

# Improving security of a QKD system via an external audit



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CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY

Quantum hacking lab

[vad1.com/lab](http://vad1.com/lab)

Talk at BQIT online workshop, 27-30 April 2020

# Certification of cryptographic tools



**Government**

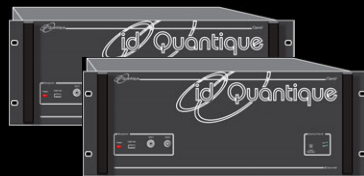
**National security  
authority**

Legal  
requirements



**Accredited lab**

System



Engineering  
documentation



**Certificate**

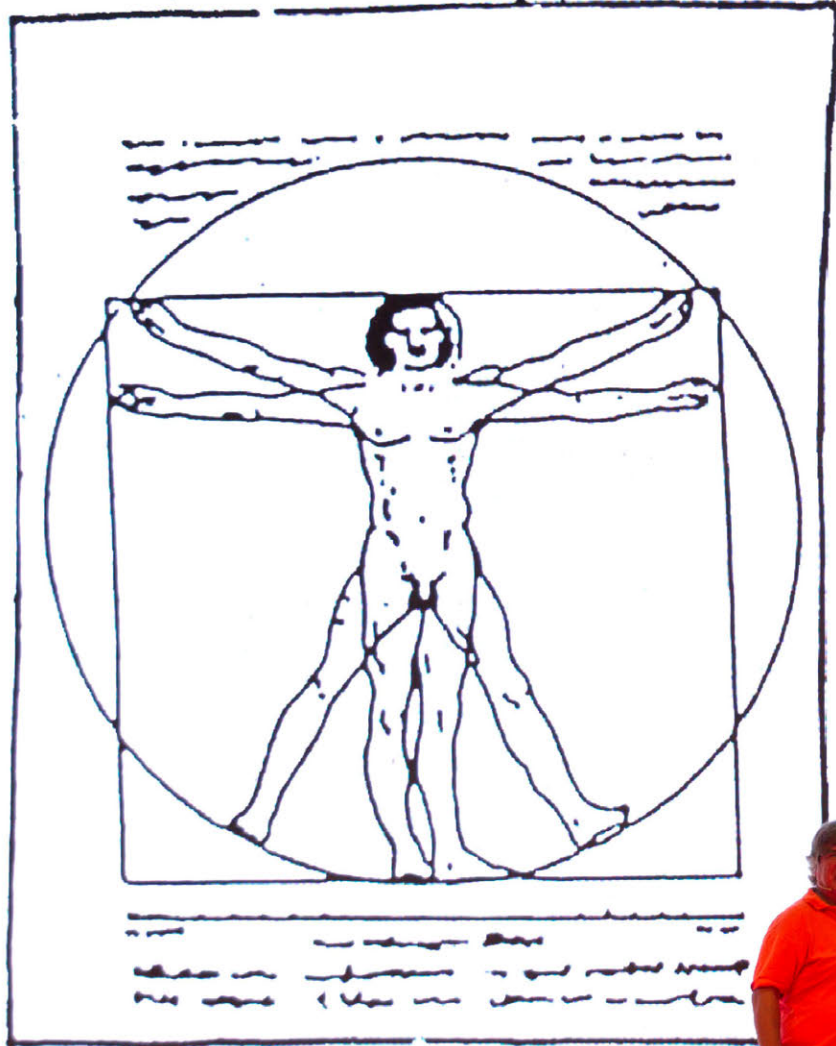


**Manufacturer**

Sale

**Customer**

# THEORY



# EXPERIMENT



MSTEVENS

# Security audit

# System

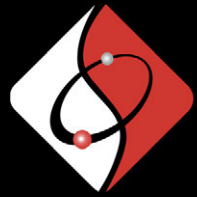
# Report

# Tests

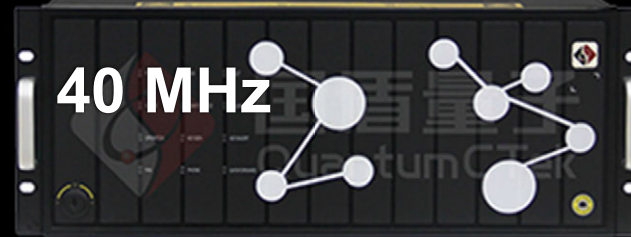


2016

-2018  
interrupted



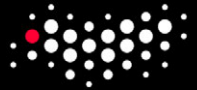
国盾量子  
QuantumCTek



40 MHz

2016,  
2018-19

ongoing



ITMO UNIVERSITY

(ООО Квантовые коммуникации)

Subcarrier scheme

2018

ongoing

S. Sajeed *et al.*, arXiv:1909.07898



New 312.5 MHz system (2020) ongoing

Certification standards are being drafted since 2019 in



Industry standards  
group in QKD



# Hardness against implementation imperfections

Rating	Description
<b>C3. Solution secure</b>	Imperfection not applicable or in security proof
<b>C2. Solution robust</b>	Protects against known attacks but is not in security proof
<b>C1. Solution only partially effective</b>	Protects against one attack but fails to another
<b>C0. Insecure</b>	Loophole confirmed, no countermeasure
<b>CX. Not tested</b>	Loophole suspected

# Risk evaluation

<b>Loophole</b> <b>likely</b> or unlikely <b>to exist?</b>	<b>1</b> 0	<b>+</b>	<b>Exploitable with</b> <b>today's</b> or future <b>technology?</b>	<b>1</b> 0	<b>+</b>	<b>Leaks</b> <b>major</b> or minor <b>fraction of key?</b>	<b>1</b> 0
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= **risk** {  
3 **Very high**  
2 **High**  
1 **Medium**  
0 **Low**

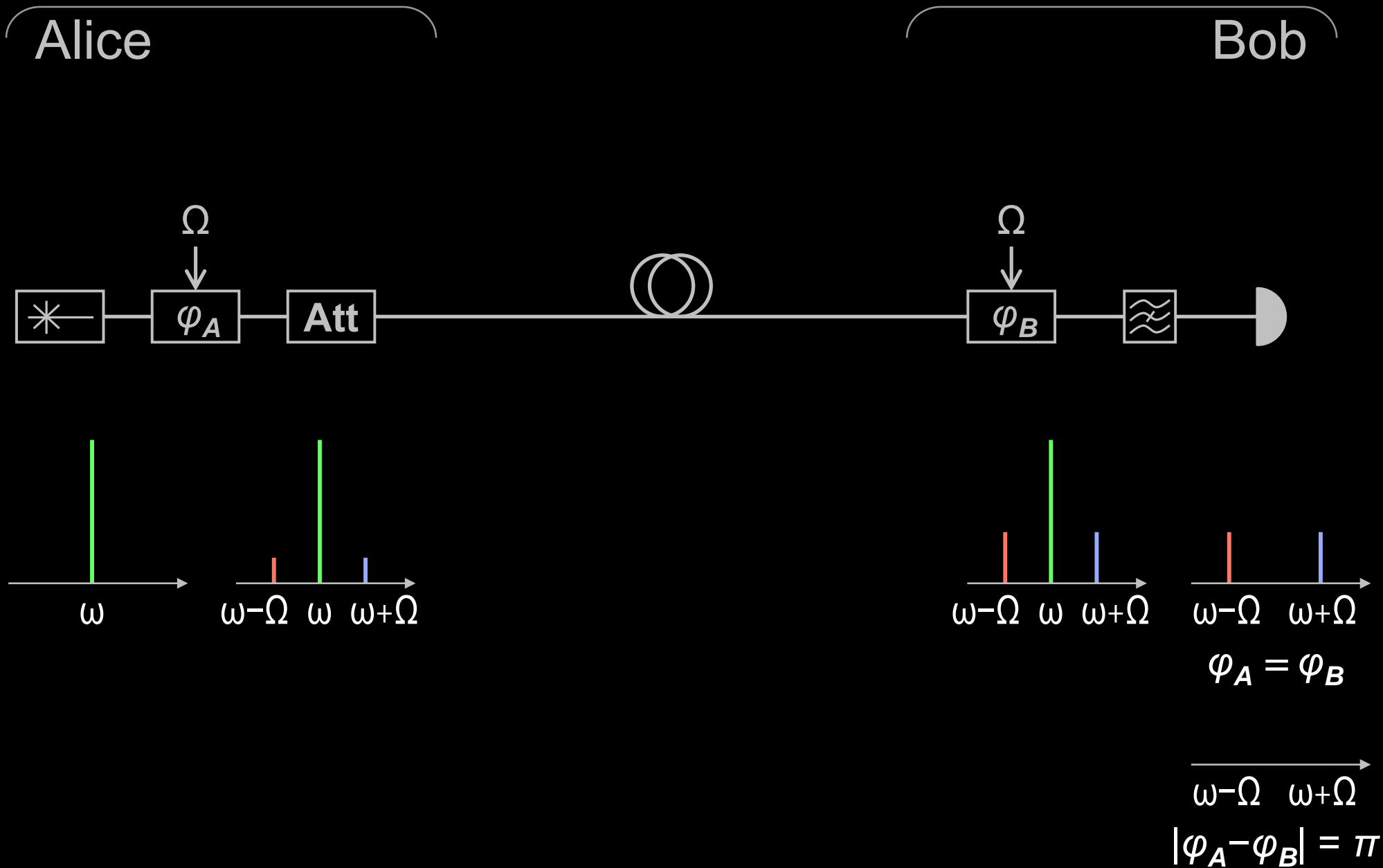
# Potential issue

Potential issue	$C_{2017}$	Q	Needed lab testing?	Initial risk evaluation	$C_{2020}$	Status in early 2020
Detector control attack	CX	Q1–5,7	Yes	High	C2	Loophole experimentally confirmed, countermeasures implemented
Laser damage	CX	Q1,3	Yes	High	C2	Loophole experimentally confirmed in Alice, countermeasures implemented
Trojan horse	C2, C0	Q1	Yes	Low (Alice), High (Bob)	C2, C2	Countermeasure developed, to be implemented
No general security proof	C0	Q1,5	No	High	C3	Security proofs developed, software updated
Time-shift attack	CX	Q1–3,5	Yes	Medium	CX	Lower priority, future work
Privacy amplification	C0	Q5	No	High	C3	Correct processing implemented
Finite-key-size effects	C0	Q5	No	Low	C3	Security proofs developed, software updated
Non-quantum RNG	C0	Q5	No	Low	C3	Physical RNG selected, to be implemented
Intersymbol interference	CX	Q1–3	Yes	Low	CX	Lower priority, future work

S. Sajeed, P. Chaiwongkhot, A. Huang, H. Qin,

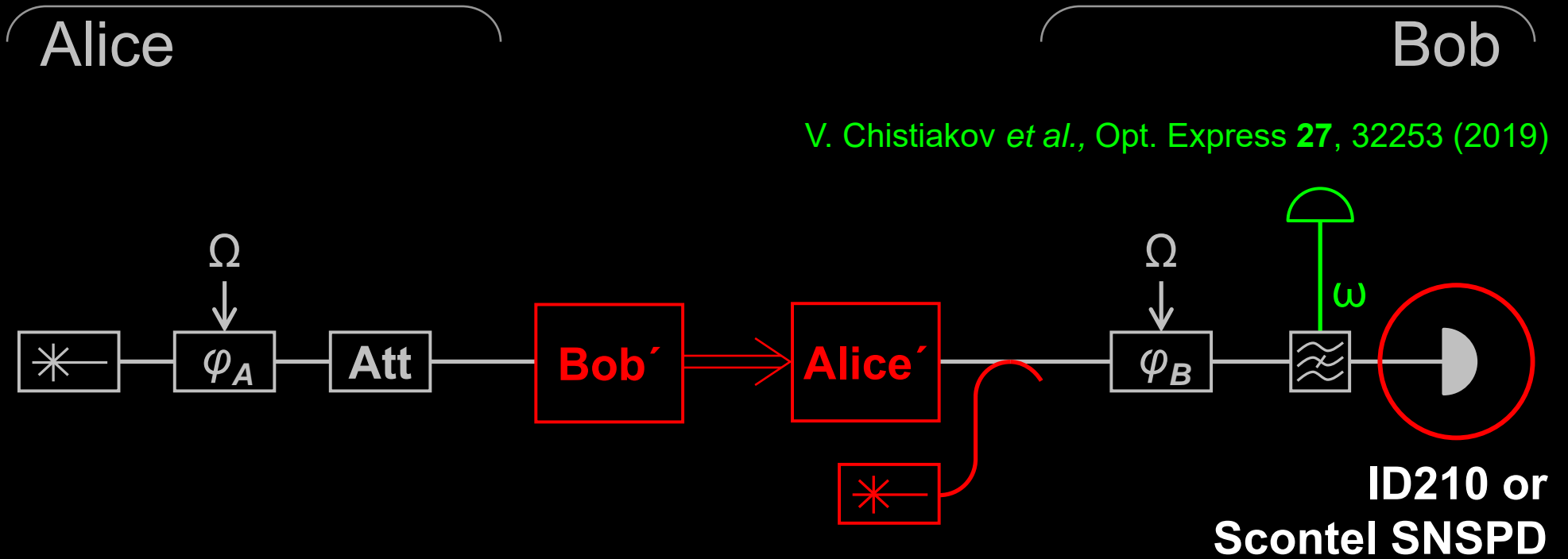
V. Egorov, A. Kozubov, A. Gaidash, V. Chistiakov, A. Vasiliev, A. Gleim, V. Makarov, arXiv:1909.07898

# Subcarrier-wave QKD scheme





# 1. Detector control attack



V. Chistiakov *et al.*, Opt. Express **27**, 32253 (2019)

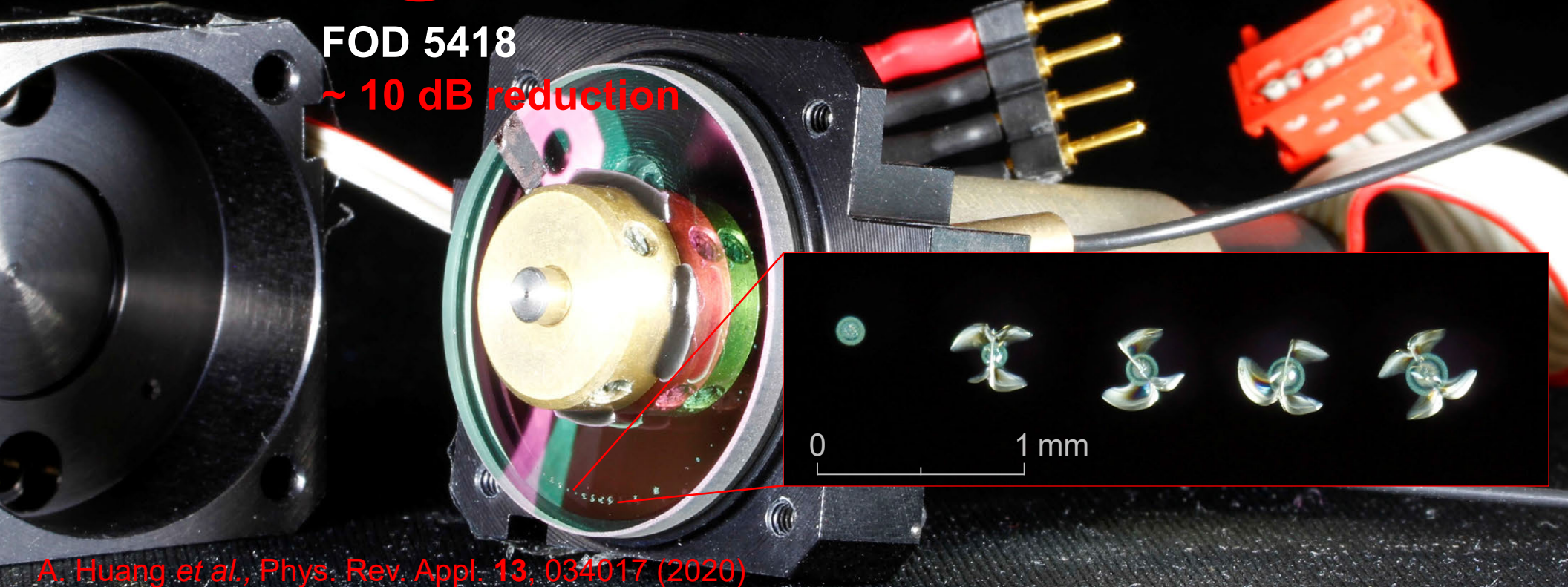
V. Chistiakov *et al.*, Opt. Express **27**, 32253 (2019)  
M. Elezov *et al.*, Opt. Express **27**, 30979 (2019)

## 2. Laser damage

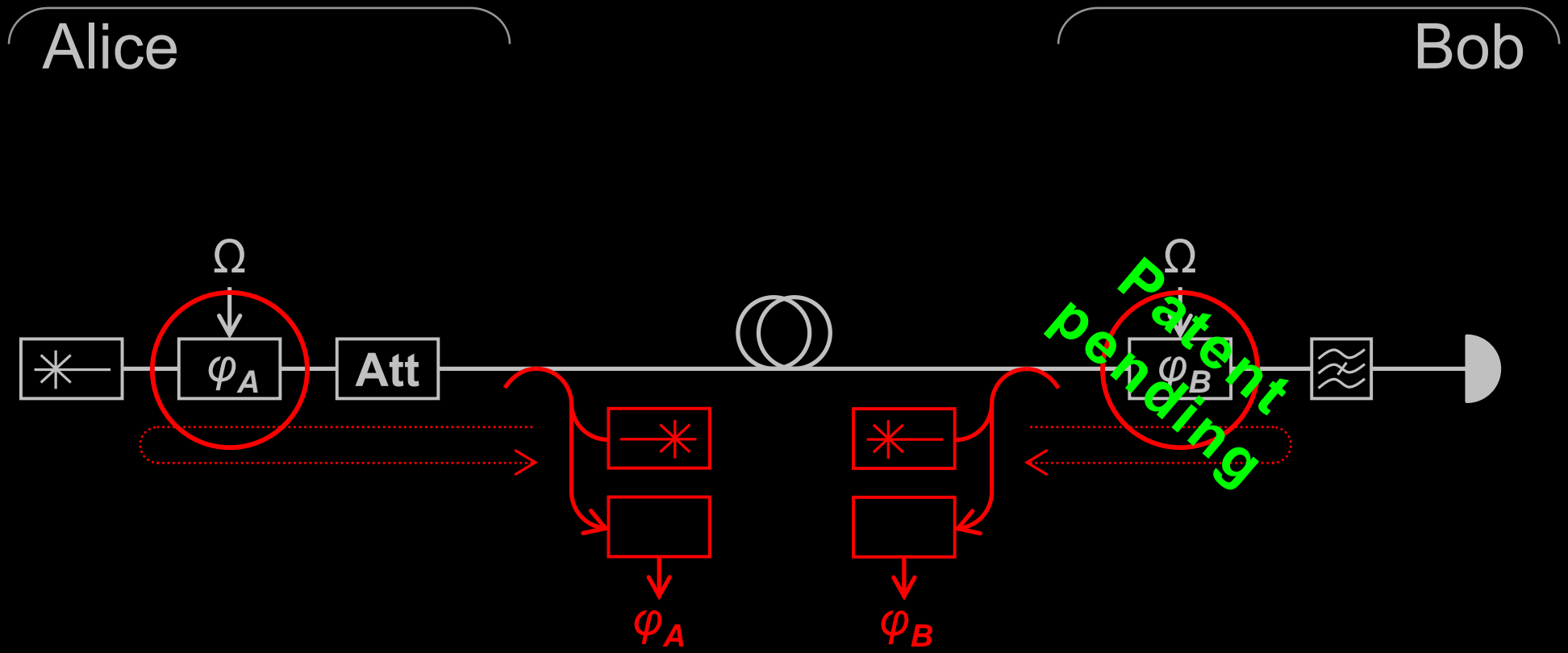
Alice

Bob

A. Ponosova et al., unpublished



# 3. Trojan horse



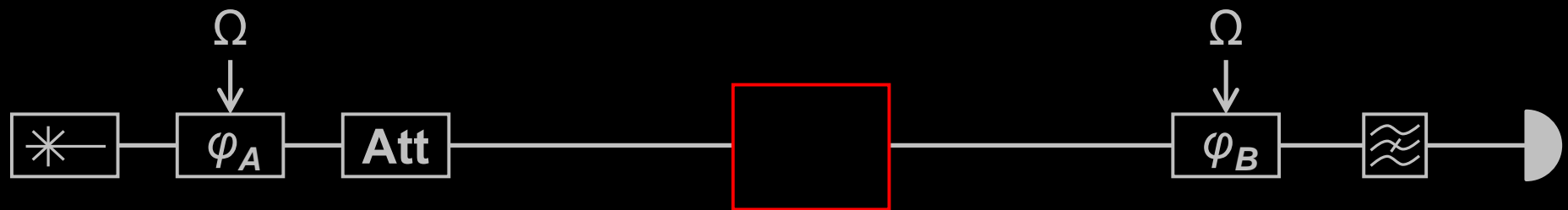
# 4. Lack of general security proof

Alice

Bob

## Collective beamsplitting attack

G. P. Miroshnichenko *et al.*, Opt. Express **26**, 11292 (2018)



**QND or  
manipulating reference  $\omega$**

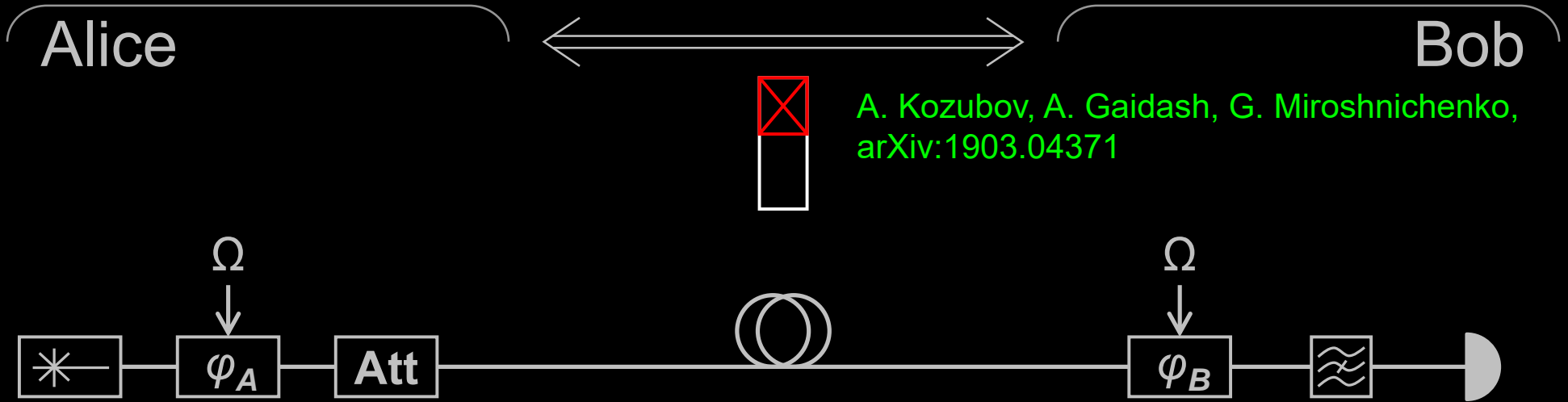
## General proof

A. Kozubov, A. Gaidash, G. Miroshnichenko, arXiv:1903.04371

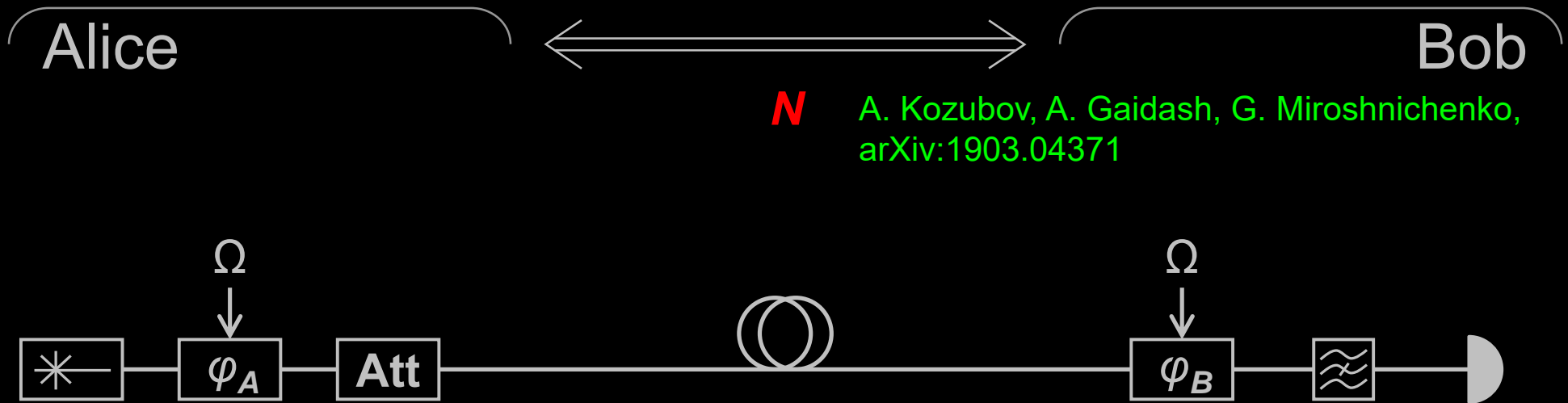
A. Gaidash, A. Kozubov, G. Miroshnichenko, J. Opt. Soc. Am. B **36**, B16 (2019)

A. Gaidash, A. Kozubov, G. Miroshnichenko, Physica Scr. (2019)

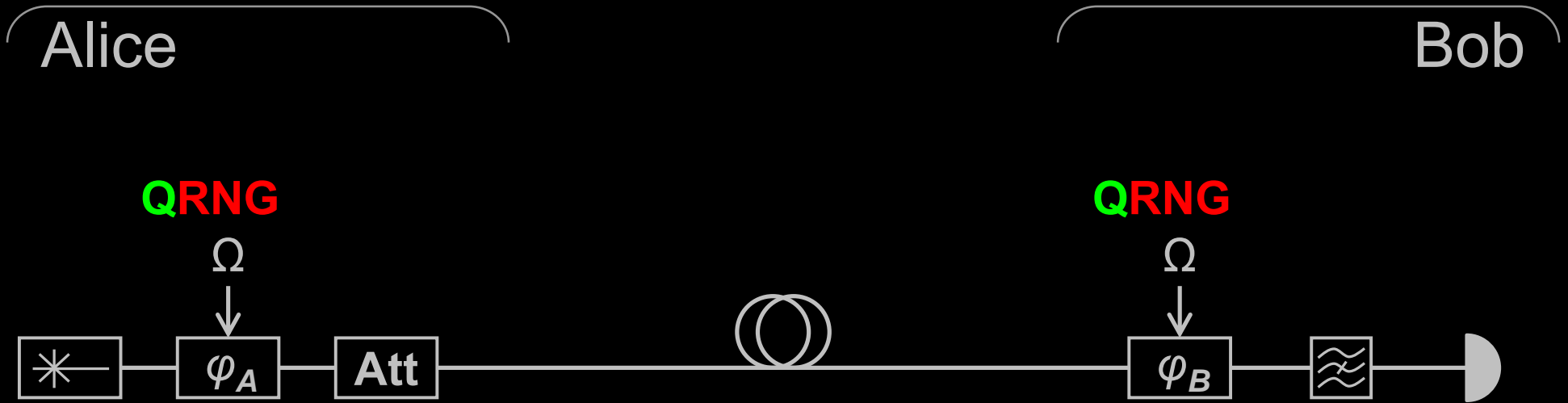
# 6. Privacy amplification



# 7. Finite-key-size effects



# 8. Non-quantum random number generator



A. Ivanova *et al.*, *Nanosyst. Phys. Chem. Math.* **8**, 441 (2017)

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+ V. Chistiakov, V. Egorov, S. Feng,  
A. Gaidash, A. Gleim, S. Kozlov,  
A. Kozubov, M. Legre, D. Li,  
N. Lütkenhaus, G. Ribordy, S.-H. Sun,  
Y. Tang, A. Vasiliev, Y. Zhao



A. Huang

S. Sajeed

P. Chaiwongkhot

H. Qin

# Winter school on quantum cybersecurity

Annual. Next: January 2021  
Les Diablerets, Switzerland

2 days (executive track) +  
4 days (technical track, with 4 labs)

Overview talks + quantum technologies, including QKD

Lecturers in 2020: R. Alléaume, J. Baloo, G. Brassard, F. Bussièrès, A. Ekert, N. Gisin, V. Makarov, M. Mosca, L. Perret, S. Popescu, R. Pravahan, R. Renner, H. Riel, G. Ribordy, D. Stucki, N. Walenta, E. Wille

35 students, first-come, sells out  
€3200 / €1600 executive track only

Winter sports in breaks

Organised by



Contact [www.idquantique.com](http://www.idquantique.com)  
for registration

# International school on quantum technology

Annual. Next: early March 2021  
Roza Khutor, Russia

5 days of lectures and skiing,  
poster session, industry exhibit

Tutorials on quantum sensing,  
computing, metrology, QKD

Lecturers in 2020: S. Astakhov, M. Bellini, J. Biamonte, A. Bramati, E. Duplyakin, M. Fedorov, M. Genovese, P. Grangier, Z. Hradil, E. Il'ichev, N. Kolachevsky, V. Makarov, L. L. S. Soto, S. Takeuchi

100 students, competitive admission  
€200

Skiing & snowboarding instruction

Organised by



Центр  
Квантовых  
Технологий

[qutes.org](http://qutes.org)

2016

2018

2019