{\text{fuel}} + \dots$$

[1] R. Y. Q. Cai and V. Scarani, New Journal of Physics 11, 045024 (2009)

The E91 Protocol

E91 – Scheme [1]



- Alice and Bob receive photons from an EPR source emitting polarization entangled photon pairs
- Alice and Bob measure their part of the 2-photon state randomly and independently in 3 different polarization bases (e.g. HV, DA, RL)
→ **Raw Key**
- Bits measured in **same bases** → **Sifted Key**
- Bits measured in **different bases** → **Monitor S via CHSH inequality**
 - Deviations in *S* (potentially introduced by „Eve“) quantify the information leakage and determine the amount of privacy amplification
 - **Secure Key**

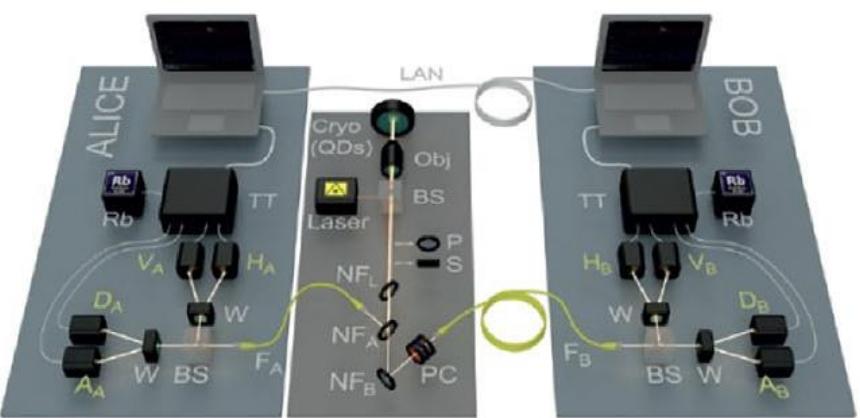


Artur Ekert

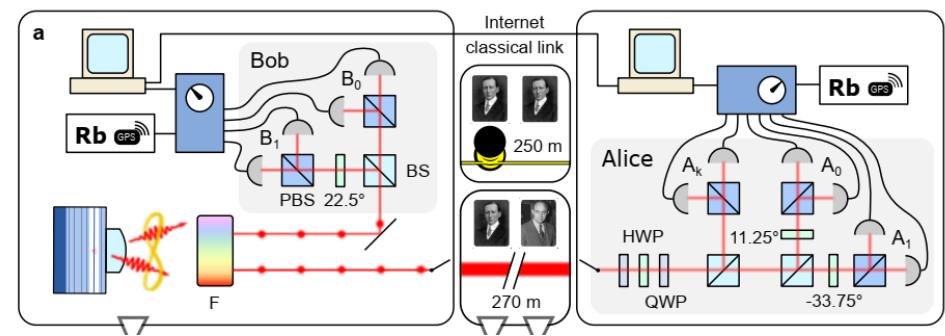
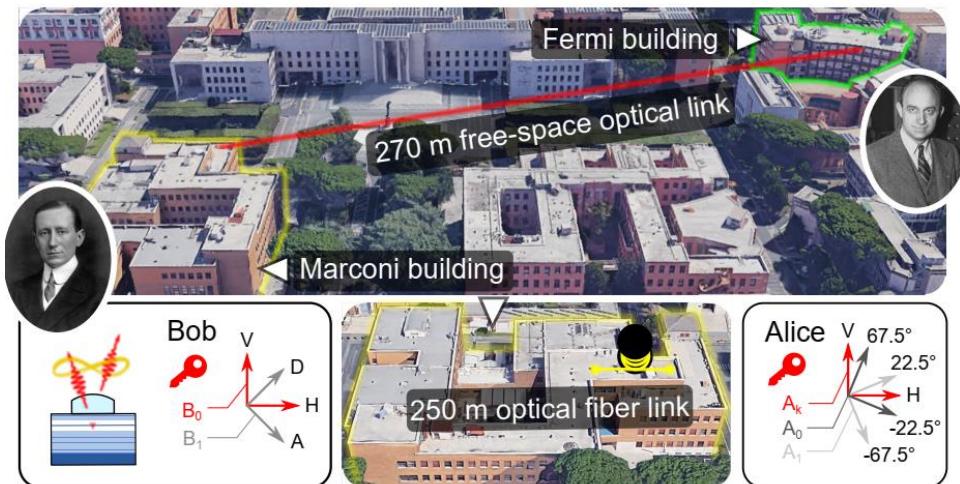
[1] **Proposal:** A. Ekert, Phys. Rev. Lett. 67, 661 (1991)

[2] **1st experiment:** T. Jennewein et al., Phys. Rev. Lett. 84, 4729 (2000)

Rastelli group (JKU Linz)



Trotta group (Sapienza Rome)



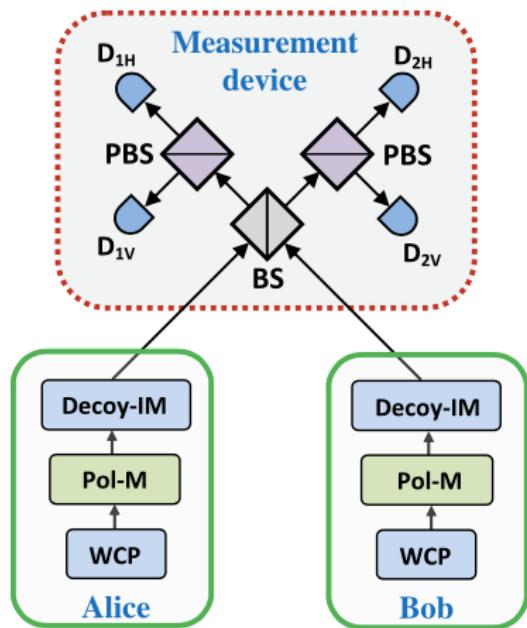
C. Schimpf et al., Sci. Adv. 7, 16 (2021)

and

F. Basso Basset et al., Sci. Adv. 7, 12 (2021)

Measurement-Device-Independent (MDI) QKD – Scheme [1]

= time-reversed E91 protocol!

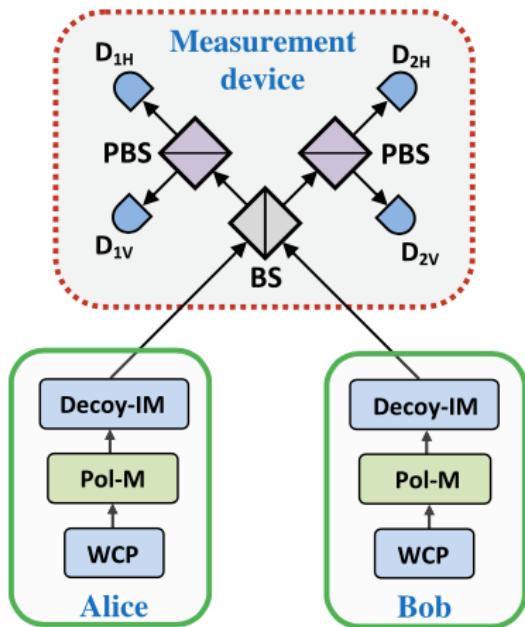


- Alice **and** Bob both prepare single photons with randomly chosen BB84 states and send them to a common relay station ,Charly'
- Charly performs a partial Bell-state measurement (BSM) on both photons:
 - Projection in Ψ^- → Click at D_{1H} and D_{2V} or D_{1V} and D_{2H}
 - Projection in Ψ^+ -> Click at D_{1H} and D_{1V} or D_{2V} and D_{2H}
- Charly announces successful BSMs (clicks in orthogonal polarization) and resepective results
- Alice and Bob sift their keys:
 - Keep entries which resulted in a succesfull BSM
 - Keep entries with same basis choice (for sending)
- Alice (or Bob) performs a bit flip on all entries except when both send in the diagonal basis resulting in a successfull BSM:

Alice & Bob	Relay output $ \psi^-\rangle$	Relay output $ \psi^+\rangle$
Rectilinear basis	Bit flip	Bit flip
Diagonal basis	Bit flip	No bit flip

[1] H. K. Lo, M. Curty, and B. Qi, PRL 108, 130503 (2012) and S. L. Braunstein and S. Pirandola, PRL 108, 130502 (2012)

MDI-QKD – Motivation [1]



- Hard to avoid security loopholes in practical applications
→ Device-independent (DI) schemes very attractive but challenging!
- Many attacks target the detector [2]:

Attack	Target component	Tested system
Time-shift [76-79]	Detector	Commercial system
Time-information [80]	Detector	Research system
Detector-control [81-83]	Detector	Commercial system
Detector-control [84]	Detector	Research system
Detector dead-time [85]	Detector	Research system
Channel calibration [86]	Detector	Commercial system
Phase-remapping [87]	Phase modulator	Commercial system
Faraday-mirror [88]	Faraday mirror	Theory
Wavelength [89]	Beam-splitter	Theory
Phase information [90]	Source	Research system
Device calibration [91]	Local oscillator	Research system

→ MDI-QKD interesting alternative to full DI schemes for some applications



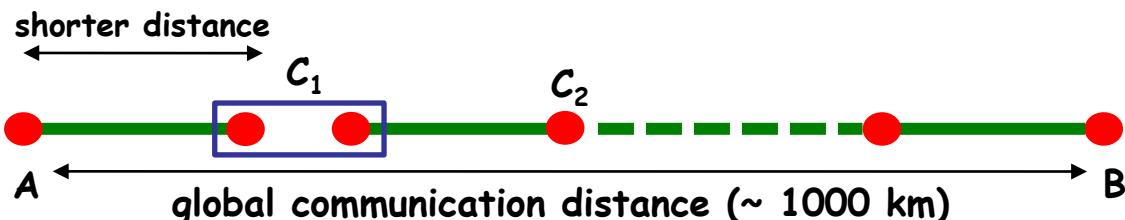
MDI-QKD important step towards multi-user neteworks and quantum repeaters

[1] H. K. Lo, M. Curty, and B. Qi, PRL 108, 130503 (2012) and S. L. Braunstein and S. Pirandola, PRL 108, 130502 (2012)

[2] H. K. Lo, M. Curty, and K. Tamaki, Nature Photonics 8, 595-604 (2014)

Working Principle

- Quantum repeater [1] extend achievable communication distance



[1] 1st Theory: H.-J. Briegel et al., Phys. Rev. Lett 81, 5932 (1998)

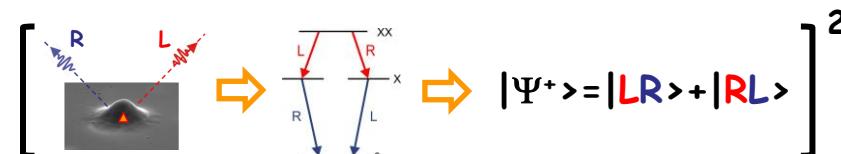
Resources Required [2]

- Entanglement Swapping
- Entanglement Purification
- Quantum Memories

[2] N. Gisin & R. Thew,
Nat. Photon. 1, 165 (2007)

Entanglement Swapping

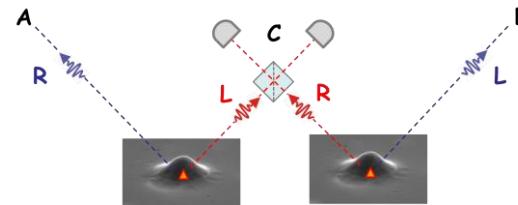
- Generate entangled photon-pairs from remote quantum emitters



$$|\Psi^+\rangle = |LR\rangle + |RL\rangle$$

- Perform Bell-state measurement of XX-photons at C:

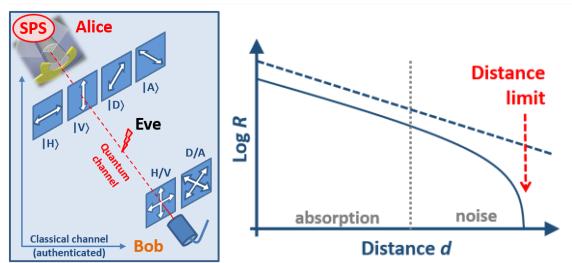
$$|\Psi^+_C\rangle = |LR\rangle + |RL\rangle$$



- Verify entanglement of photon-pairs A-B: $|\Psi^+\rangle = |RL\rangle + |LR\rangle$

Note: Experimental progress by groups Trotta, Rastelli, and Schmidt using quantum dots

Outline – Part I

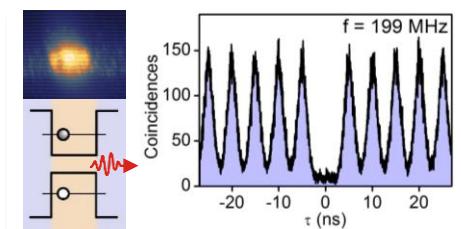


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Single-Photon Generation in the Solid-State Quantum Dots and the Purcell Effect

REVIEW

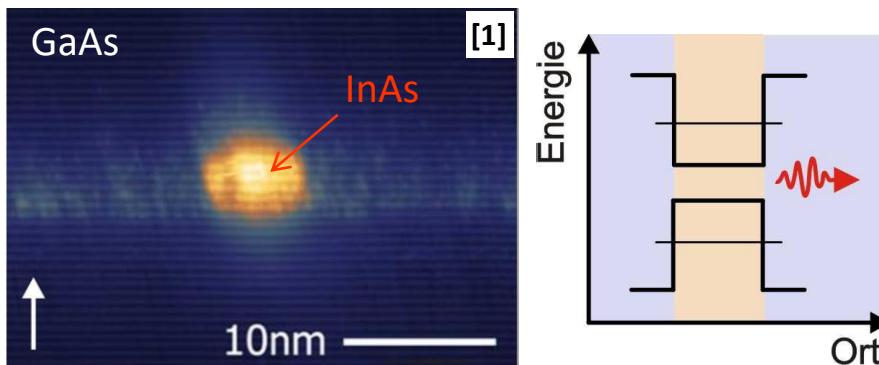
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Single-Photon QKD A Brief Review

How to Single Photon

Quantum dot (QD) – “artificial atom”

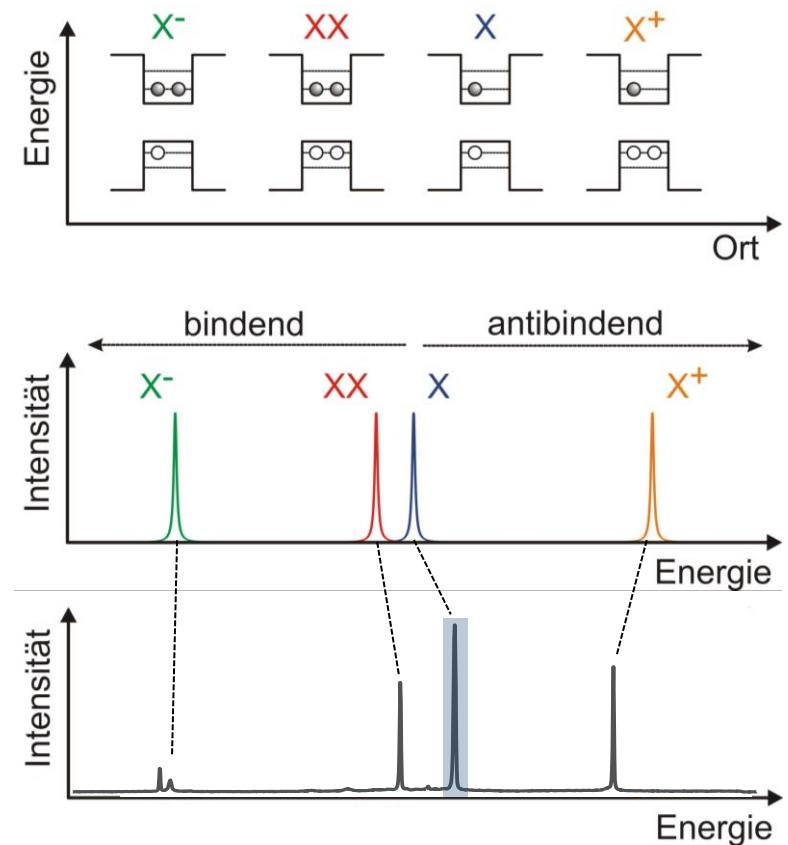


[1] Keizer et al., *APL* **101**, 243113 (2012)

3D confinement of charge carriers $\leq \lambda_{\text{db}}$

- Discrete energy levels
- Bound electron-hole pairs: excitons (X)
- Radiative recombination
- Emission of single photons

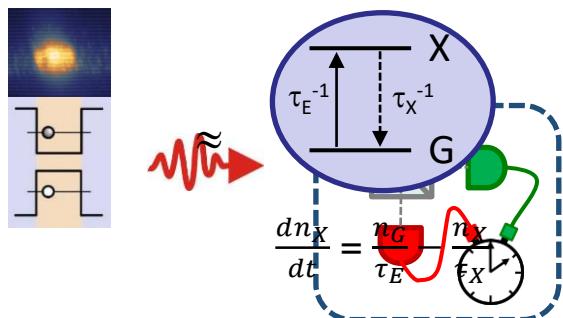
Excitonic multiparticle-states [2]



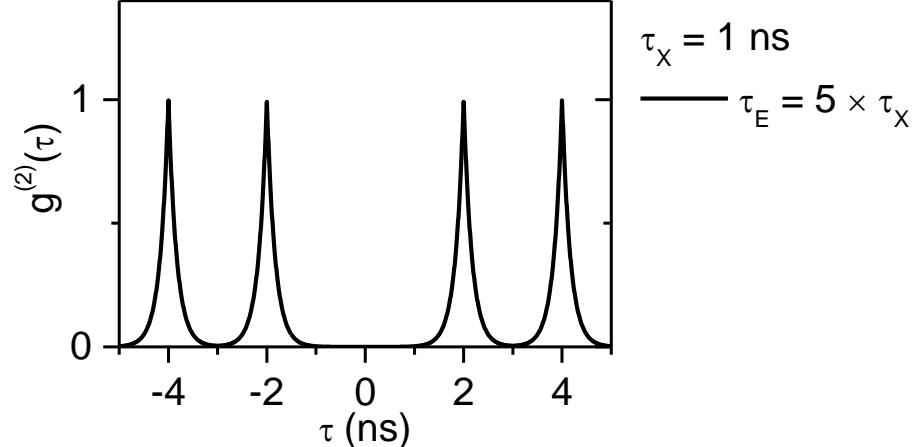
[2] S. Rodt et al., *Phy. Rev. B* **71**, 155325 (2005)

Quantum dot (QD) \approx 2-Level System [1]

[1] P. Michler et al., *Nature* **406**, 968 (2000)



Auto-correlation



Hanbury-Brown and Twiss (HBT) setup



[1] HBT, *Nature* **177**, 4497 (1956)

Autocorrelation function:

$$g^{(2)}(\tau) = \frac{\langle \hat{a}^\dagger(t)\hat{a}^\dagger(t+\tau)\hat{a}(t+\tau)\hat{a}(t) \rangle}{\langle \hat{a}^\dagger(t)\hat{a}(t) \rangle^2}$$

thermal light: $g^{(2)}(0) > g^{(2)}(\tau)$ (bunching)

coherent light: $g^{(2)}(0) = g^{(2)}(\tau)$ (Poissonian)

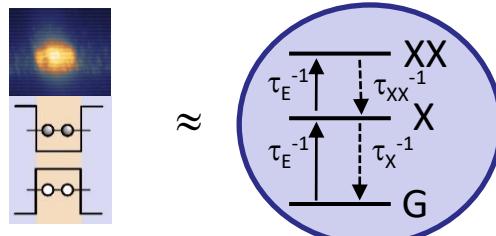
non-classical light: $g^{(2)}(0) < g^{(2)}(\tau)$ (antibunching)

How to Entangle Photons

Entanglement!

Quantum dot (QD) \approx 3-Level System [2,3]

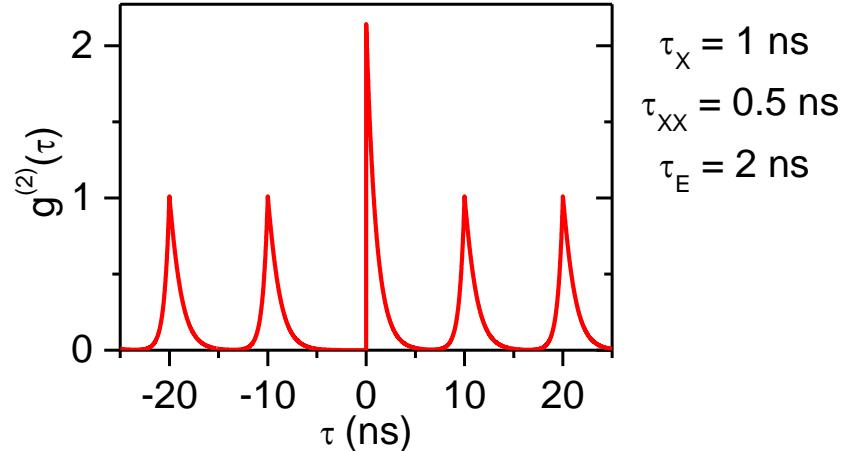
- [2] E. Moreau et al., *Phys. Rev. Lett.* **87**, 183601 (2001)
 [3] T. Aichele, *PhD Thesis*, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, (2005)



$$\begin{aligned} \frac{dn_G}{dt} &= -\frac{n_G}{\tau_E} + \frac{n_X}{\tau_X} \\ \frac{dn_X}{dt} &= \frac{n_G}{\tau_E} - \left(\frac{1}{\tau_X} + \frac{1}{\tau_E} \right) \cdot n_X + \frac{n_{XX}}{\tau_{XX}} \\ \frac{dn_{XX}}{dt} &= \frac{n_X}{\tau_E} - \frac{n_{XX}}{\tau_{XX}} \end{aligned}$$

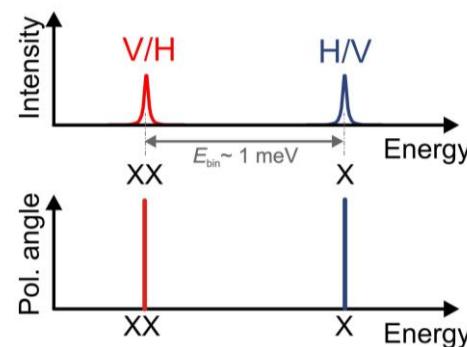
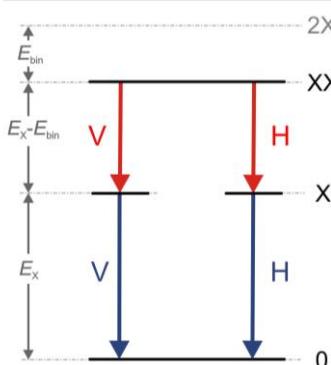


Cross-correlation



- [4] T. Kuroda et al., *Phys. Rev. B* **79**, 035330 (2009)

XX-X Radiative Cascade



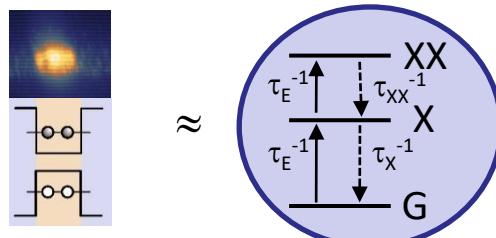
$$|\Psi^+\rangle = |\text{LR}\rangle + |\text{RL}\rangle$$

How to Entangle Photons

Entanglement!

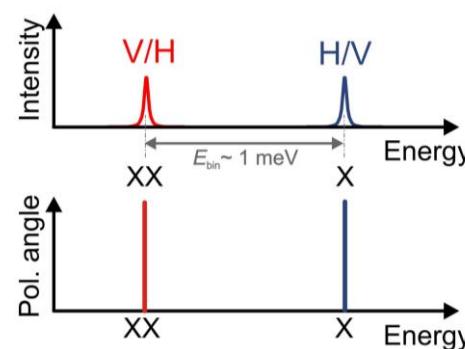
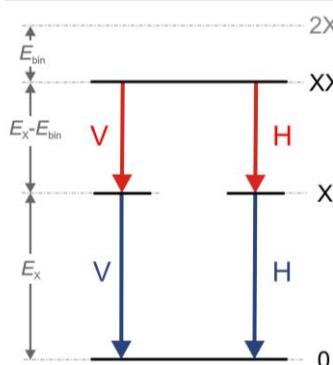
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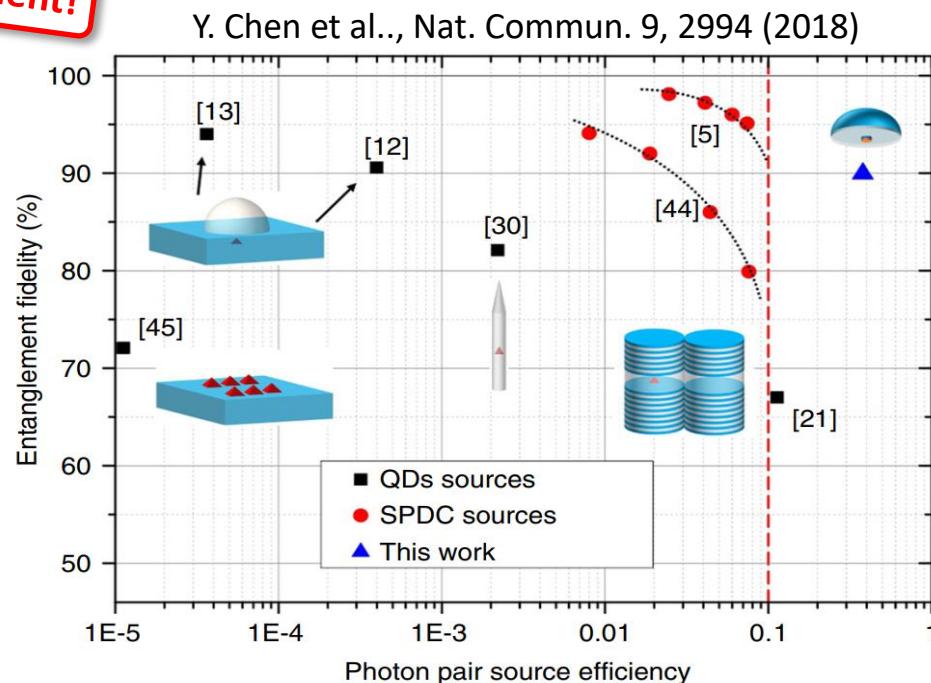


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XX-X Radiative Cascade



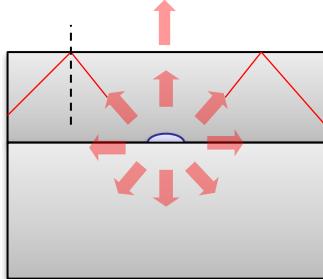
$$|\Psi^+\rangle = |\text{LR}\rangle + |\text{RL}\rangle$$



Quantum Dot in Bulk

⇒ Single photon emitter

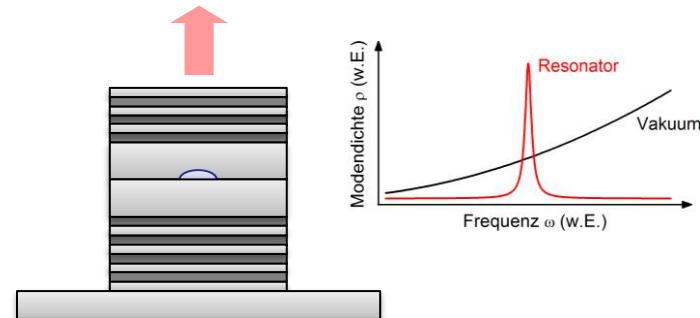
But: Efficiency $\eta_{\text{ext}} < 3 \%$



Quantum Dot in Microcavity

⇒ Exploit Purcell Effect [1]

→ Efficient SPSs $\eta_{\text{ext}} \sim 1$



Fermi's Golden Rule

$$\frac{1}{\tau} = \frac{4\pi}{\hbar} \rho(\omega_0) |\langle \vec{d} \cdot \vec{f}(r_0) \rangle|^2$$

+
Op. Mode density $\rho(\omega)$
in microcavity

Modification of spontaneous emission lifetime [1]

⇒ **Purcell factor:** $F_P = \underbrace{\frac{3Q(\lambda_C/n)^3}{4\pi^2 V_M}}_{F_P^{\max}} \cdot \underbrace{\frac{\gamma_C^2}{4\Delta^2 + \gamma_C^2}}_{\text{spektral}}$ [2]

$$F_P = \tau_{3D} / \tau_{\text{Res}}$$

- [1] E. M. Purcell, *Proc of the APS* **69**, 681 (1946)
- [2] B. Gayral et al., *Phys. Rev. Lett.* **90**, 229701 (2003)
- [3] K. J. Vahala, *Nature* **424**, 839-846 (2003)

Photon Extraction Strategies

Quantum Dot in Bulk

⇒ Single photon emitter

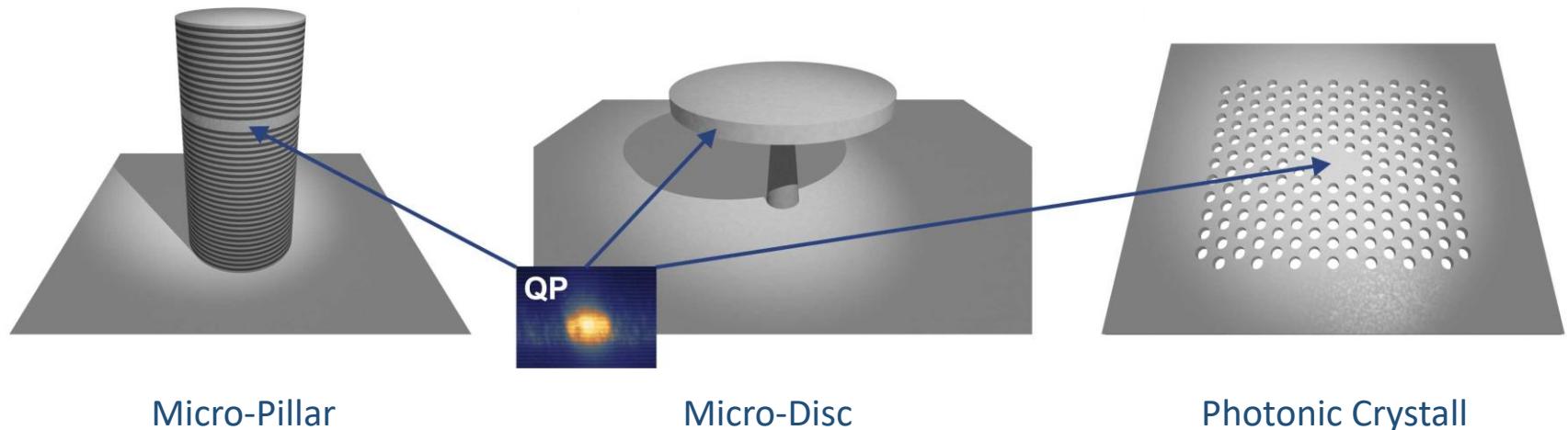
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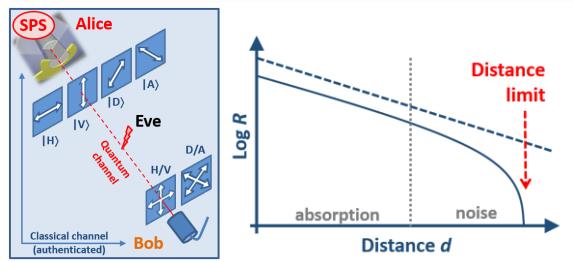
[3] K. J. Vahala, *Nature* **424**, 839-846 (2003)

Outline – Part I



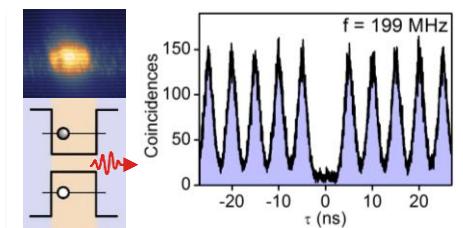
About Us

- QuCom Group @ Berlin
- Research & Vision



Quantum Communication Intro

- Point-to-Point QKD Protocols (BB84, E91, ...)
- Advanced Protocols (MDI-QKD, QuRepeater)
- Beyond QKD



Single-Photon Generation in the Solid-State Quantum Dots and the Purcell Effect

REVIEW

ADVANCED QUANTUM TECHNOLOGIES
www.advquantumtech.com

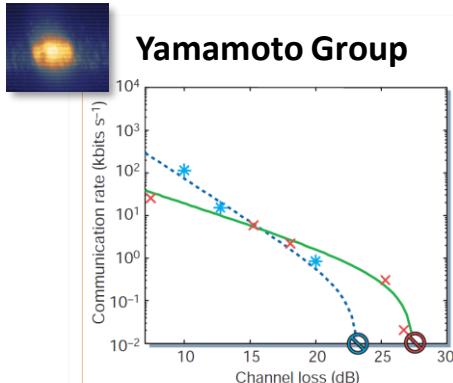
Quantum Communication
Using Semiconductor Quantum Dots

Single-Photon QKD A Brief Review

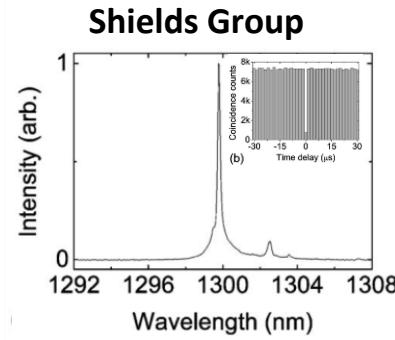
Single-photon QKD

Early Work

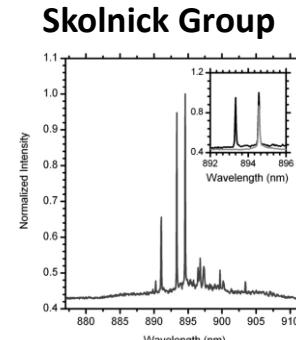
... more recent: Jennewein/Reimer (arXiv) and Rastelli/Trotta (entanglement QKD)



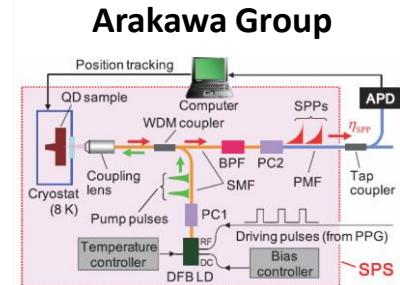
E. Waks et al.:
Nature 420, 762 (2002)



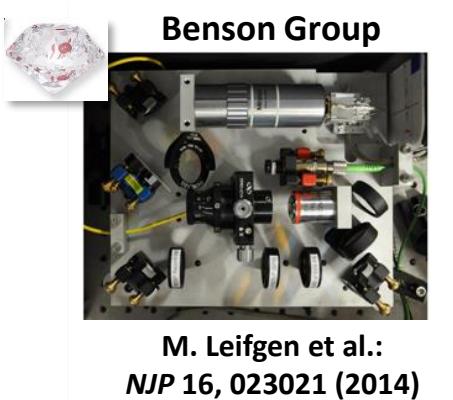
P. M. Intallura et al.:
APL 91, 161103 (2007)



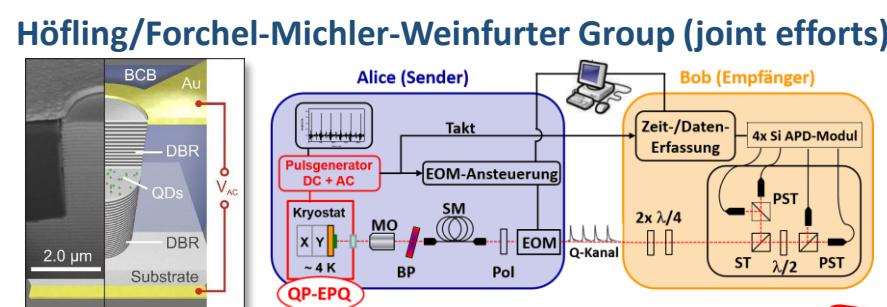
P. J. Collins et al.:
JAP 107, 073102 (2010)



K. Takemoto et al.:
AP Express 3, 092802 (2010)



M. Leifgen et al.:
NJP 16, 023021 (2014)



T. Heindel et al.: *New J. Phys.* 14, 083001 (2012)
M. Rau, T. Heindel et al.: *New J. Phys.* 16, 03003 (2014)

In-Lab
+
500 m Link



Single-photon QKD

D. Vajner et al., *Adv. Quantum Technol.* 2100116 (2022)

REVIEW



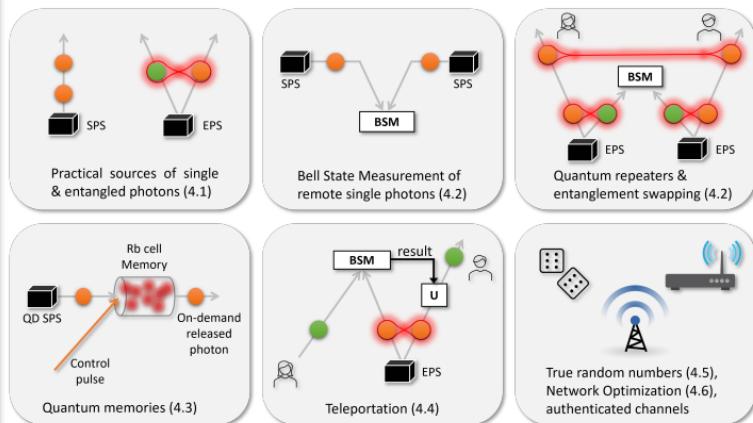
Quantum Communication Using Semiconductor Quantum Dots

Daniel A. Vajner, Lucas Rickert, Timm Gao, Koray Kaymazlar, and Tobias Heindel*

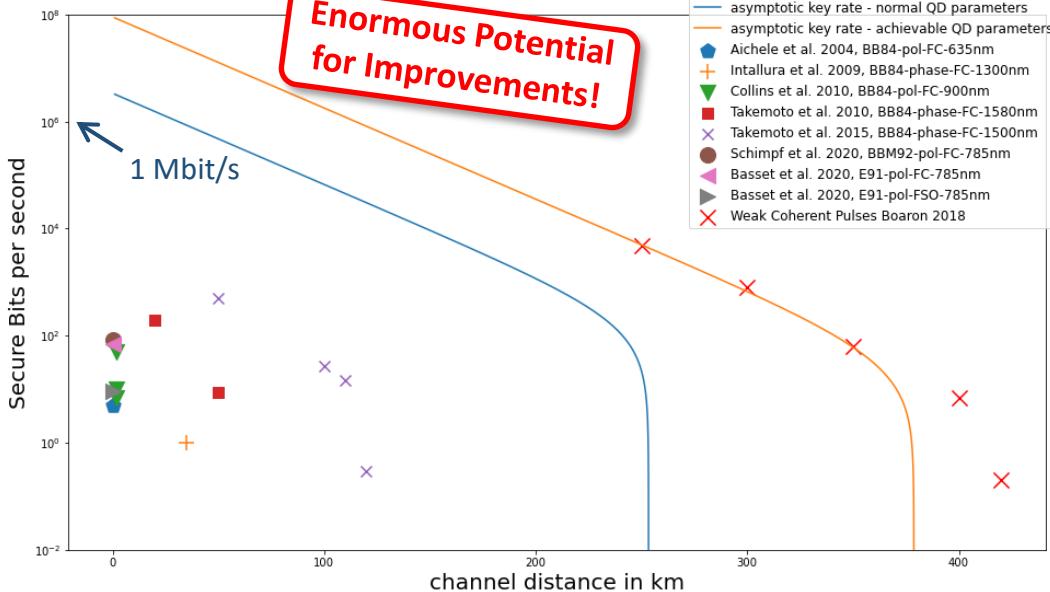
Worldwide, enormous efforts are directed toward the development of the so-called quantum internet. Turning this long-sought-after dream into reality is a great challenge that will require breakthroughs in quantum communication and computing. To establish a global, quantum-secured communication infrastructure, photonic quantum technologies will doubtlessly play a major role, by providing and interfacing essential quantum

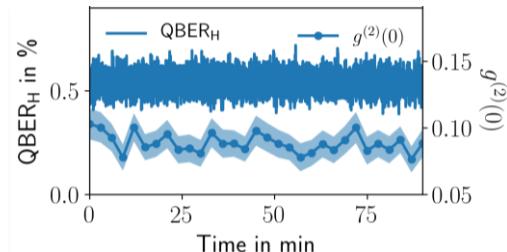
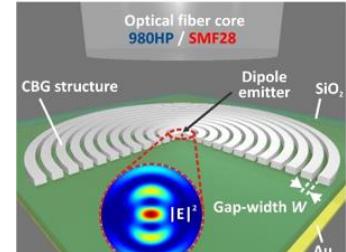
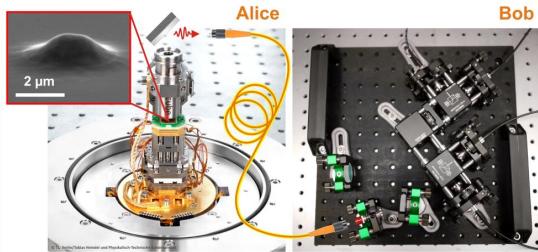
well as the strategies of breaking them, have been employed over time (see Singh for a historic overview^[1]), most current security standards rely on the computational complexity of so-called one-way functions.^[2] However, considering the steady increase in computation power, it is important to stay

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- asymptotic key rate - normal QD parameters
- asymptotic key rate - achievable QD parameters
- Aichele et al. 2004, BB84-pol-FC-635nm
- Intallura et al. 2009, BB84-phase-FC-1300nm
- ▼ Collins et al. 2010, BB84-pol-FC-900nm
- Takemoto et al. 2010, BB84-phase-FC-1580nm
- × Takemoto et al. 2015, BB84-phase-FC-1500nm
- Schimpf et al. 2020, BBM92-pol-FC-785nm
- ▲ Bassat et al. 2020, E91-pol-FC-785nm
- Bassat et al. 2020, E91-pol-FSO-785nm
- ✗ Weak Coherent Pulses Baroorn 2018





Quantum Communication

Part II: *Early Work*

Tobias Heindel

Head of Group
Quantum Communication Systems



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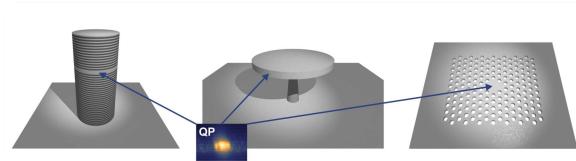


Federal Ministry
of Education
and Research

Institute of Solid State Physics
Technische Universität Berlin
Germany

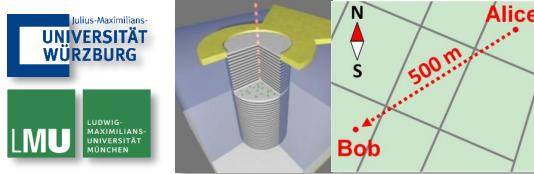


Outline – Part II



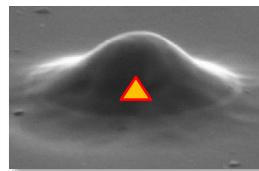
Recap

- Photon Extraction Efficiencies

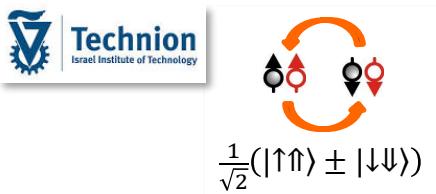


Early Work

- Electrically Triggered Single-Photon Sources
- Quantum Communication using Single-Photon LEDs



- Deterministic 3D In-Situ Electron Beam Lithography
- Fundamental Quantum Optics Experiments



Spin-Photon Interfaces

All-optically Accessing the Dark Exciton Spin-Qubit

Photon Extraction Strategies

Quantum Dot in Bulk

⇒ Single photon emitter

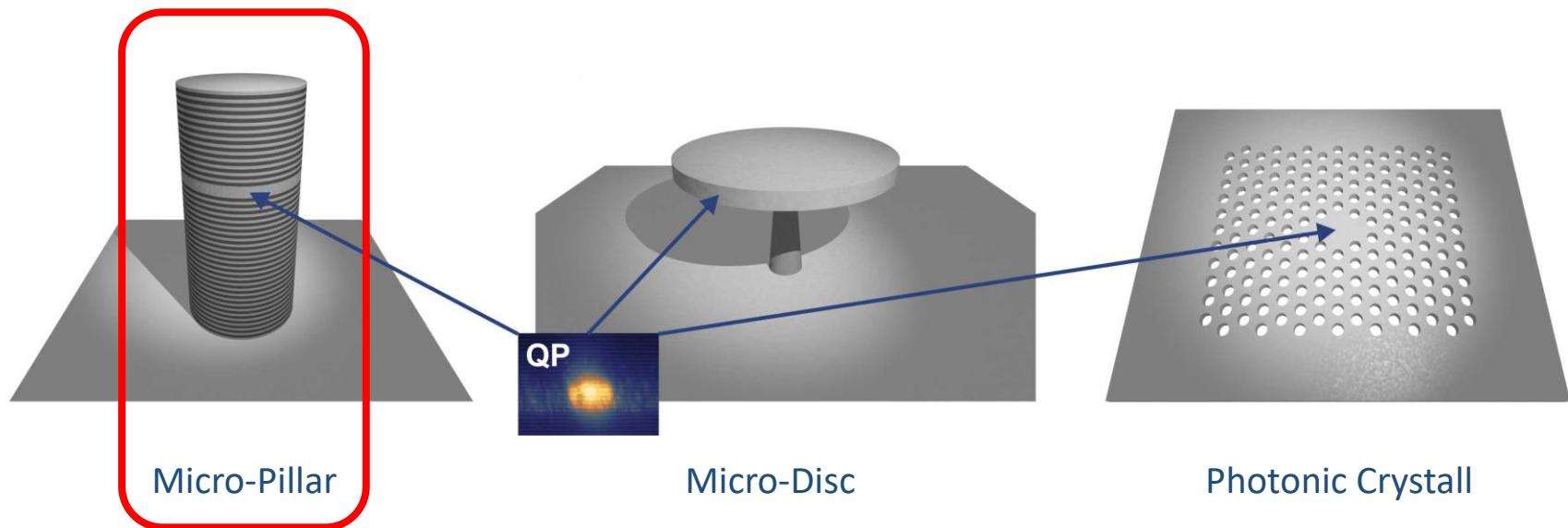
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Quantum Dot in Microcavity

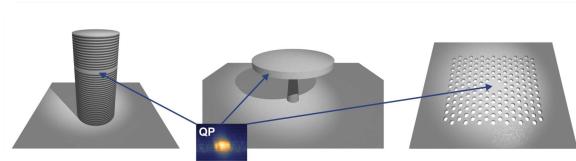
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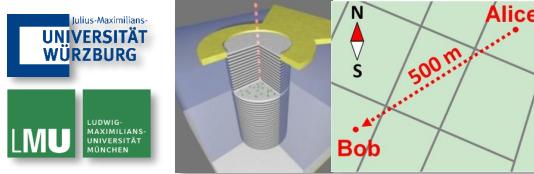
[3] K. J. Vahala, *Nature* **424**, 839-846 (2003)

Outline – Part II



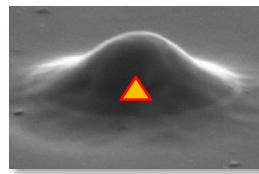
Recap

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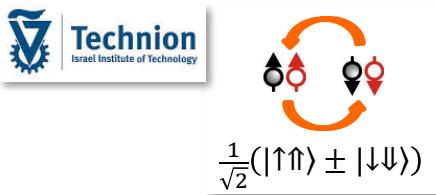


Early Work

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Spin-Photon Interfaces

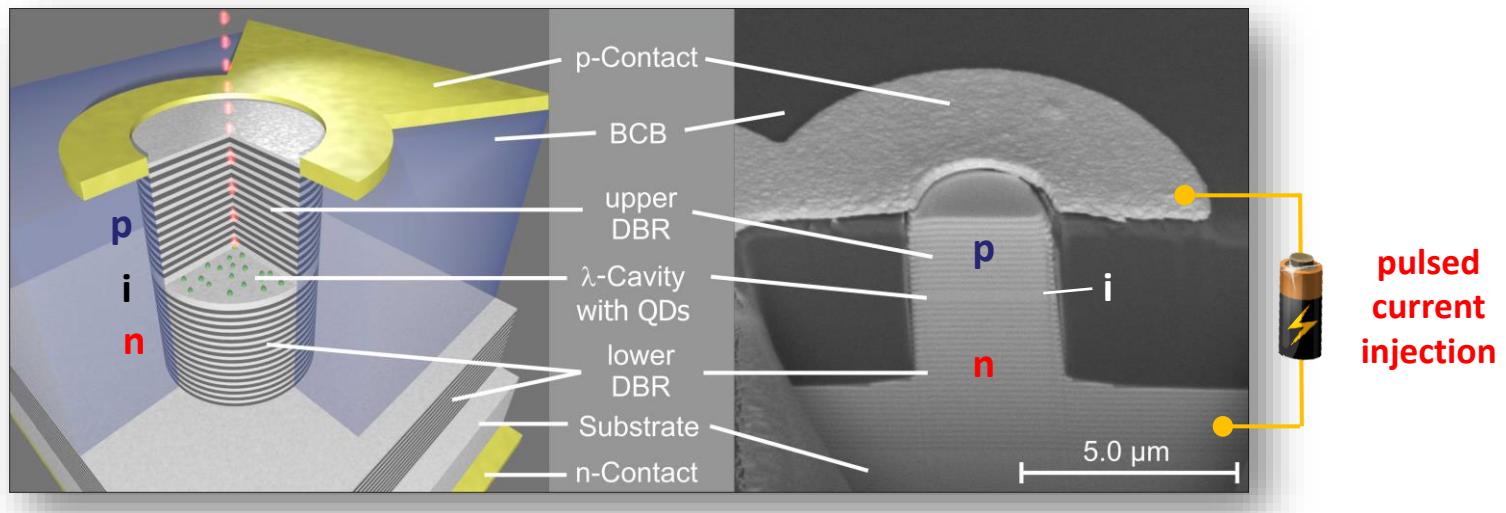
All-optically Accessing the Dark Exciton Spin-Qubit

Single-Photon Light Emitting Diode

→ T. Heindel et al., *Appl. Phys. Lett.* 96, 011107 (2010)

Quantum Dot Micropillar single-photon source

- Optimized Design
- Efficient light extraction



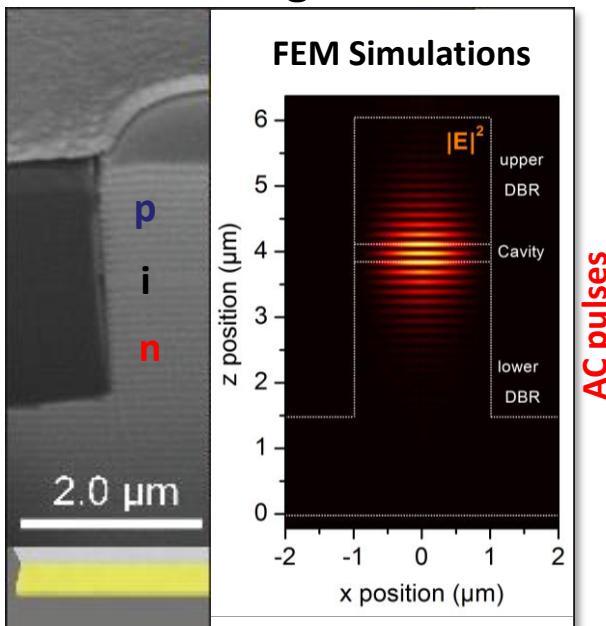
- Upper DBR: $13 \lambda/4$ GaAs/AlAs, p-doping
- Active region: InAs QDs in an intrinsic λ -cavity
- Lower DBR: $26 \lambda/4$ GaAs/AlAs, n-doping



Exploit Purcell-effect for
efficient photon extraction

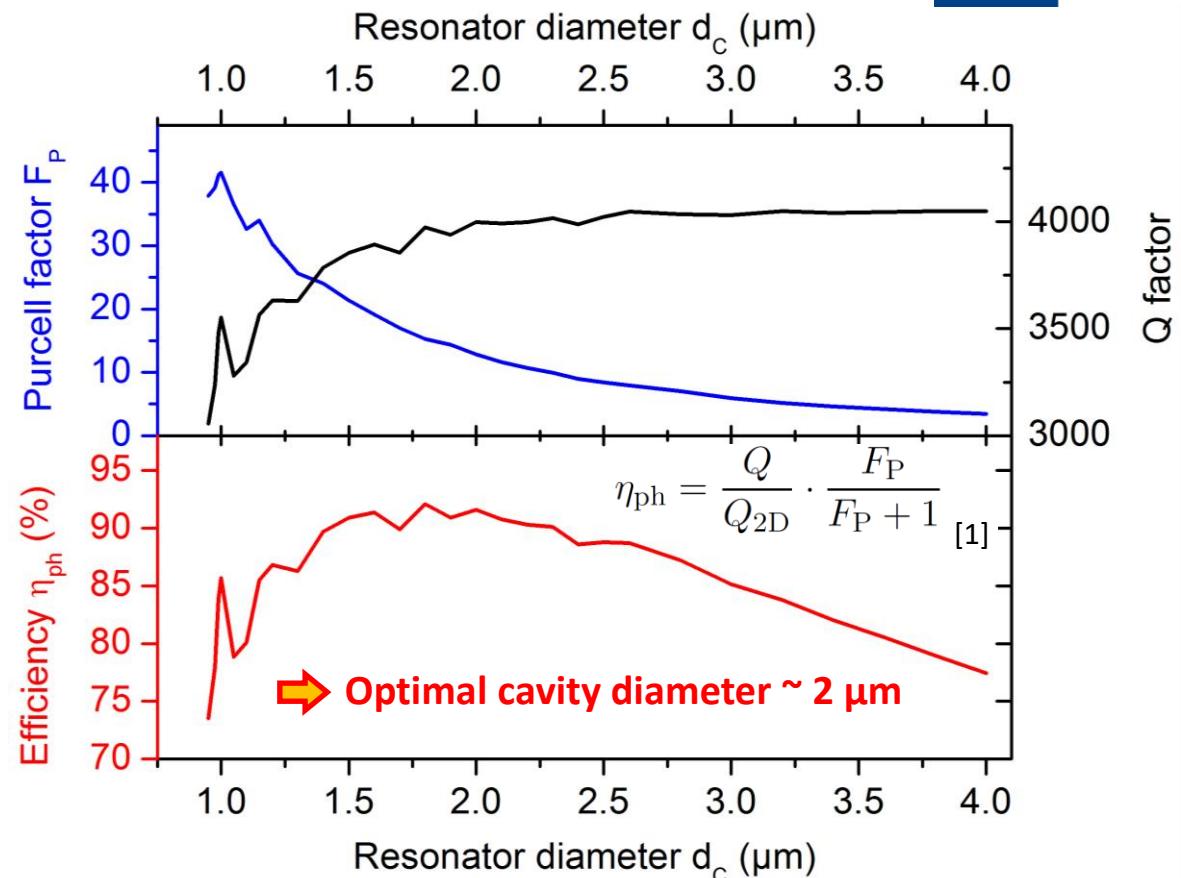
Quantum Dot Micropillar single-photon source

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Sven Burger

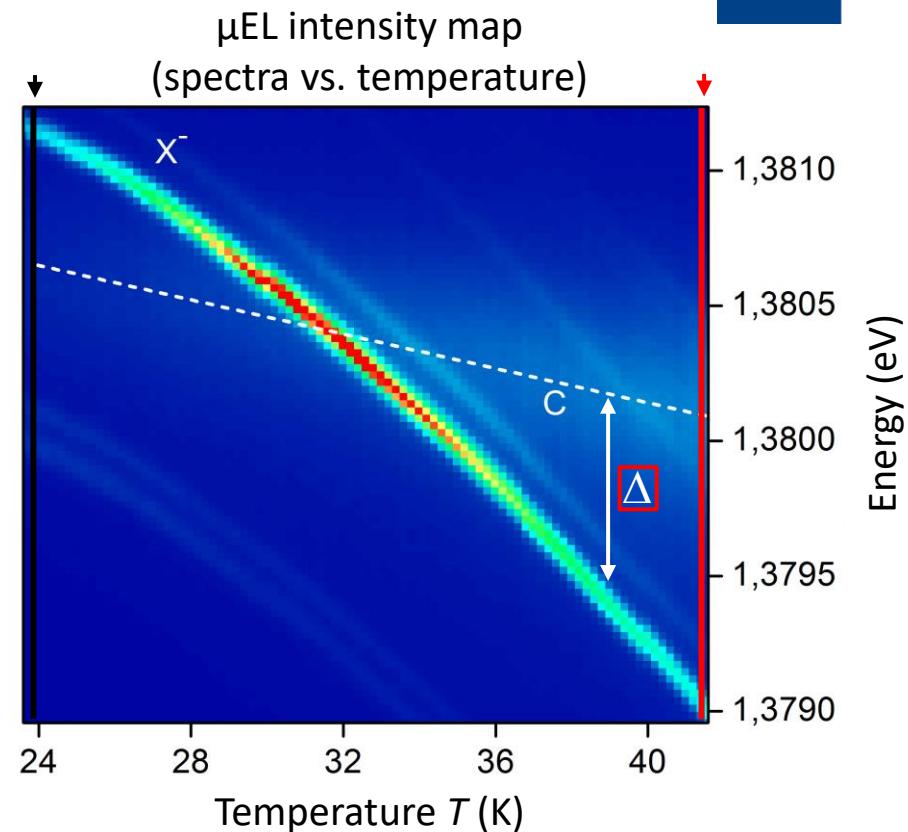
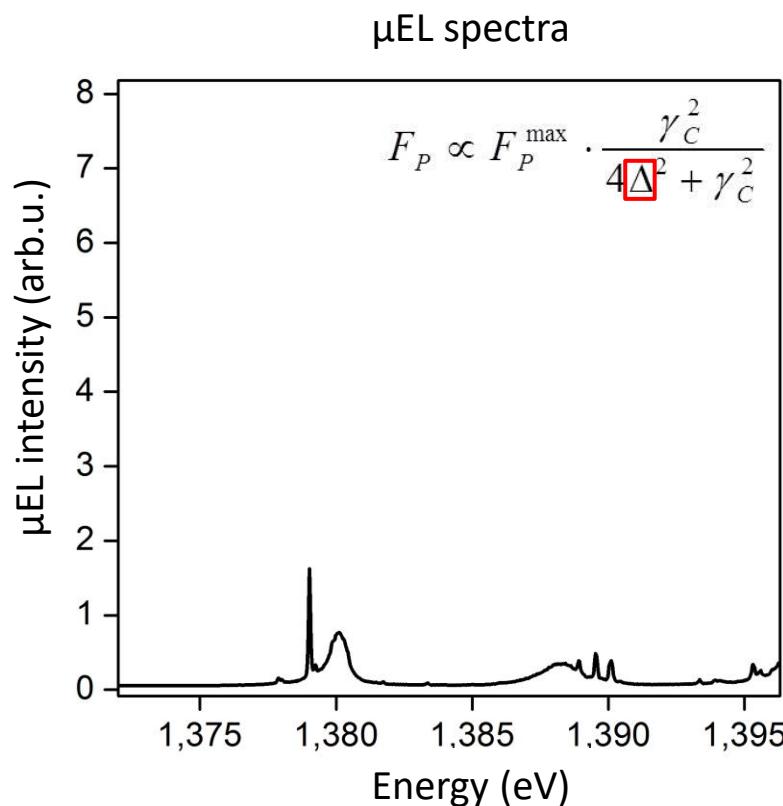


[1] W. L. Barnes et al., *Eur. Phys. J. D* **18**, 197 (2002)

Purcell Enhancement

→ T. Heindel et al., *Appl. Phys. Lett.* 96, 011107 (2010)

Observation of Purcell-enhancement:

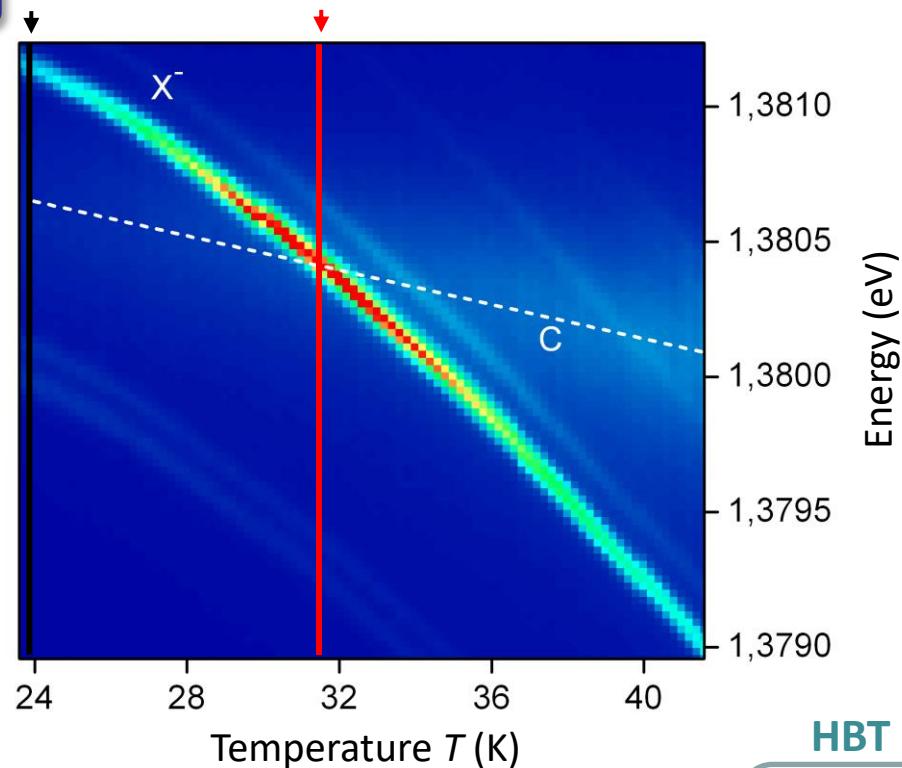
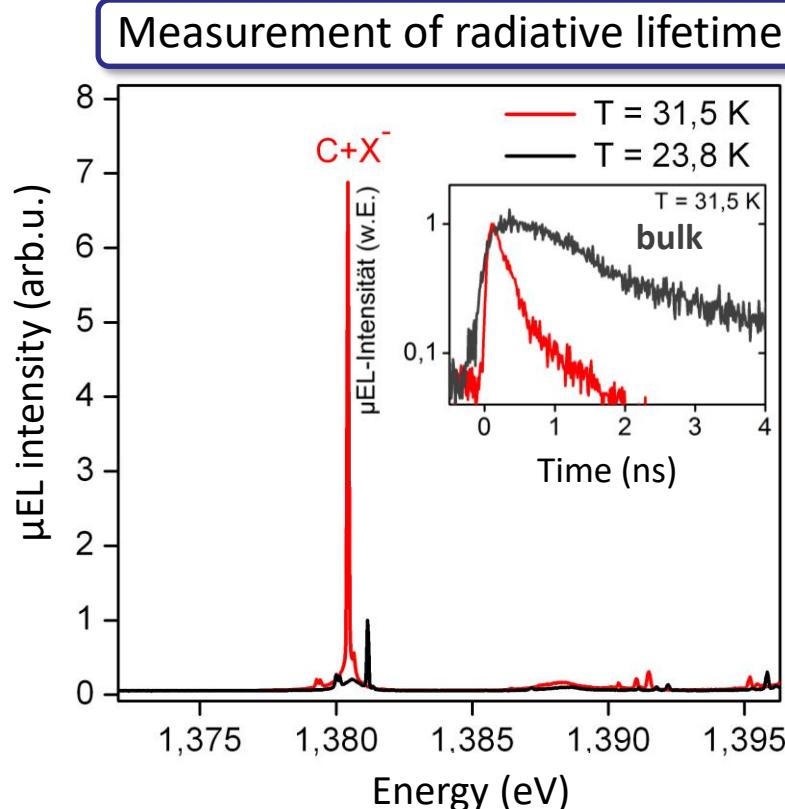


- Temperature-induced spectral tuning of QD emission

Purcell Enhancement

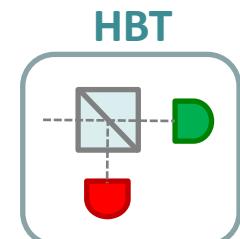
→ T. Heindel et al., *Appl. Phys. Lett.* 96, 011107 (2010)

Observation of Purcell-enhancement:



Lifetime at spectral resonance: 300 ps (\leftrightarrow 1.2 ns in bulk)
 → enables GHz modulation speed

→ Purcell-Factor $F_p = 4$

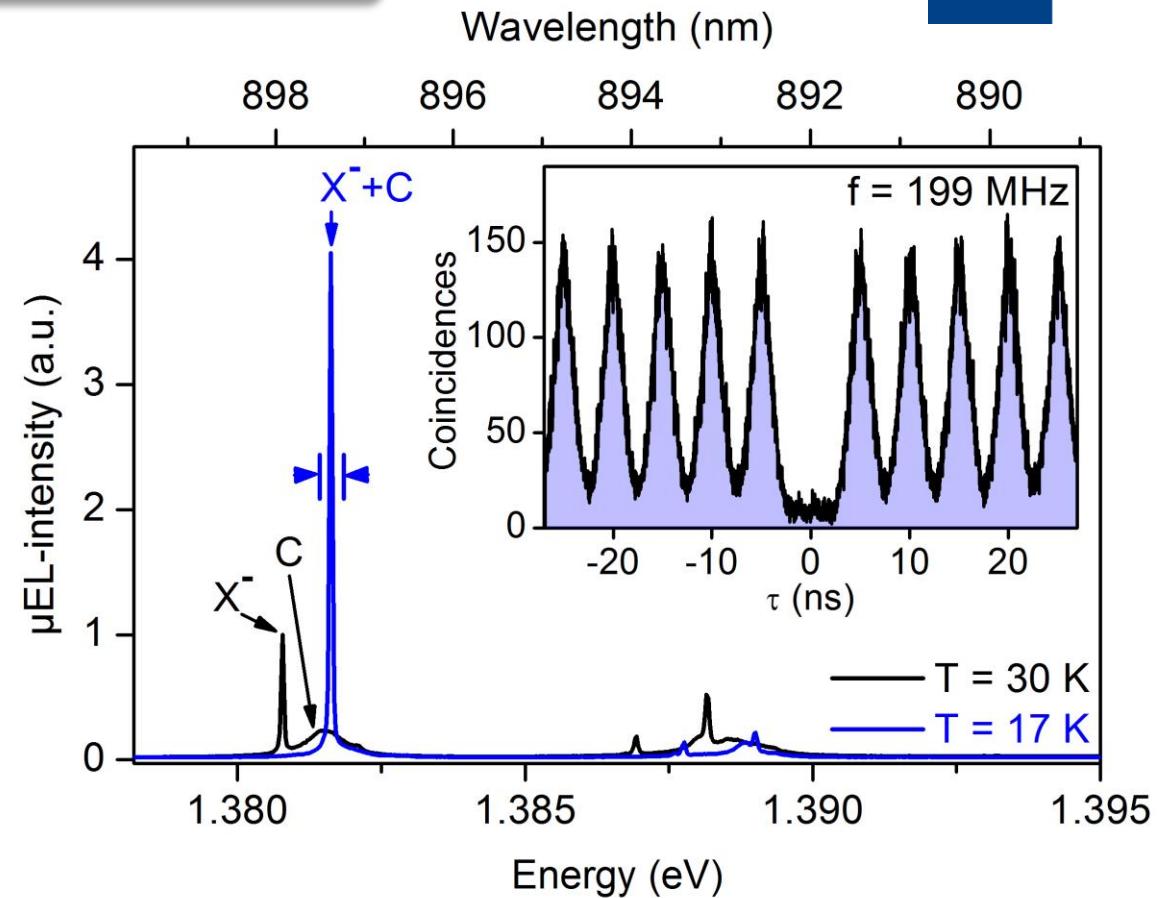
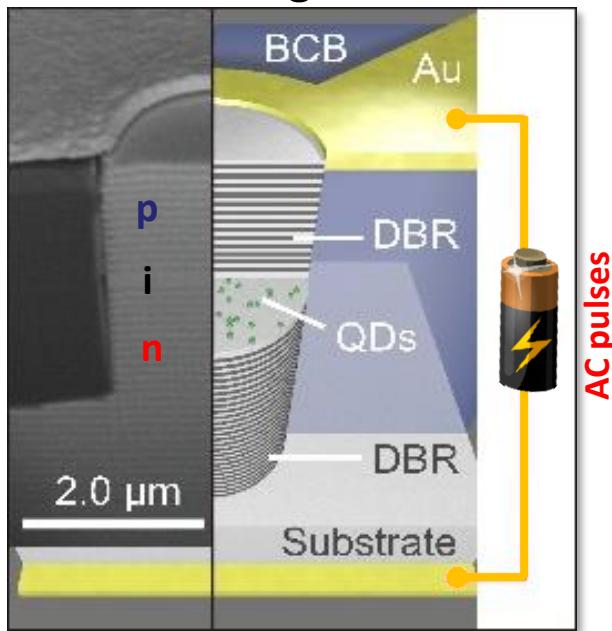


Purcell-enhanced SPS

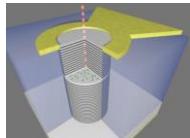
→ T. Heindel et al., *Appl. Phys. Lett.* 96, 011107 (2010)

Quantum Dot Micropillar single-photon source

- Optimized Design
- Efficient light extraction



Single-Photon QKD



Electrically triggered Single-Photon Source

T. Heindel et al., *Appl. Phys. Lett.* 96, 011107 (2010)



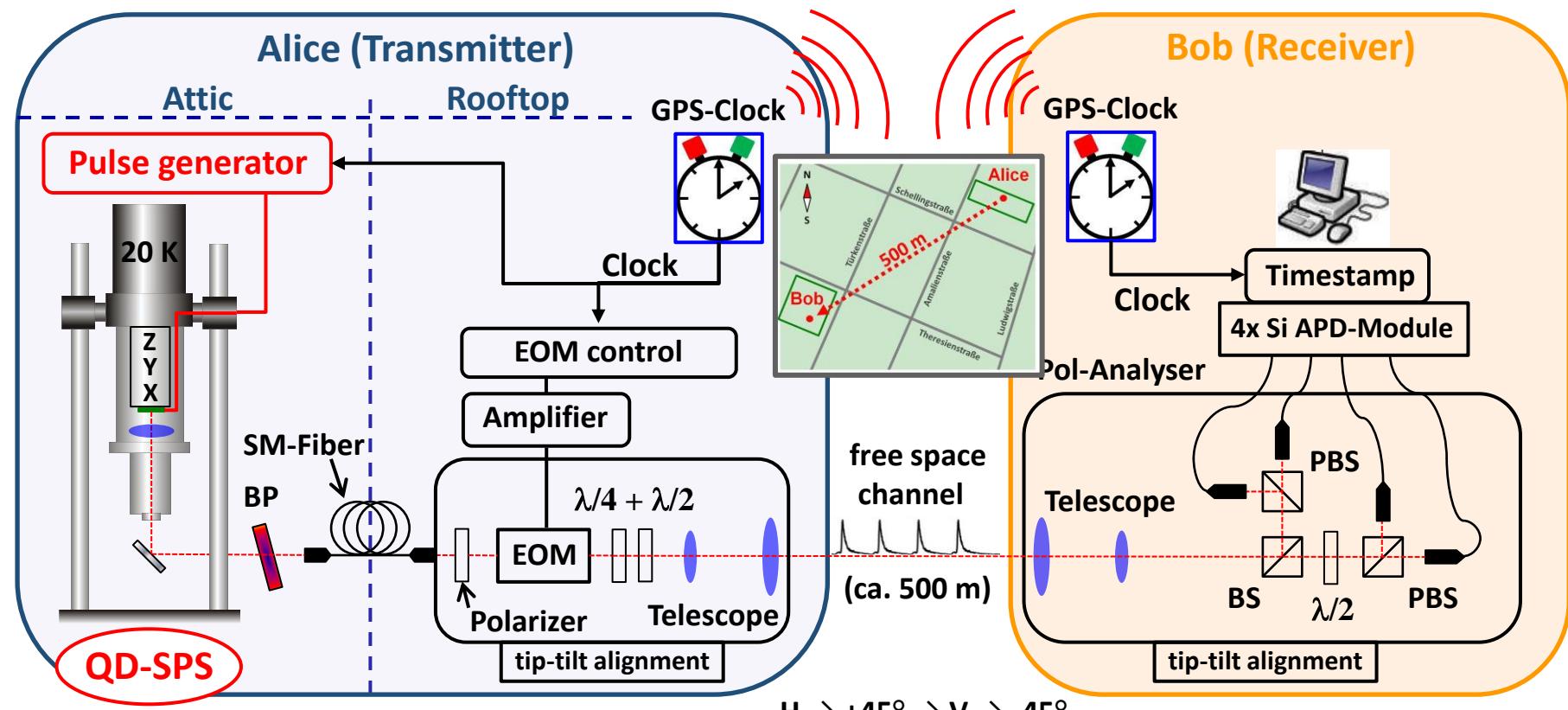
Lab-scale QKD experiment

Key rate: 35.4 kbit/s, QBER: 3.8%

T. Heindel et al., *New J. Phys.* 14, 083001 (2012)



Free space optical QKD-link in downtown Munich



500 m QKD – Experimental setting

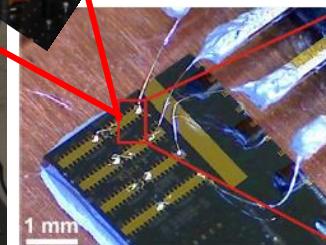
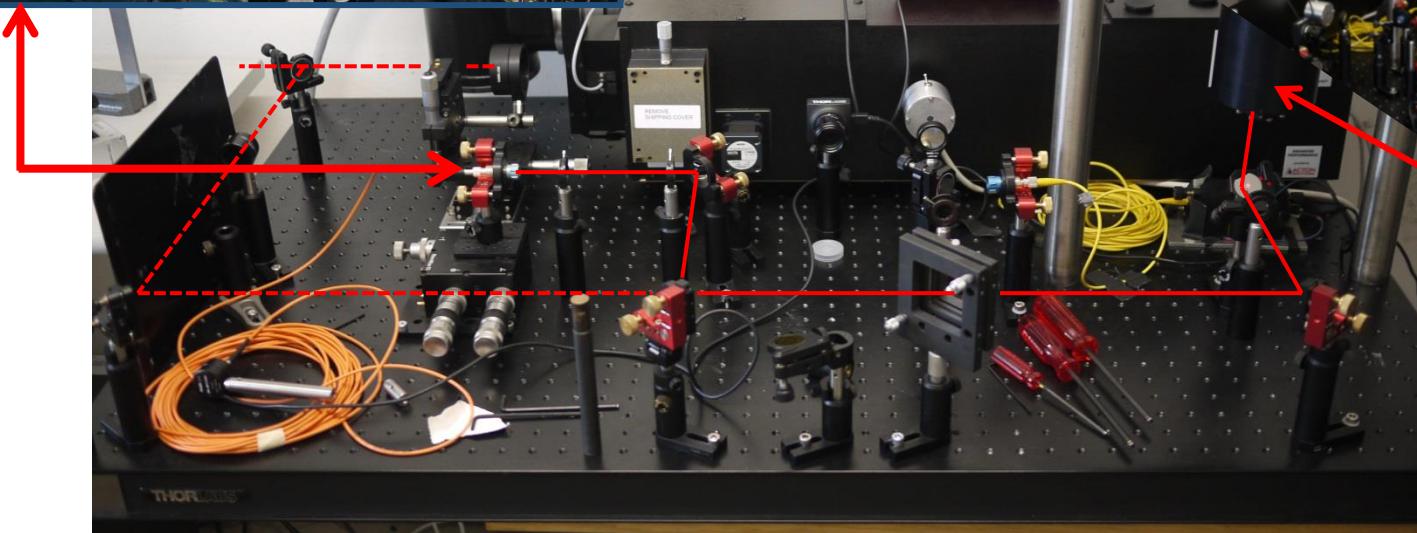
→ M. Rau, T. Heindel et al., *New. J. Phys.* 16, 03003 (2014)



Results:

SKR ~ 12 kbit/s
QBER $\sim 6\%$
 $g^{(2)}(0) < 0.5$

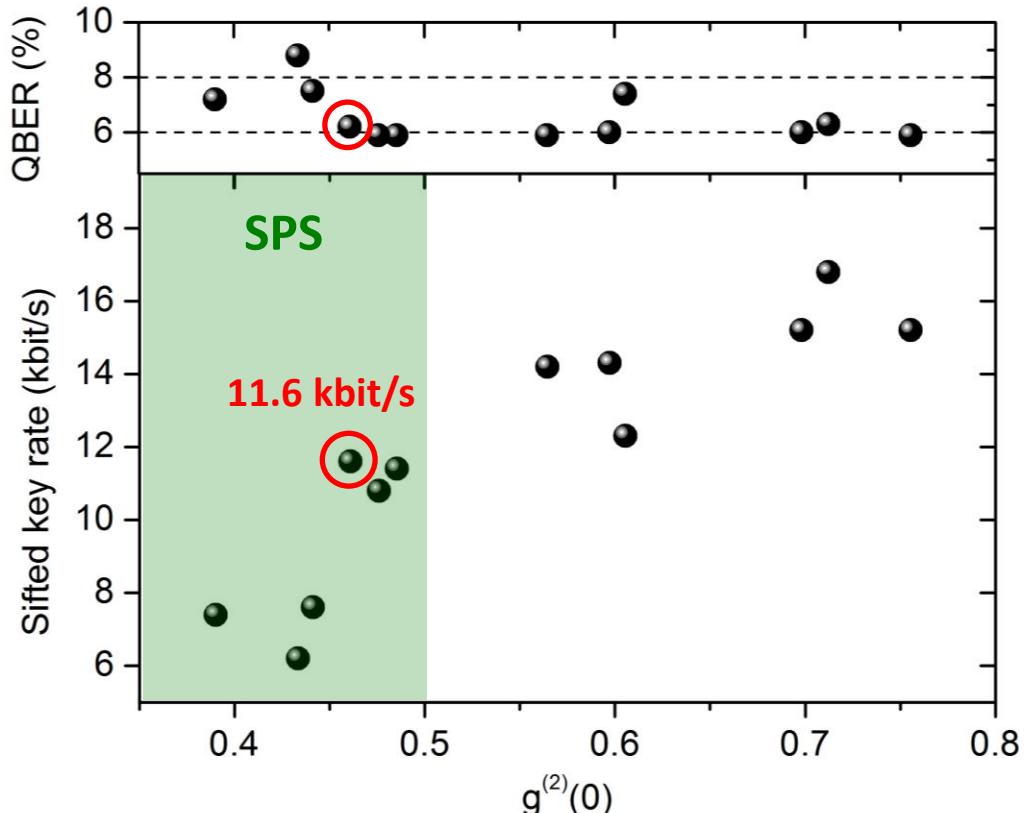
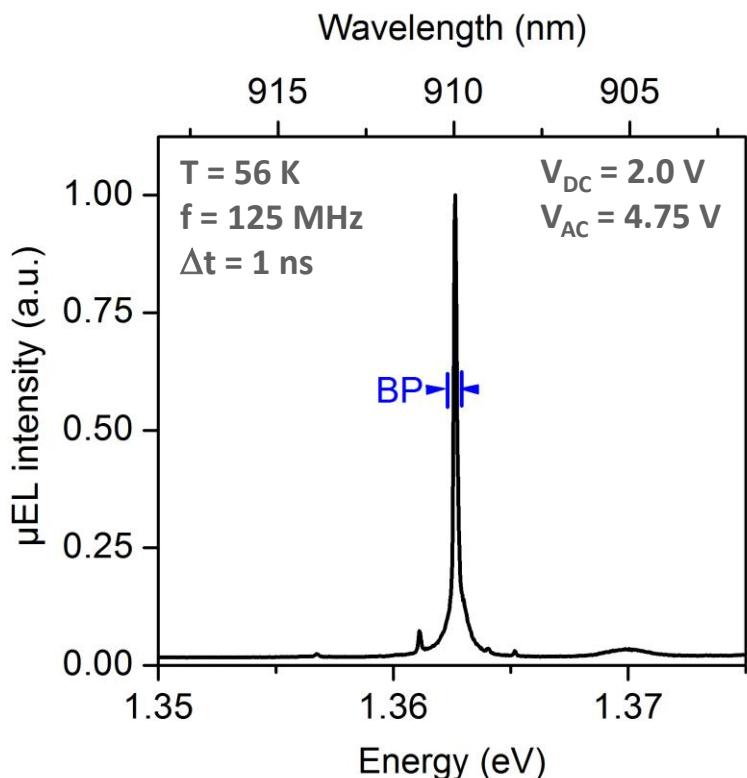
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500 m QKD – Results

→ M. Rau, T. Heindel et al., *New. J. Phys.* 16, 03003 (2014)



- First proof-of-concept QKD field-experiments using electrically operated SPSs
- Exploiting full potential of SPSs → ~10-100 Mbit/s possible
- Enhanced security considering advanced attacks

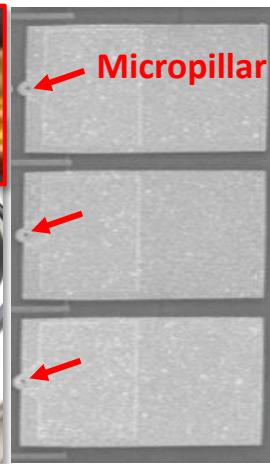
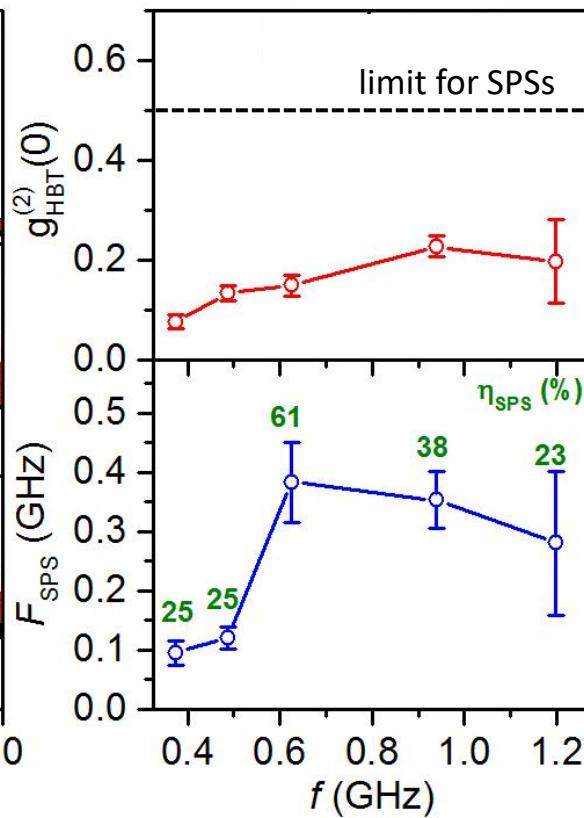
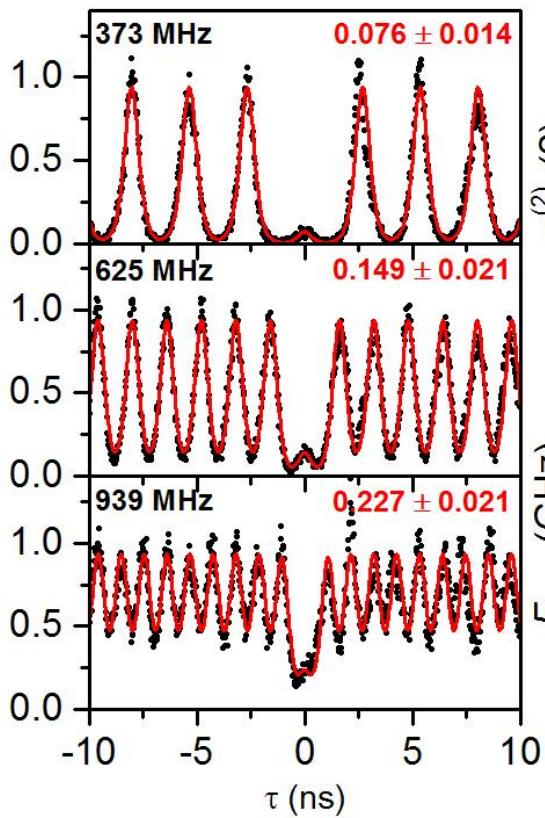


High-speed Single-Photon LED

→ A. Schlehahn, TH et al., *APL Photonics* 1, 011301 (2016)

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World Record!

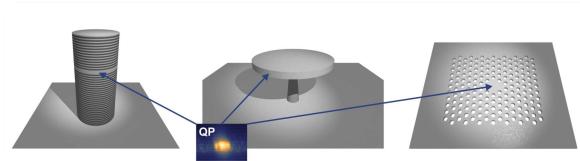


Single-photon emission rate: 383 MHz @ 625 MHz → 61 % overall efficiency

- [1] J. Claudon et al., *Nat. Photonics* **4**, 174 (2010) → 55 MHz (optically, QD in nanowire)
- [2] K. G. Lee et al., *Nat. Photonics* **5**, 166 (2011) → 50 MHz detected (optically, molecule)
- [3] O. Gazzano et al., *Nat. Commun.* **4**, 1425 (2013) → 65 MHz (optically, micropillar cavity)
- [4] Schlehahn, TH et al., *Appl. Phys. Lett.* **107**, 041105 (2015) → 143 MHz (optically, microlens)

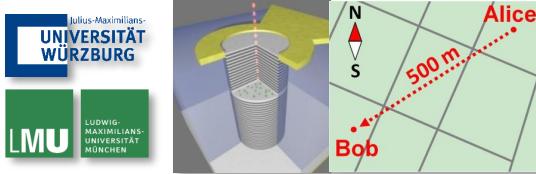
Early work:
 F. Hargart et al.,
Appl. Phys. Lett. **102**, 011126 (2013)
 → QD-LED @ 2 GHz rep. rate

Outline – Part II



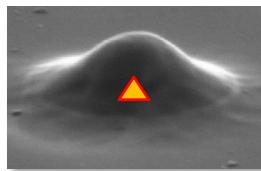
Recap

- Photon Extraction Efficiencies

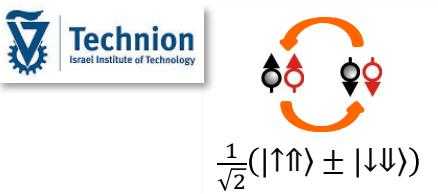


Early Work

- Electrically Triggered Single-Photon Sources
- Quantum Communication using Single-Photon LEDs

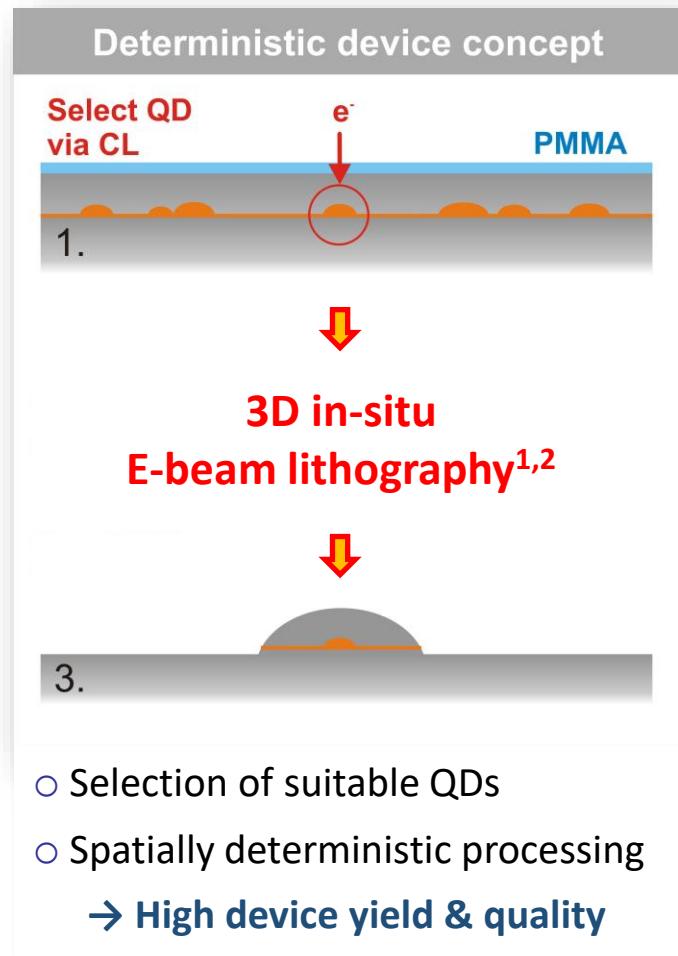


- Deterministic 3D In-Situ Electron Beam Lithography
- Fundamental Quantum Optics Experiments



Spin-Photon Interfaces

All-optically Accessing the Dark Exciton Spin-Qubit



Journal of Physics: Condensed Matter 32, 153003 (2020)

TOPICAL REVIEW

Deterministically fabricated solid-state quantum-light sources

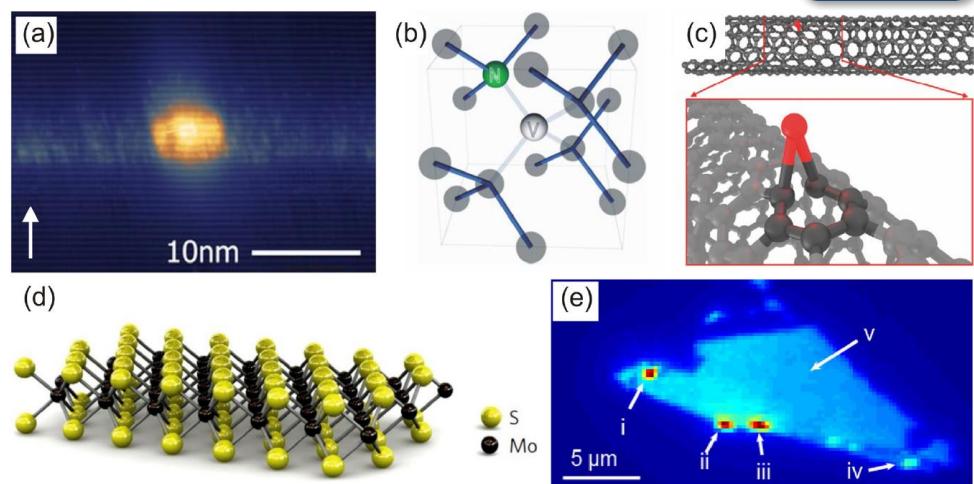
Sven Rodt, Stephan Reitzenstein  and Tobias Heindel 

Published 14 January 2020 • © 2020 IOP Publishing Ltd

[Journal of Physics: Condensed Matter, Volume 32, Number 15](#)



 Paper Link



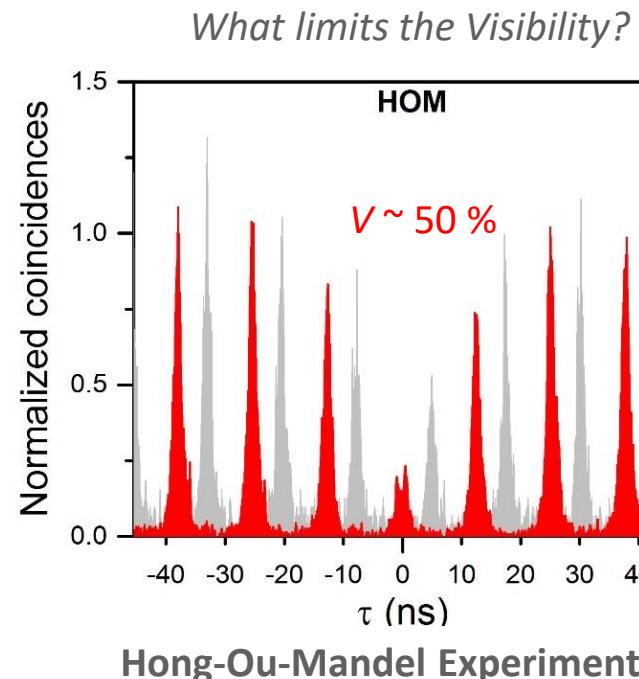
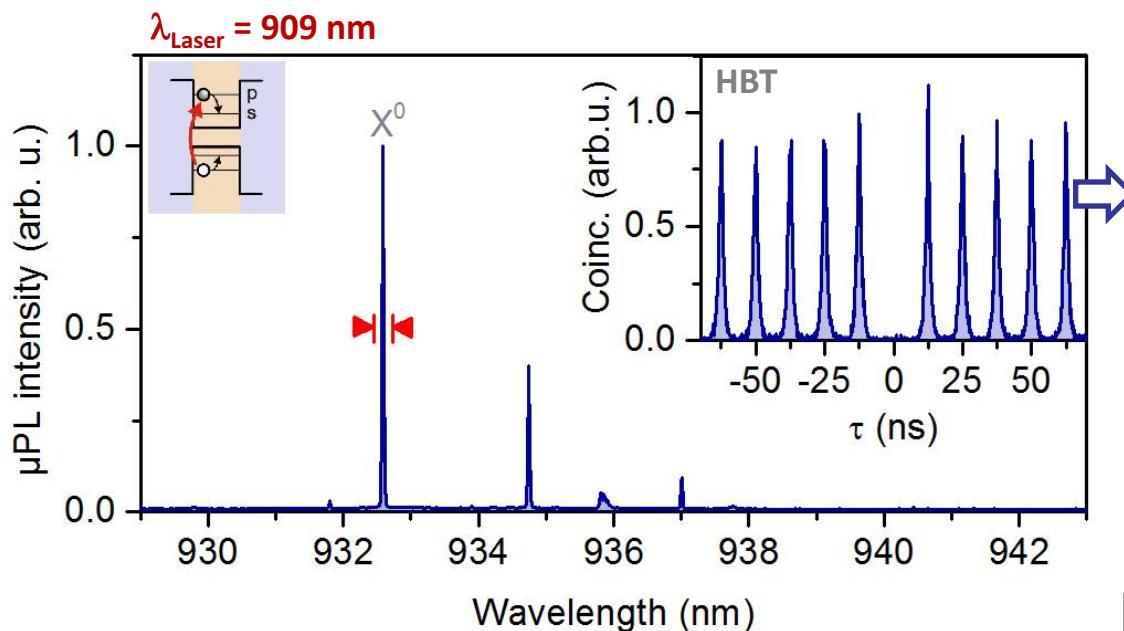
¹ M. Gschrey, T.H. et al., *APL* 102, 251113 (2013)

² M. Gschrey, T.H. et al., *Nat. Commun.* 6, 7662 (2015)

³ A. Schlehahn, T.H. et al., *APL* 107, 041105 (2015)

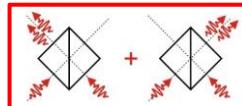
Quantum Optics Experiments

→ A. Thoma et al., *Phys. Rev. Lett.* 116, 033601 (2016)

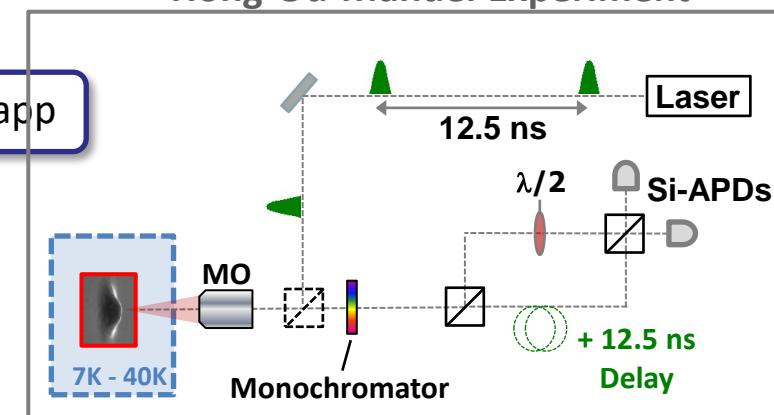


Probe photon-indistinguishability = mean wavepacket overlap

Crucial for advanced QKD scenarios beyond the BB84



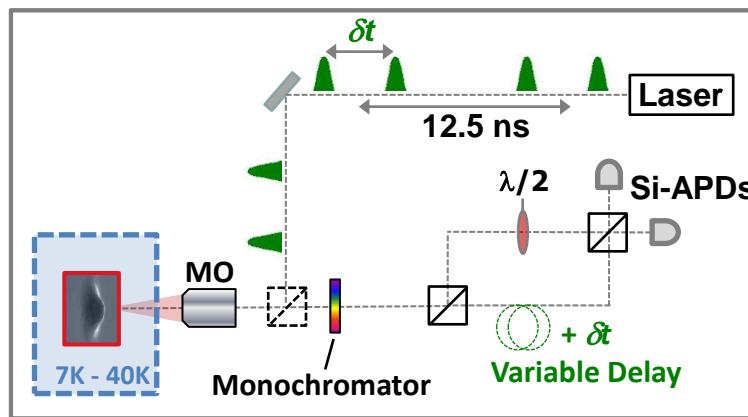
$$(|2_30_4\rangle - |0_32_4\rangle)/\sqrt{2}$$



Quantum Optics Experiments

→ A. Thoma et al., *Phys. Rev. Lett.* 116, 033601 (2016)

Hong-Ou-Mandel Experiment

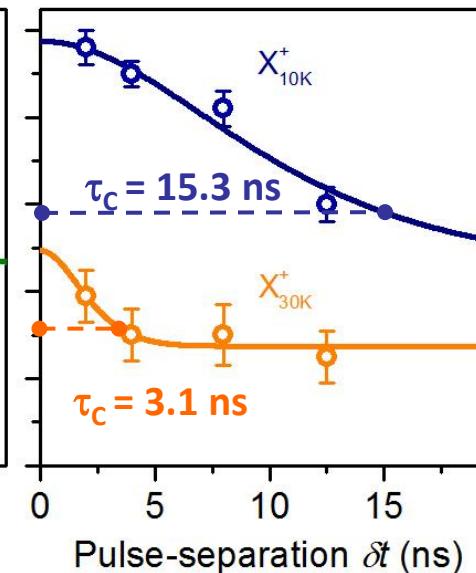
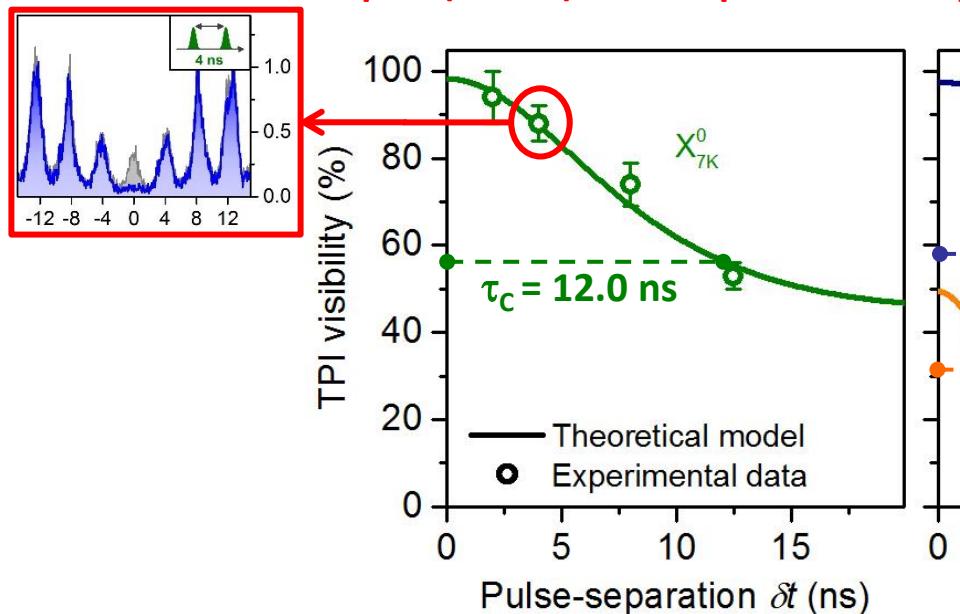


Probe photon-indistinguishability as
a function of the time δt elapsed
between consecutive emission events

Quantum Optics Experiments

→ A. Thoma et al., *Phys. Rev. Lett.* 116, 033601 (2016)

Up to $(94 \pm 4)\%$ wavepacket overlapp



Interference of
remote emitter?

Nature **419**, 594 (2002);
New J. Phys. **6**, 89 (2004);
Phys. Rev. B **89**, 035313 (2014);
Opt. Express **13**, 7772 (2005);

Explanation

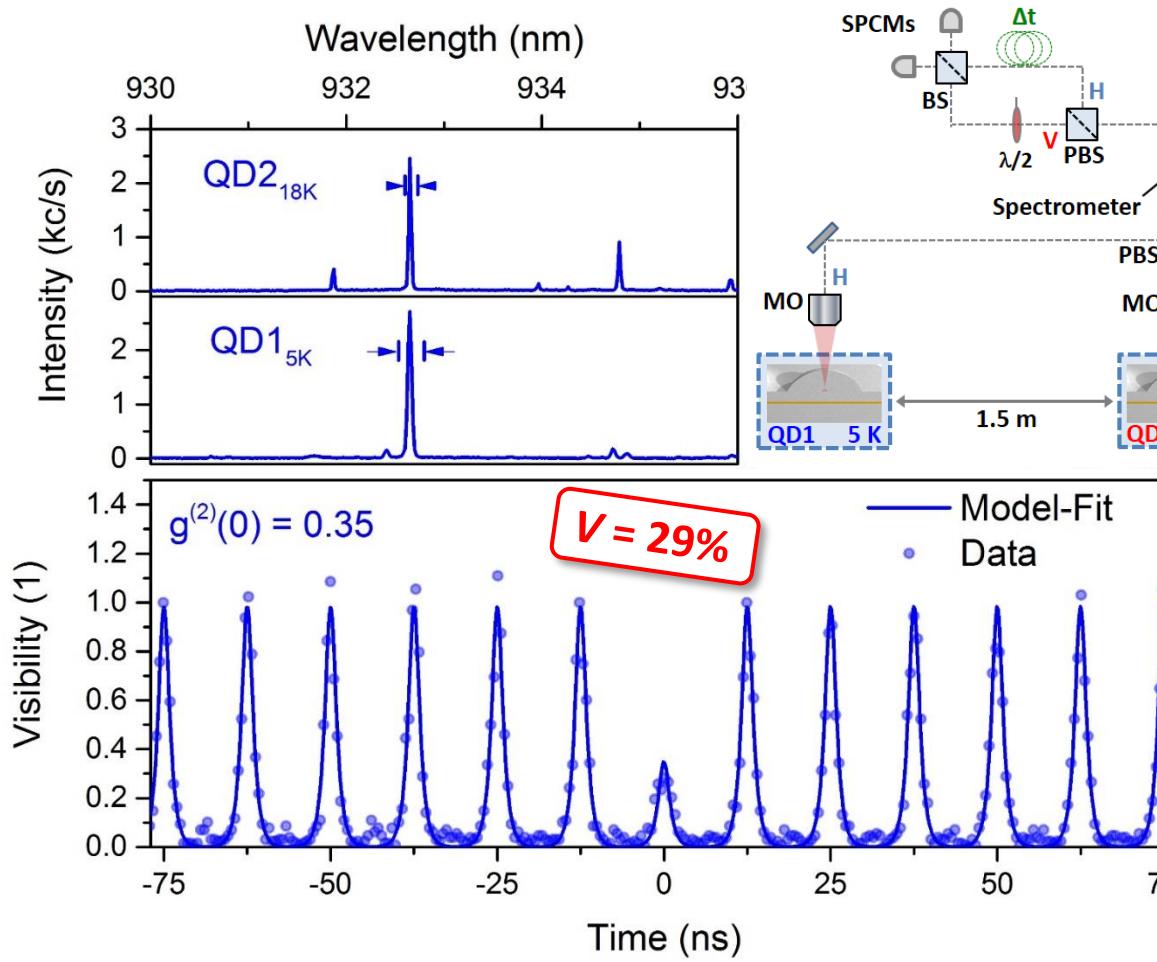
$$\Gamma'_0(1 - e^{-(\delta t/\tau_c)^2}) + \gamma(T) + \Gamma$$

- Plateau-like behavior of TPI visibility with decreasing pulse-separation δt
- Similar for different excitonic states of same QD (at given T)
- $V(\delta t)$ reduces and τ_c shortens with increasing T

Theory: Non-Markovian noise due to spectral diffusion ↔ charge fluctuations

Quantum Optics Experiments

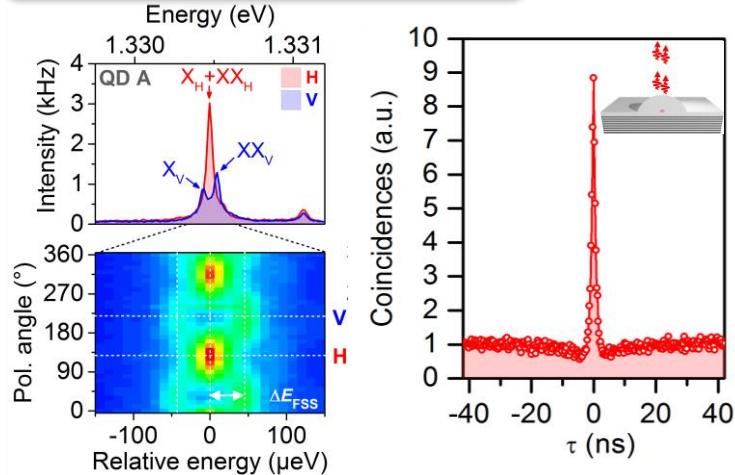
→ A. Thoma et al., *Appl. Phys. Lett.* **110**, 011104 (2017)



Measurement-Device-Independent (MDI) QKD

Other Exciting Experiments

Twin-Photon Generation

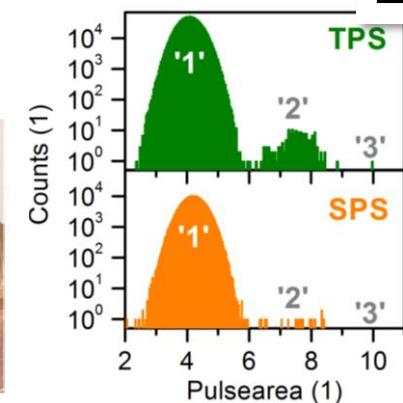
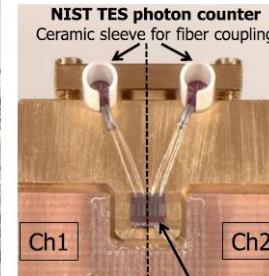


→ T. Heindel et al., *Nat. Commun.* 8, 14870 (2017)

PTB J. Beyer

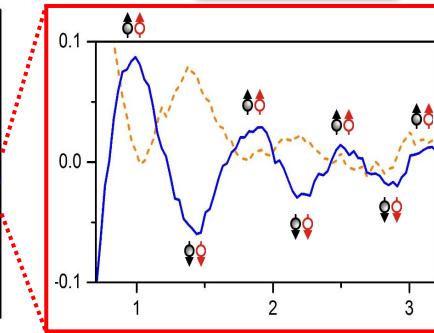
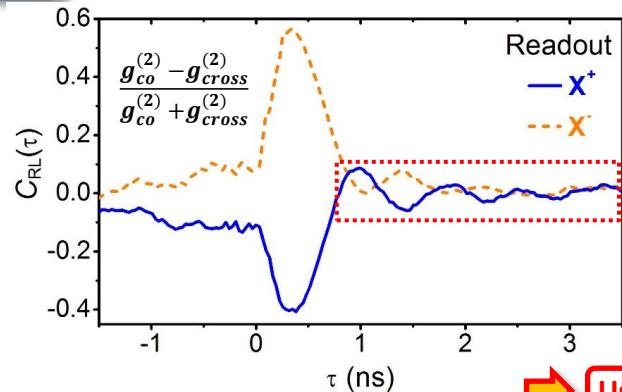
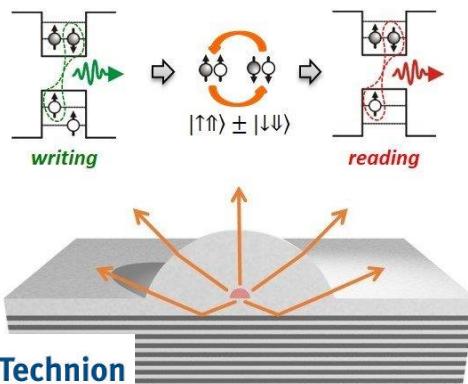


S. W. Nam
NIST

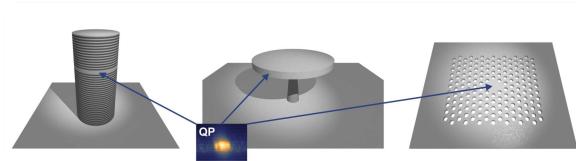


Accessing the Dark Exciton Spin

→ T. Heindel et al., *APL Photonics* 2, 121303 (2017)

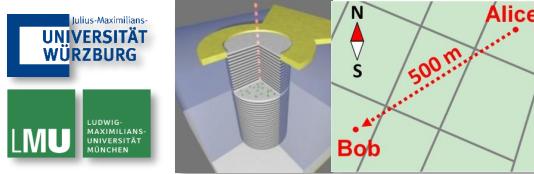


Outline – Part II



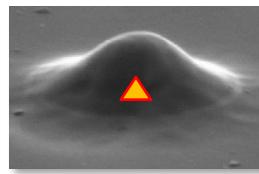
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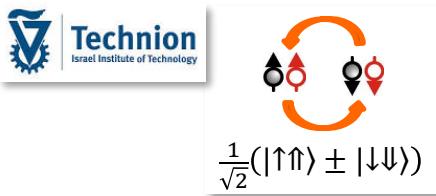


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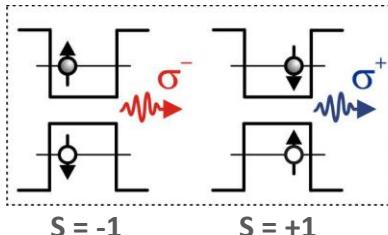
Spin-Photon Interfaces

All-optically Accessing the Dark Exciton Spin-Qubit

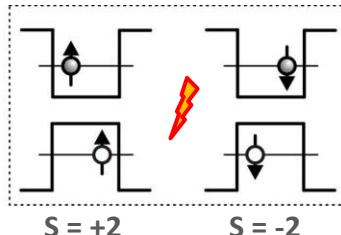
Dark Exciton Spin-Qubits

Dark Excitons (DE)

“Bright Excitons” (BE)



“Dark Excitons”

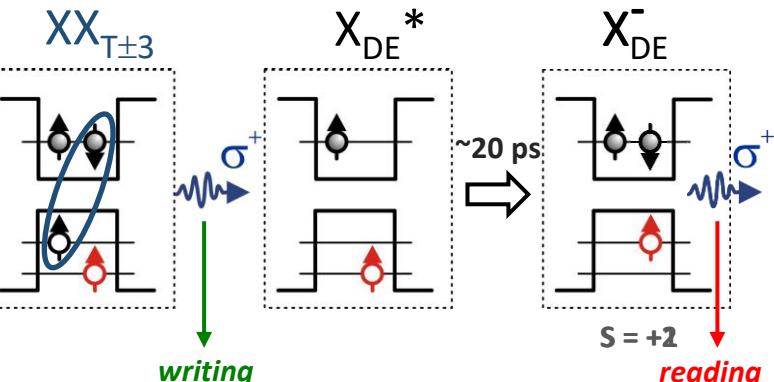


→ DE = e-h with parallel spin orientation

- ⚡ Radiative recombination dipole-forbidden
- Long-lived 2-level system
- Quantum Information Processing!

How to optically access the DE?

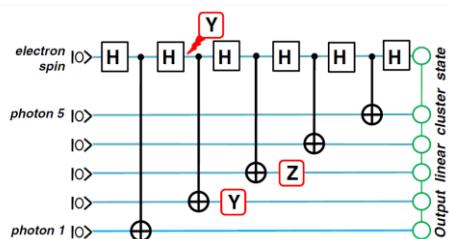
Solution [1]: Use excited XX-state
→ Spinblockaded Biexciton



- **Writing** = detection of heralding photon
- **Reading** = charging + photon detection

[1] E. Poem et al., *Nature Physics* **6**, 993 (2010)

Photonic cluster-state generation [2,3]

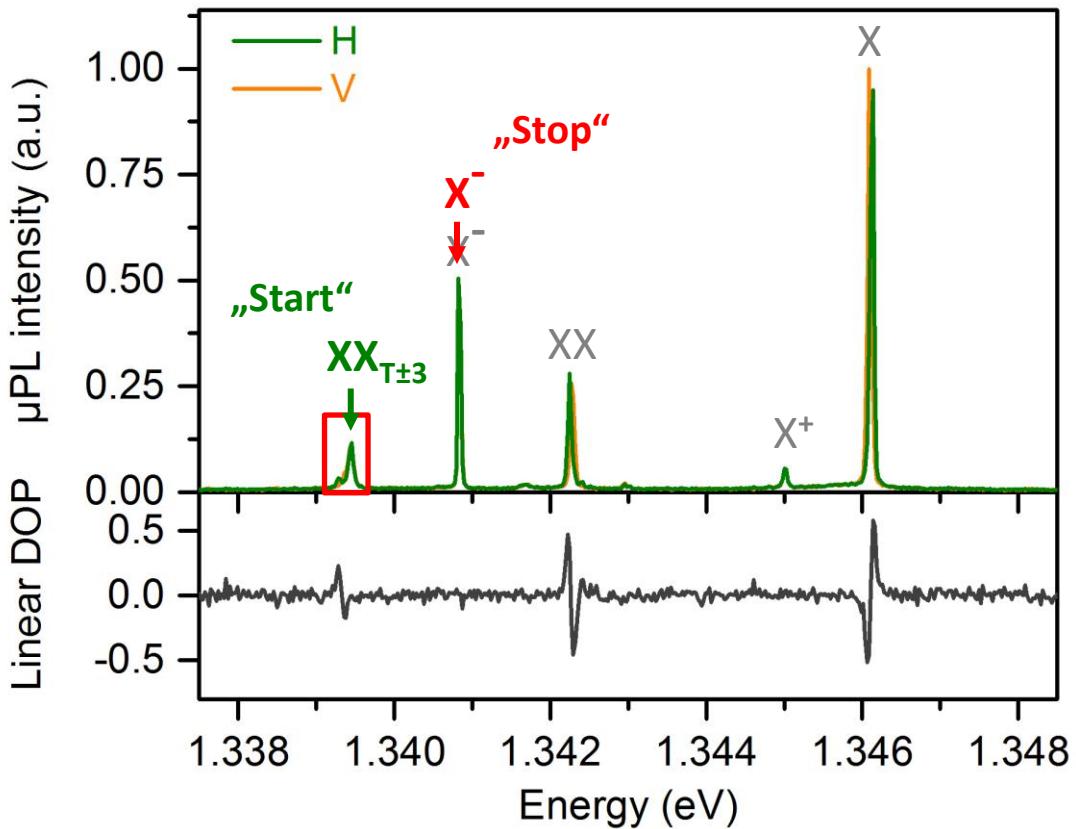


- [1] Theory: N. H. Lindner and T. Rudolph, *PRL* **103**, 113602 (2009)
[2] Experiment: I. Schwartz et al., *Science* **354**, 434-437 (2016)

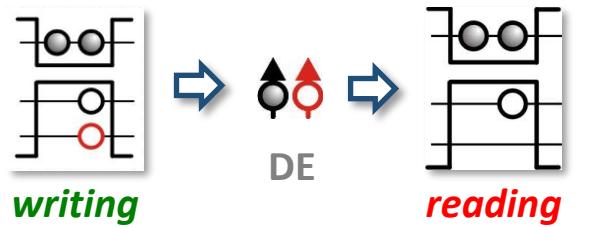
Photonic Cluster States for Fault
Tolerant Quantum Computing^{2,3}

The Experiment

→ T. Heindel et al., *APL Photonics* 2, 121303 (2017)



Timeline of Experiment

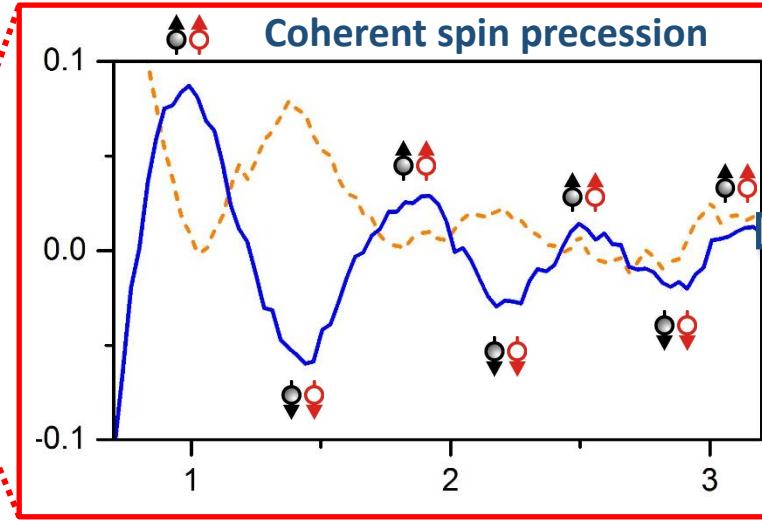
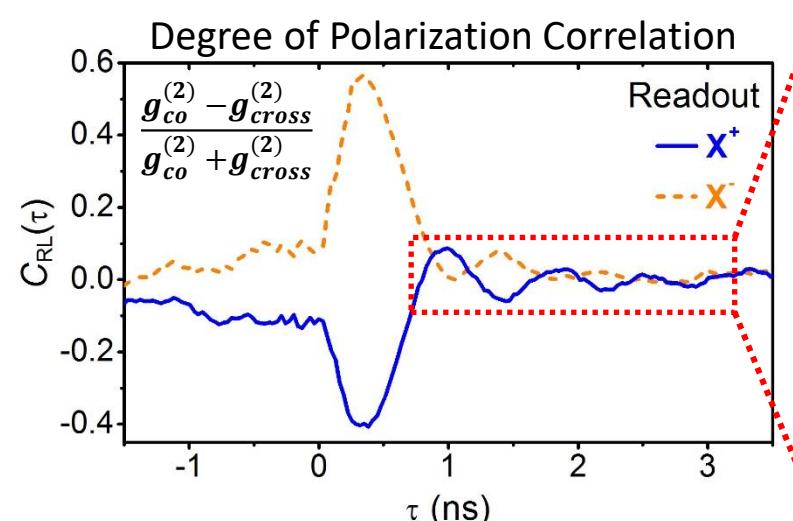




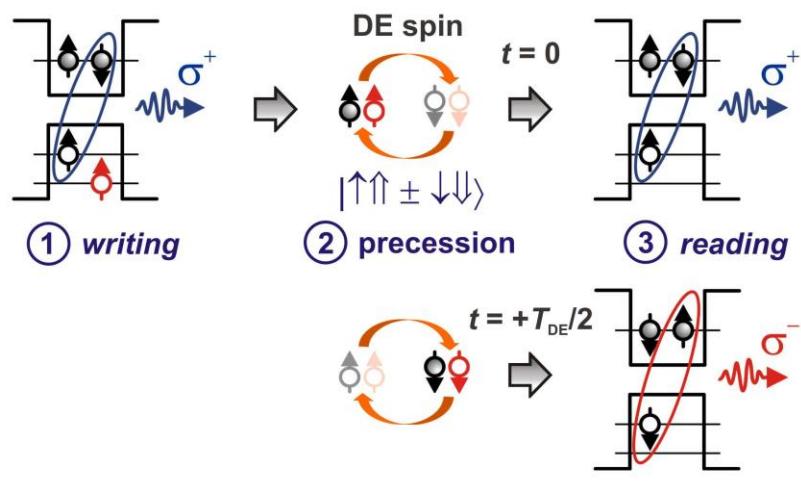
Spin-Precession

→ T. Heindel et al., *APL Photonics* 2, 121303 (2017)

**Thank You!
Questions?**



Timeline of Experiment

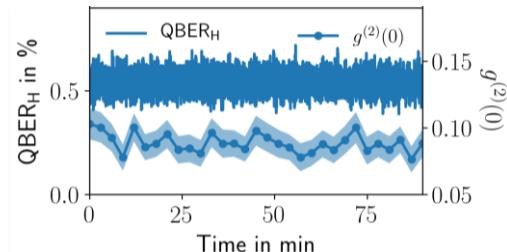
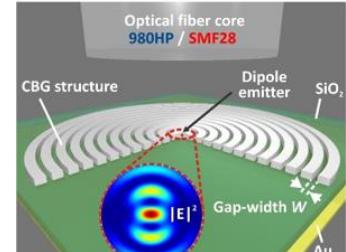
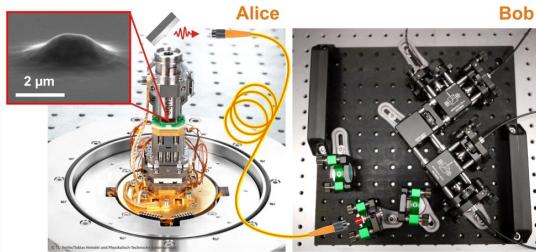


DE spin-qubit optically addressed

First-time demonstration with deterministic technology!

¹ N. H. Lindner and T. Rudolph, *PRL* **103**, 113602 (2009)

² I. Schwartz et al., *Science* **354**, 434-437 (2016)



Quantum Communication

Part III: *Towards Quantum Networks*

Tobias Heindel

Head of Group
Quantum Communication Systems



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Federal Ministry
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Institute of Solid State Physics
Technische Universität Berlin
Germany

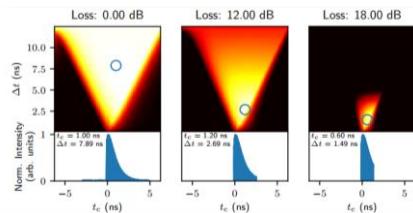


Outline – Part III



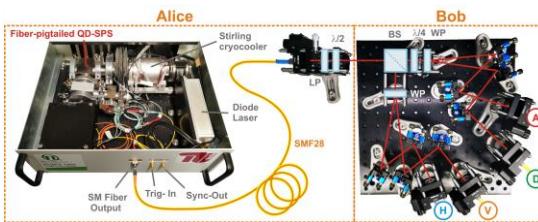
Recap

- BB84 & Rate vs. Loss Diagramm



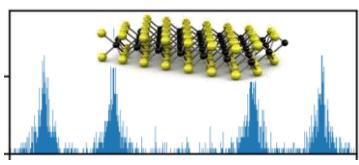
Optimization & Certification

- About How Bob Should Measure
- ...and Other Usefull Tools



Developing Practical Single-Photon QKD Systems

- Plug'n'Play Quantum Light Sources
- Benchtop QKD Testbeds



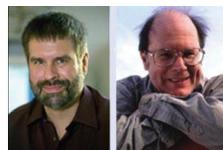
Emerging Materials

Atomically-Thin Single-Photon Sources for QuCom



- Summary & Outlook
- Towards Quantum Communication Networks

Outline

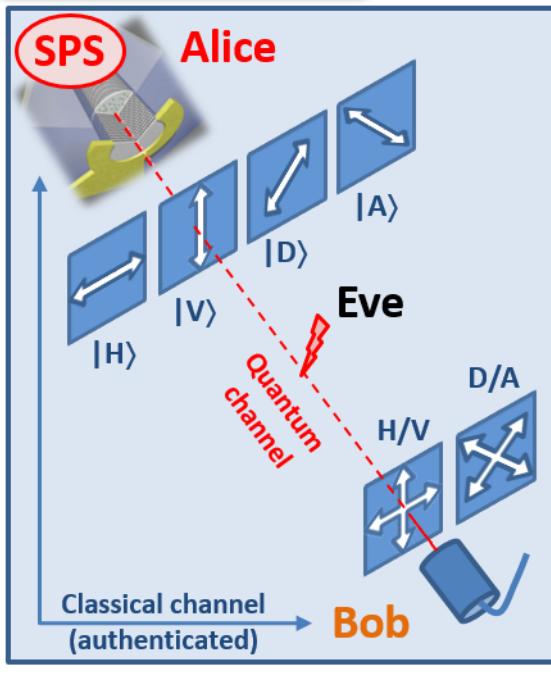


QUANTUM CRYPTOGRAPHY: PUBLIC KEY DISTRIBUTION AND COIN TOSSING

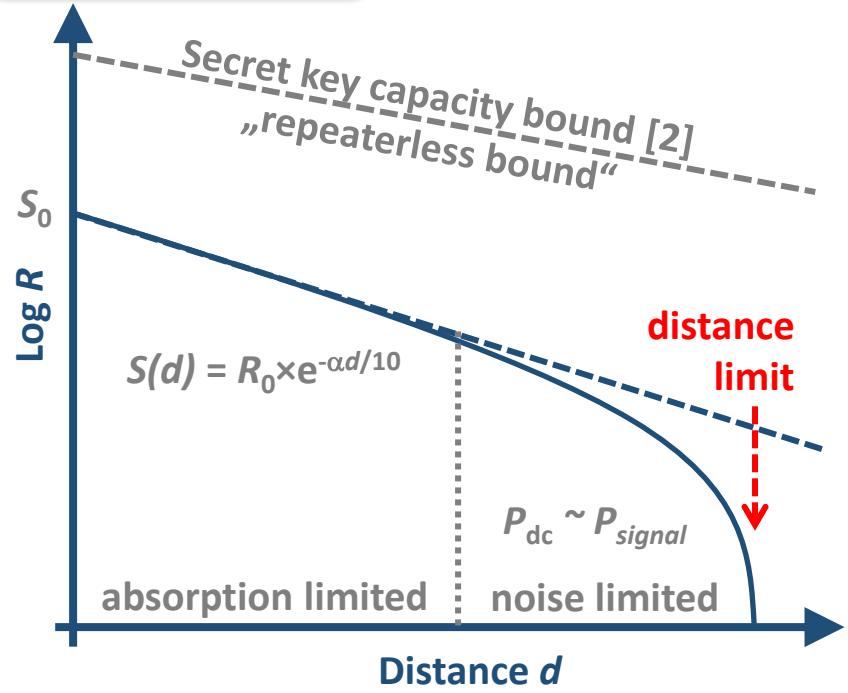
Charles H. Bennett (IBM Research, Yorktown Heights NY 10598 USA)
Gilles Brassard (dept. IRO, Univ. de Montreal, H3C 3J7 Canada)

International Conference on Computers, Systems & Signal Processing Bangalore, India December 10-12, 1984

BB84 – Scheme [1]



Rate vs. Loss [2,3]



[1] C. H. Bennett und G. Brassard, *Proc. of IEEE International Conference on Computers, Systems and Signal Processing*, Bangalore, India S. 175–179 (1984)

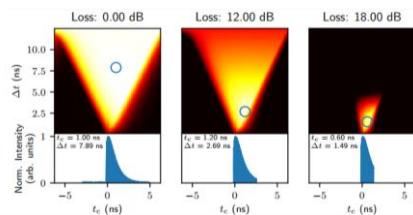
[2] R. Alléaume et al., *New J. Phys.* **11**, 075002 (2009)
[3] S. Pirandola et al., *Nat. Commun.* **8**, 15043 (2017)

Outline – Part III



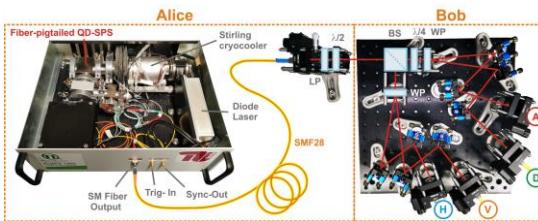
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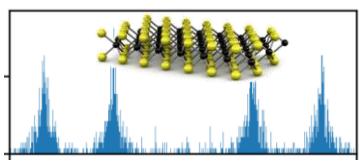
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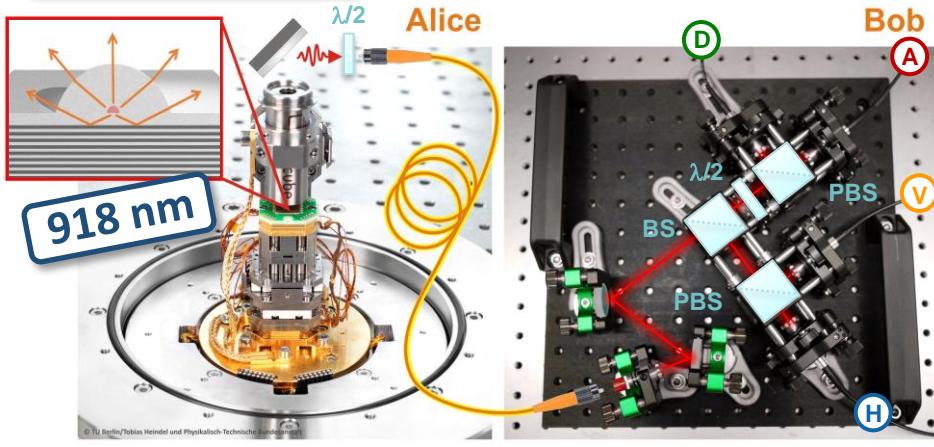


How Bob Should Measure?

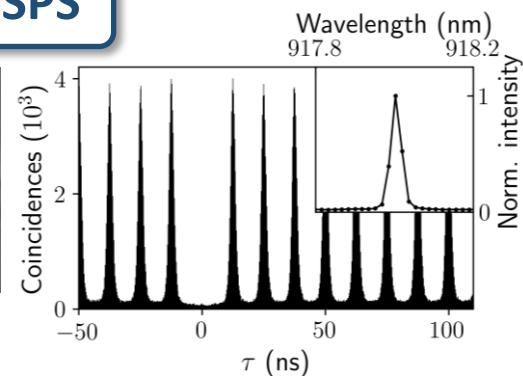
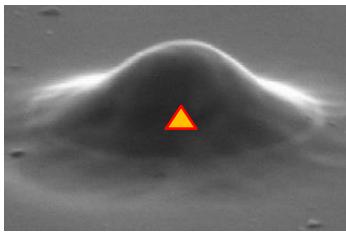
→ T. Kupko et al., npj Quantum Information (2020)

QKD Testbed

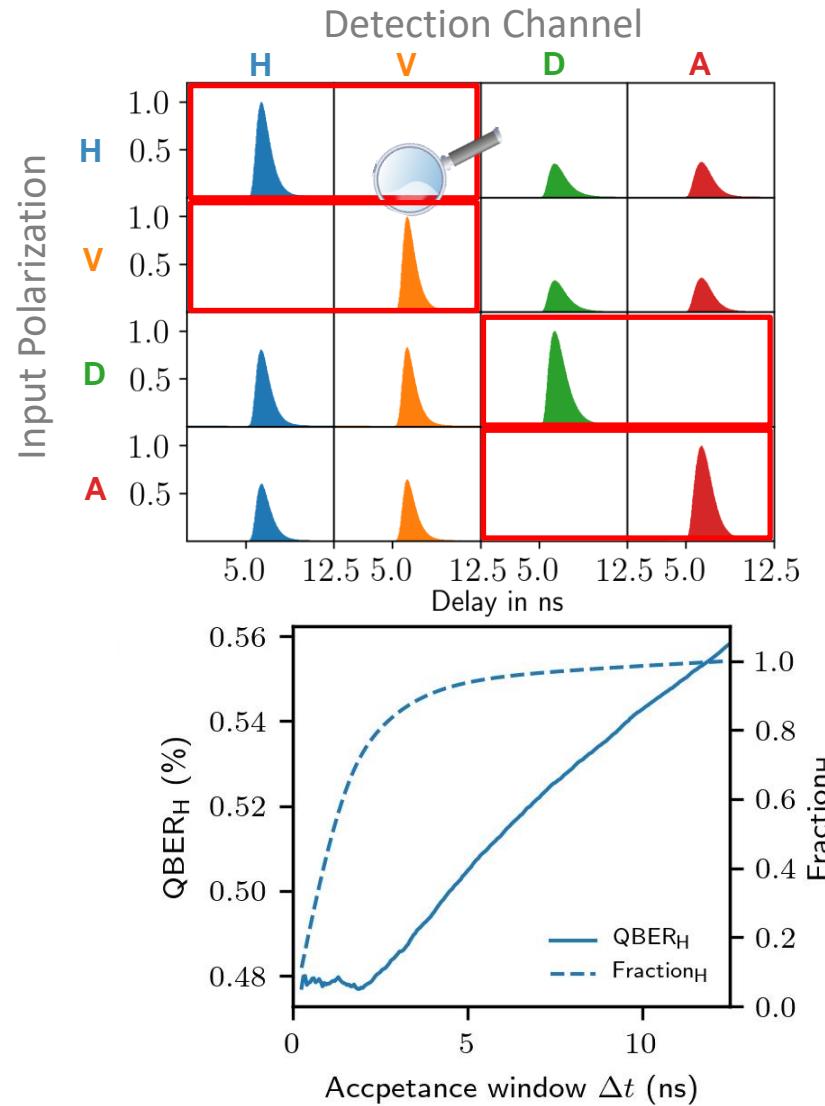
Paper Link



Microlens QD-SPS



Reitzenstein Group: 3D in-situ e-beam lithography
[M. Gschrey, TH et al., Nat. Com. 6, 7662 (2015)]





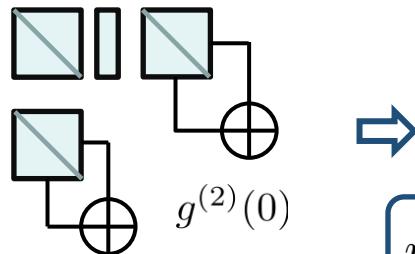
Paper Link

Photon Statistics – Live „On-Air“

→ T. Kupko et al., *npj Quantum Information* (2020)

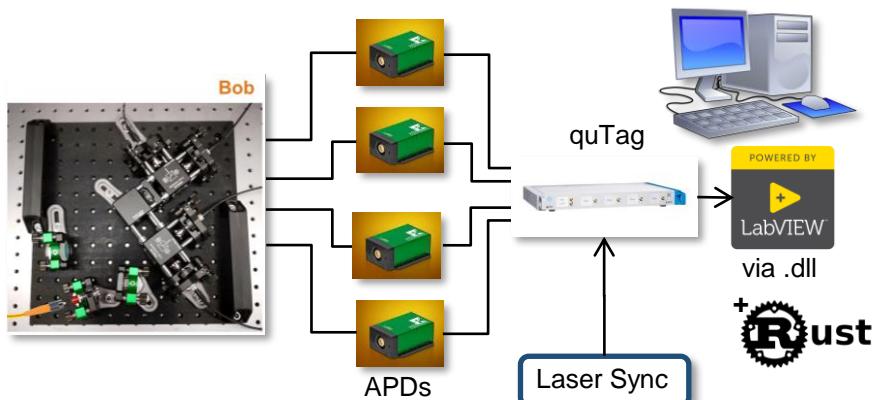
4-Channel ‘Hanbury Brown and Twiss’

...by directly correlating Bob’s filtered time-tags



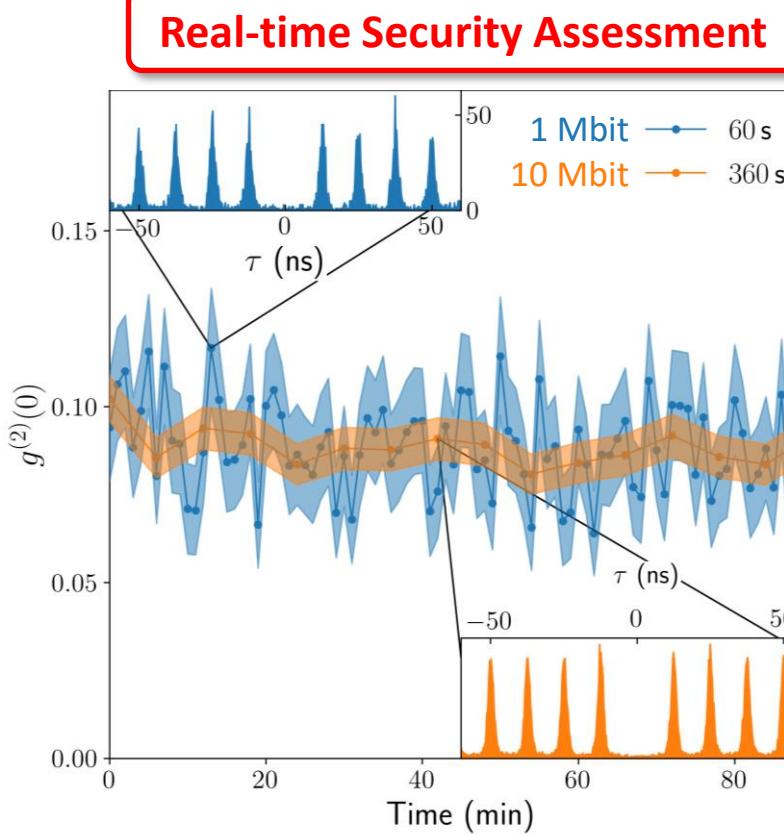
$$g^{(2)}(\tau)$$

$$p_m \leq \frac{\mu^2 g^{(2)}(0)}{2} [1]$$



[1] E. Waks et al., Phys. Rev. A 66, 042315 (2002)

Parameter monitoring





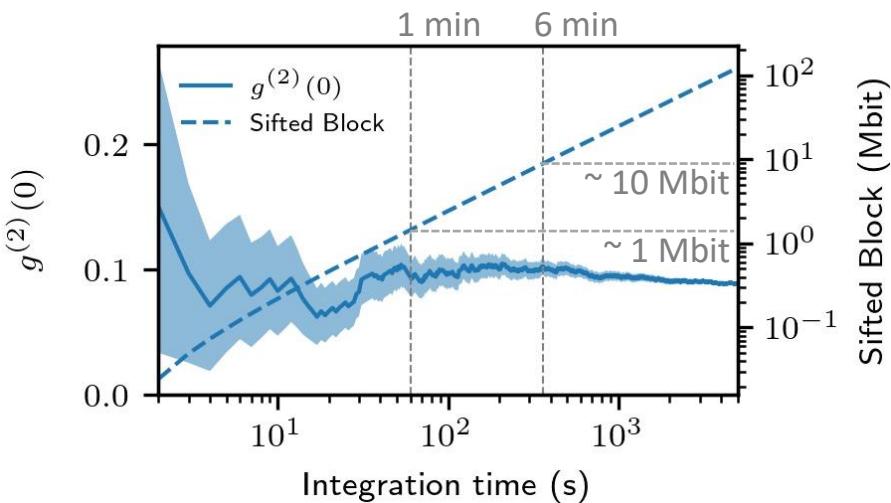
Paper Link

Photon Statistics – Live „On-Air“

→ T. Kupko et al., *npj Quantum Information* (2020)

$g^{(2)}(0)$ and sifted block size vs. int. time

...how long to choose the accumulation time?

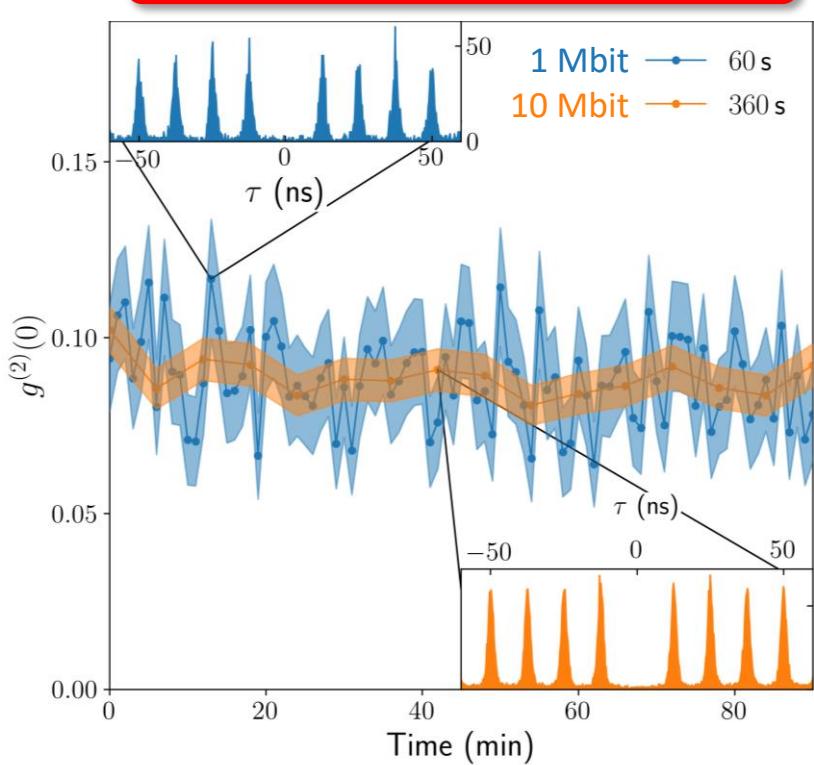


- **~ 1 Mbit block size @ 60 s**
 - Relative error: 16 %
 - Sufficient if finite-size effects are considered
- **~ 10 Mbit block size @ 6 min**
 - Relative error: 6 %
 - Sufficient for neglecting finite-size effects

Parameter monitoring



Real-time Security Assessment



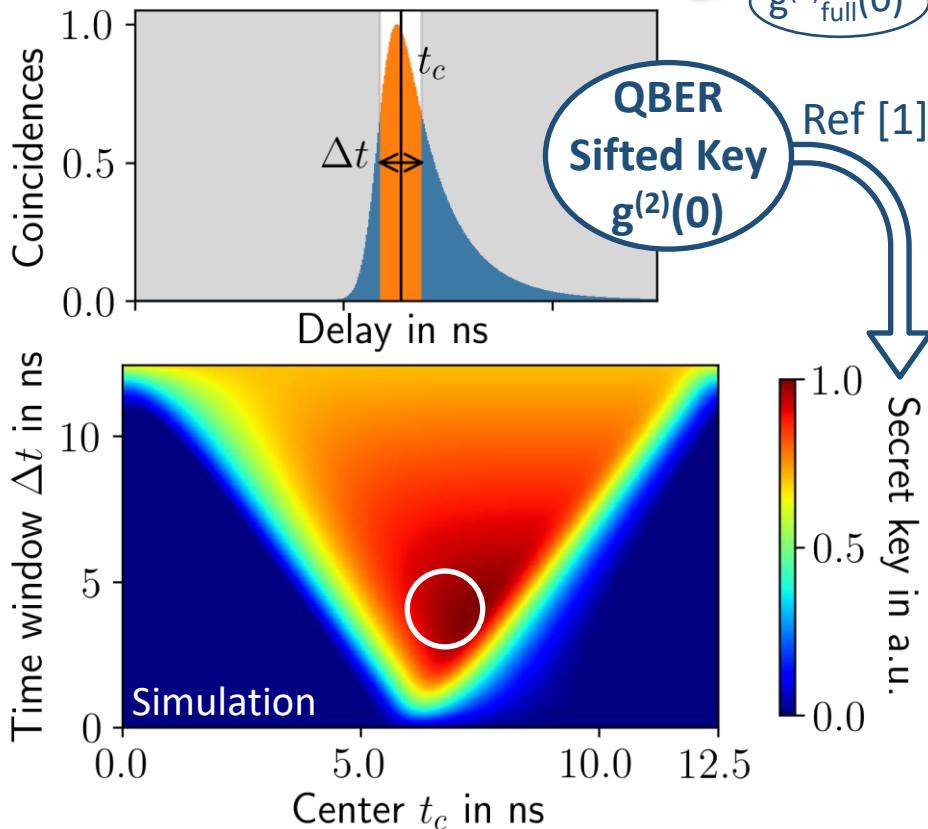


Paper Link

Key-Rate Optimization

→ T. Kupko et al., npj Quantum Information (2020)

2D Temporal Filtering



Important!

QBER
Sifted Key
 $g^{(2)}(0)$

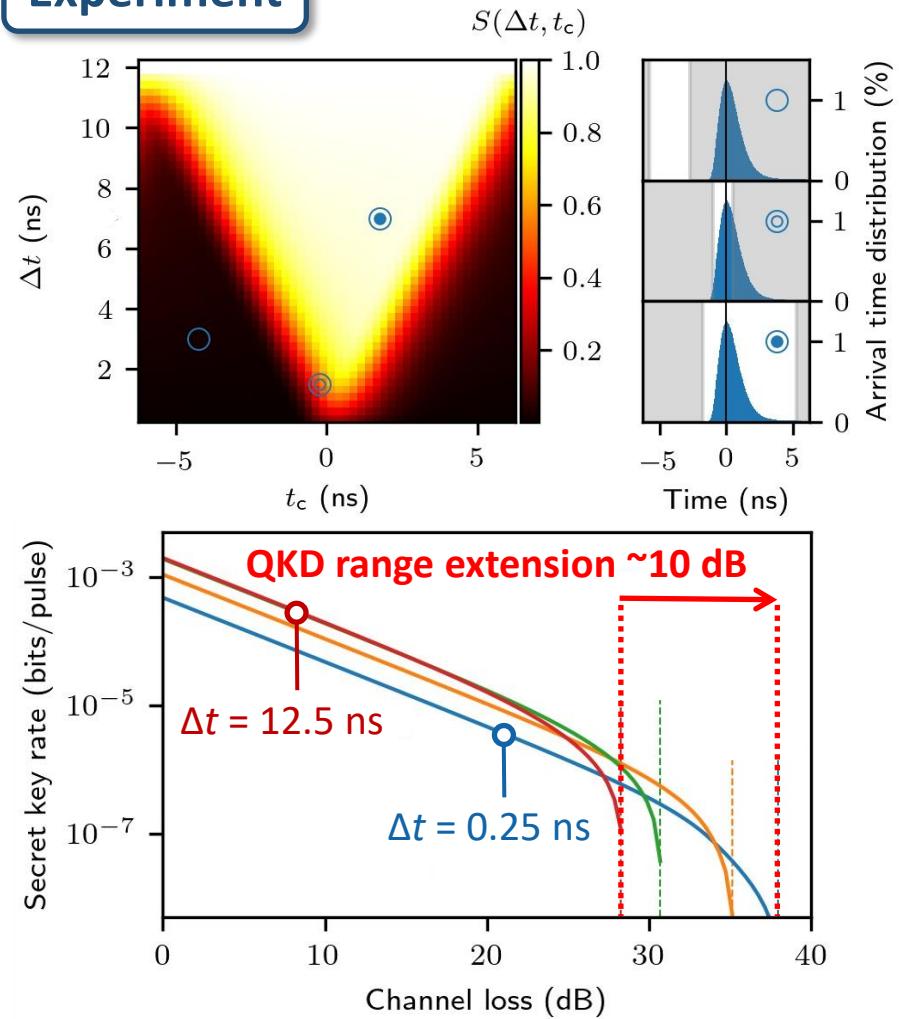
Ref [1]

Secret key in a.u.
0.0 0.5 1.0

Key Rate Optimization Possible

[1] E. Waks et al., Phys. Rev. A 66, 042315 (2002)

Experiment



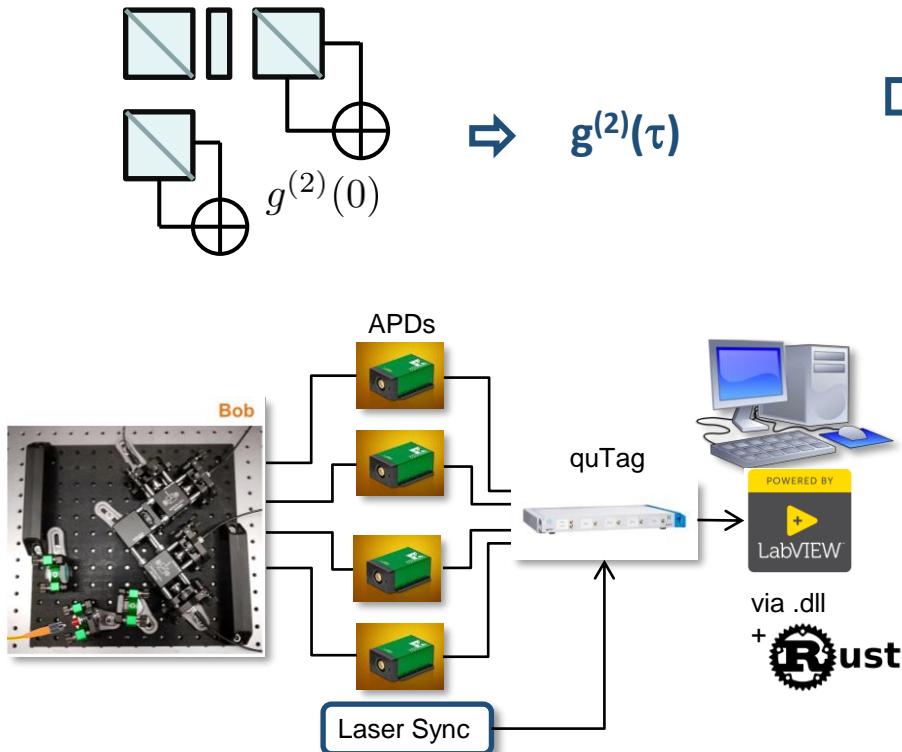


Paper Link

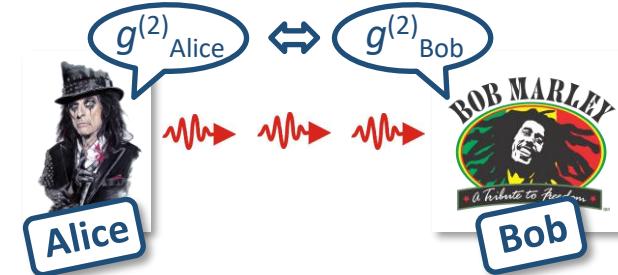
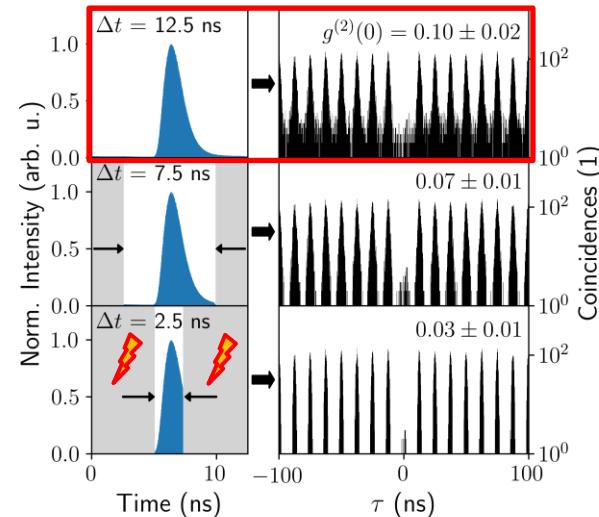
* Important to note Note *

4-Channel 'Hanbury Brown and Twiss'

...by directly correlating Bob's filtered time-tags



Temporally filtered $g^{(2)}(\tau)$ -Histograms

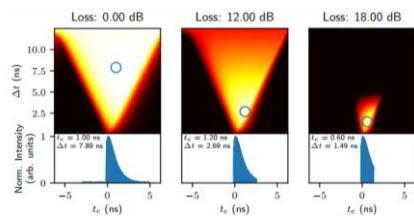


Outline – Part III



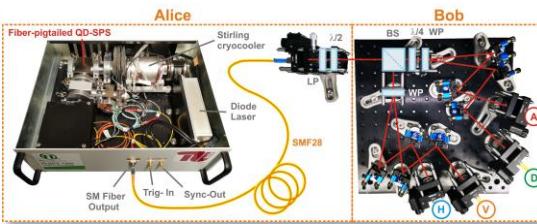
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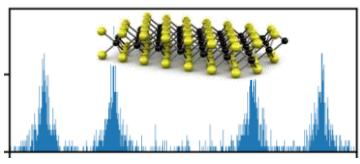
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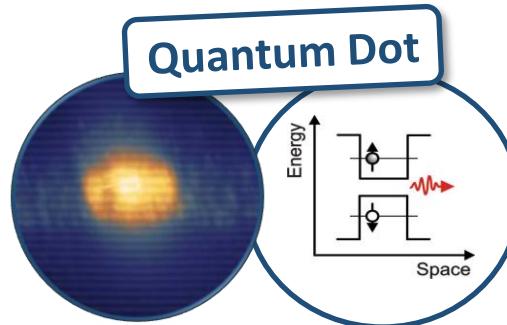
Atomically-Thin Single-Photon Sources for QuCom



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Single-Photons Plug'n'Play?

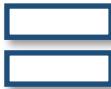
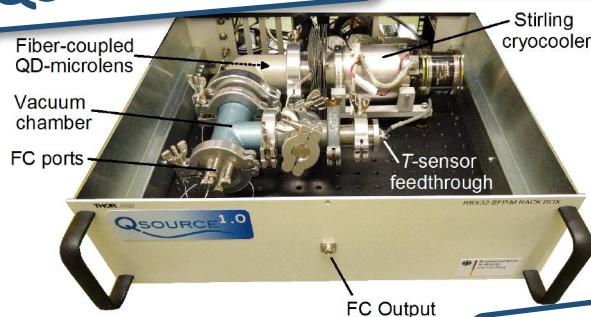
Single photon generation outside shielded lab environment



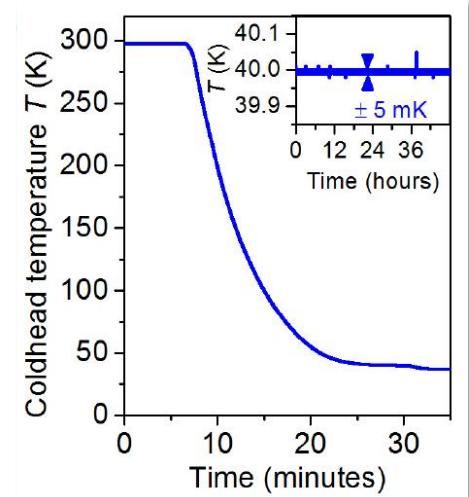
Stirling Cryocooler [1]



QSource^{1.0} [2]



925 nm



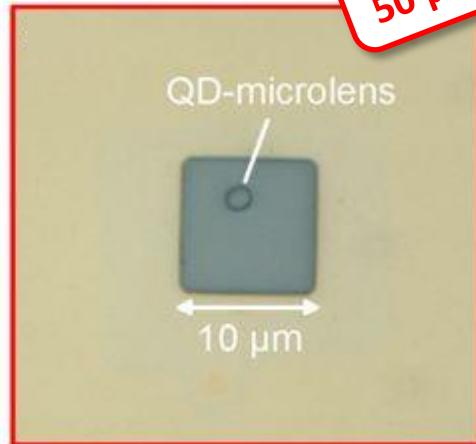
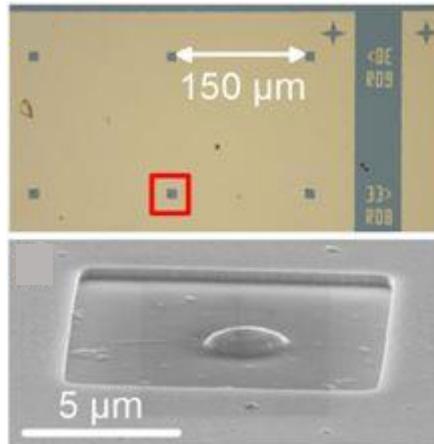
[1] Schlehahn, TH et al., *Rev. Scient. Instrum.* 86, 013113 (2015)

[2] A. Schlehahn, TH et al., *Scientific Reports* 8, 1340 (2018)

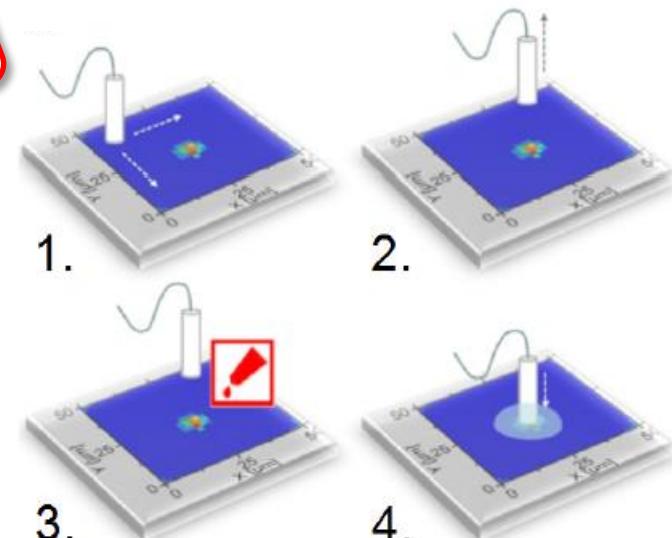
Stand Alone Single-Photon Source

→ A. Schlehahn, TH et al., Scientific Reports 8, 1340 (2018)

Direct fiber-coupling of QD microlens:



MM-fiber
50 μm core



- Au metal mask
- Apertures ($10 \times 10 \mu\text{m}^2$)
- Deterministic fab of QD microlens inside aperture

- Scanning MM fiber across sample
- Localizing Aperture region
- Gluing fiber ferrule above QD-microlens using epoxide adhesive

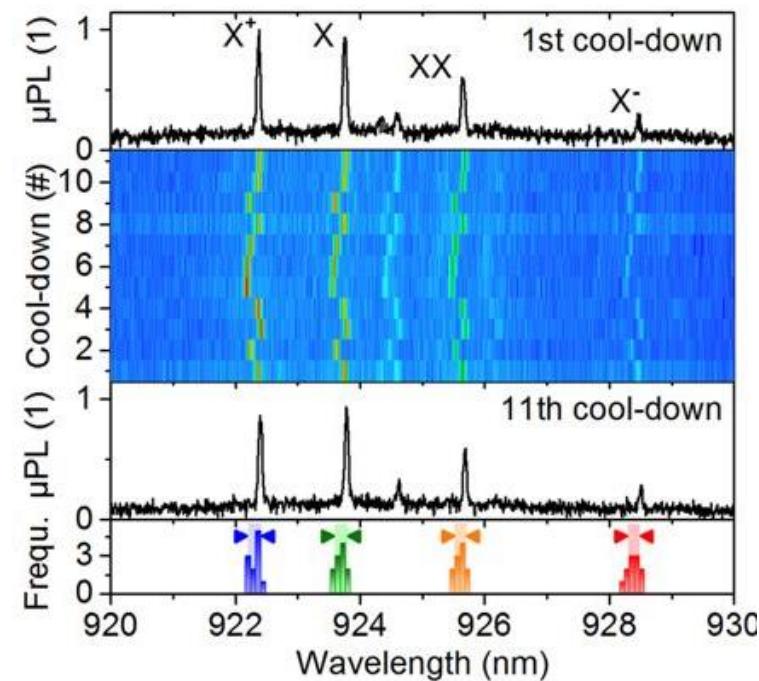
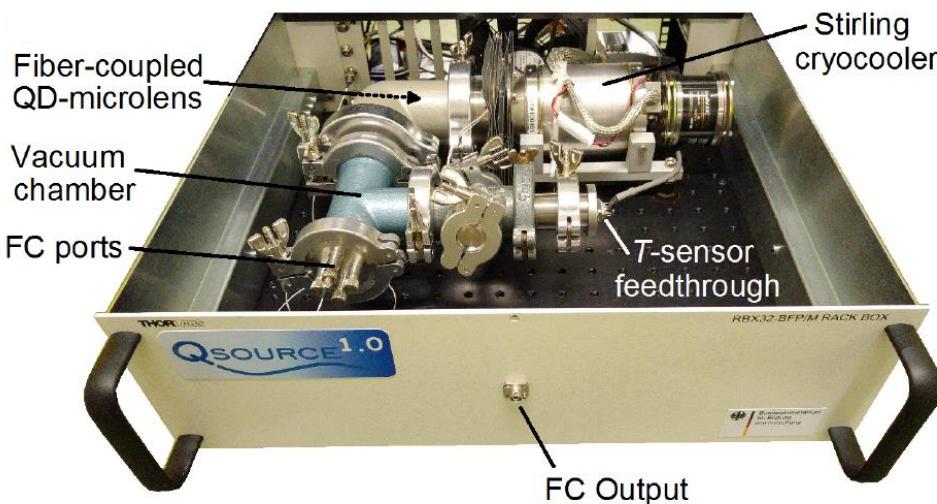
¹ M. Gschrey, TH et al., *APL* 102, 251113 (2013)

² M. Gschrey, TH et al., *Nat. Commun.* 6, 7662 (2015)

Stand Alone Single-Photon Source

→ A. Schlehahn, TH et al., Scientific Reports 8, 1340 (2018)

Integration into compact Stirling cryocooler:



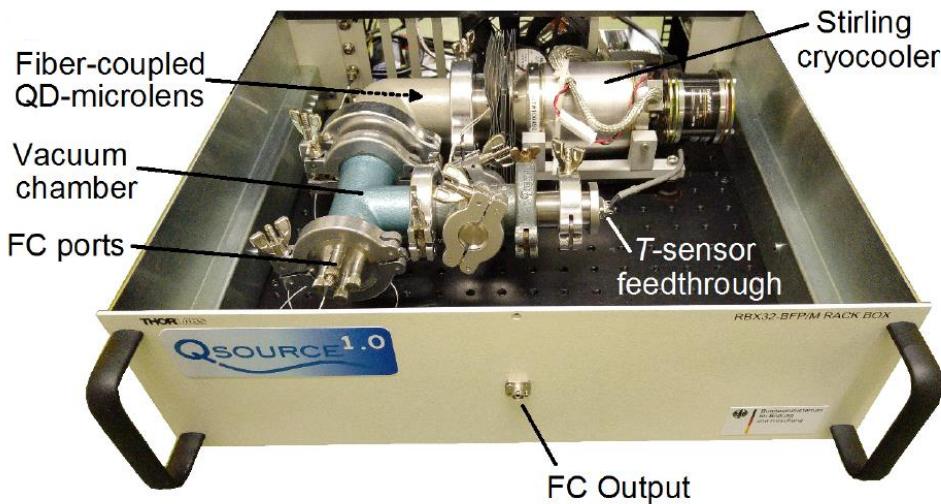
Durable Fiber Coupling

Single-Photon Emission?

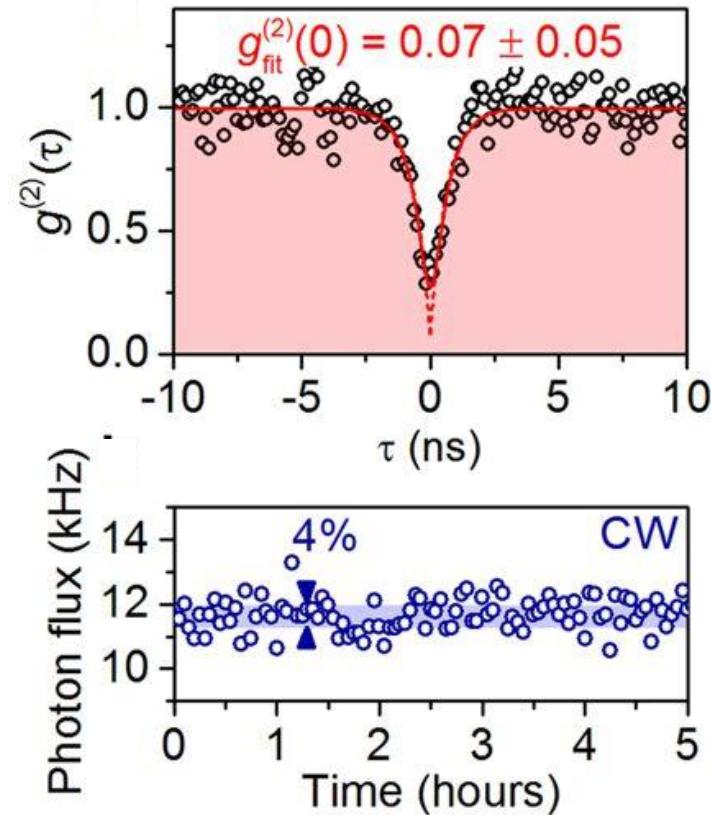
Stand Alone Single-Photon Source

→ A. Schlehahn, TH et al., Scientific Reports 8, 1340 (2018)

Integration into compact Stirling cryocooler:



SM fibers?
Telecom window?



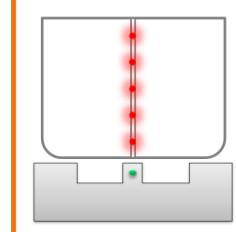
Single-Photon Emission!

Telecom-Wavelength QKD-Testbed

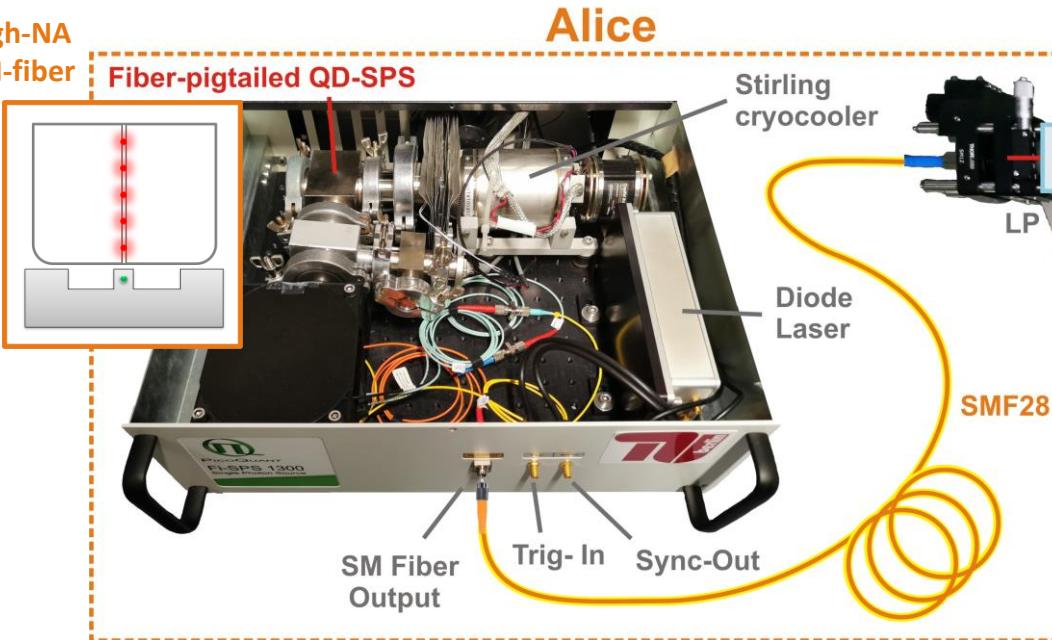
→ T. Gao, L. Rickert et al., Applied Physics Reviews 9, 011412 (2022)

high-NA
SM-fiber

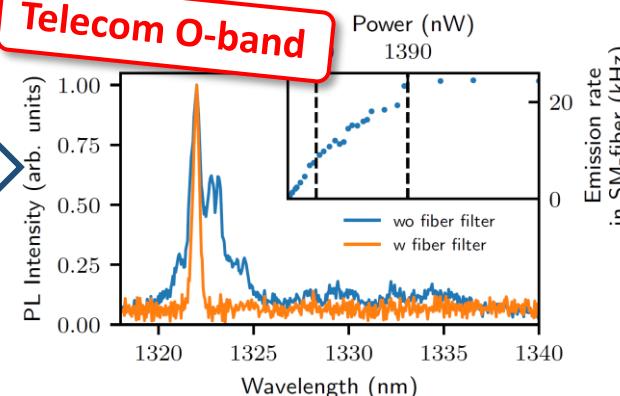
Fiber-pigtailed QD-SPS



Alice



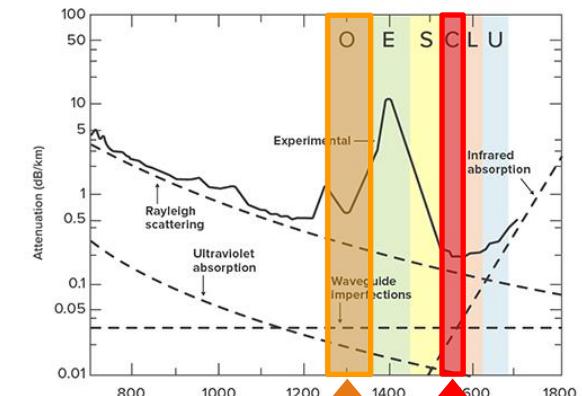
Telecom O-band



Details on FC-QD: Zolnac et al., *Opt. Express* 27, 26772 (2019)

First O-band QD in Stirling:

Musiał et al., *Adv. Qu. Technol.* 10.1002/qute.202000018 (2020)
Project Fi-Secure: Reitenstein, Sek, et al.

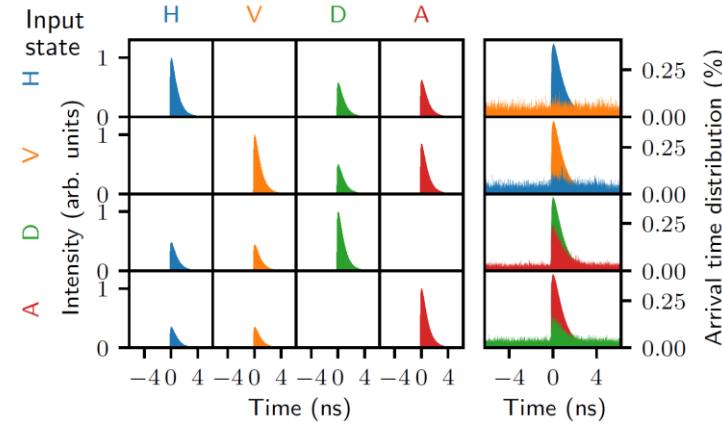
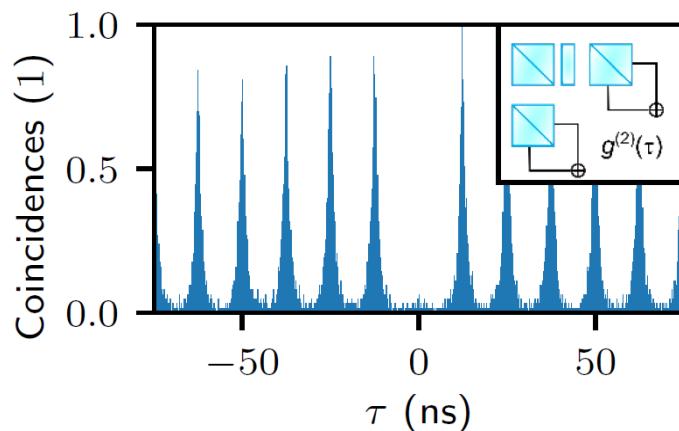
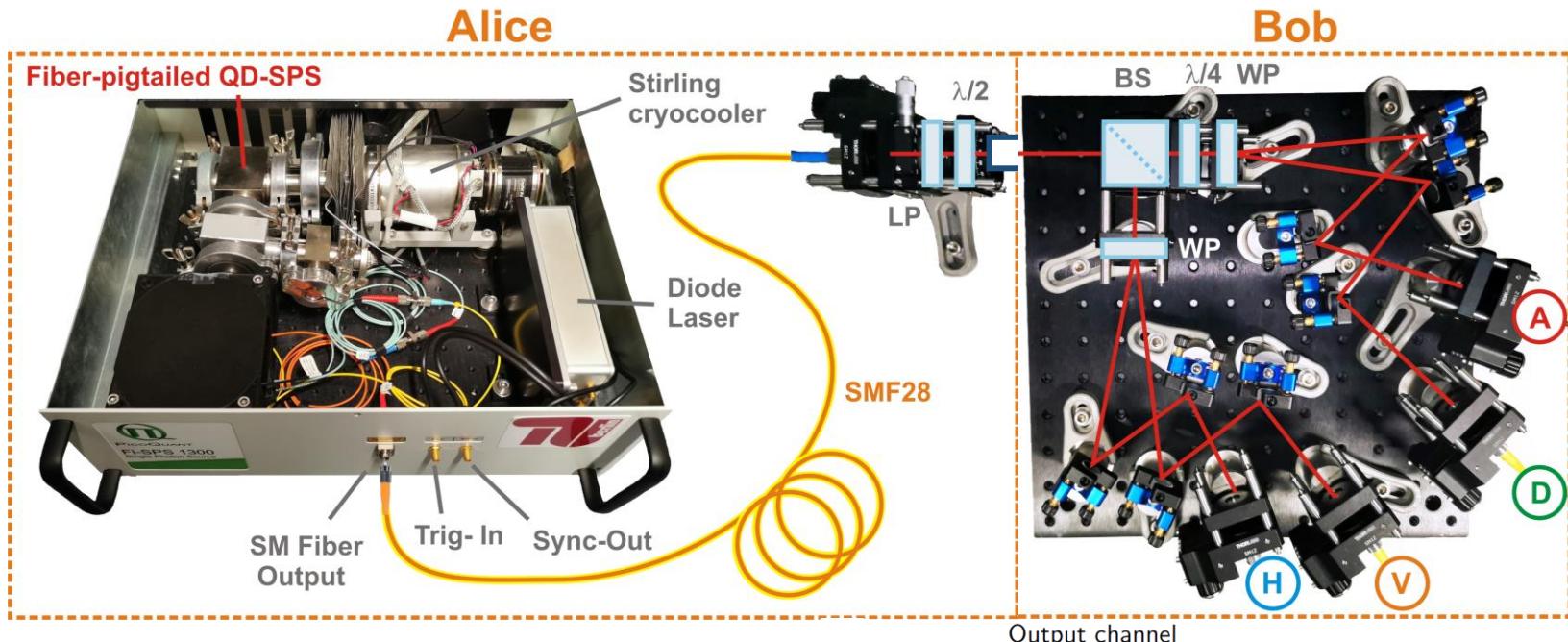


λ-multiplexing
→ existing infrastructure

Quantum
Traffic
Classical
Traffic

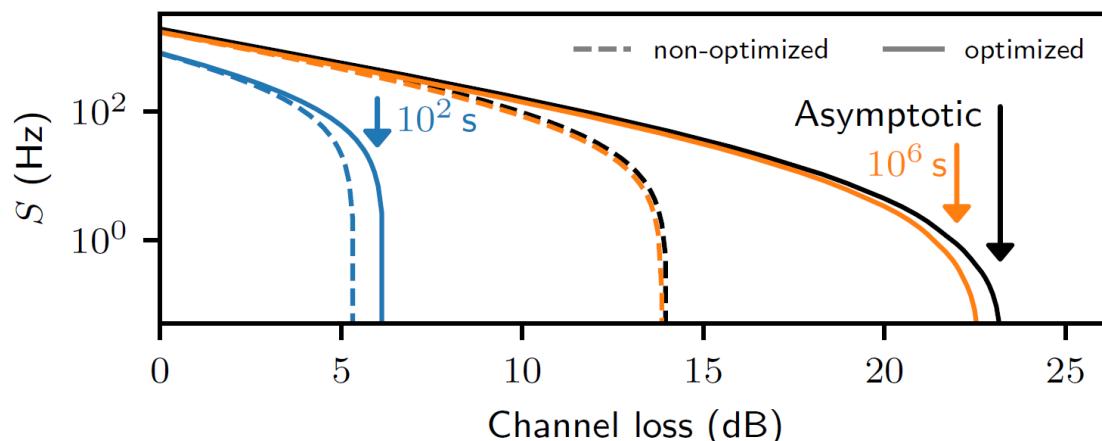
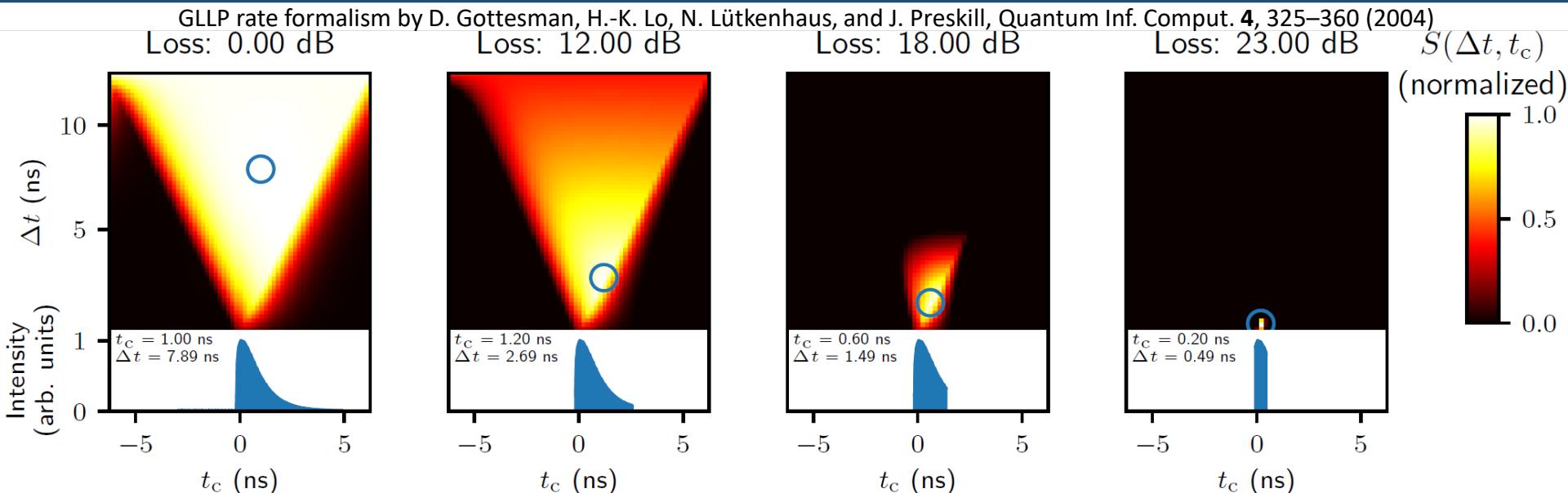
Telecom-Wavelength QKD-Testbed

→ T. Gao, L. Rickert et al., Applied Physics Reviews 9, 011412 (2022)



Telecom-Wavelength QKD-Testbed

→ T. Gao, L. Rickert et al., Applied Physics Reviews 9, 011412 (2022)



Accounting for finite key-size effects: R. Y. Q. Cai and V. Scarani, New Journal of Physics 11, 045024 (2009)

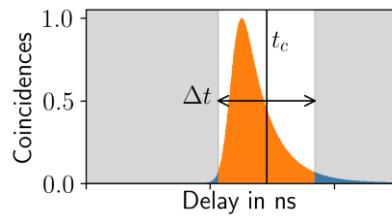
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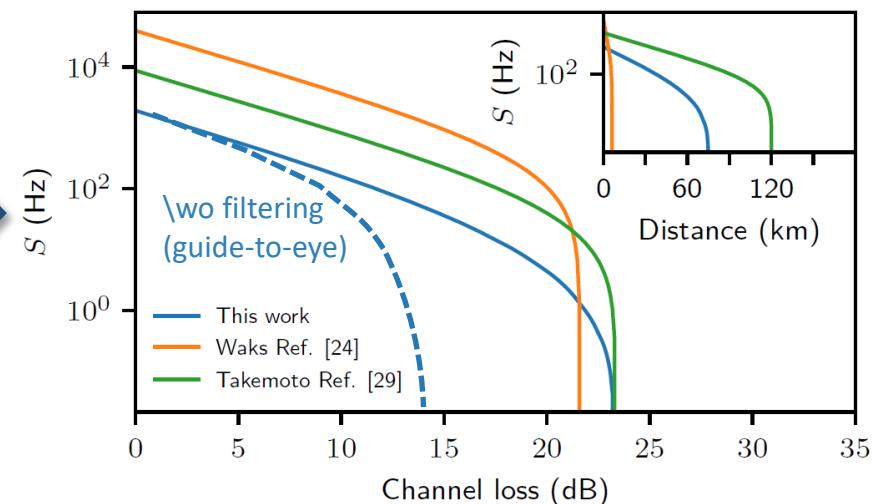
	Ref. ²⁴	Ref. ²⁹	This Work
λ (nm)	877	1580.5	1321
μ	0.007	0.009	0.0002
p_{dc}	$10.5 \cdot 10^{-7}$	$3 \cdot 10^{-7}$	$5.25 \cdot 10^{-7}$
e_{detector}	0.025	0.023	0.010
η_{Bob}	0.24	0.048	0.3
$g^{(2)}(0)$	0.14	0.0051	0.10



Optimized 2D temporal filtering



T. Kupko et al.,
npj Quantum Inf. 6, 29 (2020)



[24] E. Waks et al., *Nature* 420, 762 (2002)

[29] K. Takemoto et al., *Sci. Rep.* 5, 14383 (2015)

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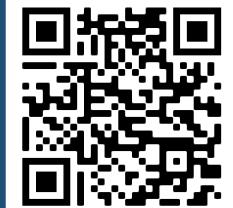
Home > Applied Physics Reviews > Volume 9, Issue 1 > 10.1063/5.0070966

 Free · Submitted: 10 September 2021 · Accepted: 05 January 2022 · Published Online: 26 January 2022

A quantum key distribution testbed using a plug&play telecom-wavelength single-photon source

Applied Physics Reviews 9, 011412 (2022); <https://doi.org/10.1063/5.0070966>

**Editor's Pick
+ Scilight**

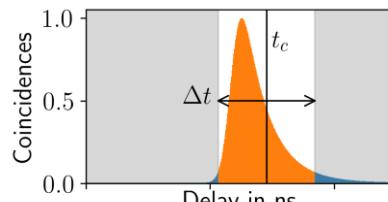


 Paper Link

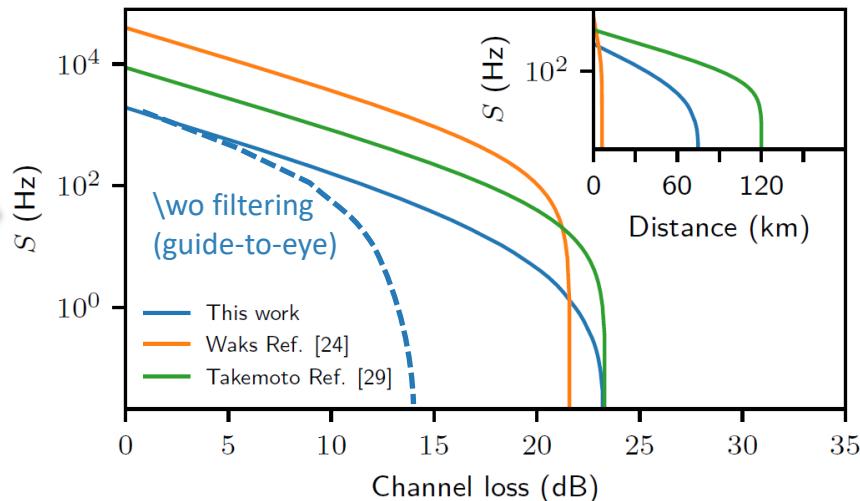
 Timm Gao¹,  Lucas Rickert¹, Felix Urban¹, Jan Große¹, Nicole Srocka¹, Sven Rodt¹,  Anna Musiał²,  Kinga Żołnacz³,  Paweł Mergo⁴, Kamil Dybka⁵,  Wacław Urbańczyk³,  Grzegorz Sek²,  Sven Burger⁶,  Stephan Reitzenstein¹, and  Tobias Heindel^{1,a}



Optimized 2D temporal filtering



T. Kupko et al.,
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Paper Link

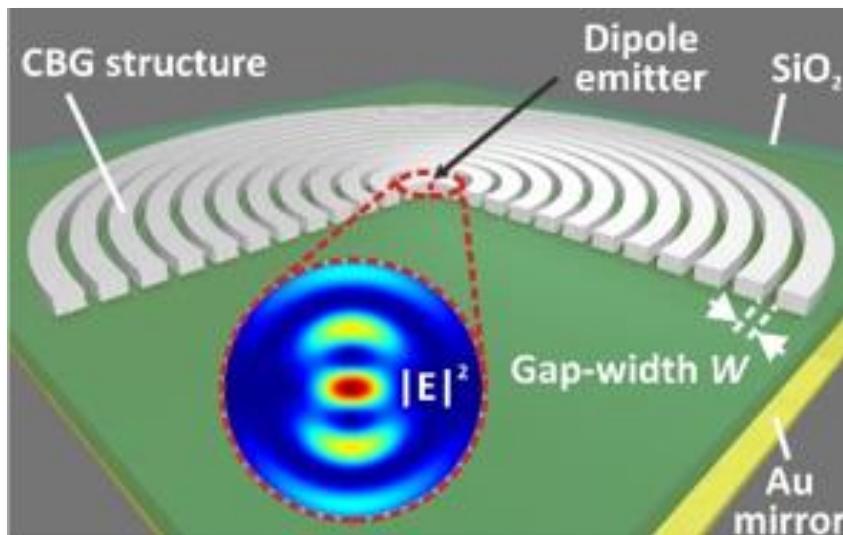
Towards Telecom FC-SPS

→ L. Rickert et al., Optics Express (2019)

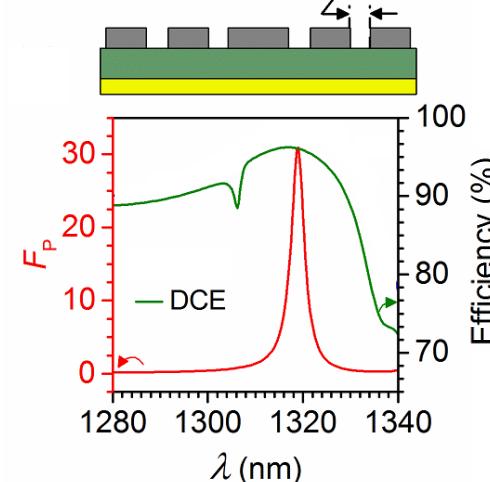
Hybrid circular Bragg grating

Design Optimization via FEM Simulations

- Parameter study on R , W , P , t_{GaAs} , t_{SiO_2}



$$R = 550 \text{ nm} ; P = 500 \text{ nm} ; W = 160 \text{ nm}$$



$$\eta_{DCE} = \frac{P_{\text{NA}=0.8}}{P_{\text{Dipole}}}$$

Designed for
telecom O-band

Mode forming in central disc

- Collection efficiencies of >95%
- F_p of up to 30
- Collimated far-field

[1] J. Liu et al., Nat. Nanotechnol. 14, 586 (2019)

[2] H. Wang et al., Phys. Rev. Lett. 122, 113602 (2019)
JCM wave Support by Philipp-Immanuel Schneider and Sven Burger greatly acknowledged



Paper Link

Towards Telecom FC-SPS

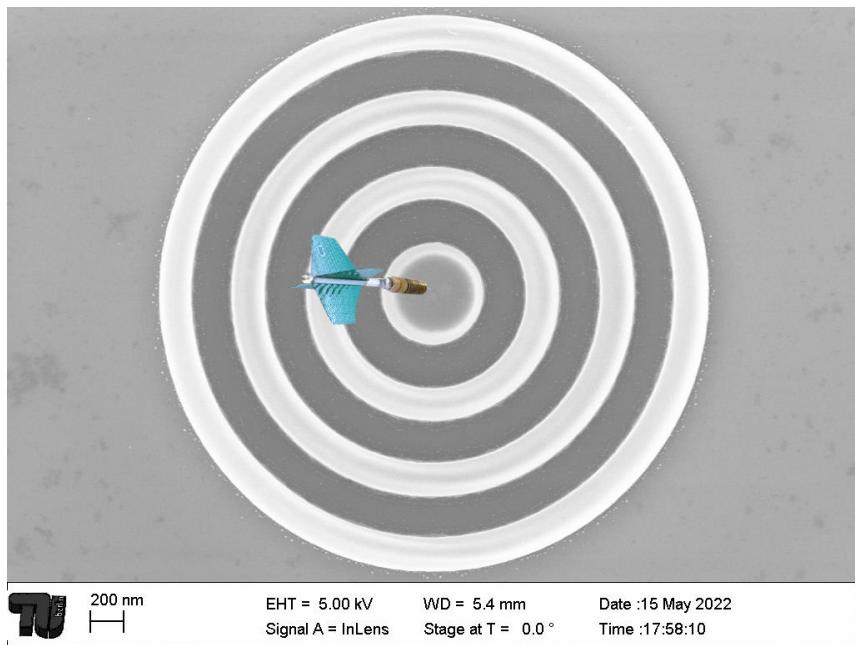
→ L. Rickert et al., Optics Express (2019)

Hybrid circular Bragg grating

Fiber-coupling

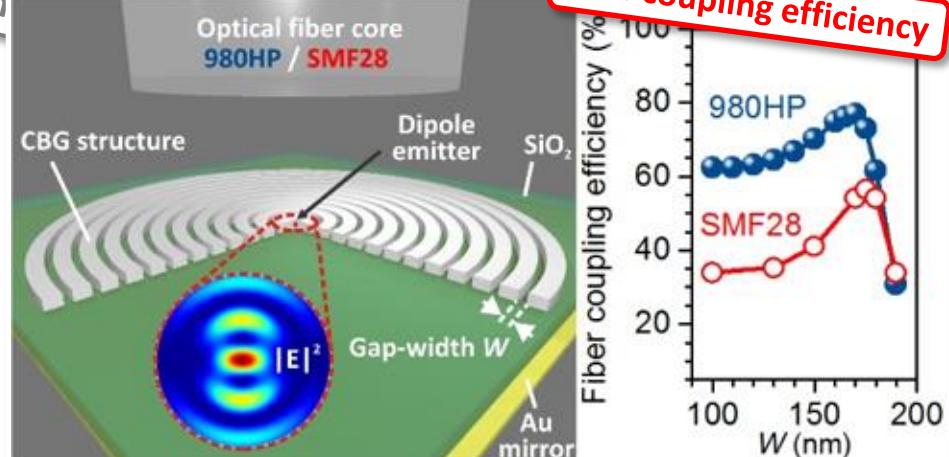
Design Optimization via FEM Simulations

- Bandwidth engineering



Efficient direct fiber-coupling

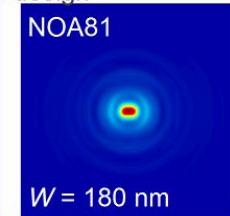
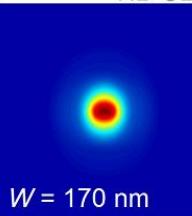
80% coupling efficiency



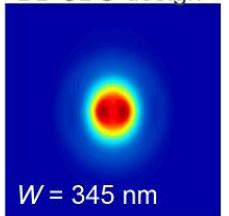
Mode-field fiber

980HP SMF28

NB CBG-design



BB CBG-design



Blueprint for Telecom-Wavelength Quantum Light Sources

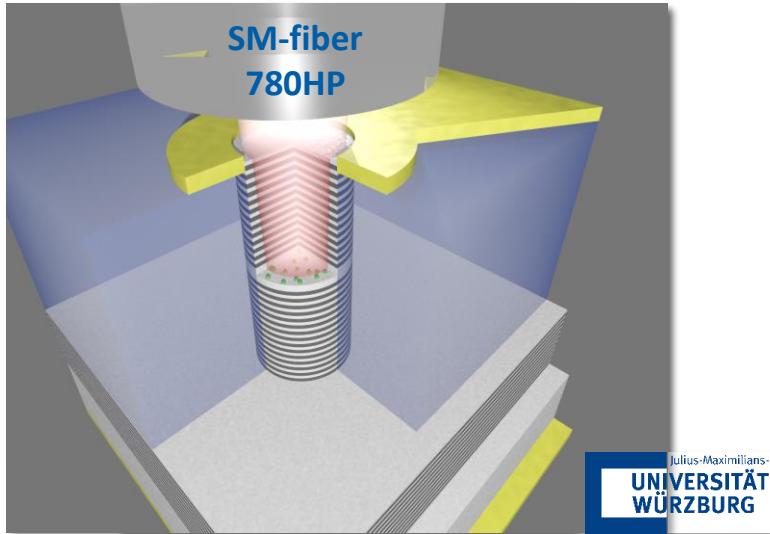


Paper Link

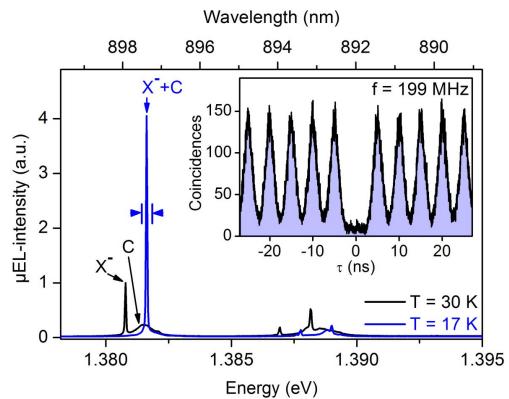
Fiber-pigtailed Microcavity-LEDs

→ L. Rickert et al., Appl. Phys. Lett. 119, 131104 (2021)

Micropillar-SPS



T. Heindel et al., Appl. Phys. Lett. 96, 011107 (2010)



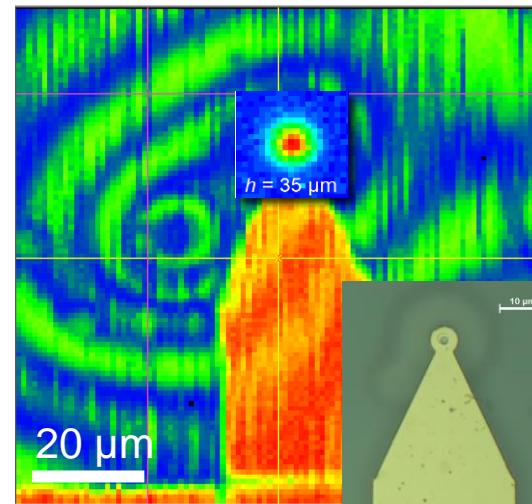
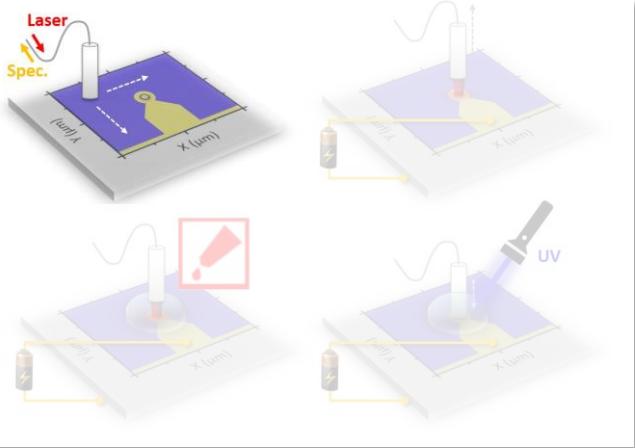


Paper Link

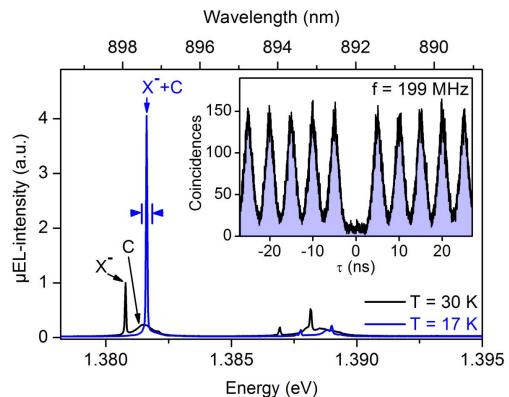
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Micropillar-SPS + SM-Fiber



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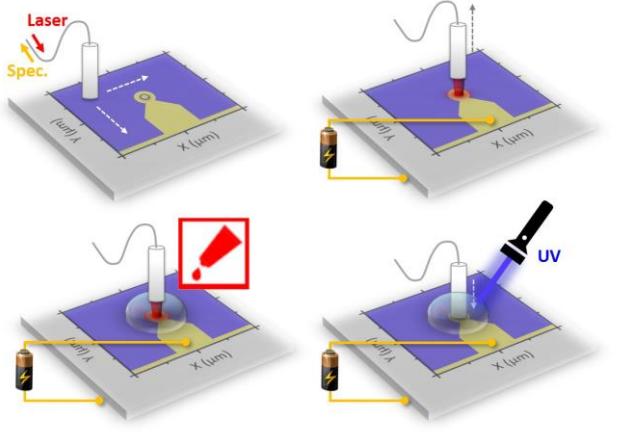


Paper Link

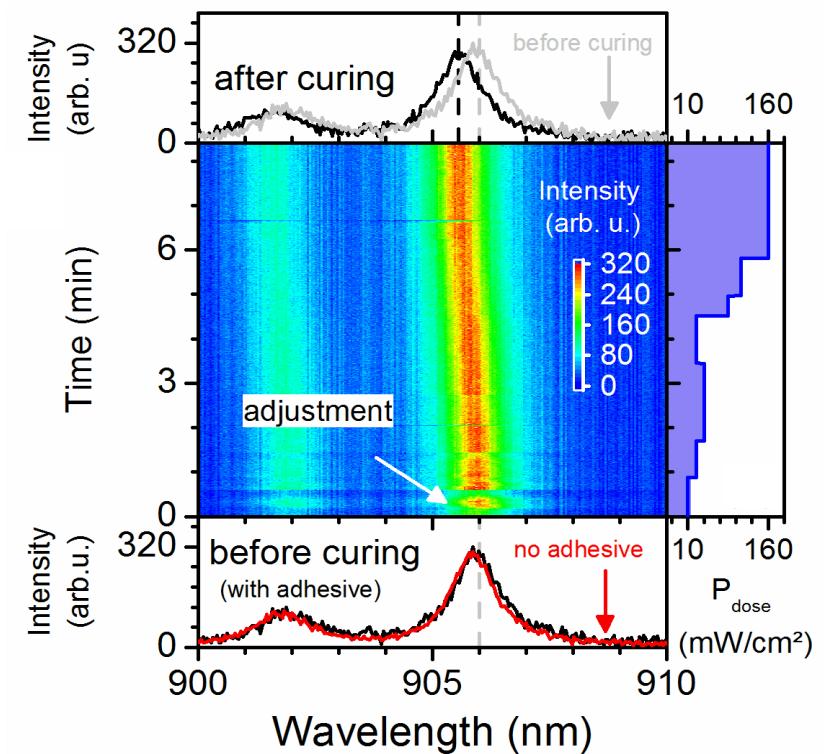
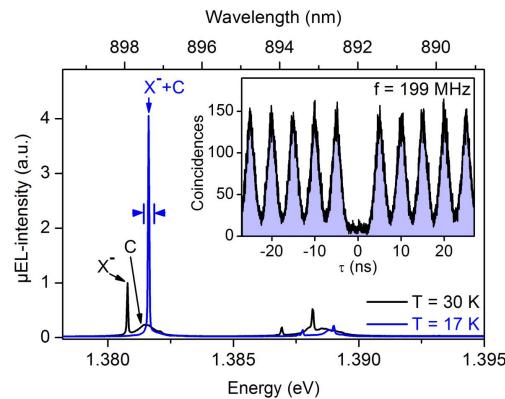
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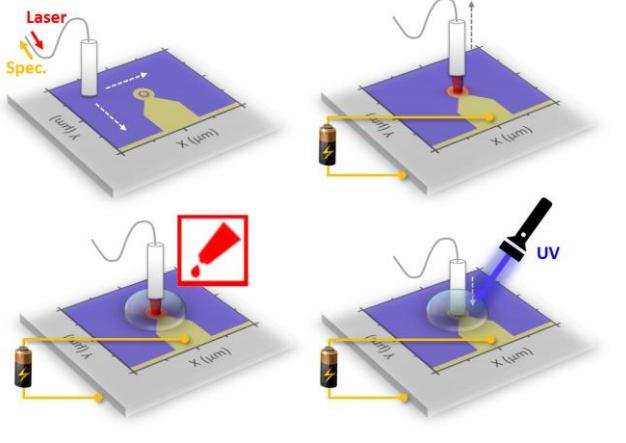


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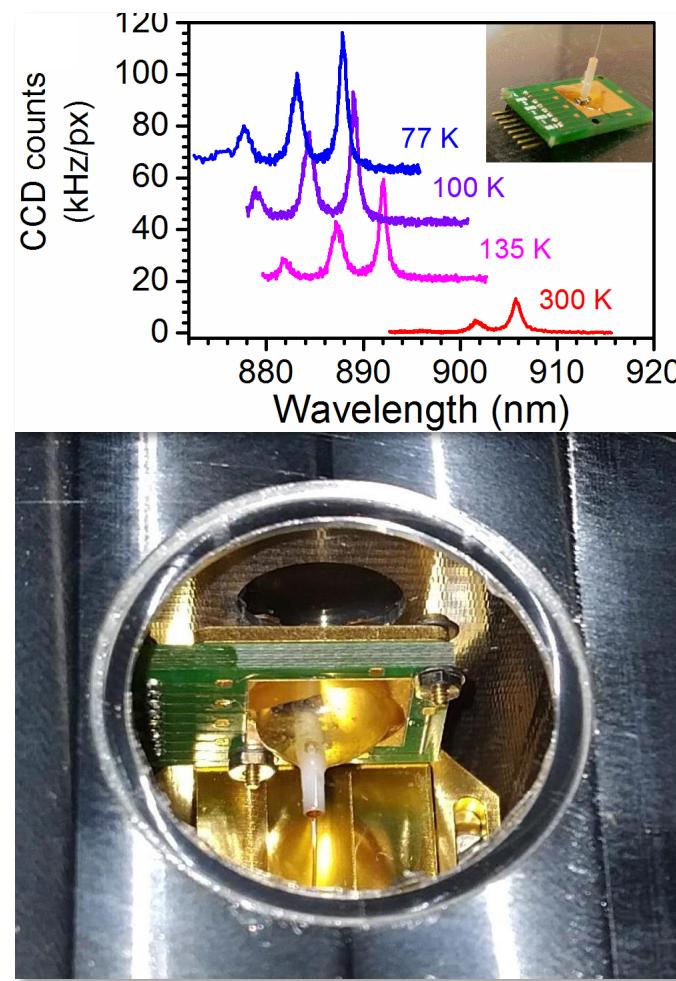
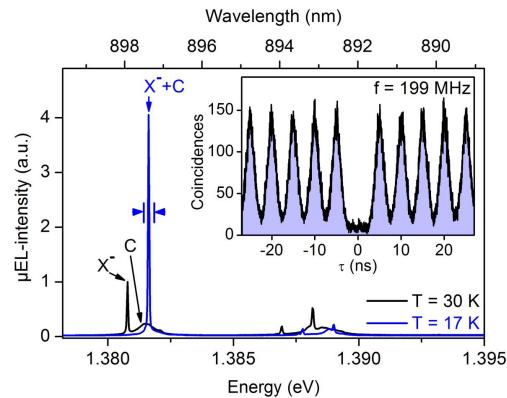
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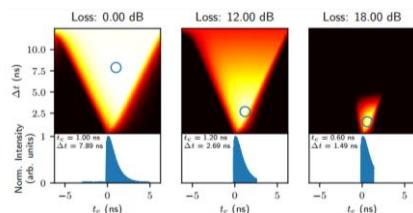


Outline – Part III



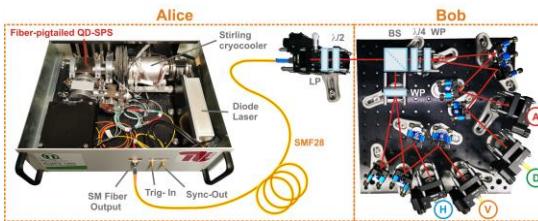
Recap

- BB84 & Rate vs. Loss Diagramm



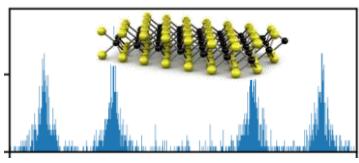
Optimization & Certification

- About How Bob Should Measure
- ...and Other Usefull Tools



Developing Practical Single-Photon QKD Systems

- Plug'n'Play Quantum Light Sources
- Benchtop QKD Testbeds



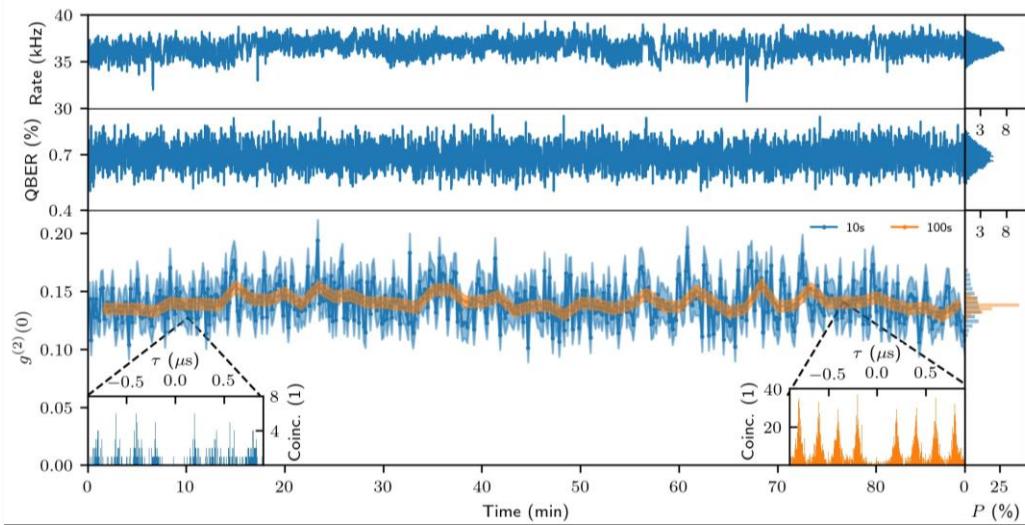
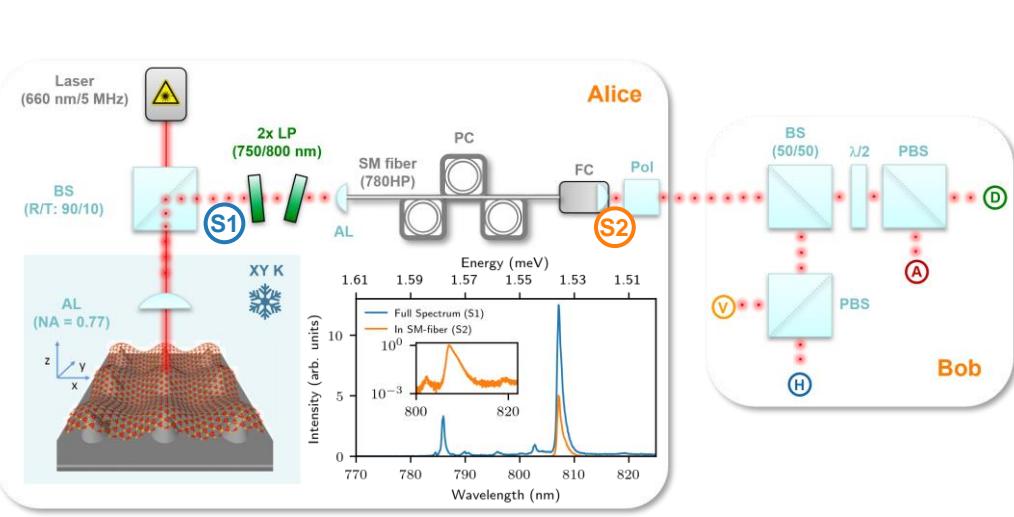
Emerging Materials

Atomically-Thin Single-Photon Sources for QuCom

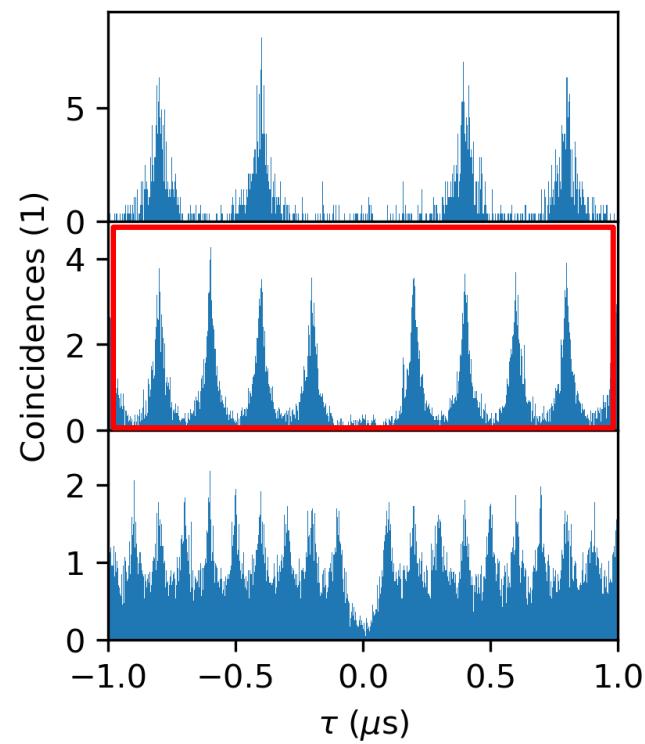


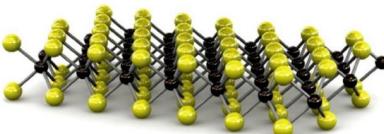
Summary & Outlook
Towards Quantum Communication Networks

T. Gao, M. von Helversen, C. Anton-Solanas, C. Schneider, and T. Heindel, arXiv.2204.06427 (2022)

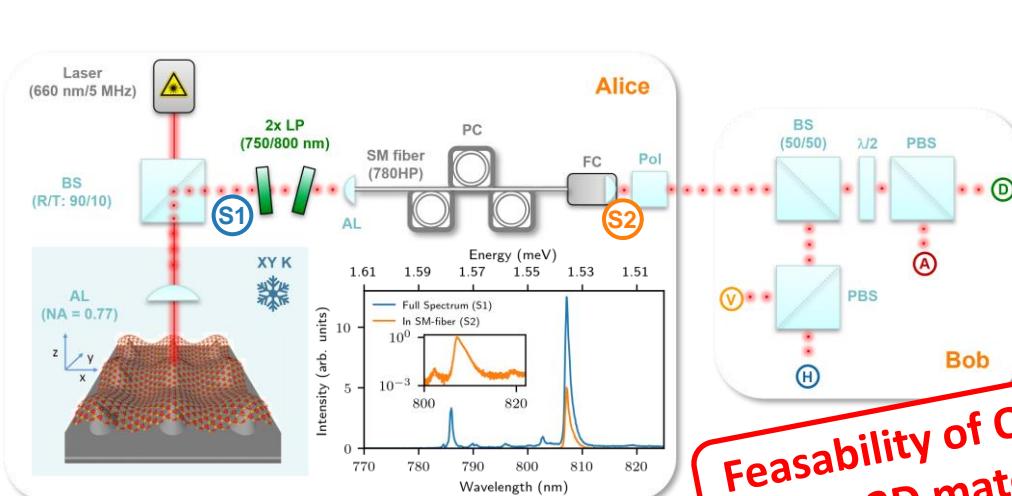


- WSe₂ monolayer on structured surface (Silver nanoparticles)
- Nanoparticles result in strain centers → Single confined quantum emitters
- Up to 0.5 MHz click-rate (CW)
- $g^{(2)}(0)$ down to 0.034 ± 0.002 (pulsed)

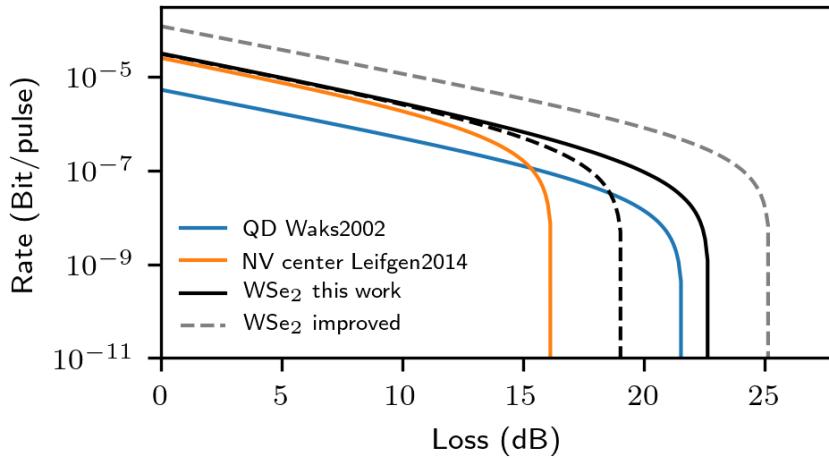




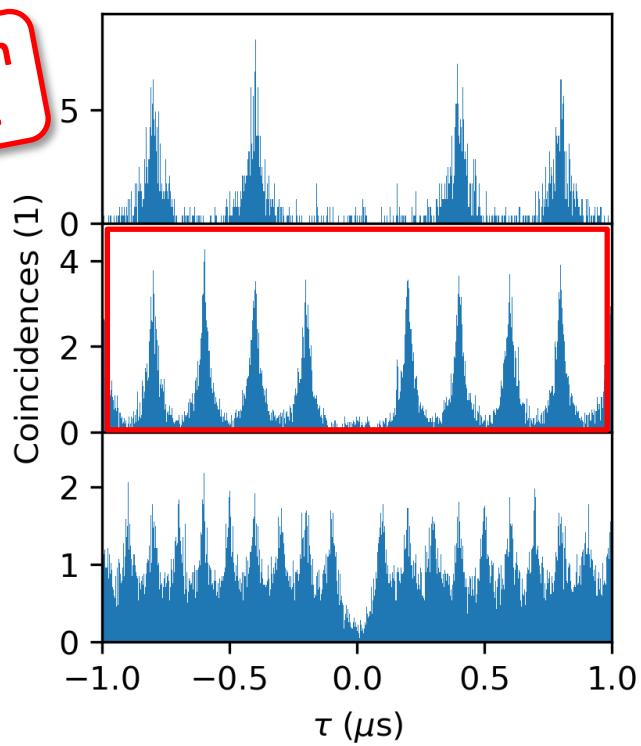
T. Gao, M. von Helversen, C. Anton-Solanas, C. Schneider, and T. Heindel, arXiv.2204.06427 (2022)



**Feasability of QuCom
using 2D materials!**



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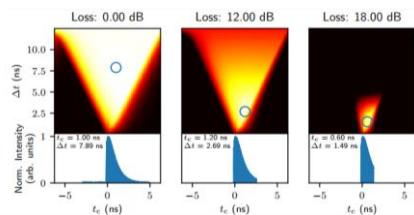


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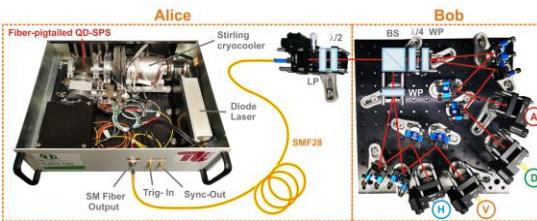
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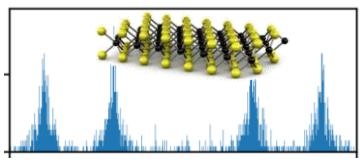
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Emerging Materials

Atomically-Thin Single-Photon Sources for QuCom



- Summary & Outlook
- Towards Quantum Communication Networks

Metropolitan Area QKD Networks



Carrying owls to athens... ;-)

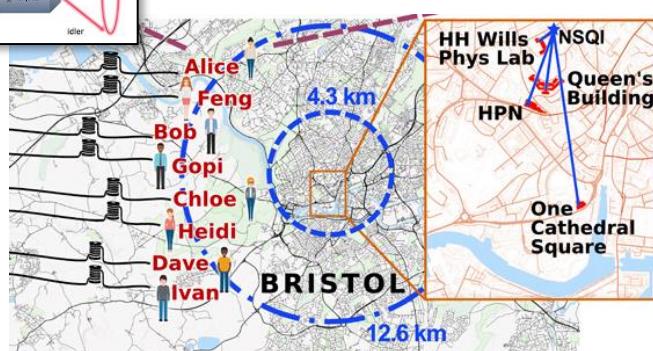
SECOQC – Vienna/Austria



M. Peev et al., *New J. Phys.* 11, 075001 (2009)



Bristol - UK



S. K. Joshi et al., *Science Adv.* 6, eaba0959 (2020)



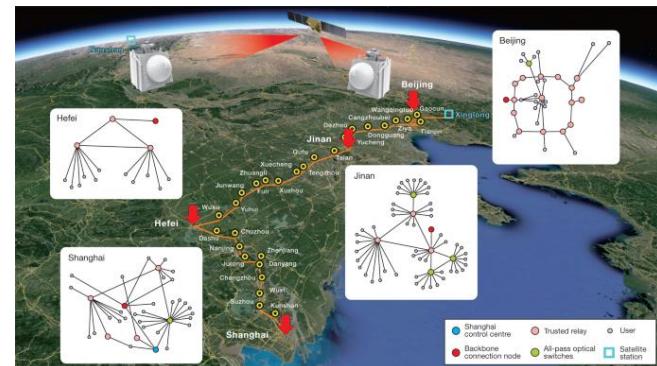
Cambridge - UK



J. F. Dynes et al., *npj Quantum Inf.* 5, 101 (2019)

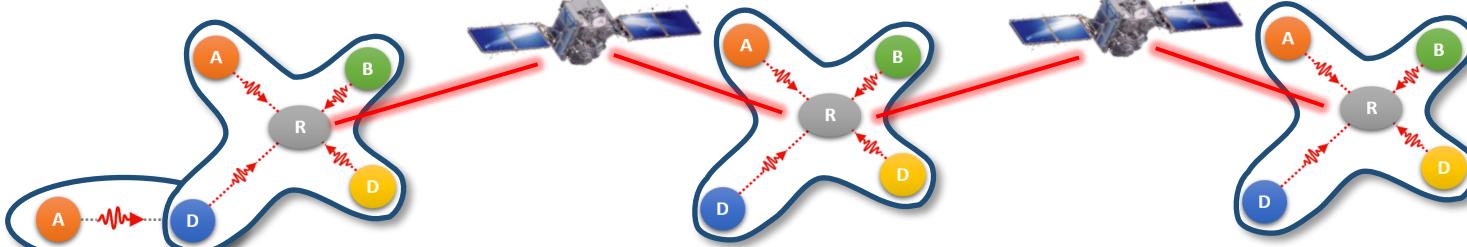
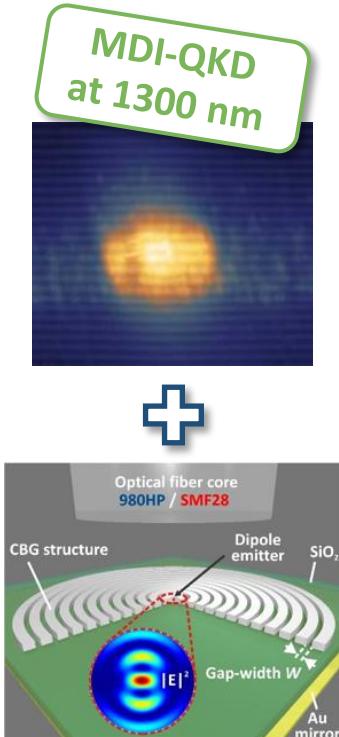
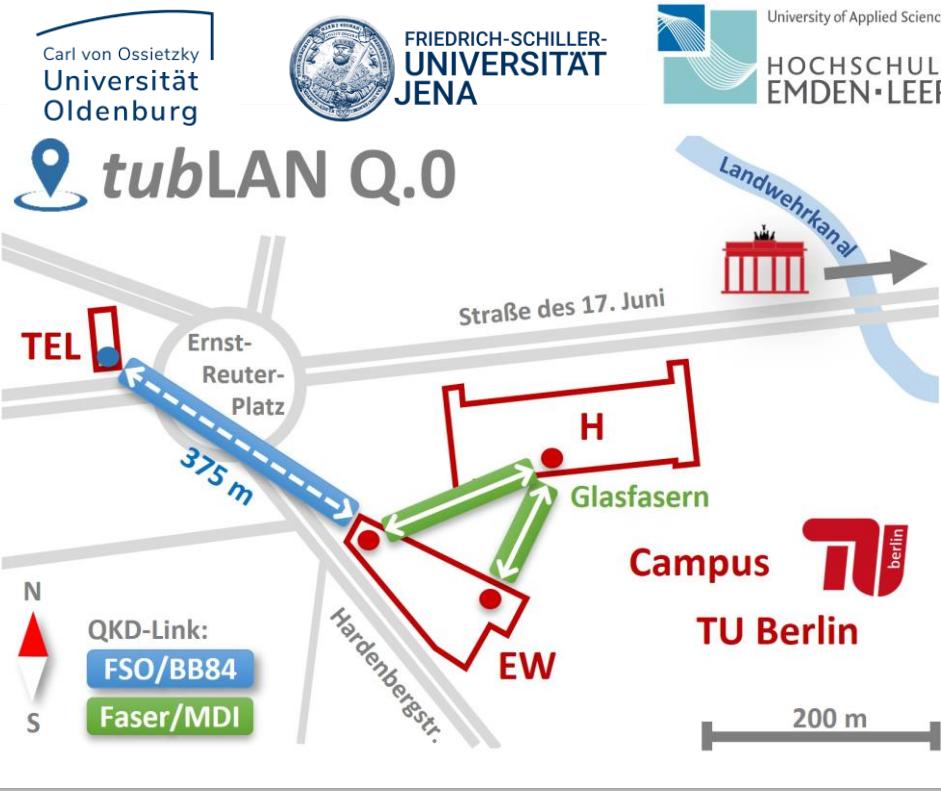
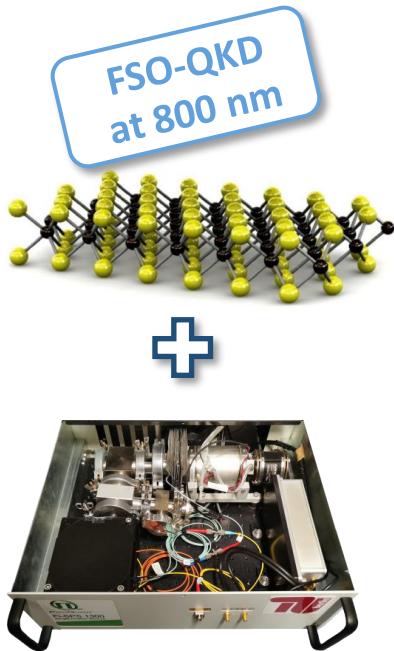


Hefei - China



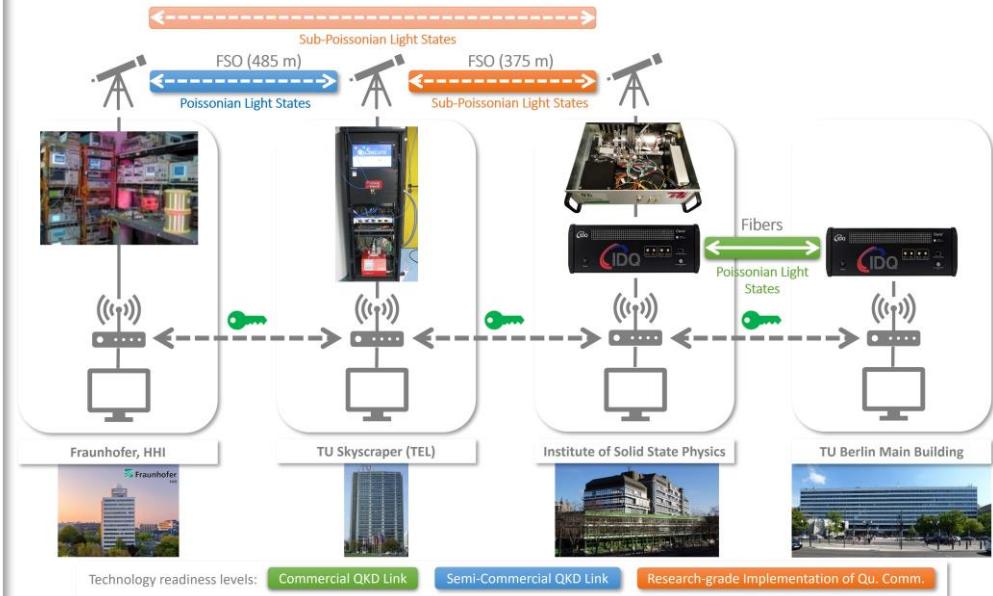
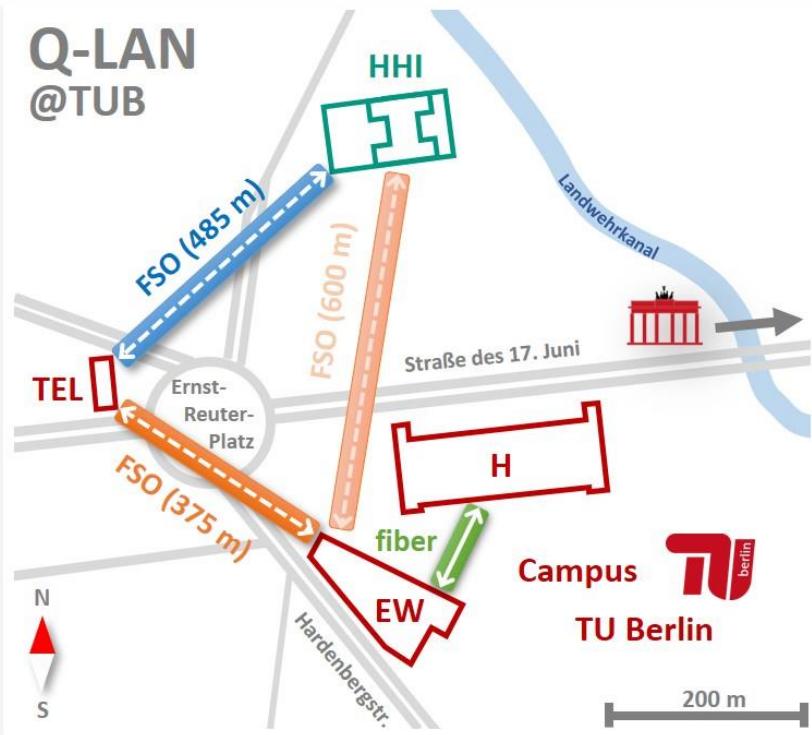
Y.-A. Chen et al., *Nature* 589, 214 (2021)

Towards a Berlin Quantum Network



Towards a Berlin Quantum Network

**Q-LAN
@TUB**



Installation Time-lapse of World's First (ATTODRY 800)²

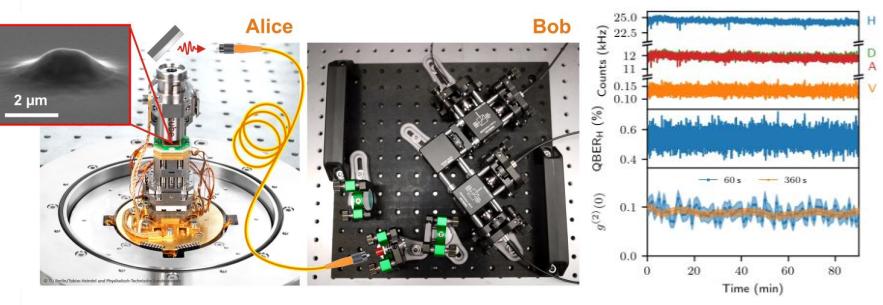
Quantum Communication Group of Tobias Heindel - TU Berlin 2022



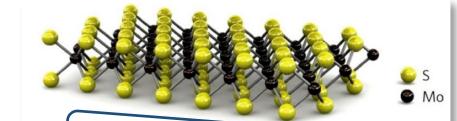
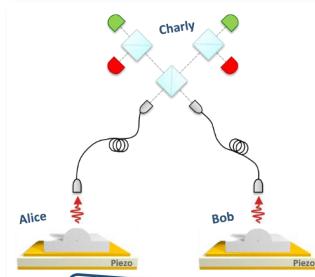


Summary & Outlook

Advances in Single-Photon QKD



Advanced Implementations & Materials

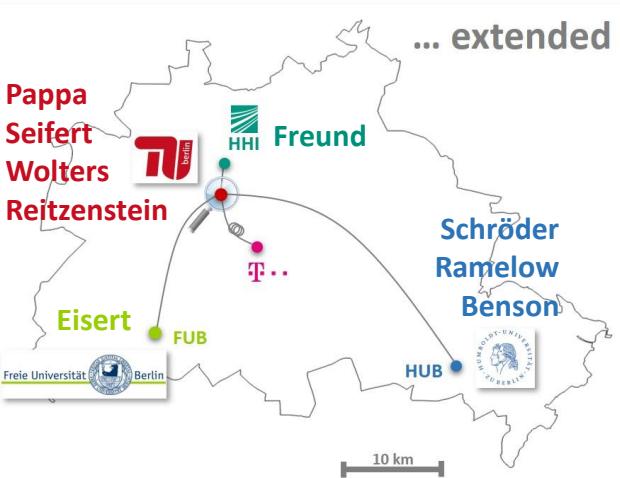
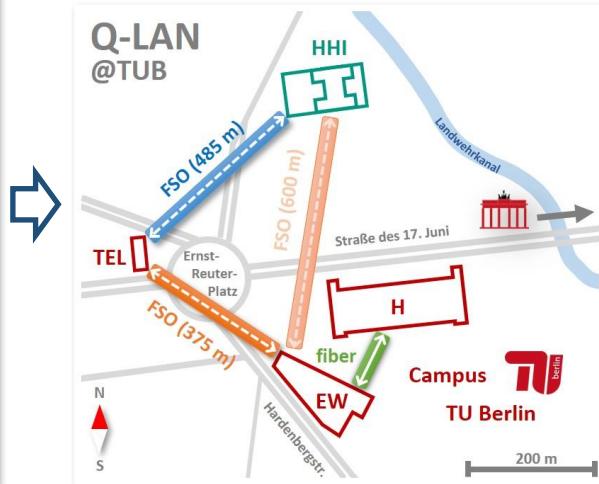


Novel/Other Materials



Beyond QKD

Plug'n'Play Devices



International Quantum Year 2025

→ <https://quantum2025.org/>



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Thank You and
Stay Healthy!

2025

