

Experimental quantum communication in Space

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UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI
DI PADOVA



DIPARTIMENTO
DI INGEGNERIA
DELL'INFORMAZIONE

23 Maggio 2016



Summary

- 1 Introduction and motivations
- 2 Quantum Mechanics
- 3 Quantum Communication in space
 - Quantum communication with polarization encoding
 - Extending Quantum Comm. to MEO satellite
 - Quantum Interference along Satellite links
- 4 Other protocols
 - QKD with OAM
 - QRNG
- 5 Perspectives and Conclusions



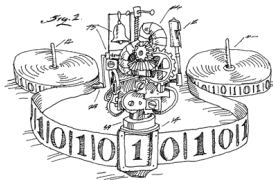
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What is Quantum Information?

Information Theory



Quantum Mechanics

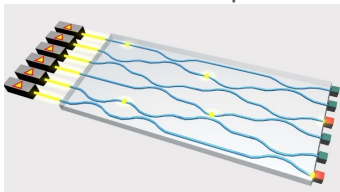


Merging two big **XXth century revolutions**:
information theory (Shannon, Turing) and Quantum Mechanics.



Examples of applications

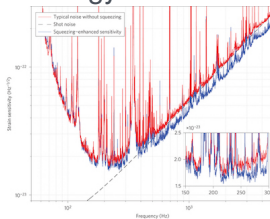
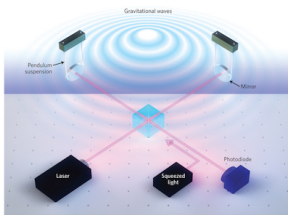
Quantum computer



Quantum cryptography



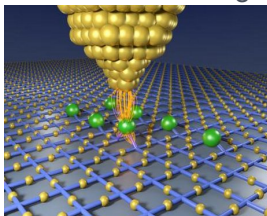
Quantum metrology



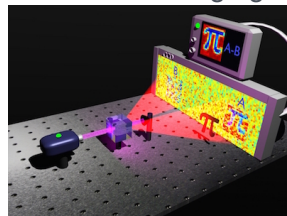


Examples of applications

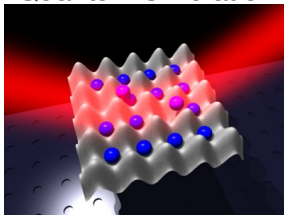
Quantum sensing



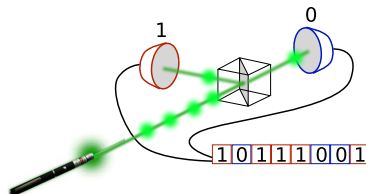
Quantum imaging



Quantum simulation



Quantum random number generation





But...

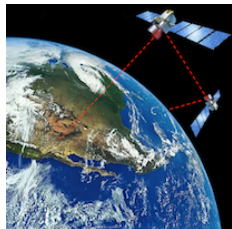
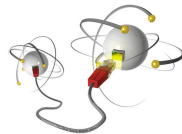
...be aware of fake!





What is Quantum Communication?

- ▶ **Quantum Communications** is the ability of faithful transmit **qubit** (or generic quantum states) between two distant locations
- ▶ Application of ground QC: **commercial QKD using fiber-cables**
- ▶ Quantum Communications on **planetary scale** require complementary channels including ground and satellite links





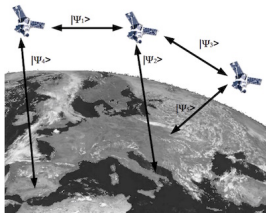
Motivation

Why free-space quantum communications?



Motivation

Why free-space quantum communications?

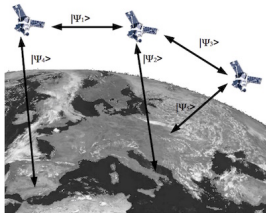


- Creation of a **worldwide quantum network**: overcome fiber-loss limitations

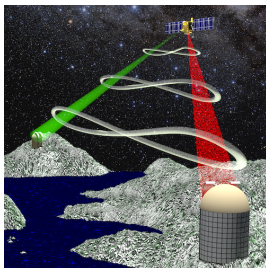


Motivation

Why free-space quantum communications?



- Creation of a **worldwide quantum network**: overcome fiber-loss limitations



- **Explore the limits of Quantum Mechanics** and quantum correlations over very long distances



Context



- ▶ On May 24, 2014 Japan's NICT launched SOTA on Socrates satellite.
- ▶ Ongoing programs for QC on satellite in China and Canada as well as in Singapore and USA.



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Superposition principle

- Physical states are represented as vectors $|\psi\rangle$



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- ▶ **Superposition principle**: if $|\psi_1\rangle$ and $|\psi_2\rangle$ are physical states, any linear combination is a physical state:

$$|\Psi\rangle = a|\psi_1\rangle + b|\psi_2\rangle \quad a, b \in \mathbb{C}$$



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$$|\psi\rangle = \alpha|0\rangle + \beta|1\rangle \quad \alpha, \beta \in \mathbb{C}, |\alpha|^2 + |\beta|^2 = 1$$



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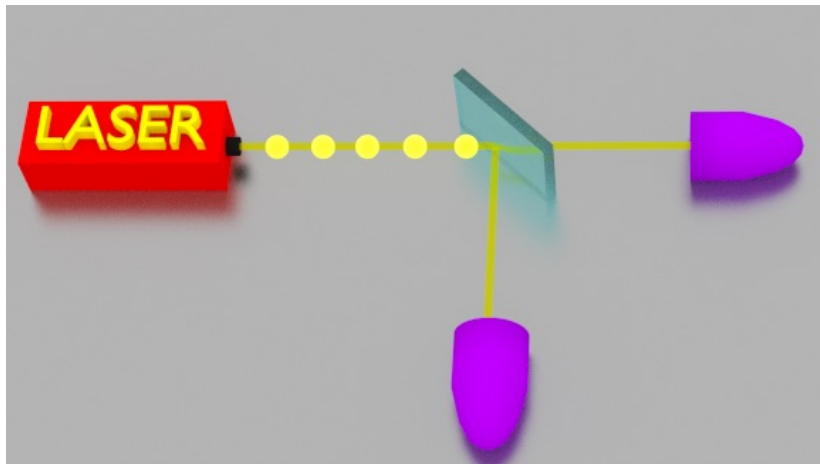
$$|\psi\rangle = \alpha|0\rangle + \beta|1\rangle \quad \alpha, \beta \in \mathbb{C}, |\alpha|^2 + |\beta|^2 = 1$$

- ▶ indistinguishability \Rightarrow **INTERFERENCE**!



State superposition

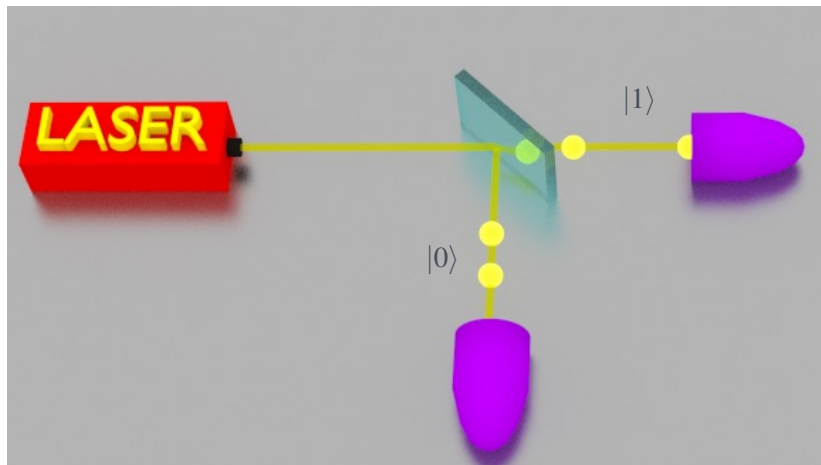
Example : photons on a semi-reflective mirror (beam splitter)





State superposition

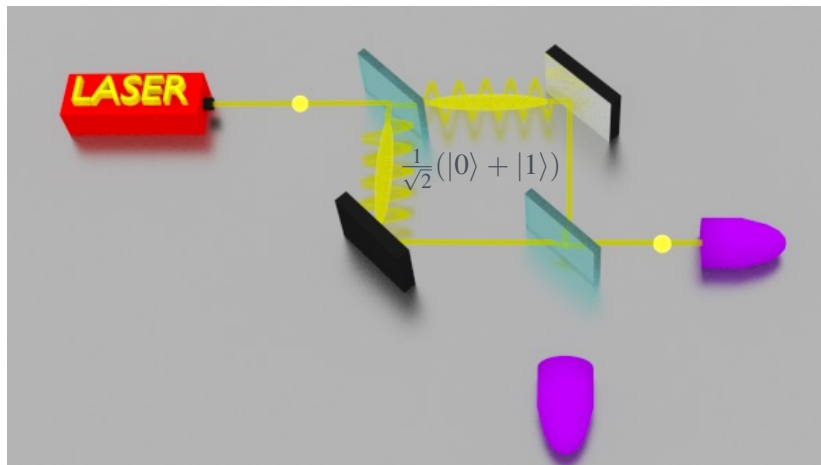
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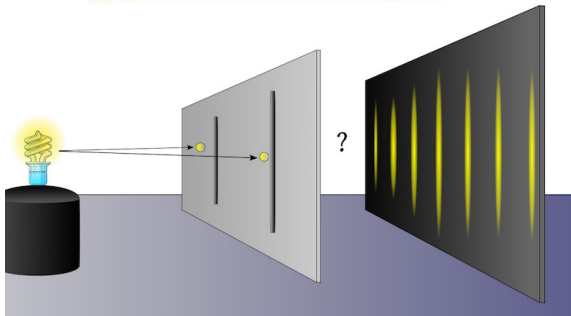
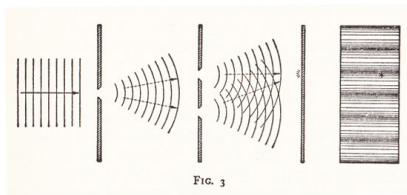
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State superposition

Example 2: two-slit experiment

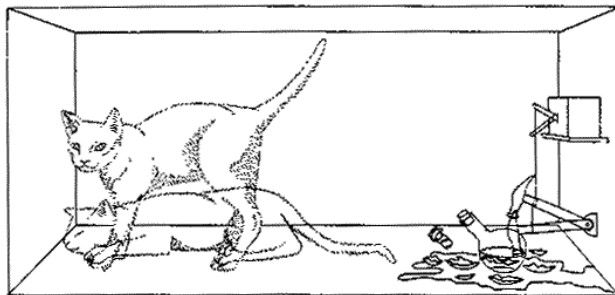




State superposition

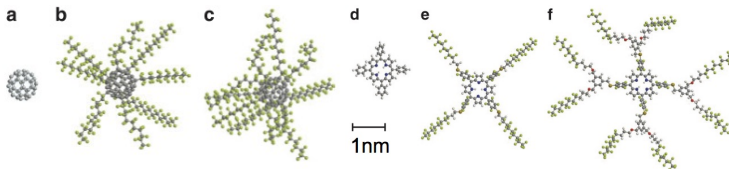
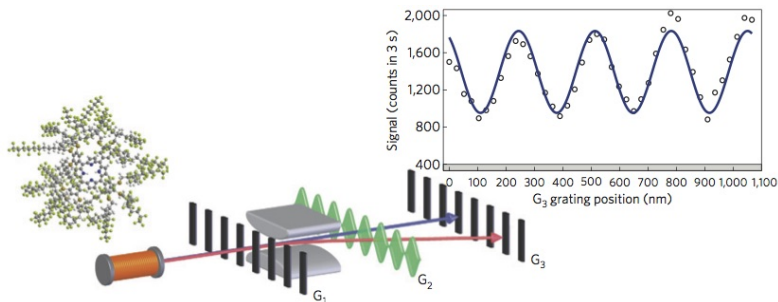
Example 3: Schrödinger cat

$$|\psi\rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(|\text{live}\rangle + |\text{dead}\rangle)$$





State superposition

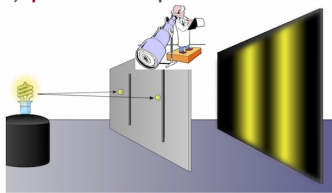
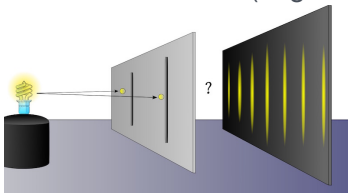


up to 6910 AMU, 430 atoms



Measurement and no-cloning

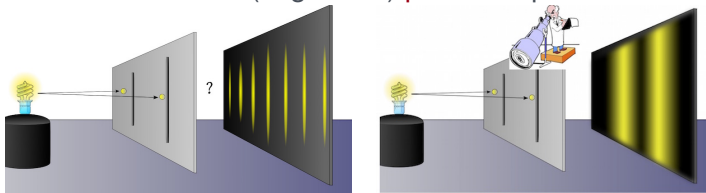
- The measurement (in general) **perturbs** quantum states





Measurement and no-cloning

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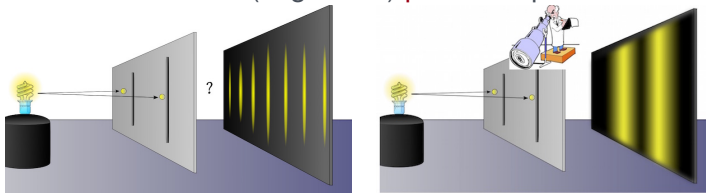


- ▶ The output of a measurement is **probabilistic** (if the state is not an eigenstate of the observable)



Measurement and no-cloning

- ▶ The measurement (in general) **perturbs** quantum states



- ▶ The output of a measurement is **probabilistic** (if the state is not an eigenstate of the observable)
- ▶ Impossibility of perfect cloning: **quantum copy-machine is not physical**

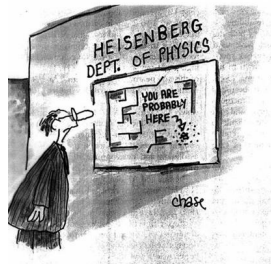
$$\nexists \mathcal{U} \mid \mathcal{U}|\psi\rangle_A \rightarrow |\psi\rangle_A |\psi\rangle_B \quad \forall |\psi\rangle$$



Uncertainty principle

- Bound on the precision of non-commuting observables: Heisenberg **uncertainty principle**

$$\Delta x \Delta p \geq \frac{\hbar}{2}$$

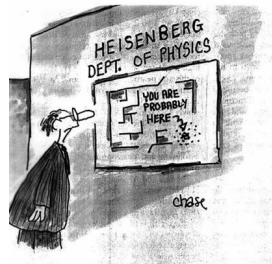




Uncertainty principle

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$$\Delta x \Delta p \geq \frac{\hbar}{2}$$



- The lower is the uncertainty on the position, the larger is the uncertainty on the momentum (and viceversa)



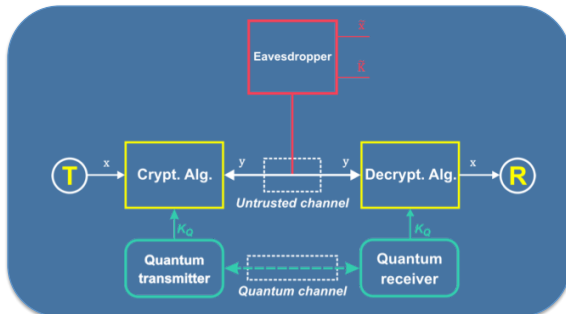
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QKD: quantum key distribution

- ▶ A novel approach towards **unconditionally secure communications**
- ▶ Exploit quantum mechanics laws for **establishing secure keys**
- ▶ Single photon transmission for create keys and classical channel for send encrypted message





QKD principles

The best method to encrypt a message is the **One-Time-Pad (OTP)** protocol: for a n -bit message, a n -bit secure key is needed

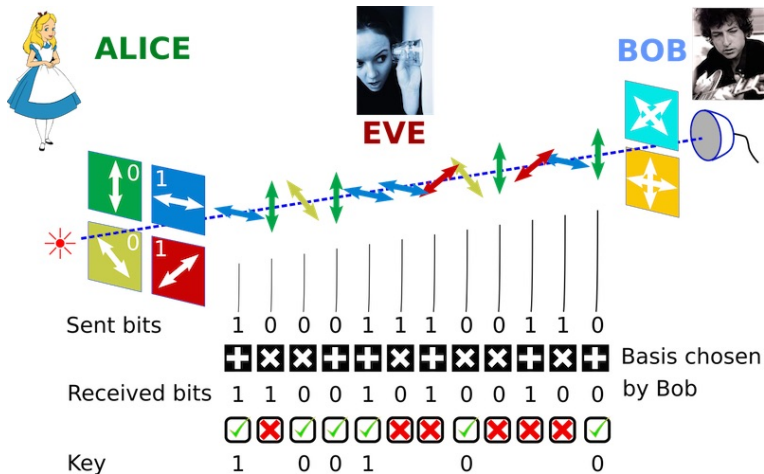
$$\begin{array}{lcl} \text{message} & & \boxed{1} \boxed{0} \boxed{1} \boxed{1} \boxed{1} \boxed{0} \boxed{0} \boxed{1} \boxed{1} \boxed{0} \boxed{1} \boxed{0} \boxed{1} \boxed{0} \\ & & \oplus \\ \text{random} & & \boxed{1} \boxed{0} \boxed{0} \boxed{0} \boxed{1} \boxed{0} \boxed{1} \boxed{0} \boxed{1} \boxed{1} \boxed{0} \boxed{1} \boxed{0} \boxed{1} \\ \text{key} & & = \\ \text{encrypted} & & \boxed{0} \boxed{0} \boxed{1} \boxed{1} \boxed{0} \boxed{0} \boxed{1} \boxed{1} \boxed{0} \boxed{1} \boxed{1} \boxed{1} \boxed{1} \boxed{1} \\ \text{message} & & \end{array}$$

Quantum key distribution (QKD) allows two users to **exchange random and secret keys**



QKD in a nutshell

BB84 protocol





Secret key rate

Basic tools:

- ▶ two non-commuting basis
- ▶ no-cloning theorem
- ▶ any measurement (generally) perturbs the systems

} \Rightarrow Eve detection!



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Secret key rate:

$$r = 1 - 2h_2(Q)$$

with

$$Q = \text{QBER} \quad h_2(Q) = -Q \log_2(Q) - (1 - Q) \log_2(1 - Q)$$



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If Eve is gaining information on the key, the key is discarded.
Eve **has no information on the secret message**



Commercial QKD

First commercial example of security protocol based on Quantum Mechanics



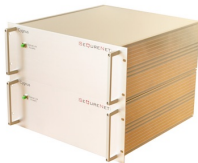
ID Quantique (CH)



MagiQ (US)



Quintessence (AU)



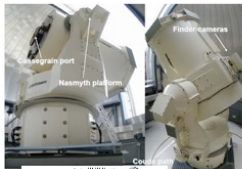
SeQurennet (FR)



Toshiba (UK)



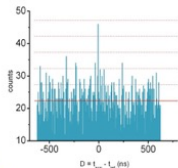
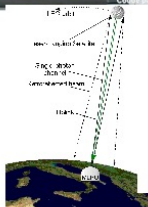
Timeline of quantum communications in space



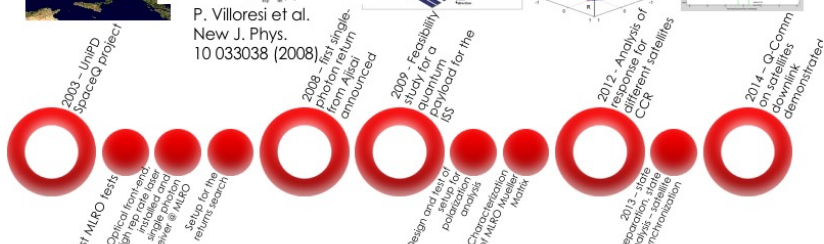
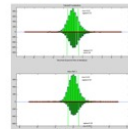
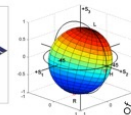
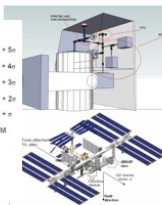
Space Qcomms timeline

We operated at **Matera Laser Ranging Observatory**, owned by the **Italian Space Agency** and directed by Dr. Giuseppe "Pippo" Bianco.

With its **1.5 m telescope** and **millimeter resolution in SLR**, Matera is our research hub for Space Quantum Communications since 2003.



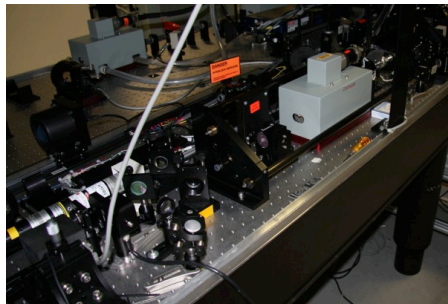
P. Villoresi et al.
New J. Phys.
10 033038 (2008)





MLRO as quantum hub

MLRO: research hub for Space QC since 2003





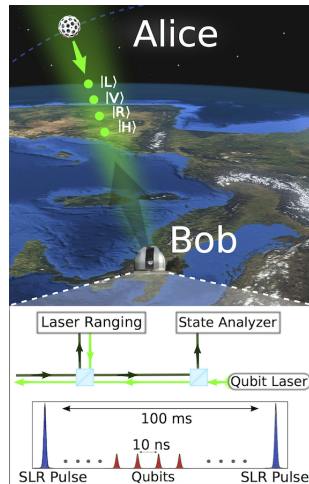
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Objectives of the recent q-comm experiment

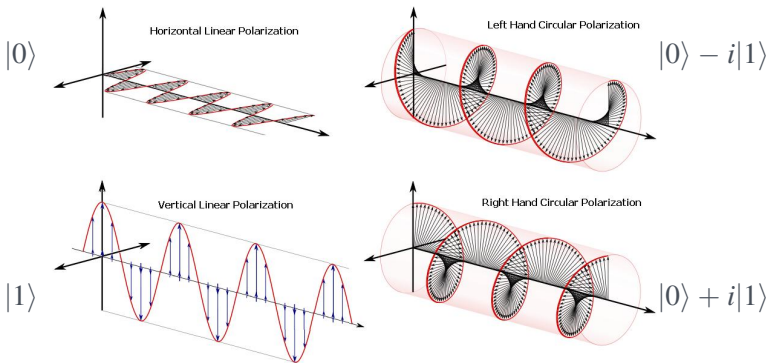
- ▶ To simulate a **qubit source in Space** using orbiting retroreflectors
- ▶ To demonstrate the **measurement of quantum states** in the downlink
- ▶ To address the mitigation of the **background noise**
- ▶ To demonstrate **quantum communication of a generic qubits** from Space to ground





Qubit encoding

Polarization encoding

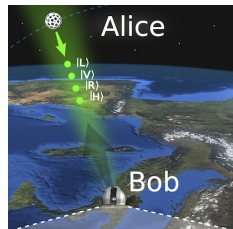




The making of the qubits

- ▶ **Source on satellite** simulated by a CCR
- ▶ Source (Alice) need to be at the **single photon level**
- ▶ Downlink attenuation from ~ 3 cm LEO sources in the range of 55-70 dB.
- ▶ **Short pulses** necessary for background rejection
- ▶ Not too short to prevent bandwidth opening and noise increasing

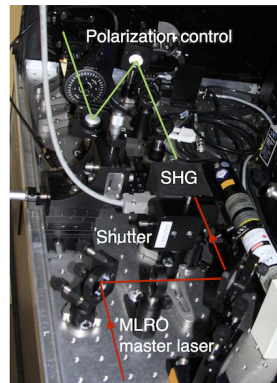
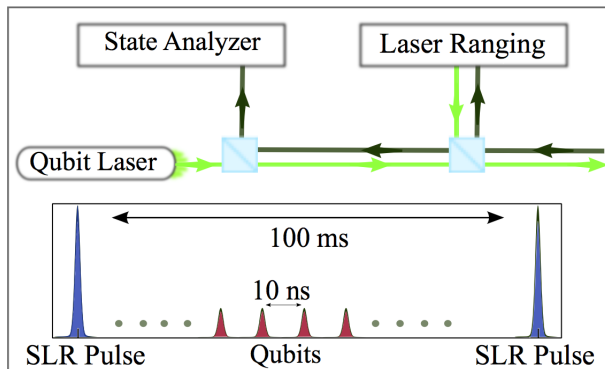
CCR:
Corner-Cube
Retroreflector





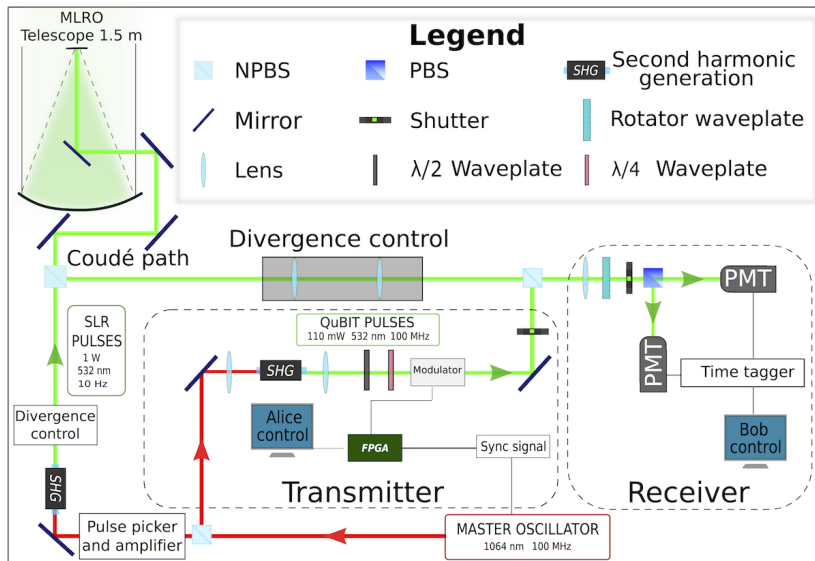
The making of the qubits

MLRO master laser provided the solution: 100 MHz, 100 ps, 300 mW, 1064 nm



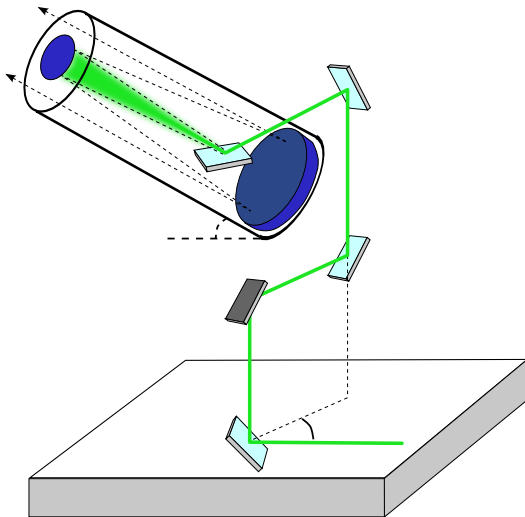


Setup

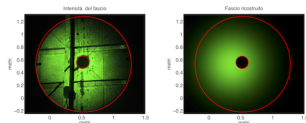




Coudé path of in-and-out



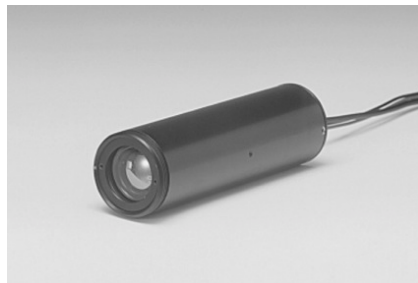
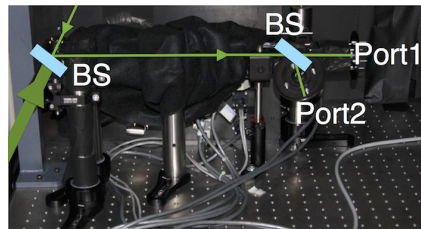
- ▶ Characterization of the polarization transformation
- ▶ Assessment of total transmission efficiency
- ▶ Mutual alignment of SLR and Qubit beams





Measuring the qubits

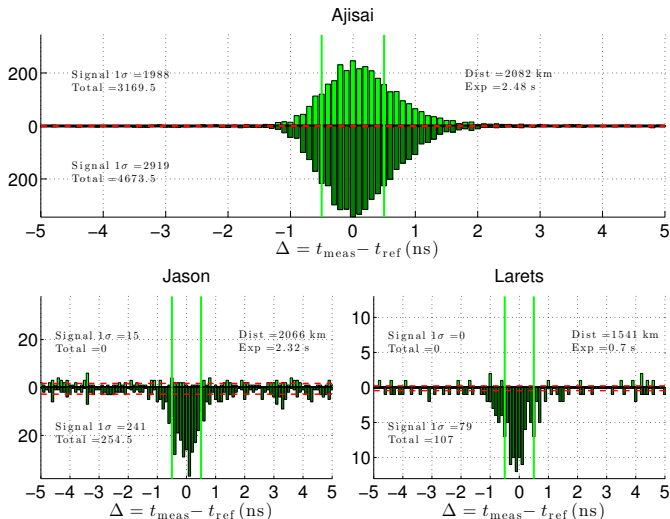
- ▶ The **Coudé path** is used in both directions for both the SLR beam and the qubits
- ▶ The upward and inward beams are combined using a non polarizing beam splitter (BS)
- ▶ Two **large area SPADs** mounted to the exit ports, designed to address the velocity-aberration
- ▶ 81 ps timetagging of 8 channels





Single photon returns

Histogram of the counts



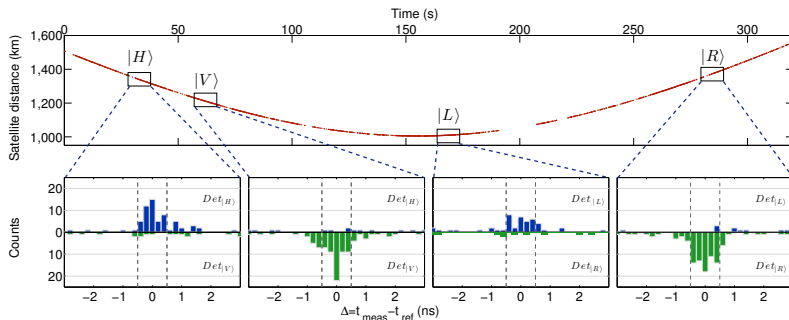


Single passage of LARETS

Orbit height 690 km - spherical brass body
 24 cm in diameter, 23 kg mass,
 60 Metallic coated Corner-Cube Retroreflectors



Apr 10th, 2014, start 4:40 am CEST



Detection of **four polarization states** received from satellite
 10 s windows



QBER: Quantum Bit Error Rate

Ajisai

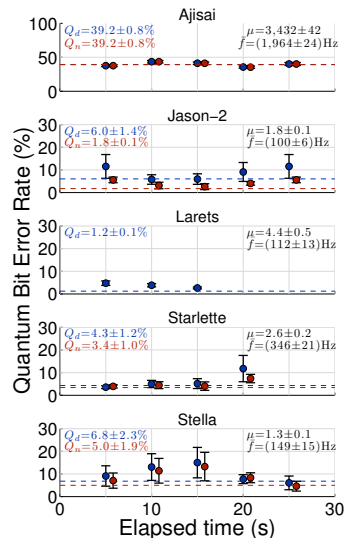
Non polarization maintaining CCR:

Polarization Q-Comm not possible

Jason-2, Larets, Starlette, Stella

Polarization maintaining CCR:

- ▶ QBER compatible with applications
- ▶ Demonstration of stable QBER over extended link duration





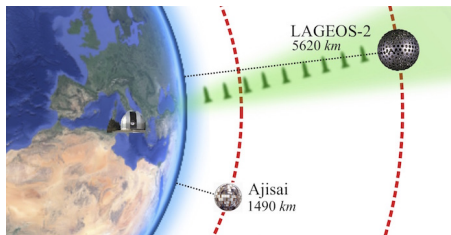
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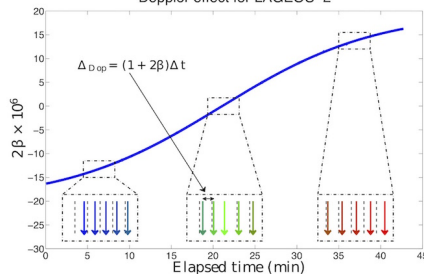


Extending QC to MEO satellites

MEO=Medium-Earth-Orbit



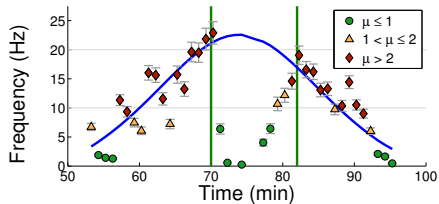
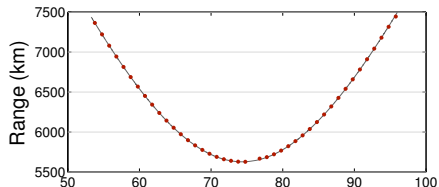
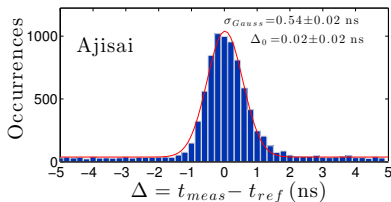
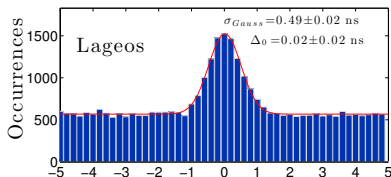
Doppler effect for LAGEOS-2





Single photon returns

Histogram of the counts



7000km link



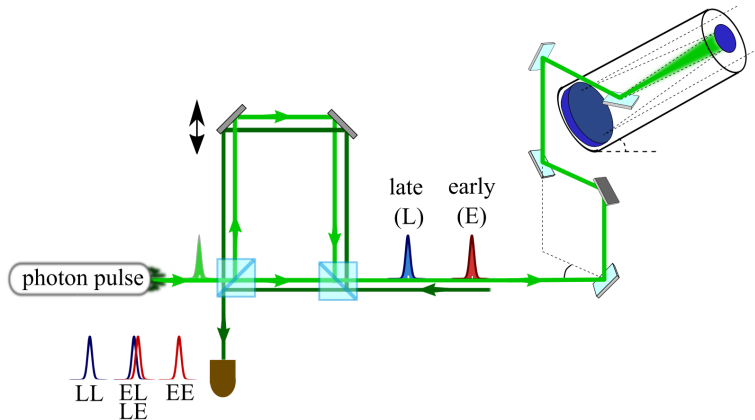
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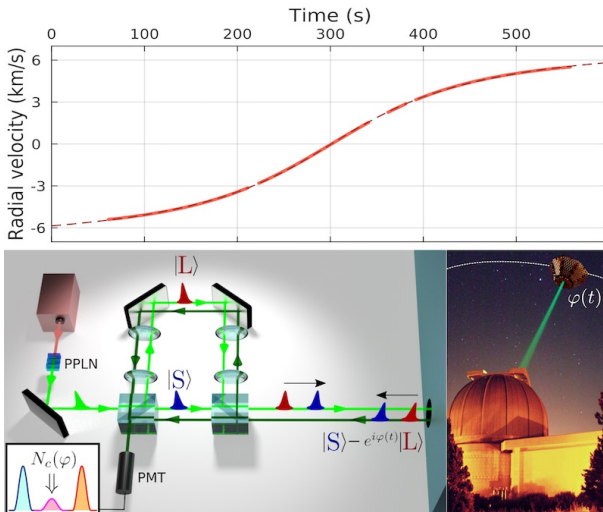
Qubit with time-bin

Time-bin encoding





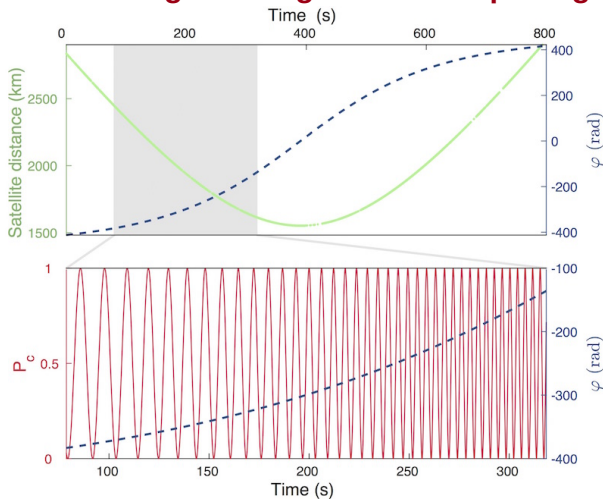
Time-bin setup





Dynamical phase

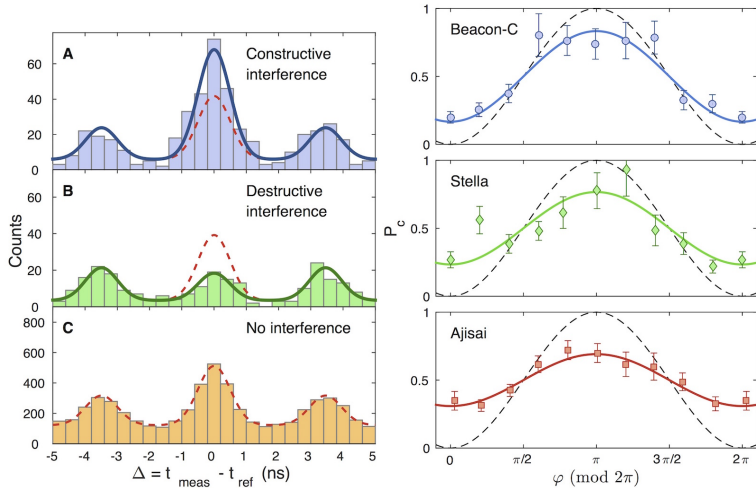
Phase changes during the satellite passage





Quantum interference

Interference pattern





Summary

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Free-space QKD with different degrees of freedom

- ▶ **Polarization** is maintained in propagation.
- ▶ Can we exploit other **degrees of freedom** to encode the qubit?
- ▶ Can we **increase the information** sent for single photon by increasing the dimension of the Hilbert space?



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Orbital Angular Momentum (OAM) of Light



Orbital Angular Momentum of light

- Total angular momentum of light beam

$$\vec{J} = \epsilon_0 \int \vec{r} \times (\vec{E} \times \vec{B}) d^3\vec{r}$$



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- ▶ In paraxial approximation split into **SPIN** and **Orbital Angular Momentum (OAM)**

$$J_z = J_z^{\text{spin}} + J_z^{\text{OAM}}$$



Orbital Angular Momentum of light

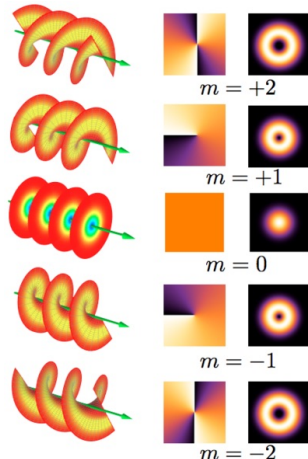
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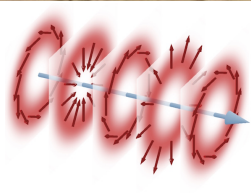
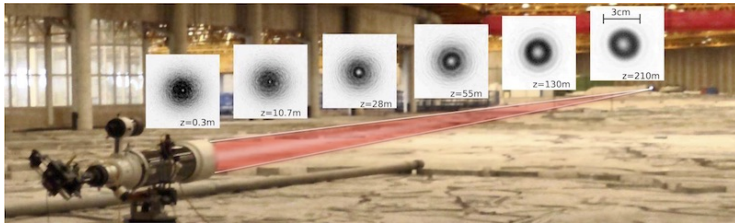
$$J_z = J_z^{\text{spin}} + J_z^{\text{OAM}}$$

- ▶ **OAM** related to the phase $e^{im\phi}$ ($m \in \mathbb{Z}$) in the transverse plane. Each photon carries $m\hbar$ of angular momentum.





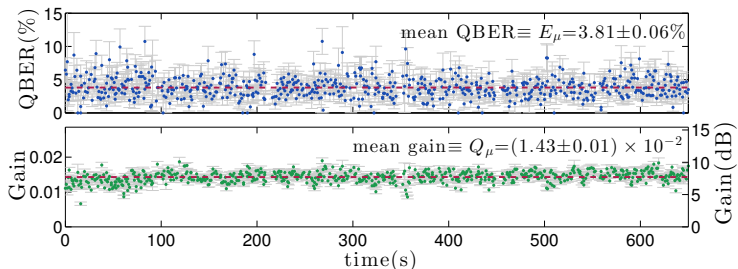
Alignment-free OAM QKD: 210m free space link



Hybrid qubit: $\alpha|L\rangle_{\pi} \otimes |r\rangle_{\text{O}} + \beta|R\rangle_{\pi} \otimes |l\rangle_{\text{O}}$
 Rotaton-invariant states!



Gain and QBER



The data show 10 minutes of acquisition. Dashed lines represent mean values. QBER and gain fluctuations from block to block are due to transmission fluctuation caused by the channel turbulence and to the finite size of the blocks.



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Random number in everyday life



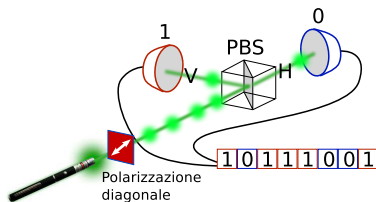
- ▶ **RANDOM NUMBERS** are needed to encrypt all digital communications (email, social networks)



- ▶ All classical security protocols used in e-commerce or credit card are based on **RANDOM NUMBERS**



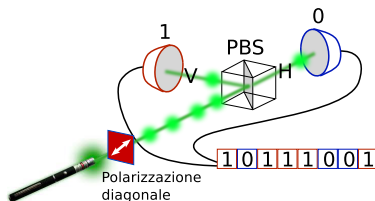
Quantum Random Number Generators (QRNG)



- intrinsic randomness of quantum measurements



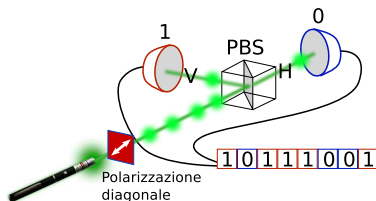
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- ▶ The output of the measurement cannot be predicted (even if the initial state is perfectly known)



Quantum Random Number Generators (QRNG)



- ▶ intrinsic **randomness** of quantum measurements
- ▶ The output of the measurement cannot be predicted (even if the initial state is perfectly known)
- ▶ **Randomness** is not due to ignorance on the initial conditions (like coin tossing)

How to distinguish

$$|\psi\rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(|H\rangle + |V\rangle) \quad (\text{quantum randomness})$$

from

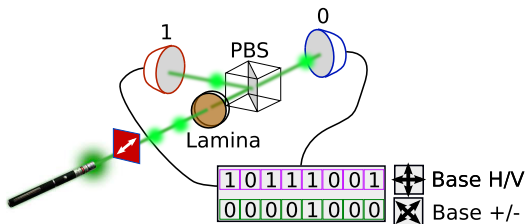
$$\rho = \frac{1}{2}|H\rangle\langle H| + \frac{1}{2}|V\rangle\langle V| \quad (\text{classical randomness})?$$



QRNG certified by the uncertainty principle

For mutually unbiased basis \mathbb{Z} and \mathbb{X} in d dimensions, the **Entropic Uncertainty Principle** is:

$$H_{\min}(Z|E)_{\rho} + H_{\max}(X|B)_{\rho} \geq \log_2 d$$



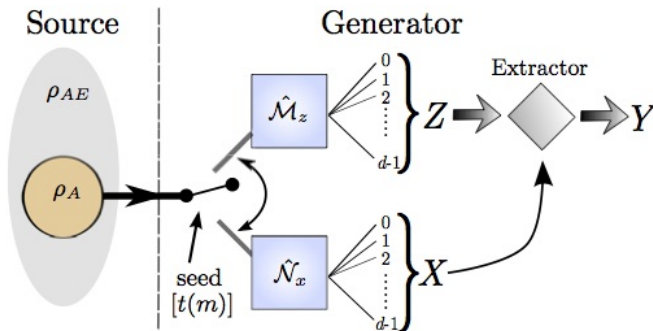
Base \mathbb{Z} : $\{|H\rangle/|V\rangle\}$
Random bits

Base \mathbb{X} : $\{|+\rangle/|-\rangle\}$
Randomness
certification

$$p_{\text{guess}}(Z|E) \leq \frac{1}{d} \left(\sum_x \sqrt{p_x} \right)^2$$



Scheme of the QRNG certified by the UP

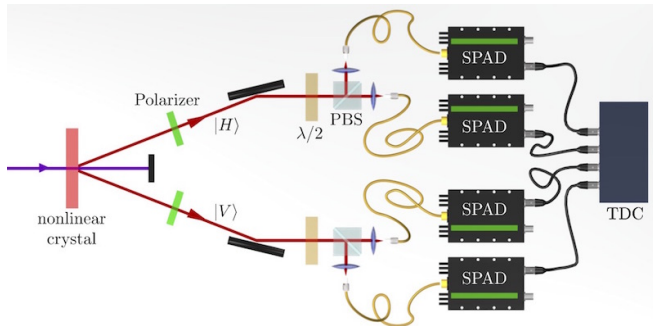


By switching between the $\{|z\rangle\}$ and $\{|x\rangle\}$ basis, the random variables Z and X are extracted. The variable Z is used to generate the random sequence, while the variable X is used to evaluate how many true random bits can be extracted by Z . Y represents the final true random sequence.



Experimental realization

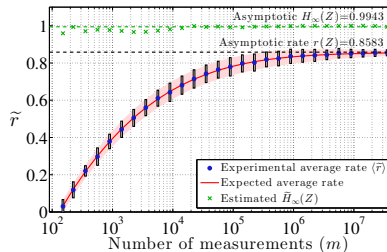
Proof of principle realization with **qubit** and **ququart**



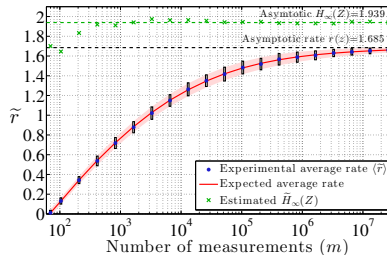
qubit \Rightarrow heralded single photon in $|H\rangle$
ququart \Rightarrow pair of photons in $|HV\rangle$



Random generation rates



Random generation rate for a generator based on **qubits** (2-level system)



Random generation rate for a generator based on **ququarts** (4-level system)



What is Entanglement?

Correlation and superposition. In Schrödinger word:

"the characteristic trait of quantum mechanics"

$$|\Psi\rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(|H\rangle_A|V\rangle_B - |V\rangle_A|H\rangle_B) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(|\uparrow\rangle_A|\downarrow\rangle_B - |\downarrow\rangle_A|\uparrow\rangle_B) \\ \neq |\varphi_1\rangle_A \otimes |\chi_2\rangle_B$$



Correlations that cannot be obtained by classical systems!



EPR paradox: the beginning...

Einstein, Podolsky e Rosen (**EPR**), 1935:

MAY 15, 1935

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- 1 Reality:** if, without disturbing a system a physical quantity can be predicted, then an **element of reality** is associated to such quantity;
- 2 Completeness:** every **element of reality** must be contained in the physical theory;
- 3 Locality:** any action on a system A (Alice) cannot change the physical reality of a system B (Bob) spatially separated.



The "paradox"

- ▶ EPR aim was to demonstrate that Quantum Mechanics **is NOT** a complete theory.



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$$|\Psi^-\rangle_{A,B} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} (|H\rangle_A |V\rangle_B - |V\rangle_A |H\rangle_B)$$



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$$|\Psi^-\rangle_{A,B} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} (|H\rangle_A |V\rangle_B - |V\rangle_A |H\rangle_B)$$

- ▶ If Alice (on the first particle) and Bob (on the second particle) measure the polarization (or spin) in the same direction they obtain **always opposite results**.

Hypotesis: **Locality and Realism**

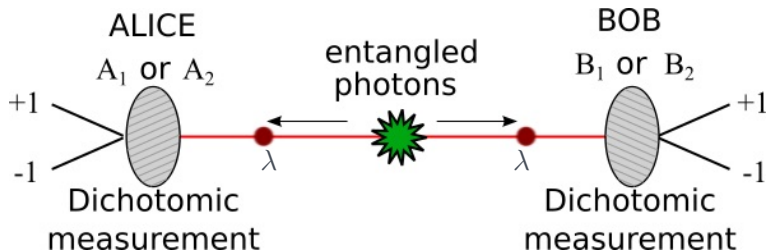


EPR paradox: QM is not complete!



Local hidden variable model

Does an alternative model exist?



λ : Hidden variable (real and local)

Correlation: $\langle A_i B_j \rangle = p(A_i = B_j) - p(A_i \neq B_j)$



Bell Inequality

- ▶ Bell inequality: for any **local hidden variable theory** it holds:

$$S_{CH} \equiv |\langle A_1 B_1 \rangle + \langle A_2 B_1 \rangle + \langle A_1 B_2 \rangle - \langle A_2 B_2 \rangle| \leq 2$$

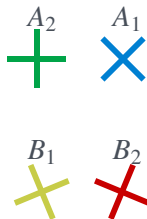


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- ▶ The inequality is **violated** by a (singlet) entangled state with A_1 , A_2 , B_1 and B_2 chosen as in figure:



Quantum Mechanics predicts:

$$\langle S_{CH} \rangle_{\text{entangled state}} = 2\sqrt{2} > 2$$



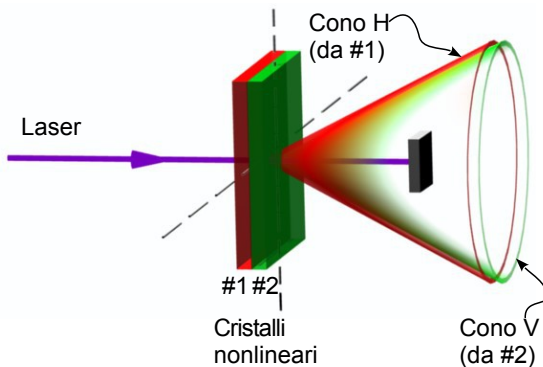
Consequences

- ▶ It is not possible to describe nature with a **local hidden variable theory**
- ▶ Neither the particle "knows" in advance the output of the measurement
- ▶ Loopholes...



How entanglement can be generated?

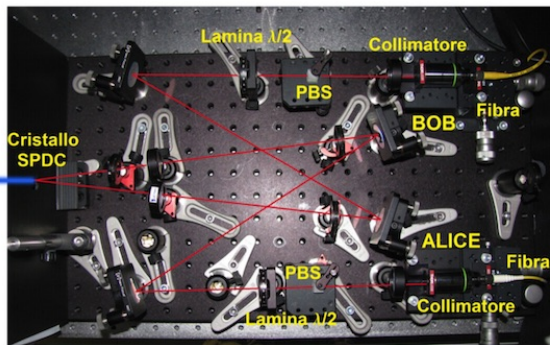
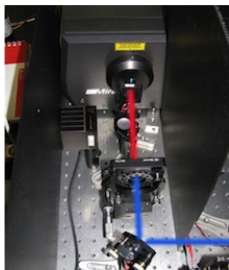
Parametric down-conversion (probabilistic effect)





What is the measured value of S_{CH} ?

In the lab:



$$\langle S_{CH} \rangle_{\text{exp}} = 2.80 \pm 0.04 > 2, \quad 2\sqrt{2} \simeq 2.8284$$

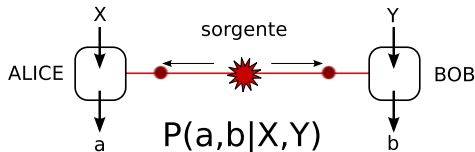


Device Independent Protocols

- ▶ Bell inequality was introduced to deal with **fundamental problems**: the reality and locality of quantum mechanics
- ▶ It has been violated in many different experiments (photons, ions, diamonds, atoms....)
- ▶ close to loophole-free violations
- ▶ The Bell inequality is now used as a **tool to certify entanglement**: device-independent protocols



Device Independent Protocols



ALICE

X : choice of the measurement basis

a : output of the measurement

BOB

Y : choice of the measurement basis

b : output of the measurement

The following probabilities are measured:

$$P(a, b|X, Y)$$

If the above probabilities violate a Bell Inequality, entanglement between Alice and Bob can be proved



Device Independent QKD

- ▶ In standard QKD system, the security is based on the working mechanism of the devices
- ▶ In Device-Independent QKD, the devices are **BLACK BOXES**: no assumption on their functioning
- ▶ Key rate related to the violation of the Bell inequality

$$r = 1 - h_2(Q) - h_2[f(S_{CH})]$$

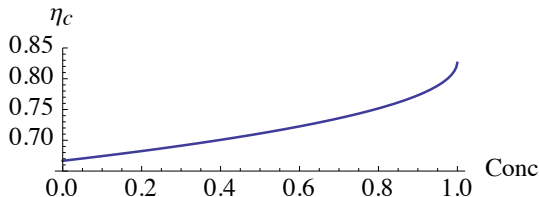
$$\text{con } f(S_{CH}) = \frac{1 + \sqrt{(S_{CH}/2)^2 - 1}}{2} \text{ e } Q = \text{QBER.}$$

- ▶ If the inequality is not violated, a vanishing key rate is obtained



DI-QKD with non-maximally entangled states

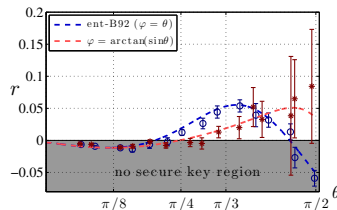
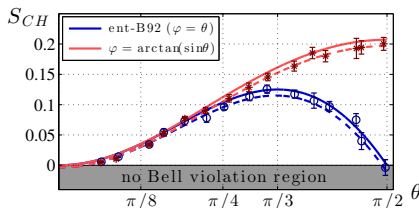
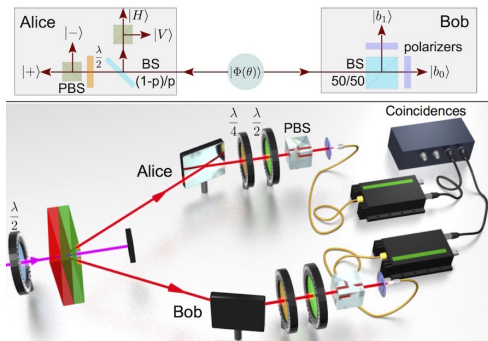
- ▶ DI protocols requires high detection efficiency in order to close the detection loopholes
- ▶ Non-maximally entangled states requires lower threshold efficiency η_c compared to maximally entangled states



⇒ Define a protocol with non-maximally entangled states for DI-QKD

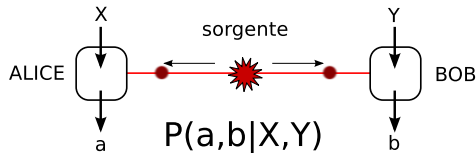


Experimental key rates





Device Independent QRNG



- Random bit generation rate:

$$r = -\log_2 \left[1 - \log_2 \left(1 + \sqrt{2 - \frac{S_{CH}^2}{4}} \right) \right]$$

- **Vanishing rate** if $S_{CH} \leq 2$



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Long term opportunities

Unique opportunity of Quantum Physics in Space

Possibility of testing quantum physics in new environment and probing the laws of nature at very large distance



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- ▶ Distribution of **entanglement** from Earth to Space
- ▶ Test of **Bell's Inequalities** with unprecedented conditions: LEO or GEO-orbit, moving terminals, gravitational field



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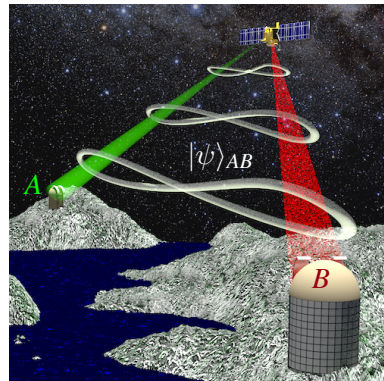
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- ▶ Quantum technologies in long distance applications
- ▶ Test of foundations of quantum field theory and general relativity



Entanglement distribution

- Entanglement is a **unique resource** for Quantum Information applications (teleportation, dense coding, etc..)

$$|\psi\rangle_{AB} \neq |\phi\rangle_A \otimes |\chi\rangle_B$$

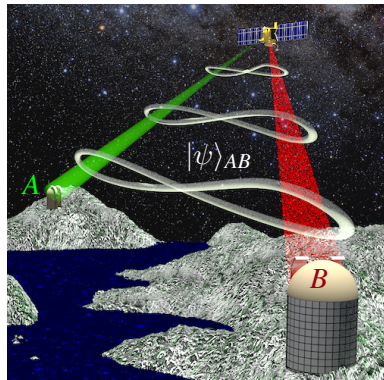




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- ▶ Limits on the distance between two entangled systems?
- ▶ Is entanglement limited to certain mass and length scales or altered under specific gravitational circumstances?



Bell's test

If a set of correlation do not satisfy the Bell's inequality $S \leq 2$, the correlations cannot be explained by a **local realistic theory**.



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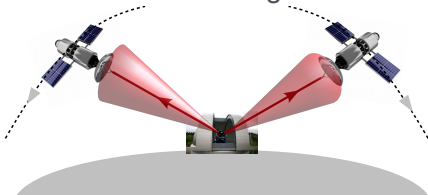
- ▶ Bell'inequality violated between fixed location: "**spooky action at distance**" at speed greater than $10^4 c$.



Bell's test

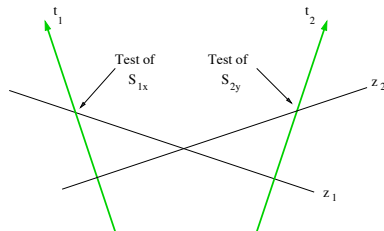
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- ▶ Bell's inequality violated between fixed location: "spooky action at distance" at speed greater than $10^4 c$.
- ▶ Bell's test with moving terminals





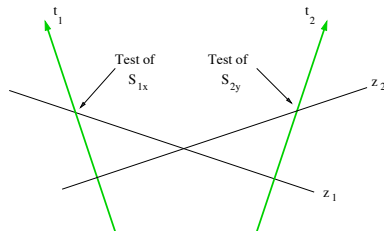
Bell's test with detectors in relative motion



- ▶ the two observers **disagree on the relative time ordering** of the measurement events



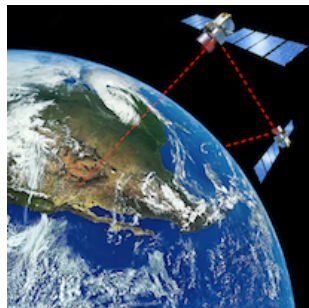
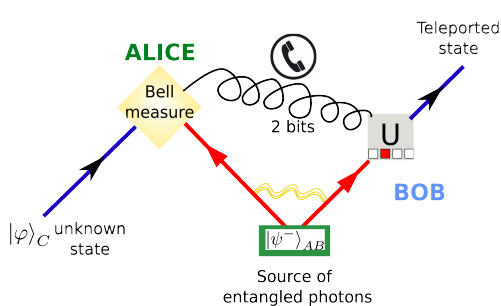
Bell's test with detectors in relative motion



- ▶ the two observers **disagree on the relative time ordering** of the measurement events
- ▶ The probabilities predicted by quantum theory do not depend on the **time-ordering of spacelike events**, so its predictions will not be changed.
- ▶ understanding the physical reality of quantum states and the **non-local collapse** of the wave functions.



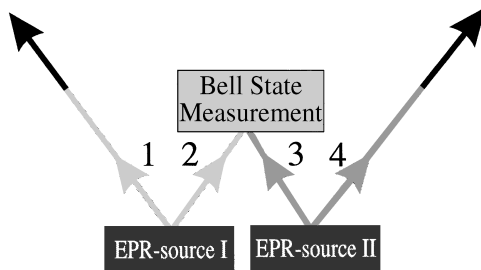
Quantum teleportation



Standard quantum theory places no bound on the distance at which teleportation may be accomplished



Entanglement swapping



Entangling photons that never interacted



Conclusions

- ▶ We have experimentally demonstrated **Quantum Communication** from several satellites acting as quantum transmitter and with MLRO as the receiver



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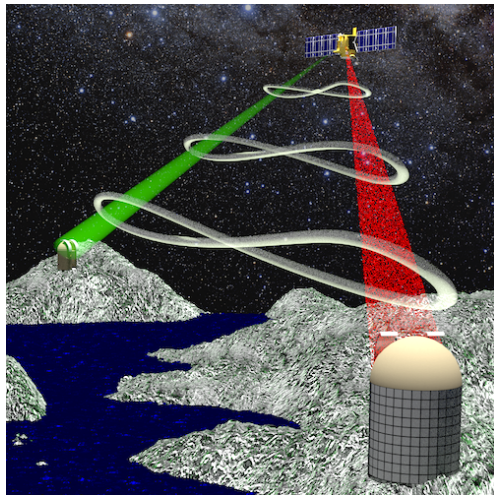


Conclusions

- ▶ We have experimentally demonstrated **Quantum Communication** from several satellites acting as quantum transmitter and with MLRO as the receiver
- ▶ QBER was found low enough to demonstrate the feasibility of quantum information protocols such as QKD along a Space channel
- ▶ The ability of propagating quantum correlation over large distance will have a **great impact for fundamental physics** and quantum information applications



Perspectives



Explore the limits of Quantum Mechanics and quantum correlations over very long distances



Research group: QuantumFuture



QuantumFuture Research Group



- Active from 2003 on UnIPD, ASI ESA funding – Paolo Villorosi Coordinator
- Interdisciplinary expertise: Quantum and Classical Optics, Quantum communications engineering, Quantum Control theory and Quantum Astronomy.

11 PhD Stud. E 15 Assegni di ricerca e Affidamenti in the last 4 years

- PhD Schools: Asiago Winter Schools 2011 and 2013
- Workshop on Mathematical Aspects of Quantum Modelling, Estimation and Control, 2011 and 2013
- 5th IQIS 2012 - Padova



PhD Winter School 2011



PhD Winter School 2013



email: vallone@dei.unipd.it

<http://quantumfuture.dei.unipd.it/>



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