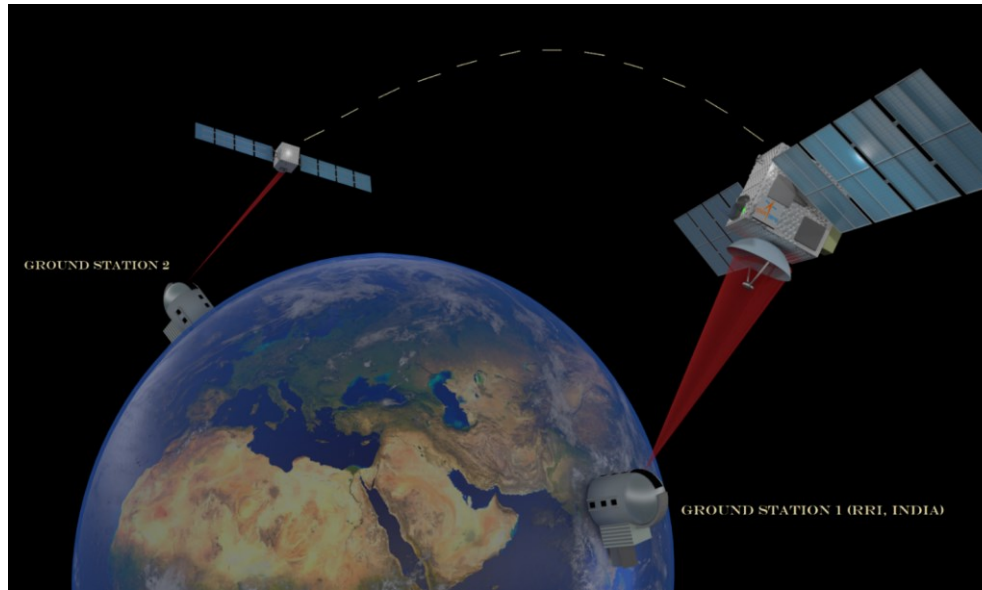


# Satellite based quantum communications

QuEST



Prof. Urbasi Sinha

$\pi$ : Quantum Information & Computing (QuIC) Lab  
Raman Research Institute (RRI), Bengaluru, India.

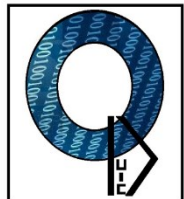
Affiliate Faculty at IQC, Waterloo, Canada & CQIQC, Toronto, Canada

Simon's Emmy Noether fellow, Perimeter Institute, Canada

International Quantum Communication Conclave 2023



RRI

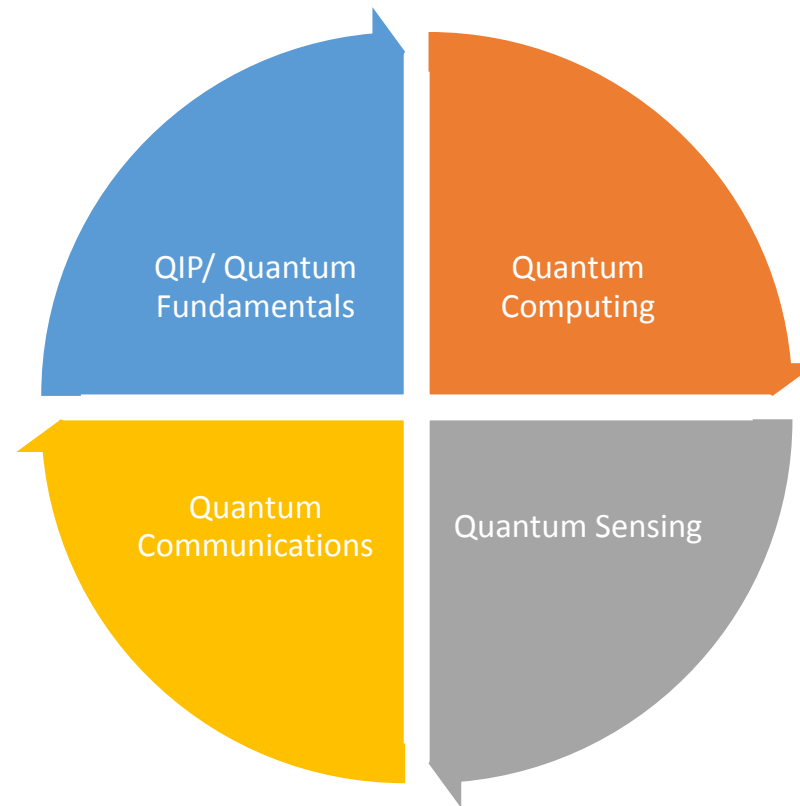


QuIC



QuIC

## With Photons....



In a nutshell...

### Quantum Communications

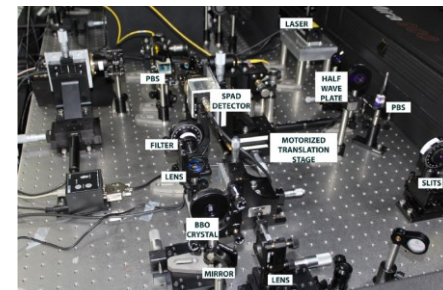
- Satellite based QKD: Quantum Experiments with Satellite Technology (India's first funded satellite QKD project)
- DST-QuEST project on Quantum Relays and Repeater technologies (Theme 1 Q-97)
- DST-ITPAR project on Integrated Photonics based QKD (Indo-Italian collaboration)
- Long Distance Quantum Teleportation and Device Independent Random Number generation (CEQT grant from MEITY)



First demonstration of quantum key distribution between two buildings using an atmospheric free space channel in India (February 2022).

### Higher dimensional Quantum Computing and Quantum Information

First lab in India dedicated to Photonic Quantum Science and technologies



Effective interplay between fundamental science and novel technologies

nature india

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nature > nature india > research highlights > article

RESEARCH HIGHLIGHT | 23 September 2020

### Portable quantum-state estimation tool devised

nature india

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nature > nature india > research highlights > article

In quantum mechanics, a quantum system (such as a

Physicists have now devised a quantum system<sup>1</sup>. This tech

RESEARCH HIGHLIGHT | 25 May 2022

### Algorithms to review classic principles of quantum mechanics

The tests can also evaluate the performance of computing systems

Twitter Facebook Email



### 20. RRI ACHIEVES FIRST SUCCESSFUL IMPLEMENTATION OF A HIGHLY SECURE EFFICIENT QUANTUM CRYPTOGRAPHIC SCHEME



The QuIC lab at RRI achieved the first successful implementation in India of a highly secure efficient Quantum Cryptographic scheme for an end-to-end free space QKD under the RRI-ISRO project on "Quantum Experiments using Satellite Technology". The lab has also come up with an end-to-end simulation toolkit named as "qkdSim" to ensure safety in secure quantum communication platforms, a first of its kind that enables Quantum Key Distribution Protocol (QKD) experimentalists to obtain a realistic estimate of the result from an experimental setup meant to demonstrate a QKD protocol. They have also performed an experiment in collaboration with HRI Allahabad that demonstrates a novel quantum state estimation tool opening up a new paradigm in quantum state estimation.

PRX QUANTUM 3, 010307 (2022)

PHYSICAL REVIEW LETTERS 125, 123601 (2020)

PHYSICAL REVIEW APPLIED 14, 024036 (2020)

PHYSICAL REVIEW RESEARCH 4, L022001 (2022)

Letter

### Testing quantum foundations with quantum computers

Simanraj Sadana,<sup>1</sup> Lorenzo Maccone,<sup>2</sup> and Urbasi Sinha<sup>1,\*</sup>

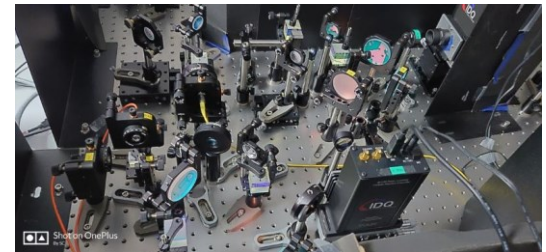
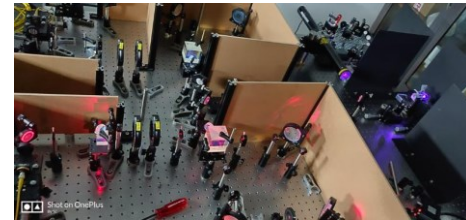
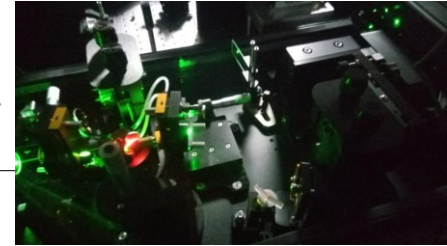
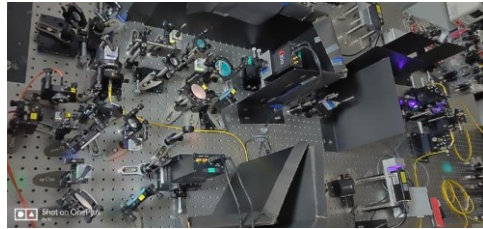
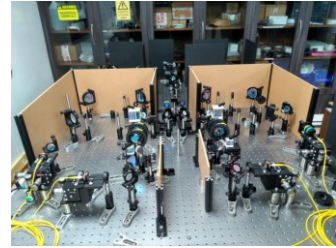
<sup>1</sup>*Light and Matter Physics, Raman Research Institute, Bengaluru-560080, India*  
*Dipartimento di Fisica and INFN Sezione di Pavia, University of Pavia, via Bassi 6, I-27100 Pavia, Italy*

(Received 28 November 2021; accepted 23 February 2022; published 1 April 2022)

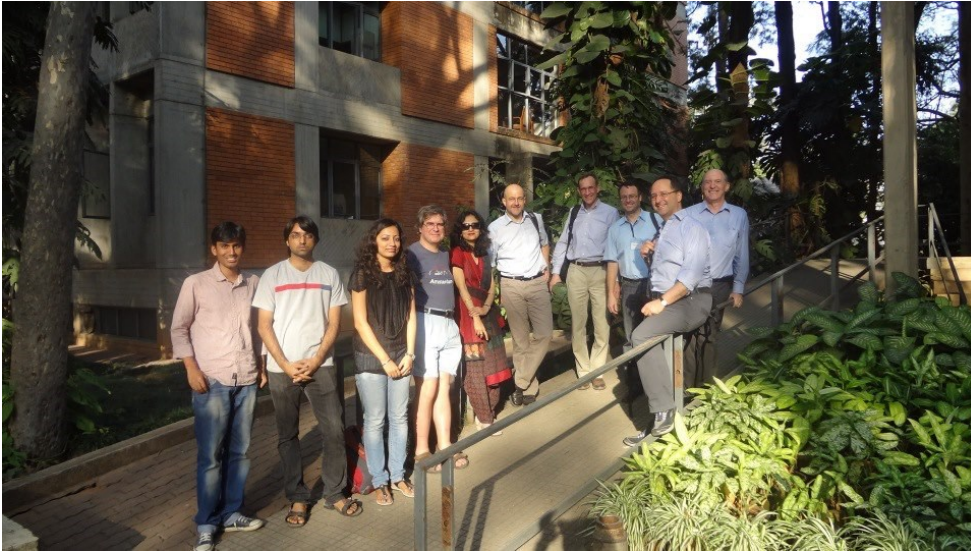
We present two complementary viewpoints for combining quantum computers and the foundations of quantum mechanics. On the one hand, ideal devices can be used as test beds for experimental tests of the foundations of quantum mechanics: We provide algorithms for the Peres test for complex numbers in quantum superpositions and the Sorkin test of Born's rule. On the other hand, noisy intermediate-scale quantum devices can be benchmarked using these same tests. These are deep quantum benchmarks based on the foundations of quantum theory itself. We present test data from Rigetti hardware.

DOI: [10.1103/PhysRevResearch.4.L022001](https://doi.org/10.1103/PhysRevResearch.4.L022001)

<https://www.rri.res.in/quic>

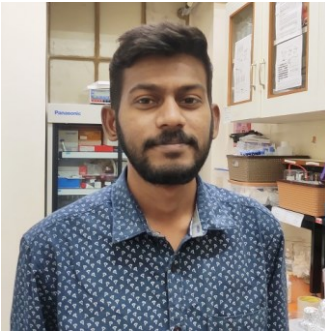
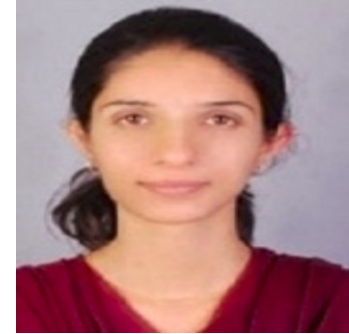


# And so our journey began....

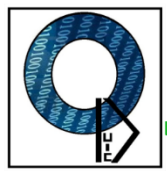




# Quantum Communication experiments at RRI Bangalore



## Current members



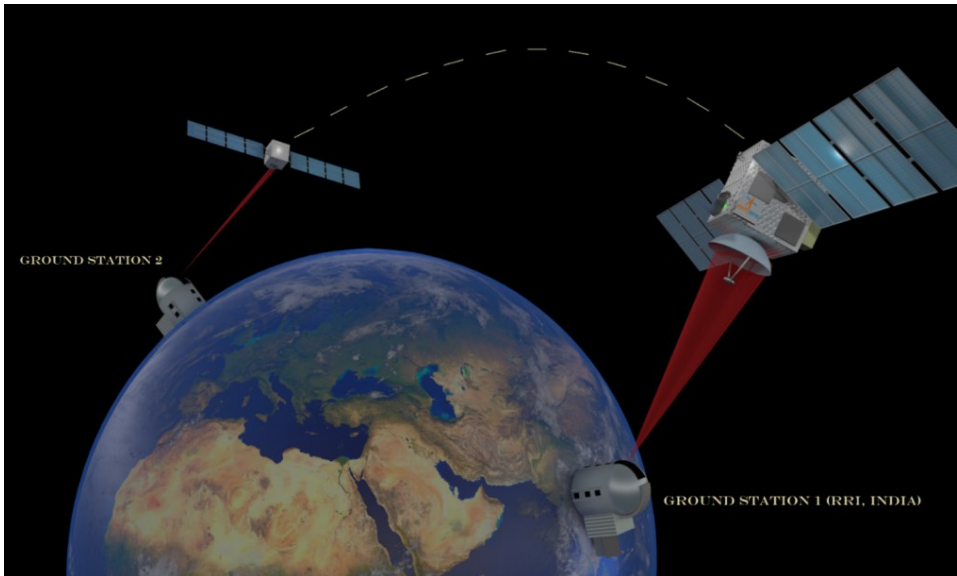
QuIC

RRI

# Quantum Experiments using Satellite technology (QuEST)



QuEST



## Aim

- ❑ Establishment of information theoretically (satellite-based) secure quantum communication over large distances.
- ❑ Essentially, perform entanglement based Quantum Key Distribution (QKD) between two Indian ground stations using an Indian satellite as a trusted node.

**QuEST (Quantum Experiments with Satellite Technology)**

**Collaboration**

**Raman Research Institute (RRI)**

**Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO)**

PI: Prof. Urbasi Sinha  
Quantum Information and  
Computing lab, RRI  
Bengaluru.

[usinha@rri.res.in](mailto:usinha@rri.res.in)



# Why is this experiment exceptional?



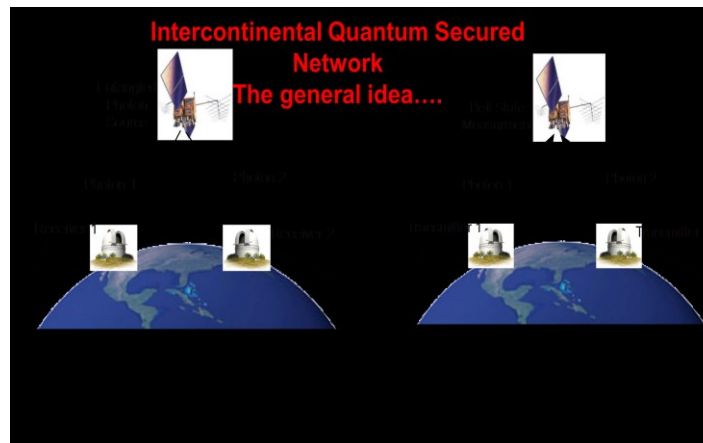
QuIC

- Security in communications is a top priority for various strategic applications including military, banking and many more.
- Current means of securing communications using public key cryptography stand to be compromised with the advent of algorithmic breakthroughs including quantum computing.
- Secure quantum communications thus becomes the need of the hour.
- The security should be operational across long distances, between countries and beyond.
- Using a satellite as a trusted node is a novel means towards long distance secure quantum communications.

**QuEST is India's first project on satellite based quantum communications (Sep 2017 - ). Started at a time when the field was not that popular, its achievements have played a major role towards putting India on the global map for quantum communications research.**

The Chinese satellite demonstrated down link based QKD[1,2,3].

1. Liao, S.K., et al.: Satellite-to-ground quantum key distribution. Nature. 549(7670), 43–47 (2017)
2. Chen, Y.A., et al.: An integrated space-to-ground quantum communication network over 4,600 kilometres. Nature. 589(7841), 214–219 (2021)
3. Yin, J., et al.: Entanglement-based secure quantum cryptography over 1,120 kilometres. Nature. 582(7813), 501–505 (2020)



QuEST aims at demonstrating uplink based QKD – never been shown before globally.

- Uplink allows for photon source to be at the ground based lab.
- More flexibility with changing the source even after the satellite has been launched.
- Can include quantum memory components also after satellite launch.
- Tremendous scope for novel, first-in-the-world science.



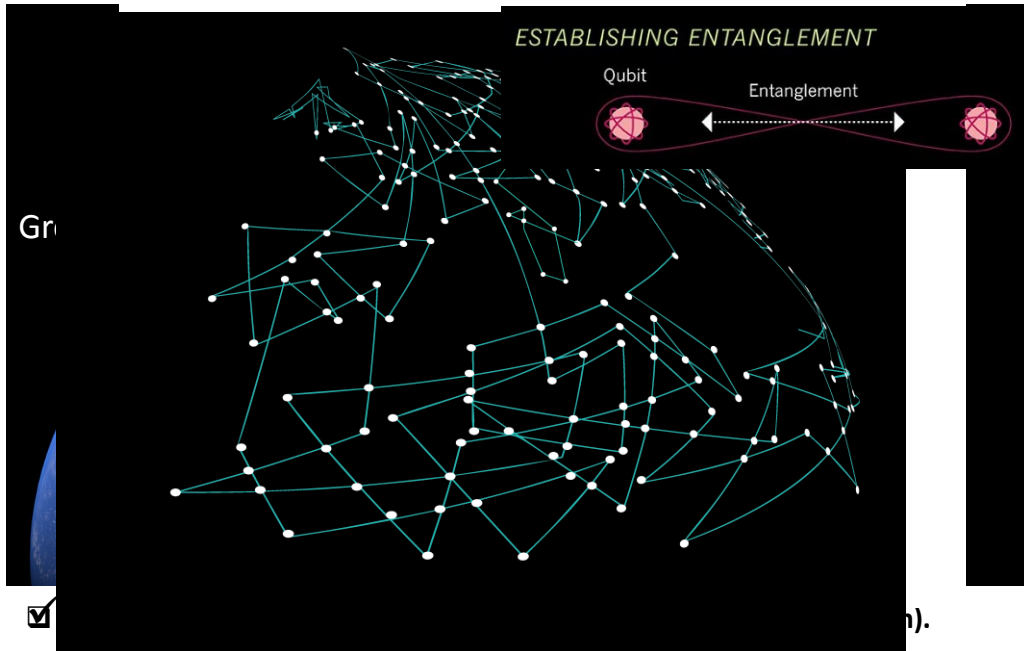


# Project Overview



**QuIC**

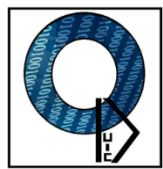
**India's first project on satellite based quantum communications**



- ✓ Prototype for an entanglement-based QKD protocol over an:
  - in-lab transmission channel.
  - atmospheric channel.

- Prototype for the QKD protocol from a moving receiver platform..

- ✓
- ✓ Performance analysis of qkdSim via an in-lab B92 protocol implementation.
- ✓ Development of an entangled bi-photon source.
- ✓ Free-space atmospheric channel characterization.

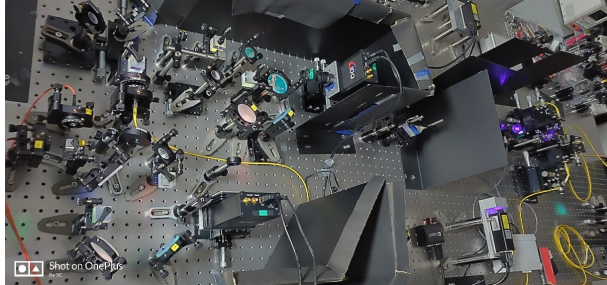


QuIC

## Overall milestones achieved so far...



### Alice and Bob setup



**qkdSim: An experimenter's simulation toolkit for QKD with imperfections, and its performance analysis with a demonstration of the B92 protocol using heralded photons**

Rishab Chatterjee,<sup>1</sup> Kaushik Joarder,<sup>1</sup> Sourav Chatterjee,<sup>1</sup> Barry C. Sanders,<sup>1,2</sup> and Urbasi Sinha<sup>1,\*</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Raman Research Institute, C. V. Raman Avenue, Sadashivanagar, Bengaluru, Karnataka 560080, India

<sup>2</sup>Institute for Quantum Science and Technology, University of Calgary, Alberta T2N 1N4, Canada

*Physical Review Applied* **14** 024036, 2020

- An in-lab (free-space) experimental implementation of the B92 protocol has been achieved and reported. This is India's first reported end to end free space QKD experiment, published in internationally peer reviewed journal. The protocol established globally competitive keyrate of  $51 \pm 0.5$  KHz and a QBER of  $4.79 \pm 0.01\%$ .



- **First demonstration** of quantum key distribution **between two buildings using an atmospheric free space channel in India** (February 2021), using Entanglement (<https://www.rri.res.in/quic/qkdactivities.php>)
- *Polarization correction towards satellite-based QKD without an active feedback*, S. Chatterjee, K. Goswami, R. Chatterjee and U. Sinha, to appear in *Communications Physics (Nature)*
- [Novel entanglement Based QKD protocol]

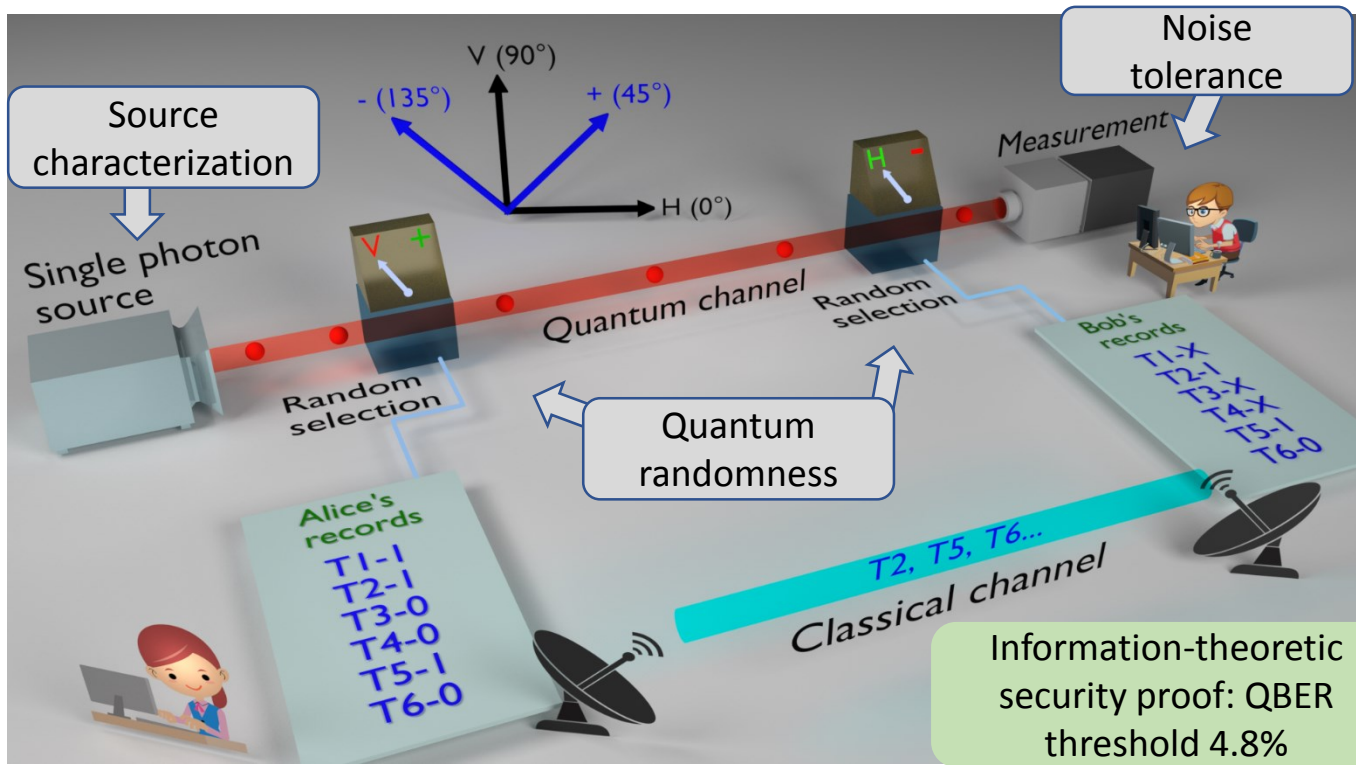
- R. Chatterjee, S. Chatterjee, B. C. Sanders, and U. Sinha, "An experimenter's toolkit for simulating quantum key distribution protocol implementations", **Indian Patent Application No. 202141023697 (2021)** [Novel software development for QKD with device and process imperfections].



# QKD: polarization-encoded B92 protocol



QuIC



- Single photon generation
- State preparation by Alice
- Transmission
- Measurement by Bob
- Classical post-processing

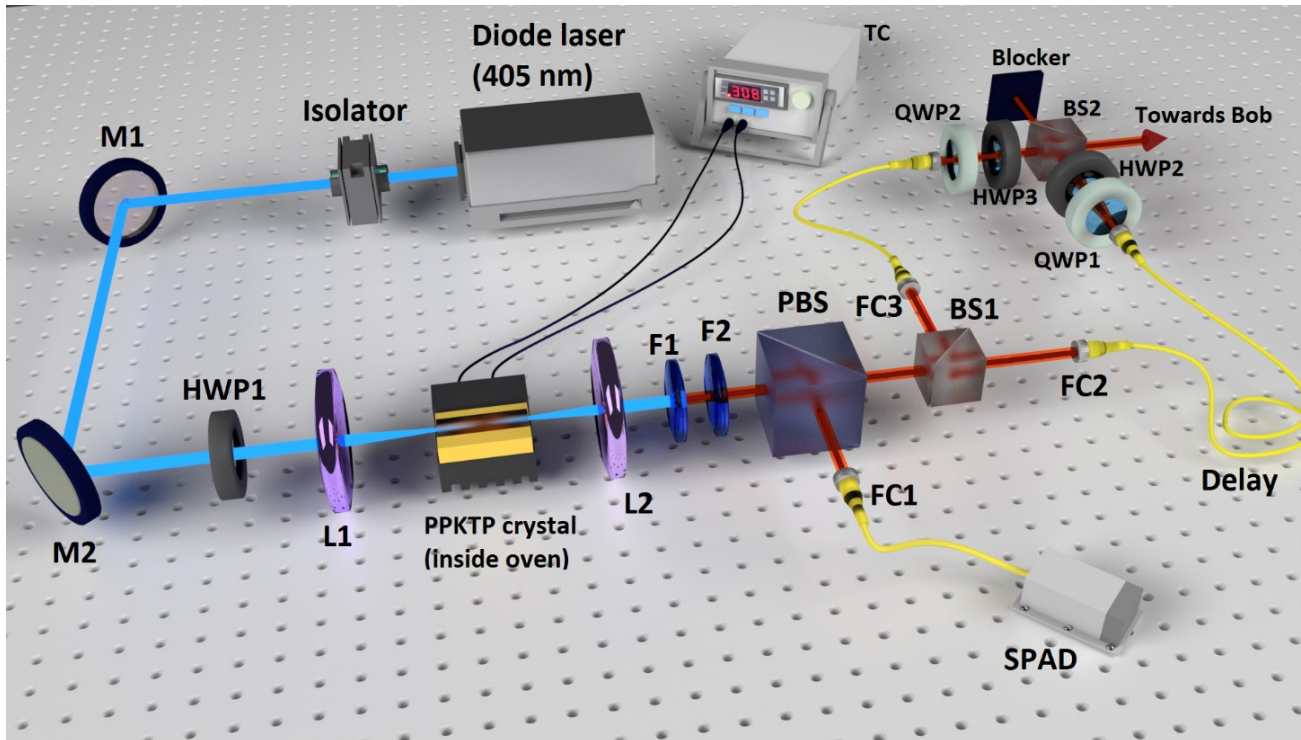
$$+ \rightarrow 0 \leftrightarrow |H\rangle\langle H|$$

$$V \rightarrow 1 \leftrightarrow |-\rangle\langle -|$$

25% success rate

110010	110010
110010	100011

Measurements by an eavesdropper introduces detectable errors, because of Heisenberg's uncertainty principle.



## Components:

M1, M2: dielectric mirrors

HWP1: half-waveplate for pump light  
 Heralded single photon using SPDC (continuous pumping)

L1: focusing lens

L2: collimating lens  
 Passive quantum randomness

F1: long pass filter

F2: band pass filter

**Eavesdropping attacks:**  
 PBS: polarizing beam splitter

FC1, FC2, FC3: fibre couplers

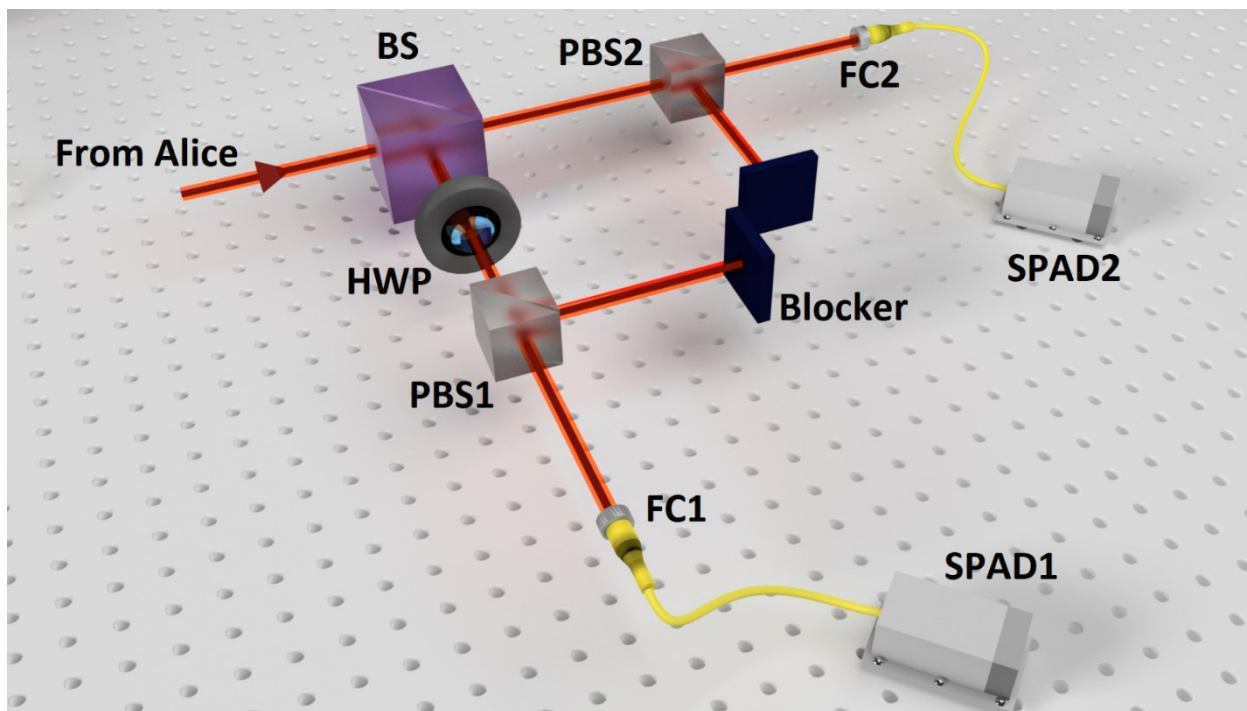
BS1, BS2: 50-50 beam splitter

HWP2, HWP3: half-waveplates

QWP1, QWP2: quarter-waveplates  
 Attacks based on active random basis selection

SPAD: single photon avalanche detector

TC: temperature controller



- Passive quantum randomness
- No gated detection required
- Continuous record of time-stamps

### Components:

BS: 50-50 non-polarizing beamsplitter

HWP: half-wave plate

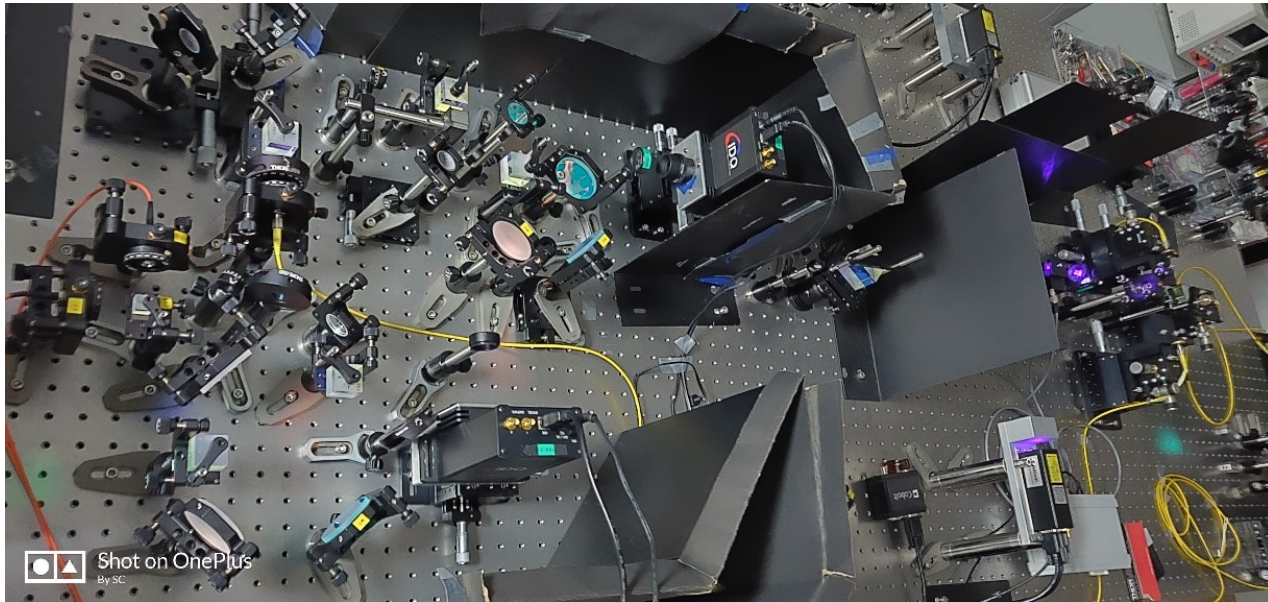
PBS1, PBS2: polarizing beamsplitters

FC1, FC2: fibre couplers

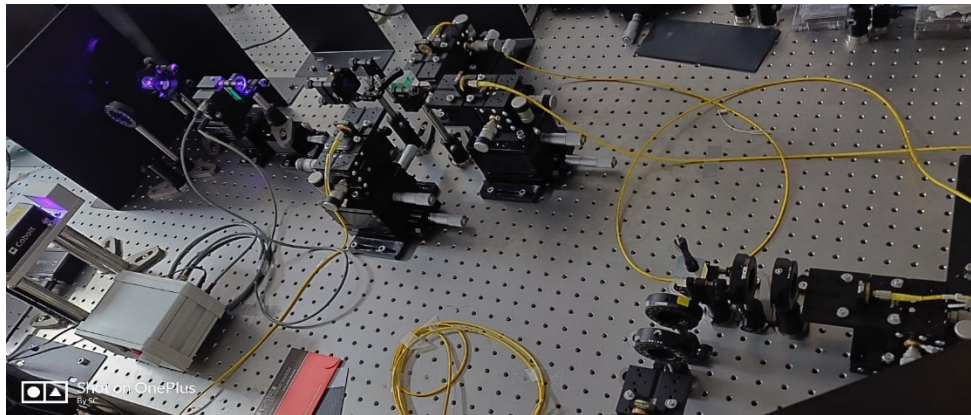
SPAD1, SPAD2: single photon avalanche detector

# Snapshots of the actual B92 setup

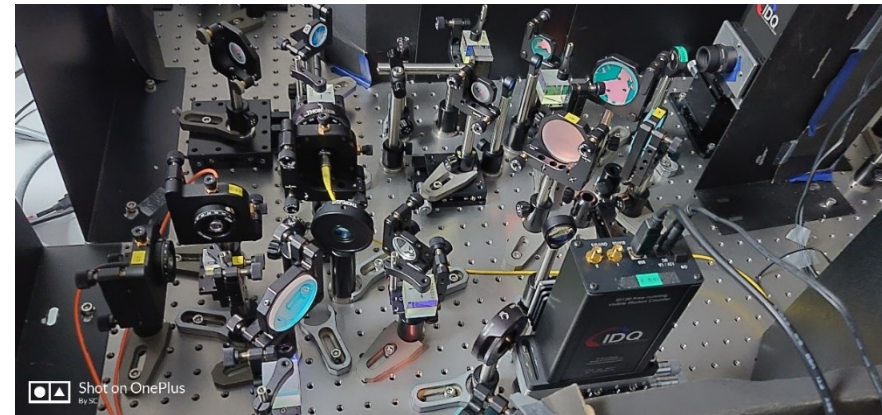
## Combined setup



## Alice's setup

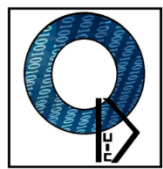


## Bob's setup



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# Competing QKD simulation toolkits in literature



- With QKD becoming commercially viable, advanced engineer techniques are being proposed.
- Direct testing of these techniques in an optical setup is not very cost effective.
- A simulator that can accurately pre-evaluate the performance of these setups/designs.

**QKD simulator** (analyzing Quantum Key Distribution) is powered by the ability to customize a wide range of protocols and sub-protocols. Error estimation and simulation provide the final stages of the process.

Set the Initial Simulator type:  
Complete QKD Stack

Parameter
Initial Qubits (n)
Basis choice bias delta
Eve's basis choice bias
Biased error estimator

## Quantum Key Distribution

This model simulates the QKD key distribution process, developed by (miralem) Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The implementation (AIT) R10 found in our repository.

### Prerequisites

Quantum cryptography and QKD cryptographic (OTP) cipher algorithm and others. First packet into a byte array which is used as the input.

## QKD : A Modeling Quantum Key Distribution Implementation

Our group has developed a set of protocols, which can be used to simulate the QKD process.

**LOGAN O. MAILLOUX**  
**JEFFREY D. MORRIS**<sup>2</sup>,  
**MICHAEL R. GRIMAIL**  
**DOUGLAS D. HODSON**  
**JOHN M. COLOMBI**<sup>1</sup>,  
**COLIN V. MCLAUGHLI**  
<sup>1</sup>Air Force Institute of Technology, W  
<sup>2</sup>Army Cyber Institute, West Point, N  
<sup>3</sup>Naval Research Laboratory, Washin  
 Corresponding author: M. R. Gr  
 This work was supported by the

**ABSTRACT** Quantum mechanics to applications. However, they differ significantly from work built upon the QKD nonidealities on QKD

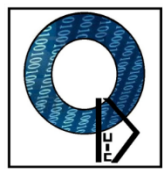
**OpenQKDNetwork**

### Background

Technological advances are bringing large-scale quantum computers closer to reality. While they will bring great benefit to society, they will also undermine some of the key cryptographic pillars of cybersecurity. It is thus imperative that the cryptographic underpinnings of cybersecurity are made resistant to quantum attacks before quantum computers threaten them. Quantum-safe cryptography includes conventional "post-quantum" cryptography (PQC) algorithms (sometimes referred to as "quantum-

## Missing requirements:

- Quick and precise simulation of physical processes.
- Consideration of experimental non-idealities.



# In-house developed QKD simulation toolkit



QKIC

QKD architecture

source

preparation

transmission

detection

post-processing

optical components

electrical components

time-stamps generation for single-photons considering physical properties

*qkdSim*

QKD experimenter's toolkit

physical processes

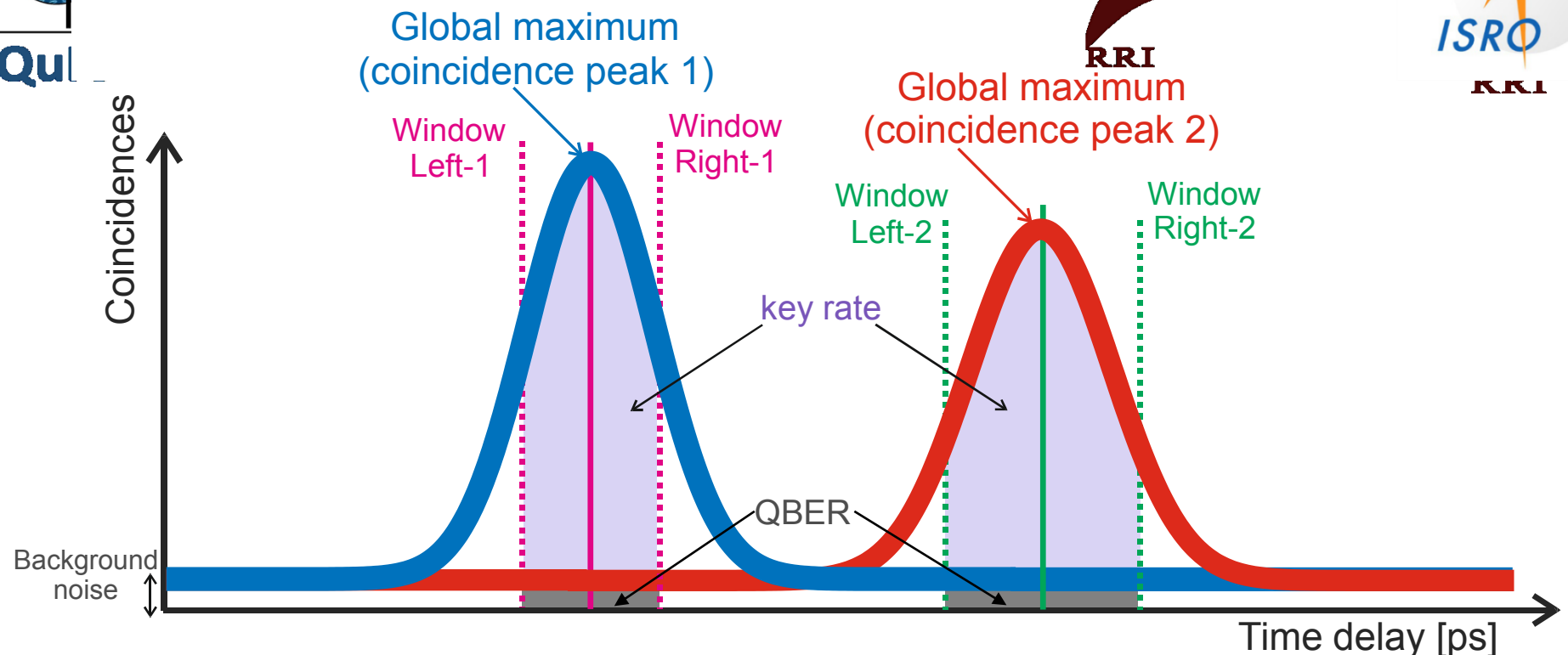
mechanical components

noise estimation

efficiency, deadtime, dark count, timing jitter, background rate

optimization algorithm





Optimization strategy	Implementation	key rate [Kbps]	QBER [%]	key symmetry
<b>A:</b> optimize SNR, maximize key rate, maintain QBER $\leq 4.8\%$ , and ensure key-symmetry 50:50	Experiment	$51.0 \pm 0.5$	$4.79 \pm 0.01$	50.2 : 49.8
	Simulation	$52.8 \pm 0.4$	$4.79 \pm 0.01$	50.1 : 49.9
<b>B:</b> equalize window size, maximize key rate, maintain QBER $\leq 4.8\%$	Experiment	$53.8 \pm 0.4$	$4.79 \pm 0.01$	53.7 : 46.3
	Simulation	$59.8 \pm 0.3$	$4.79 \pm 0.01$	56.9 : 43.1

SPDC-based B92 implementation	Key rate [Kbps]	QBER [%]	Transmission channel length [m]
J. Wilson et al. (2016)	31.6	10.5	0.4
R. Chatterjee et al. (2020)	53.8	4.79	2

India LAC Face-off Coronavirus

THIS STORY IS FROM JUNE 29, 2020

## RRI research communicat

Chethan Kumar | TNN | Jun 29, 2020



Presenting qkdSim: a QKD experimenter experimentalists figuring out the most

## India empl cryptograp communic

K. S. Jayaraman

doi:10.1038/nindia.2020.117 Publi

Researchers at the Ramar implemented India's first communication of sensitive pandemic with most govts online.

The widely used information only to the communication



Qiskit

Aug 19, 2020

## India Is Am

By Ryan F. Mandell

Qiskit events draw — but according to engaging with the running IBM Quantum

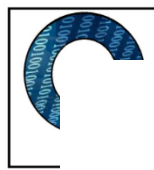
Scientists in India projects. Three years quantum communication Satellite Technology

## 20. RRI ACHIEVES FIRST SUCCESSFUL IMPLEMENTATION OF A HIGHLY SECURE EFFICIENT QUANTUM CRYPTOGRAPHIC SCHEME



The QuIC lab... the first successful implementation in India of a highly secure efficient Quantum Cryptographic Scheme for an end-to-end communication under the RRI-ISRO Quantum Experiments using "Quantum Technology". The lab has also come up with an end-to-end simulation toolkit named as "qkdSim" to ensure safety in secure quantum communication platforms, a first of its kind that enables Quantum Key Distribution Protocol (QKD) experimentalists to obtain a realistic estimate of the result from an experimental setup meant to demonstrate a QKD protocol. They have also performed an experiment in collaboration with HRI Allahabad that demonstrates a novel quantum state estimation tool opening up a new paradigm in quantum state estimation.

DST's 20 major success stories of 2020



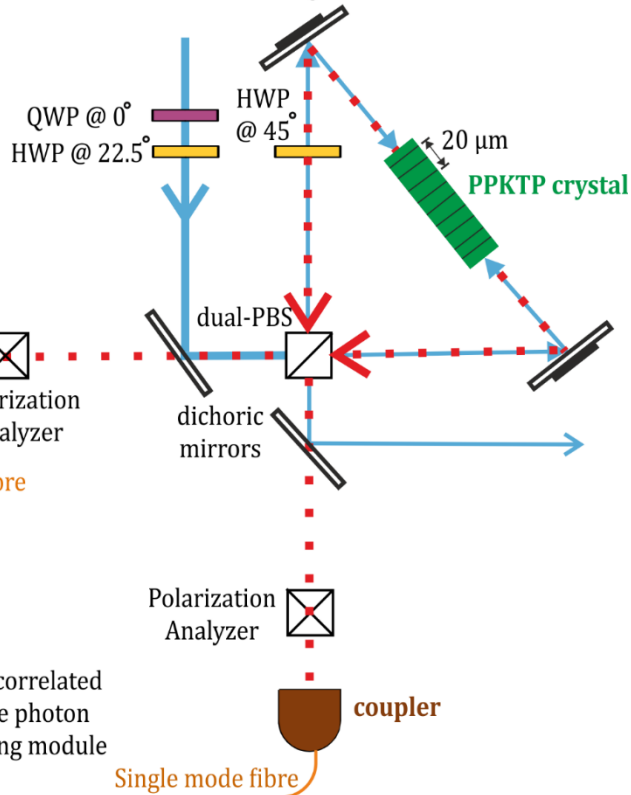
# In-lab BBM92 protocol implementation



QuEST

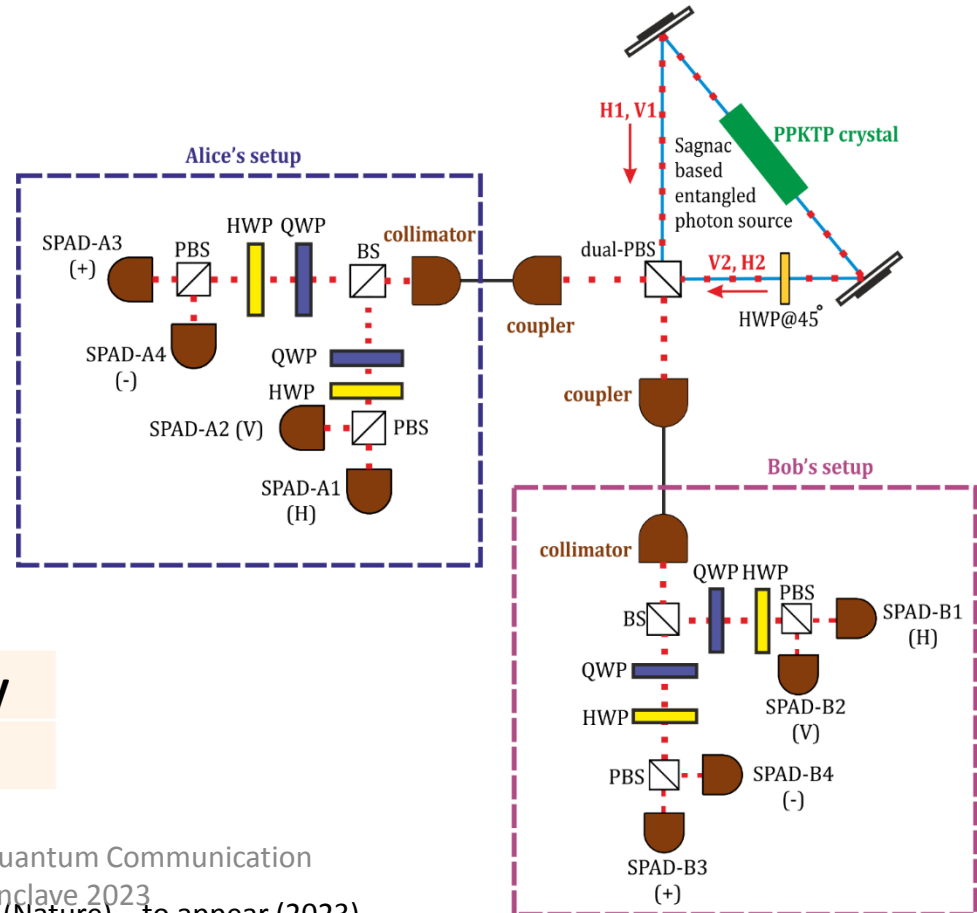


Polarization Sagnac Interferometer



Source performance metrics:

Fidelity	Concurrence	Purity
94%	92%	91%



Protocol performance metrics:

Key rate	QBER	Key symmetry
96.1 [Kbps]	10.3 [%]	50.04 : 49.96

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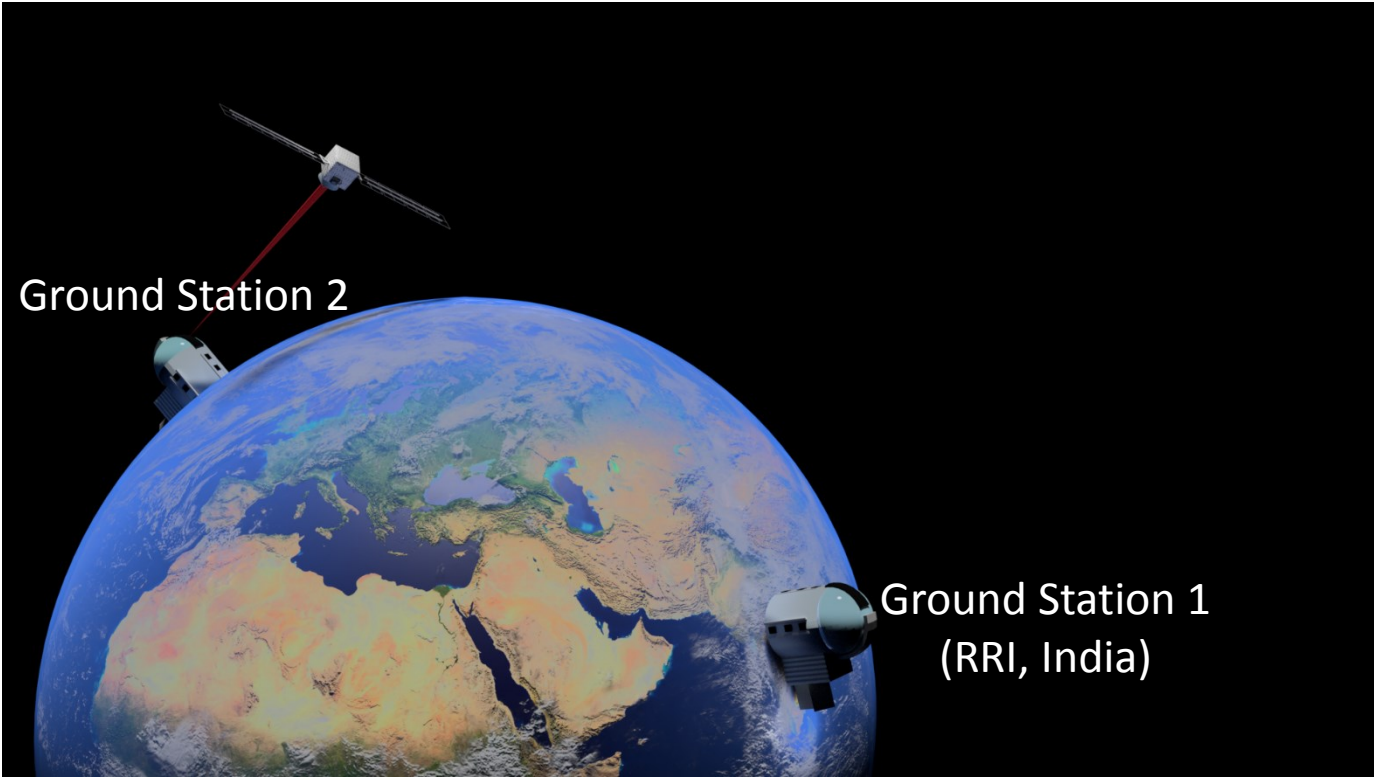
- SPDC-based type-II heralded single-photon source (B92 protocol)
- Bright entangled photon source created out of collinear type-II SPDC process (BBM92 protocol)

Performance metric	In-lab B92 protocol	In-lab BBM92 protocol
Source type	Heralded single-photons	Entangled photons
Wavelength	810 nm	810 nm
Channel length	2 metres	2 metres (fibre-based)
Key rate	53.8 Kbps	96.1 Kbps
QBER	4.79 %	10.3 %
Timeline	Oct. 2019	Feb. 2022

# A novel technique...



QuEST



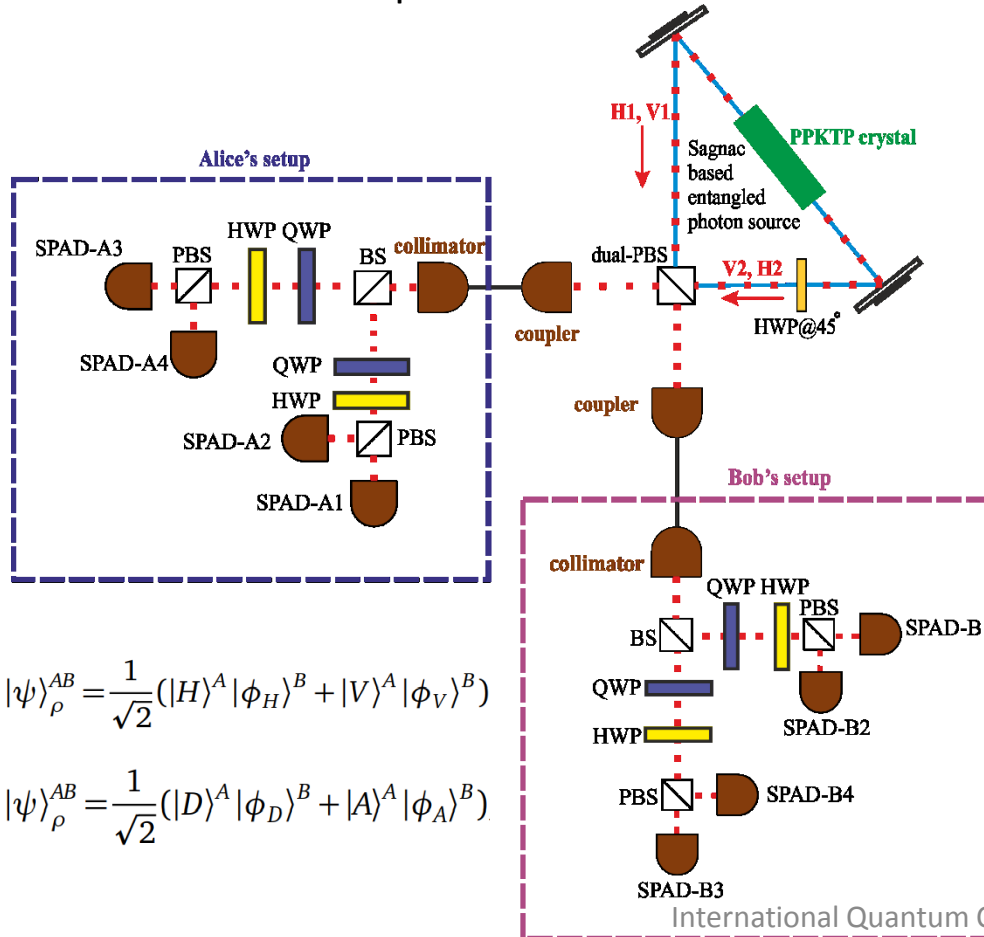
- ❑ Conventionally, active feedback-based mechanisms are employed for real-time polarization tracking.
- ❑ We employ a polarization bases compensation method that obviates the need for active polarization tracking in satellite-QKD implementations.

Our method's performance is independent of any local polarization rotation.

- ❑ Long-distance QKD implementation, in which polarization of light is commonly used degree of freedom, is becoming increasingly important.
- ❑ A significant challenge:
  - ❖ photon-polarization gets affected due to birefringence in fibre-based implementations.
  - ❖ Variation of reference frames due to satellite movement in long-haul demonstrations.

Conventional (active) methods of polarization tracking:

- Stochastic algorithm to dynamically compensate for any polarization fluctuations.
- Robotized polarization correction based on an active control system



$$|\psi\rangle_{\rho}^{AB} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(|H\rangle^A |\phi_H\rangle^B + |V\rangle^A |\phi_V\rangle^B)$$

$$|\psi\rangle_{\rho}^{AB} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(|D\rangle^A |\phi_D\rangle^B + |A\rangle^A |\phi_A\rangle^B)$$

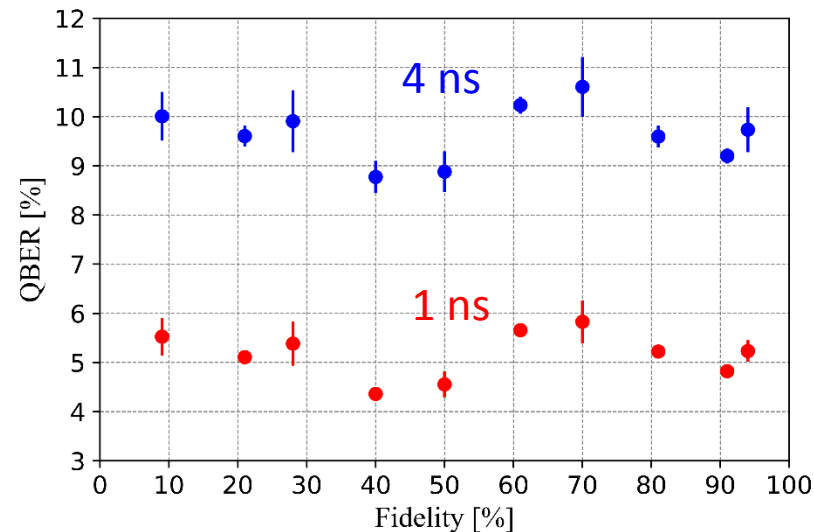
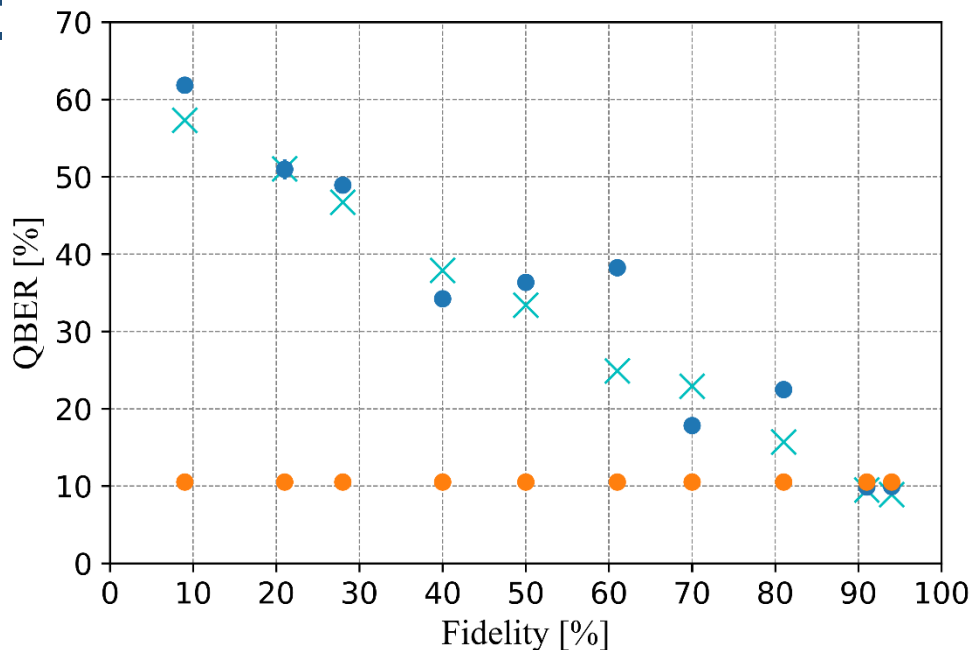
Our approach without an active feedback:

- Perform a quantum state tomography at the output and obtain the reconstructed the density matrix.
- Evaluate the optimal measurement bases choice that leads to a high (anti-) correlation in outcomes.
- Achieve the best trade-off between the key rate, QBER, and balanced key symmetry.

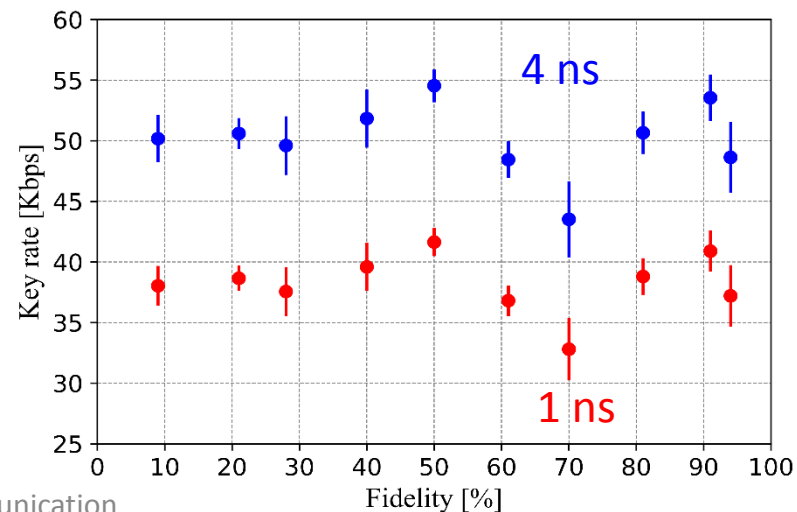
# Results



QuEST

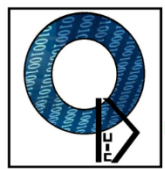


- Unoptimized QBERs (blue dots) measured in conventional measurement bases.
- Unoptimized QBERs (orange dots) measured in optimized measurement bases.
- Unoptimized QBERs (cyan crosses) measured in Pauli bases – chosen to provide best SNR.



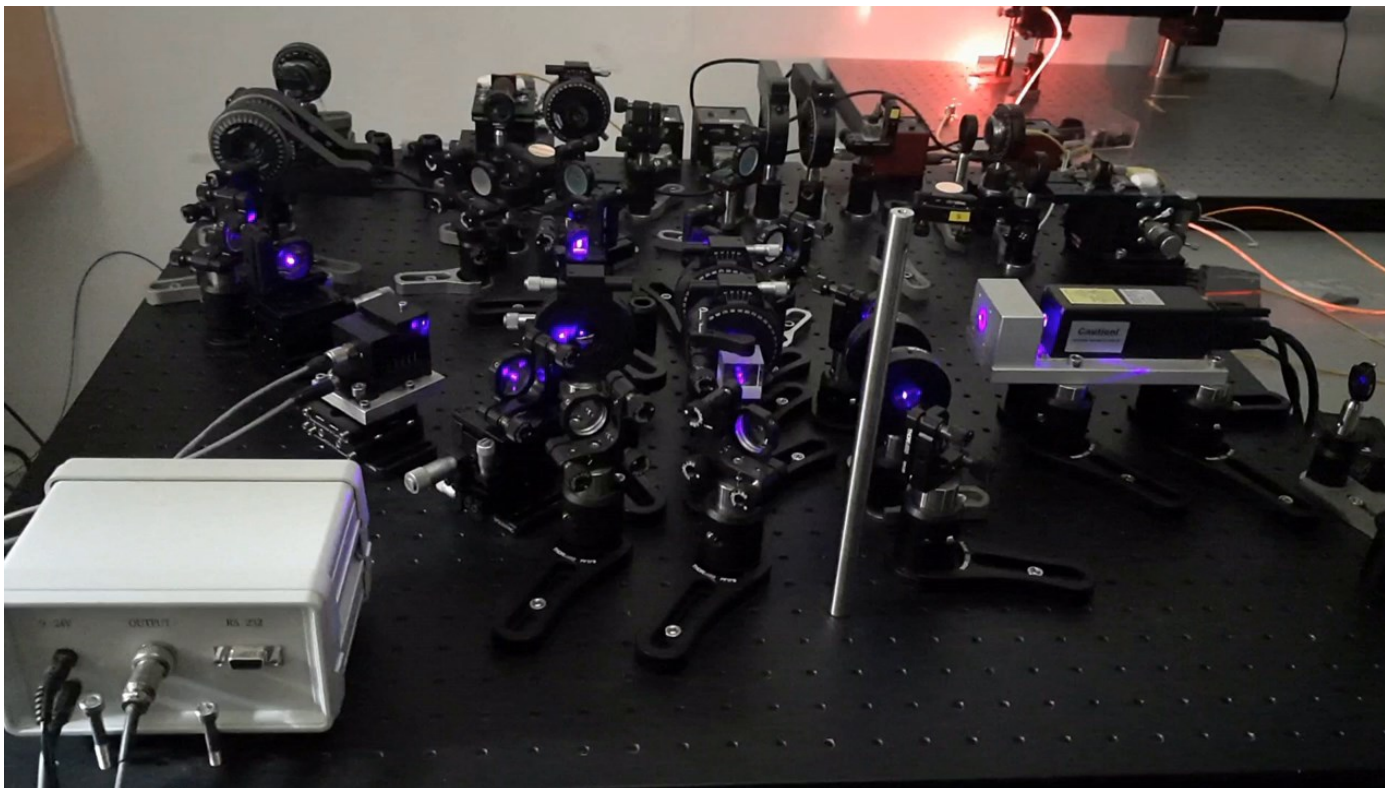
- Our method addresses important practical challenges in QKD demonstrations: correcting the polarization of light which gets inevitably affected during long distance transmission.
- Active control systems having more parts than the raw system, are more prone to faults over our method, which can lead to instability of the (closed) stabilization loop.
- Our method is cost-effective as the conventional active feedback system-based polarization tracking techniques are resource intensive, resulting in additional maintenance cost.
- Active control systems often employ trial & error methods to nullify the output deviations which leads to the oscillatory response of the closed loop. This is not the case for our method.
- In summary, our method thus serves as an effective tool towards enabling efficient long range QKD implementations for both fibre-based and free-space approaches.





QuIC

# Free space quantum communications through an atmospheric channel





- Bright entangled photon source created out of collinear type-II SPDC process (BBM92 protocol)

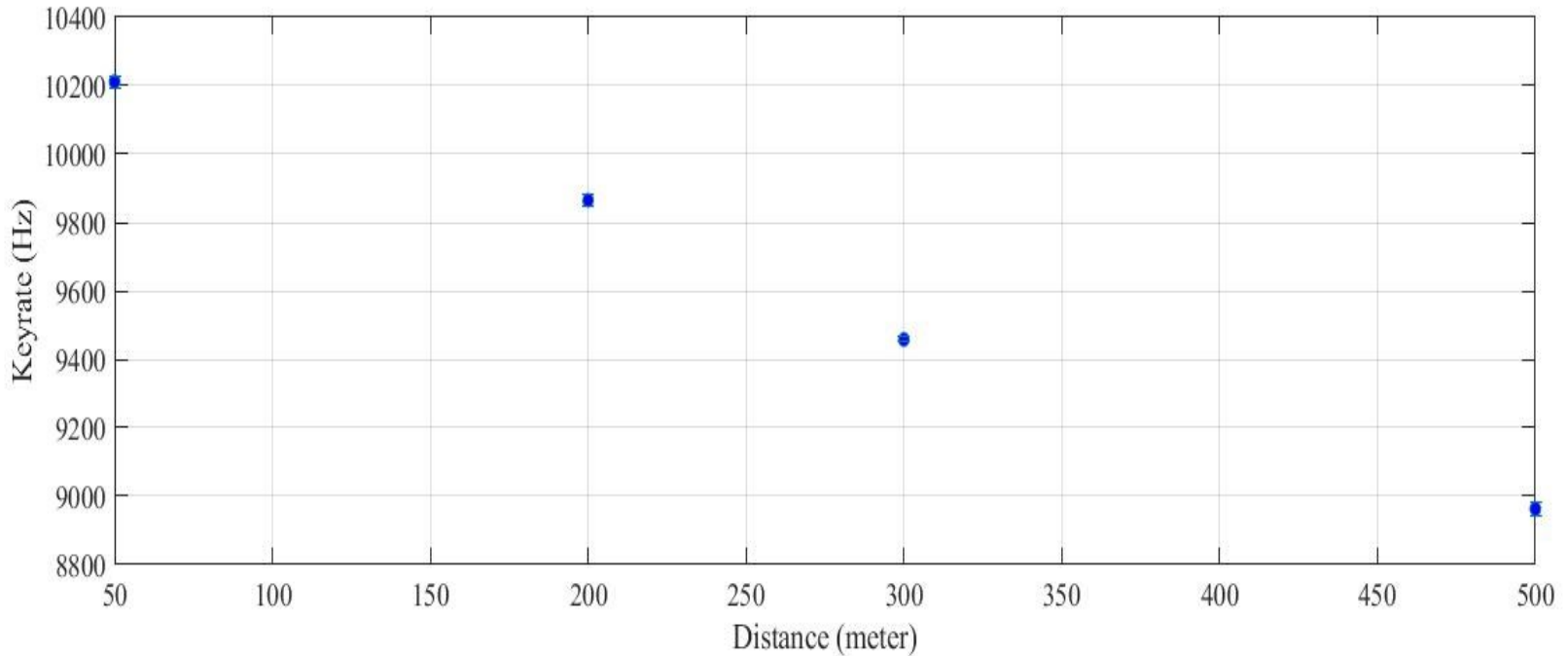
Performance metric	Free-space BBM92 protocol	Free-space BBM92 protocol
Source type	Entangled photons	Entangled photons
Wavelength	810 nm	810 nm
Channel length	50 metres	50 metres
Key rate	1.6 Kbps	9.9 Kbps
QBER	11 %	8.9 %
Timeline	Feb. 2021	Nov. 2022

## Losses for different humidity and temperature

	200 m			300 m			500 m		
<b>RH\T</b>	288	293	298	288	293	298	288	293	298
50%									
70%									
90%									
	$\approx 0.97$			$\approx 0.92$			$\approx 0.87$		

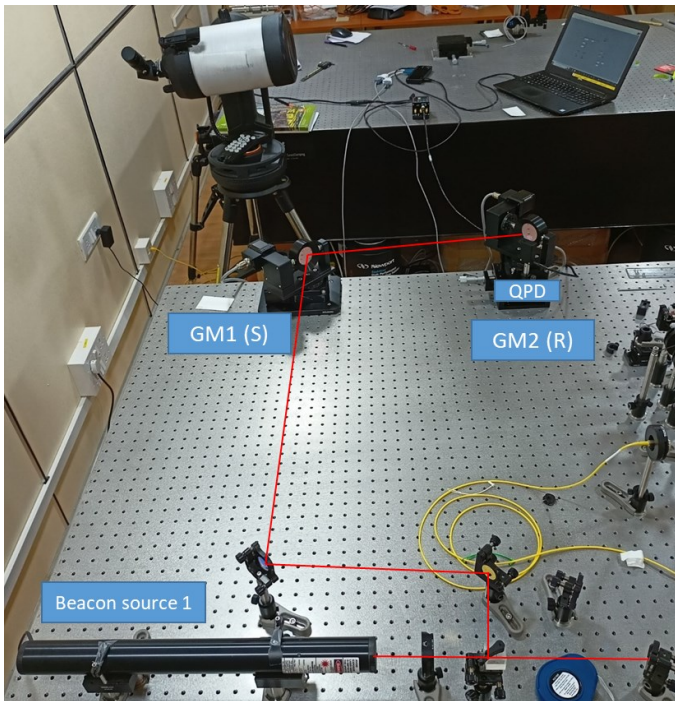
Table for losses, in terms of attenuation factor, at different distances. The rows represent relative humidity and the columns represent temperature in Kelvin. We observe that the losses are almost independent of the relative humidity and temperature.

# Distance vs Keyrate



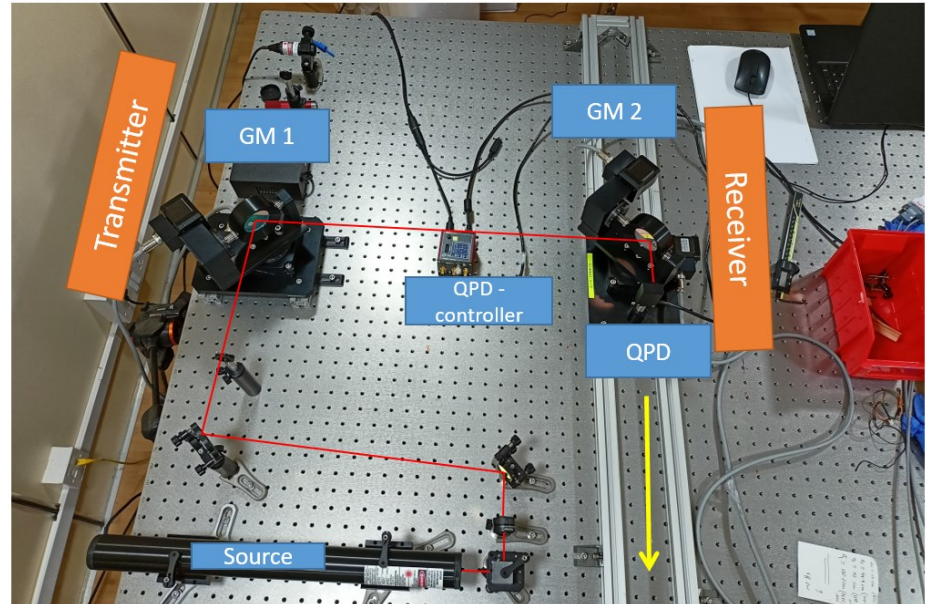
Experimentally, we put ND filters to induce attenuation in the photons. The resulting time stamps will generate diminished key rates proportional to the attenuation by ND filter.

- Using two gimbal mirror on a translational stage and single beacon in a closed loop setup



- GM 2 is mounted on a translational stage and displacement is introduced using the micrometer drive.
- Pointing and tracking is observed up to a displacement of 25mm

- Transmitter gimbal stationed and receiver gimbal moved on rail of length 1 meter.



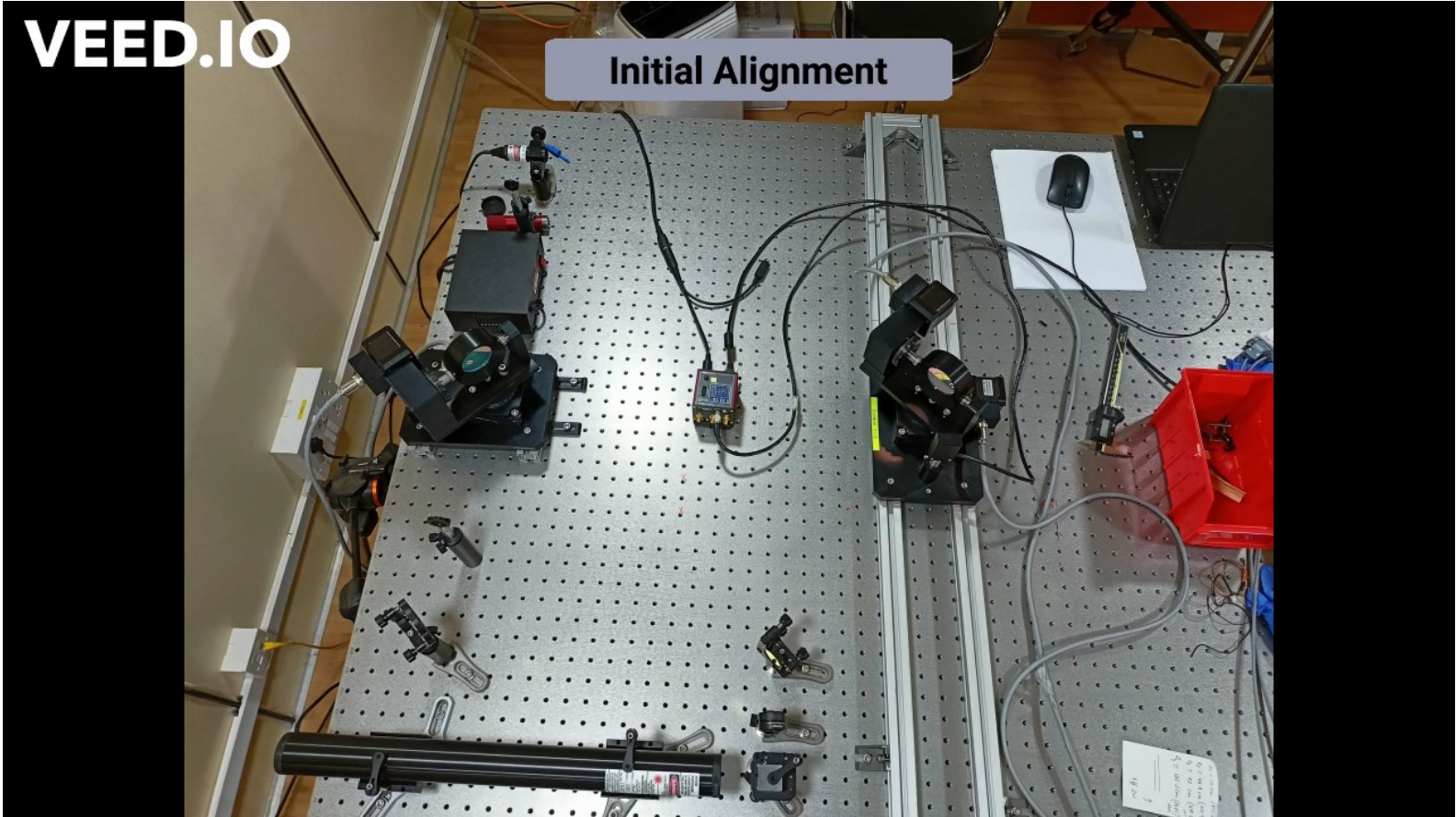


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Initial Alignment



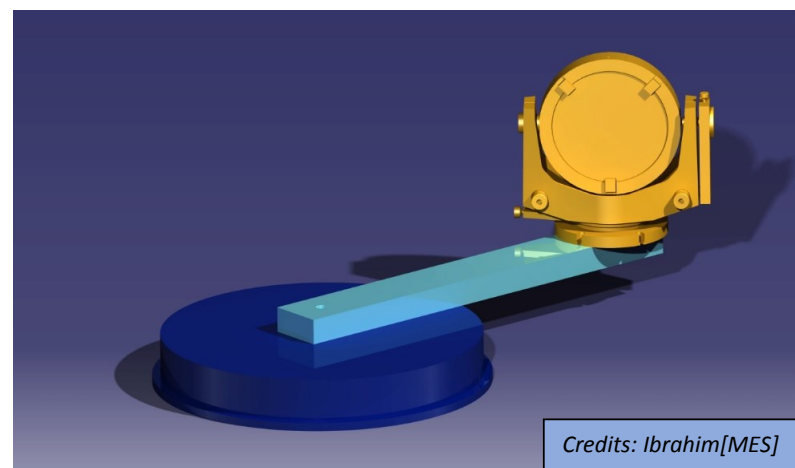


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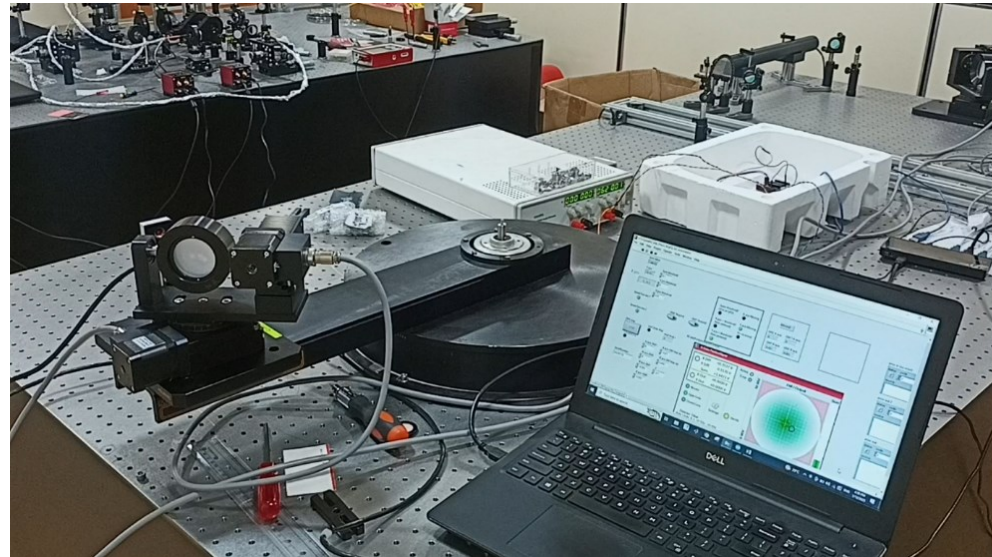


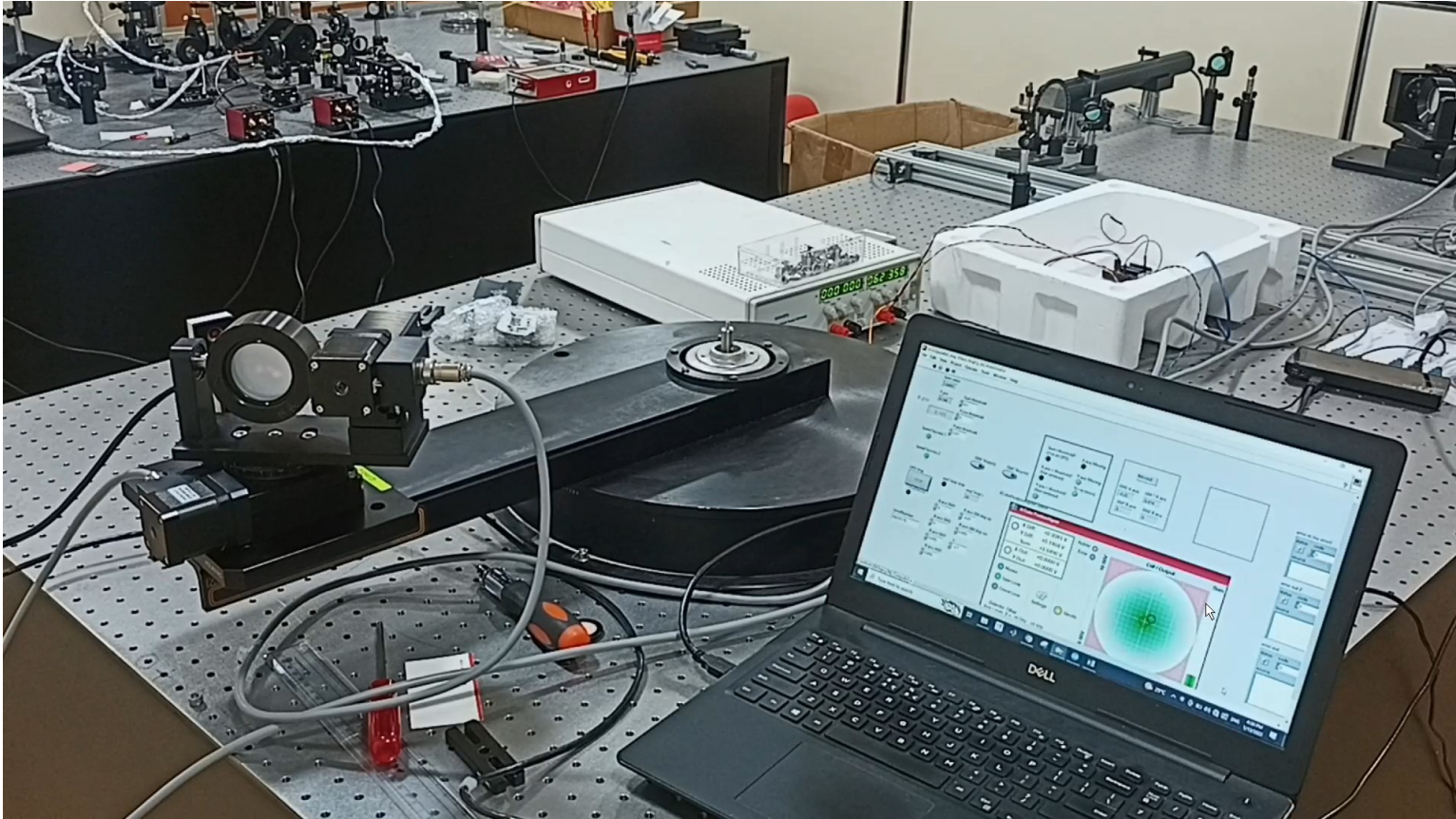
# Feedback demonstration of moving receiver on circular motorized arm

Schematic



Experimental setup









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**More exciting news coming soon!**



**Stay tuned!**

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**Prof. Tarun Souradeep**

Director

To whom it may concern

Letter of support

I hereby confirm the support of Raman Research Institute (RRI) to the governance initiative "Open Quantum Institute" led by the Geneva Science and Diplomacy Anticipator (GESDA) and to be announced at the Geneva Science and Diplomacy Anticipation Summit 2022.

RRI supports the core mission of the Open Quantum Institute

1) to bring quantum technologies, and quantum computing specifically in its first phase, accessible and available globally in an open and inclusive manner

and

2) to steer the development of quantum solutions for the benefit of humanity, directly working towards the Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations (SDGs).

RRI's vision is aligned with such stated mission. RRI believes that GESDA's initiative will contribute to this positive outcome by its unique ability to bridge science, technology and diplomacy.

As an academic leader, RRI is intending to collaborate with the Open Quantum Institute in the following areas:

- Education: RRI will support the development of educational programs of the OQI, ensuring it meets the needs of the students, researchers, and developers in its geography
- Research: our members could be users of the pool of quantum computers made accessible via the Open Quantum Institute, therefore actively contributing to the realization of quantum potentials in favour of the SDGs

We will gladly explore any additional opportunities to contribute to the success of this initiative.

Bangalore, 12 August 2022



Tarun Souradeep

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