

# A spotlight on quantum physics

Andrew R. Cameron

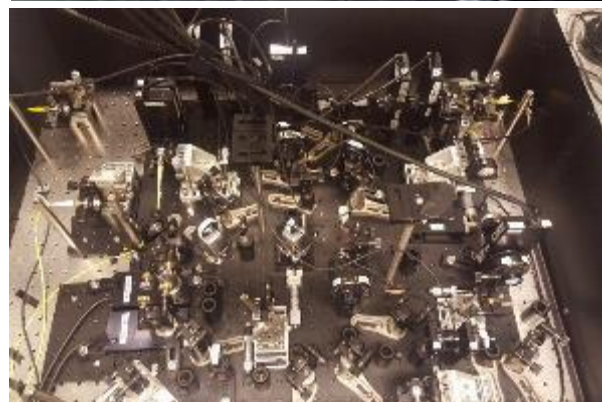
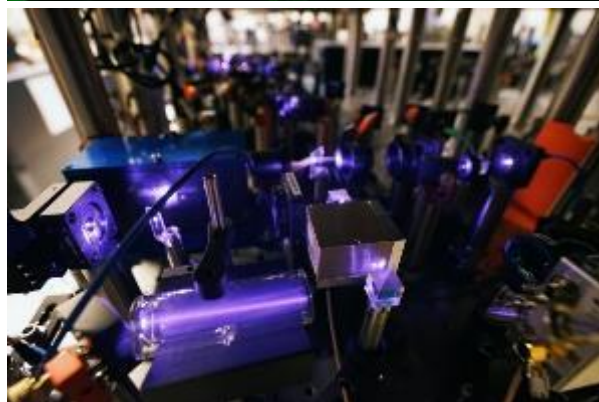
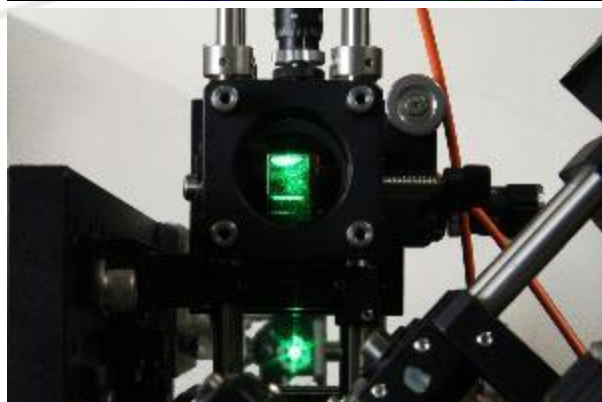
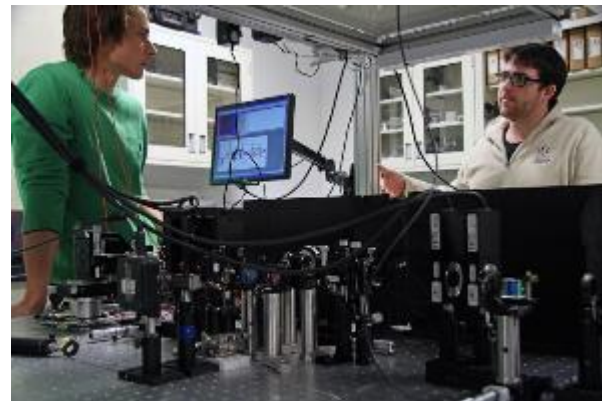
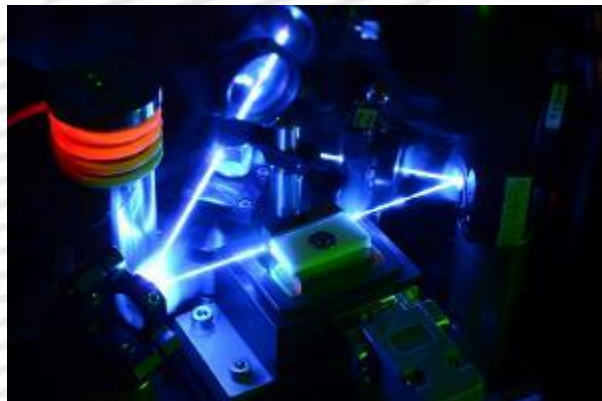
April 18<sup>th</sup>, 2026



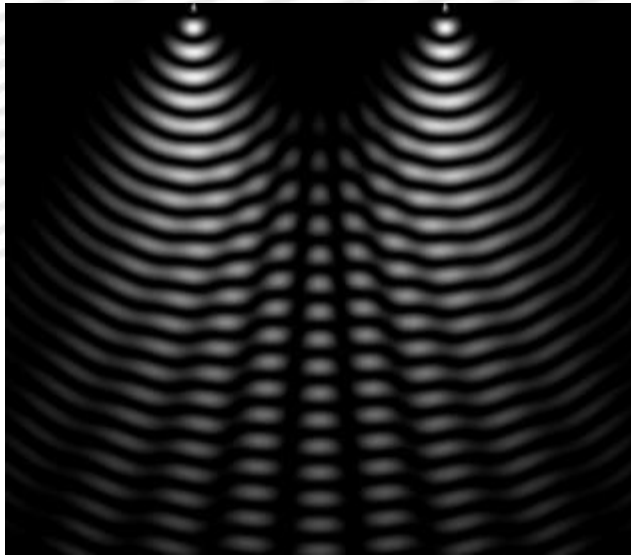
Based on materials developed by John Donohue at the  
Institute for Quantum Computing

# Who am I?

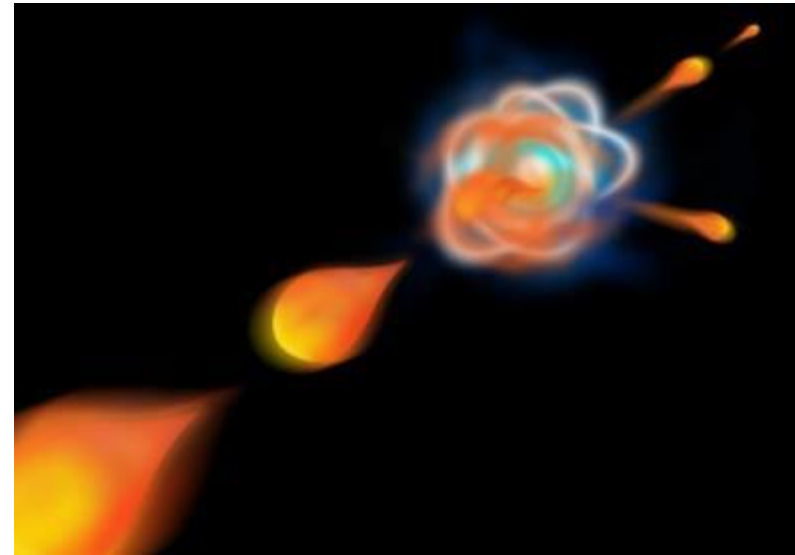
- Studied physics since undergrad in Prince Edward Island
- PhD in physics (Quantum information) in Waterloo
- Postdoc at Fermilab – building quantum networks
- Experimental physics – (safely) playing with lasers.



# What is light?



Light is an electromagnetic wave



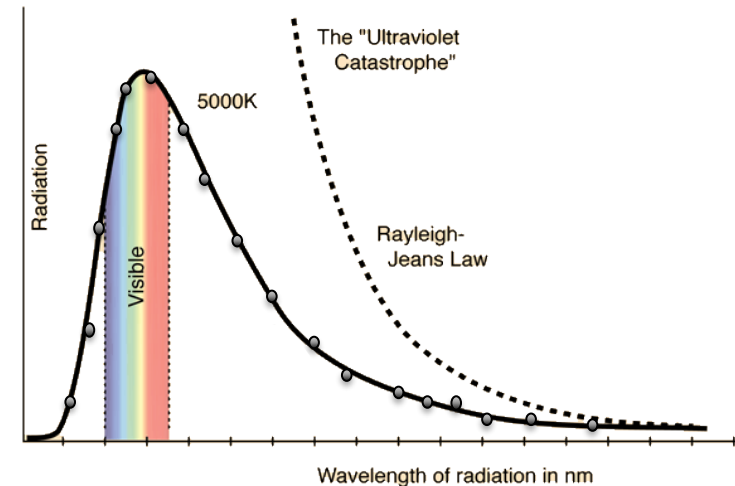
Light is made up of particles called photons

# The ultraviolet catastrophe



Why do objects glow different colors at different temperatures?

Scientists knew the curves, but couldn't come up with a fundamental reason to explain them.



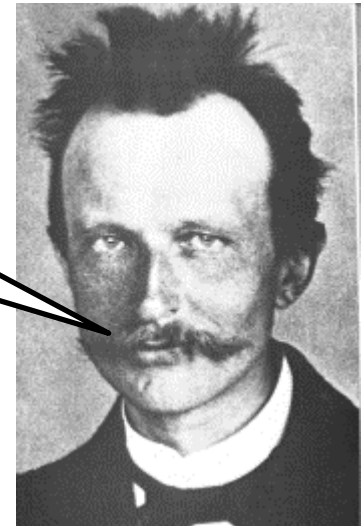
# The ultraviolet catastrophe

Why do objects glow different colors at different temperatures?

Max Planck's solution:



What if light was chunky?



For more real details, read:  
Max Planck: The Reluctant Revolutionary  
Helge Kragh in Physics World, December 2000

# Photons

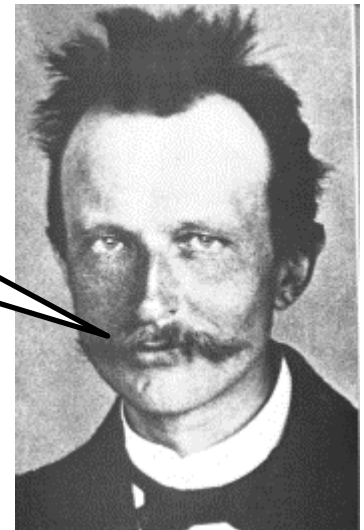
Each photon of light carries a packet energy  
For visible light, each photon has about one billionth of a billionth of a joule

One Joule is about the amount of work required to lift an apple 1 meter.



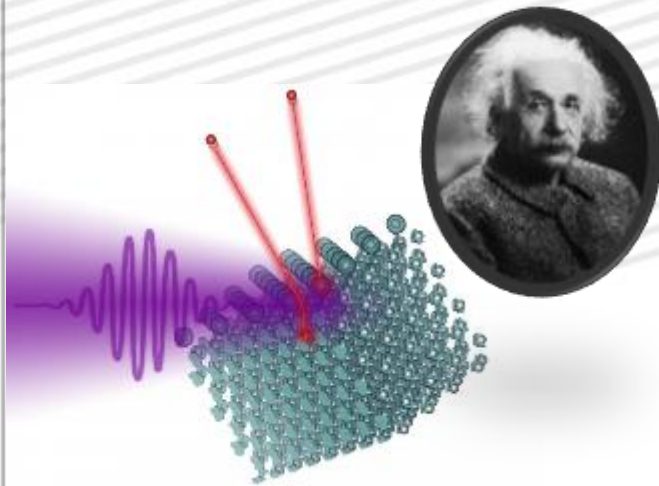
$= 2 \times 10^{20}$  (20 million trillion)  
photons per second

What if light was  
chunky?



For more real details, read:  
Max Planck: The Reluctant Revolutionary  
Helge Kragh in Physics World, December 2000

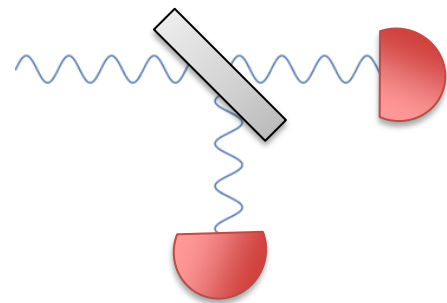
# Proving photons



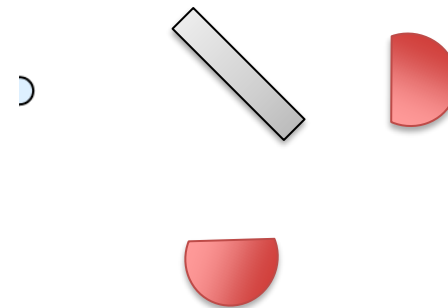
Historically,  
the experimental proof  
was derived from  
the Photoelectric Effect  
by Albert Einstein



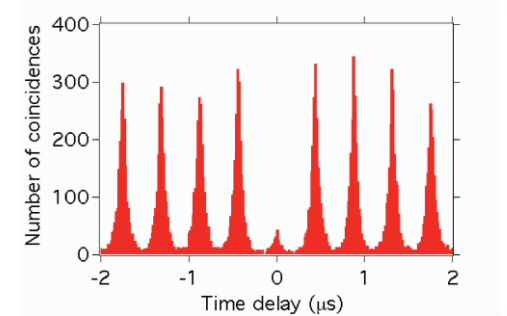
Modern experiments consider  
how a photon behaves after  
a 50:50 beamsplitter



Wave Picture



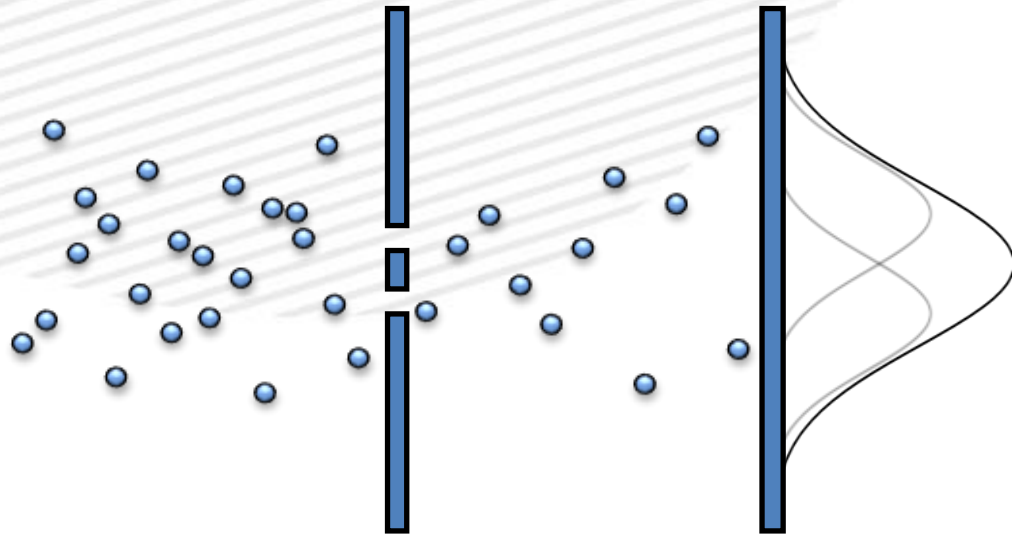
Photon Picture



We don't see  
both detectors  
go off at the  
same time!

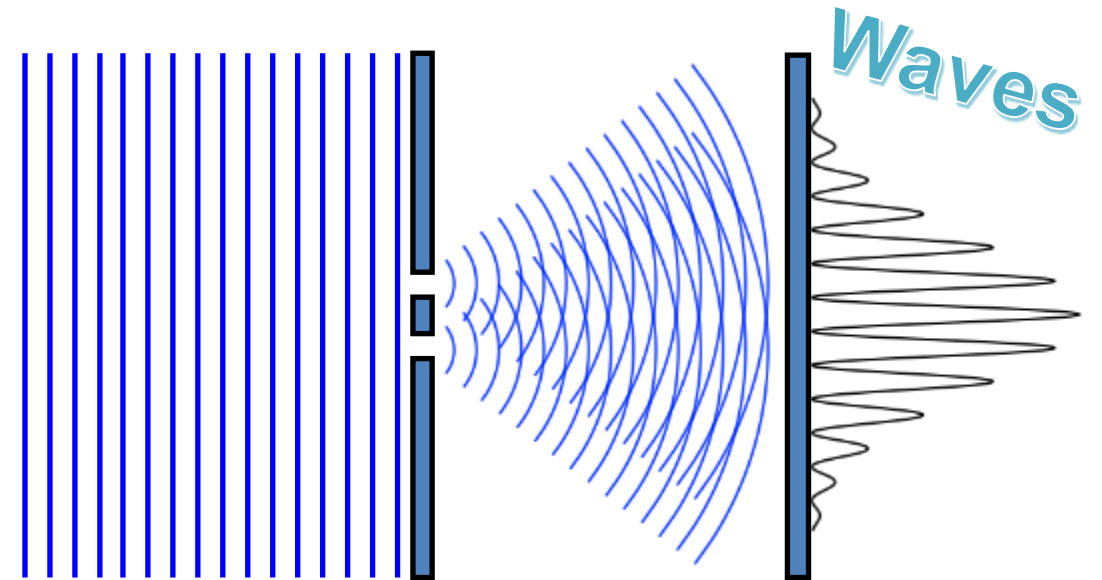
**PhoTons  
win!**

# What about the double-slit?



Particles

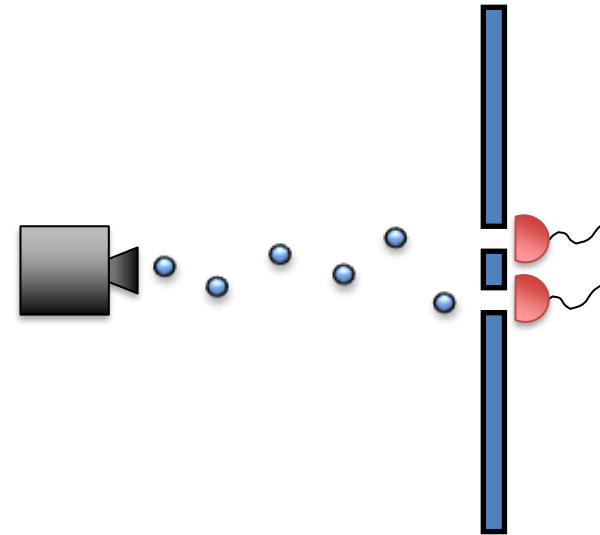
Go through one slit or the other  
No pattern builds up on the screen



Waves

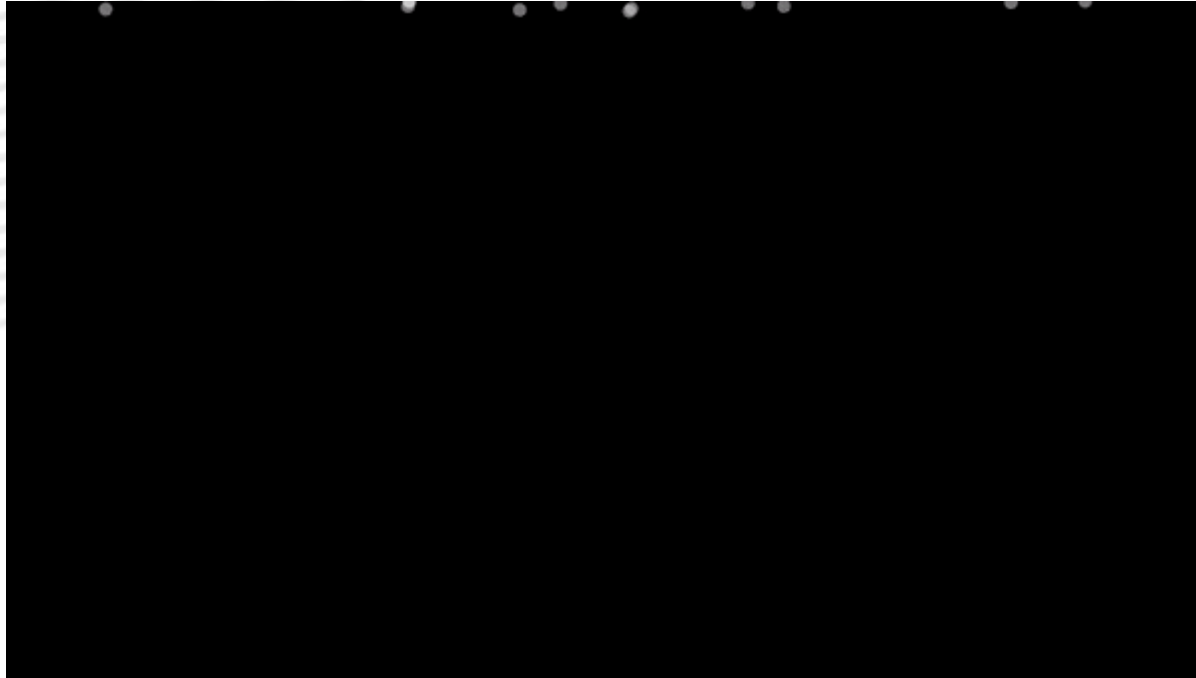
Wave's energy goes through both slits  
Interference pattern recorded on screen

# What about the double-slit?



Do we still see this if we send in one photon at a time?

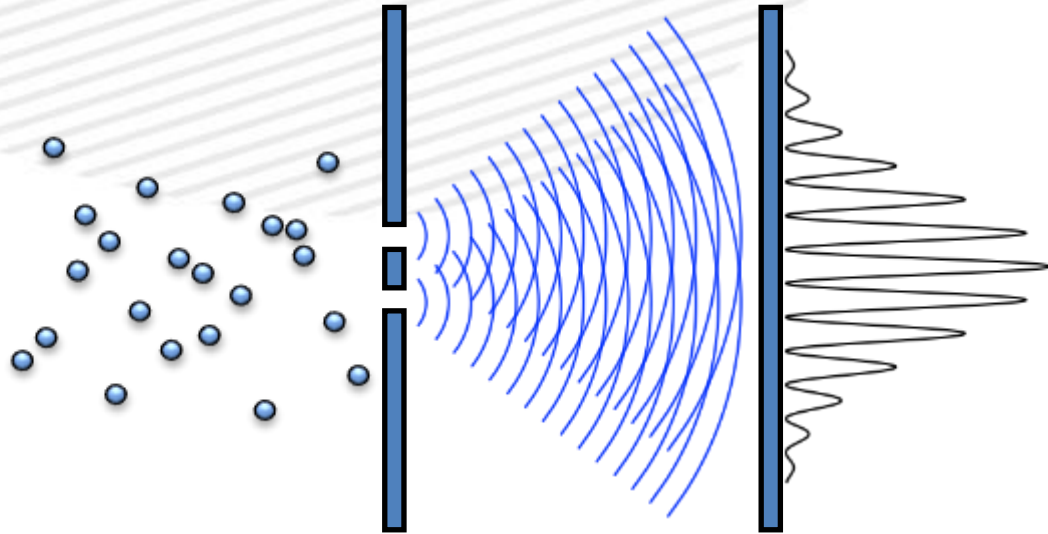
# Wave-particle duality



This is real footage of a double-slit experiment performed one photon at a time, taken at the University of Waterloo.

Video Source: P. Kolenderski et al. (IQC/UWaterloo), Scientific Reports 2014; 4:4685.

# So where did the photon go?



The photon went through a superposition of both slits.

With a 50% chance, it went to the left.

With a 50% chance, it went to the right.

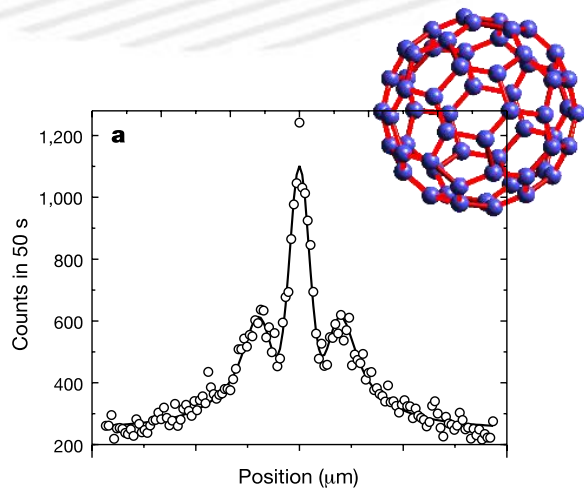
Those two possibilities interfered with each other.

**But!**

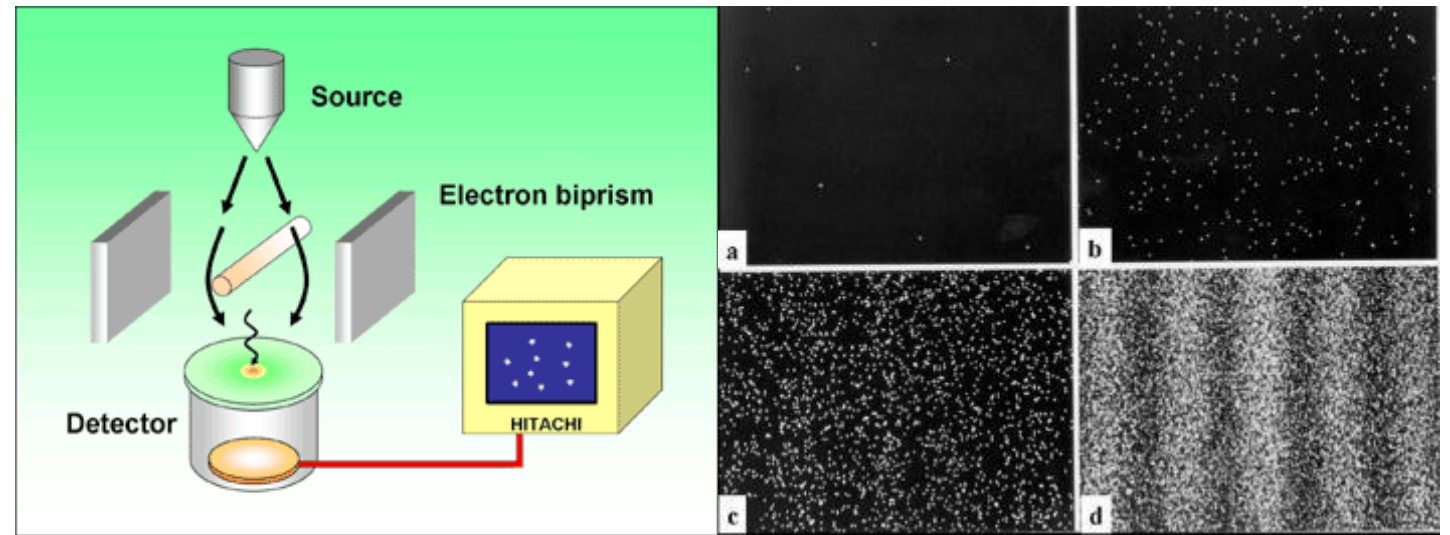
If we measure which slit the photon went through,  
we'll destroy the superposition and  
see no interference.

# Wave-particle duality

Other “particles”,  
such as electrons and molecules,  
may also behave like waves



Vienna 1999 C<sub>60</sub> Interference



Hitachi 1989 Electron Diffraction Experiment

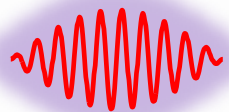
# The Two Golden Rules of QM

## Rule #1

### Superposition

A particle can behave  
as if it is both  
“here” and “there”

$$|\text{cat}\rangle + |\text{cat}\rangle$$



Wave behaviour

## Rule #2

### Measurement uncertainty

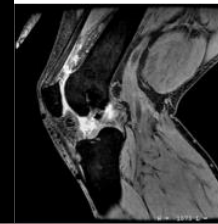
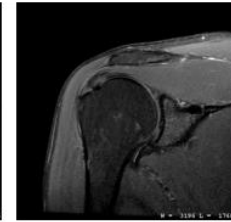
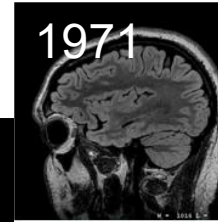
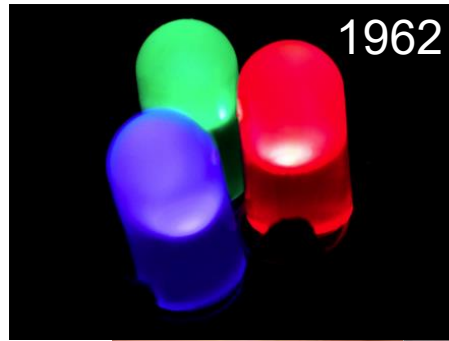
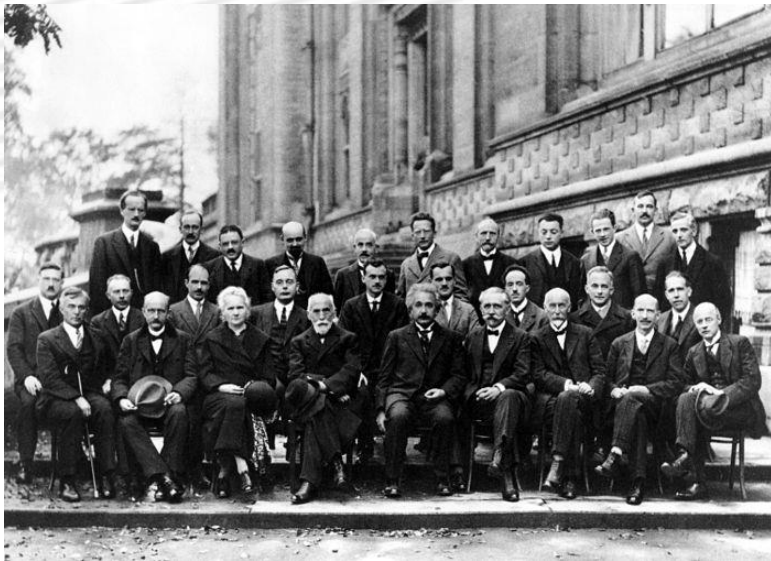
When asked where it is,  
the particle will be found either  
“here” or “there”



Particle behaviour

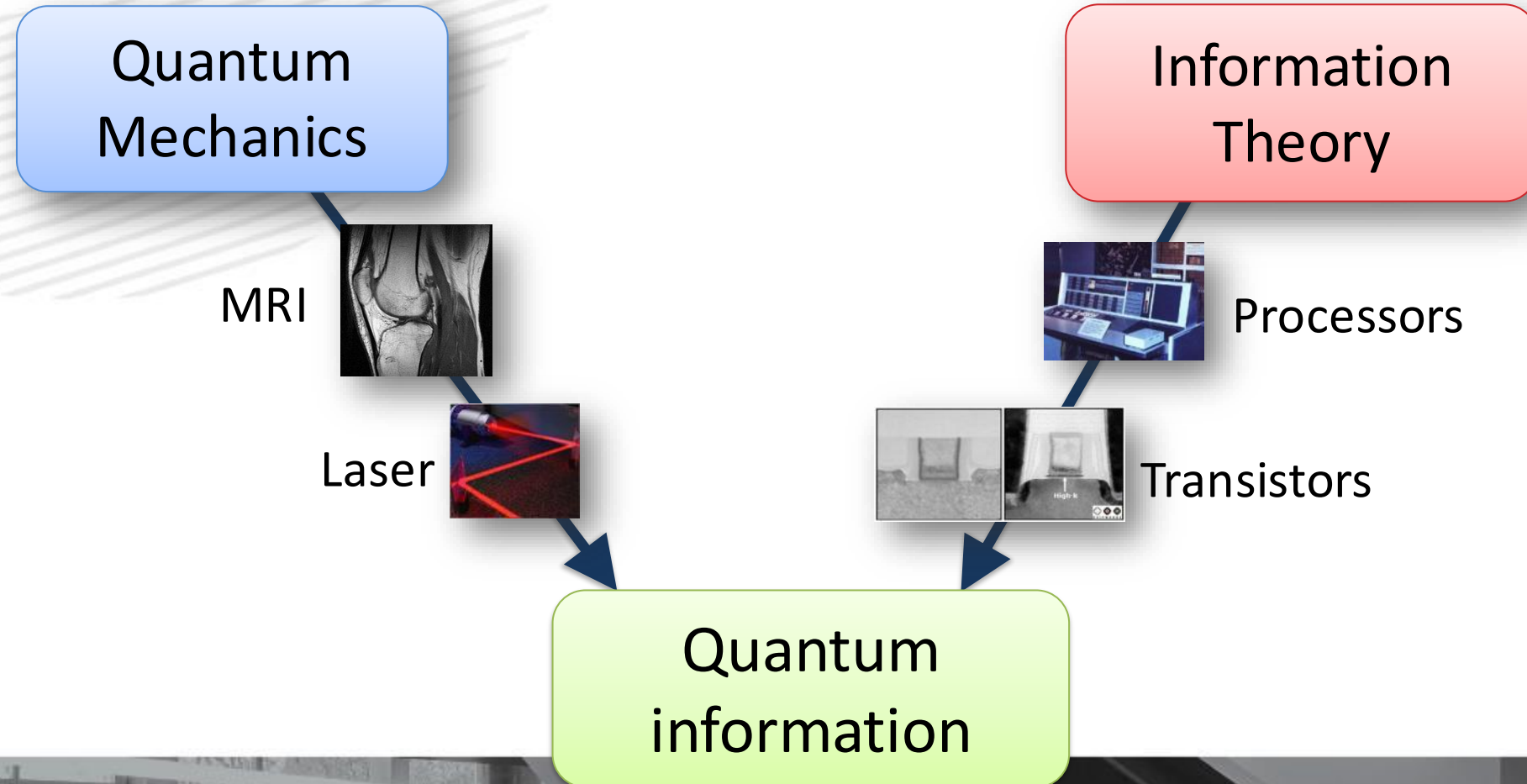


# Old Hat Quantum

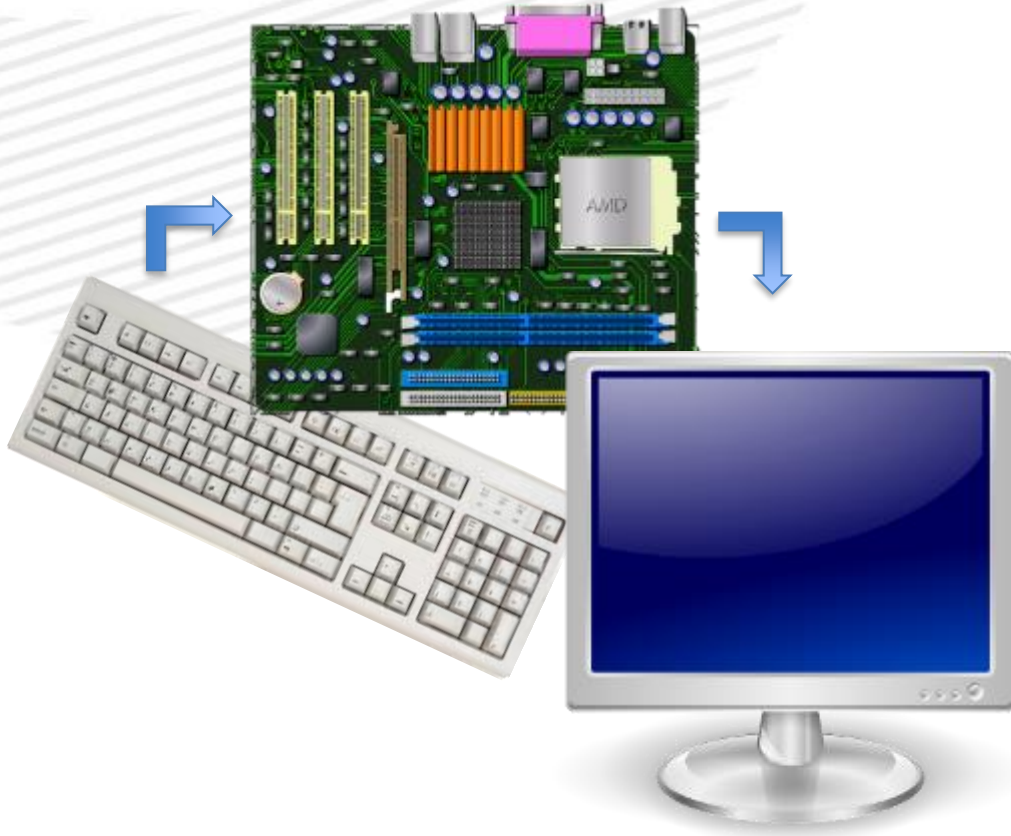


“The First Quantum Revolution”

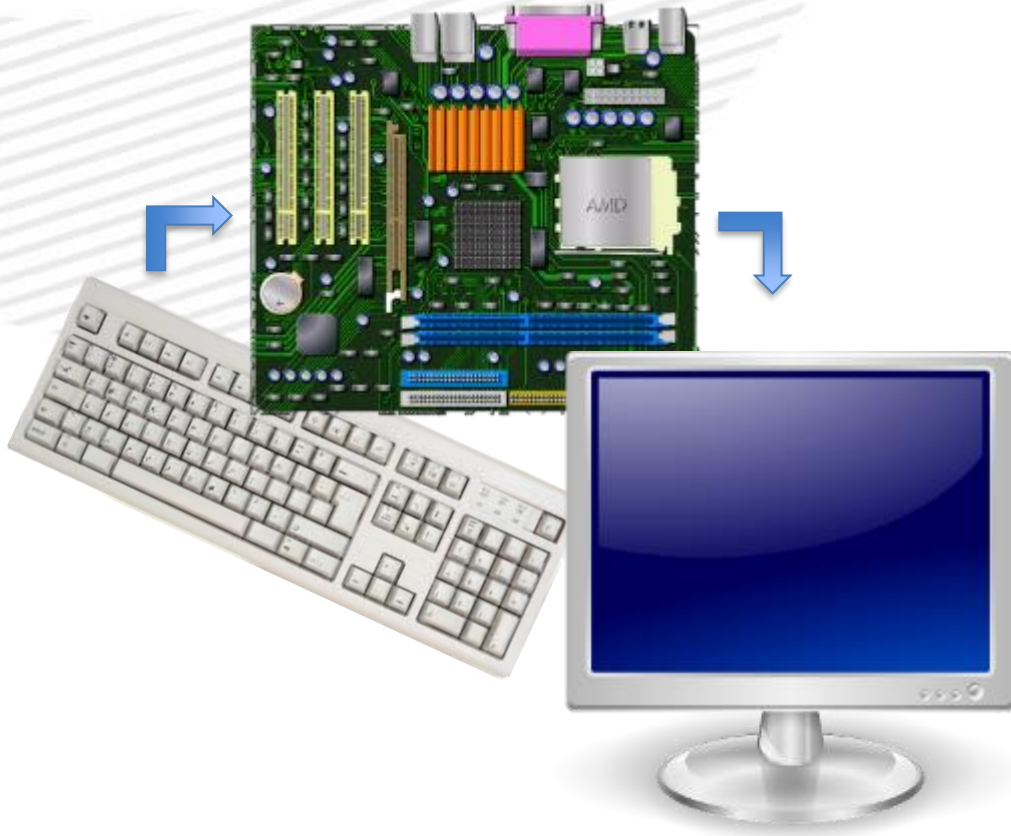
# Quantum Information



# What is a computer?



# What is a computer?



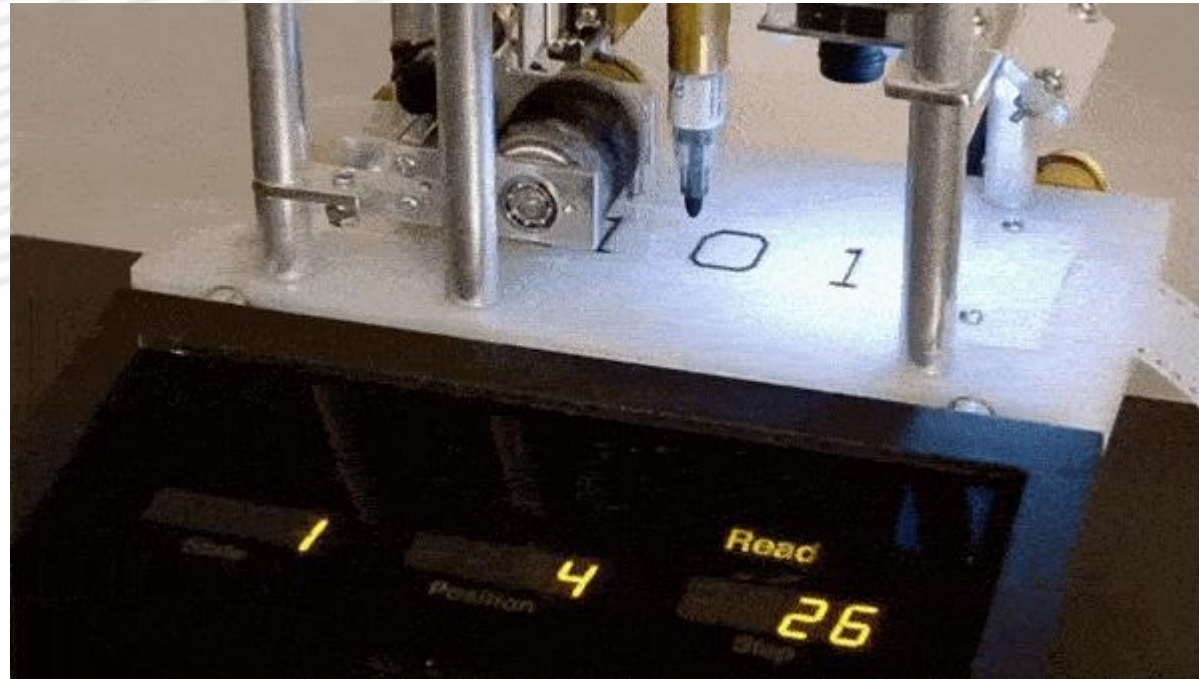
11011110  
00110001  
01101010  
Input

A computer is an  
information processor



Output  
10000111  
00001010  
00110101

# What is a computer?



Credit: Mike Davey <http://aturingmachine.com/>

# Traditional computing



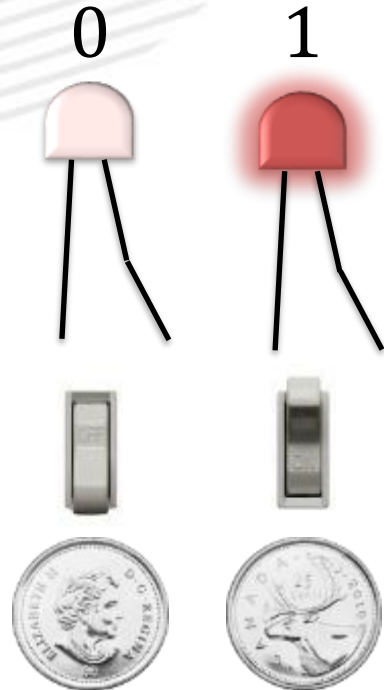
Despite their different appearances,  
all of these computers  
follow the exact same rules.



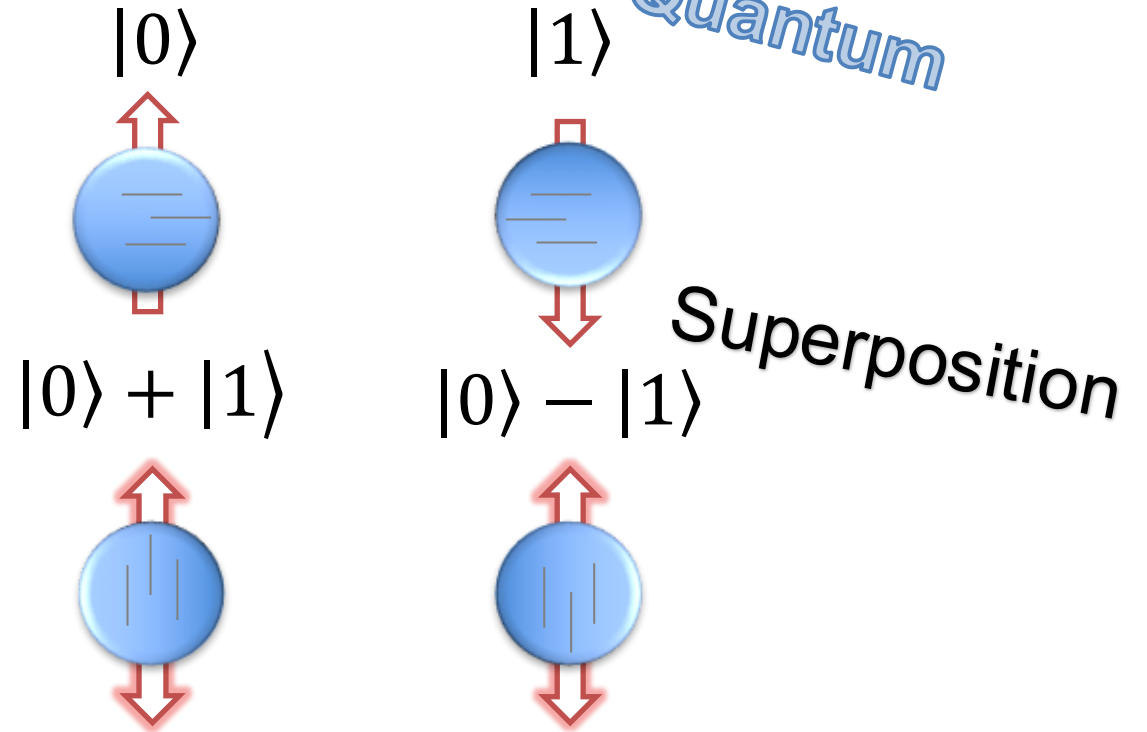
# From bits to qubits

What if a bit is more than just ON or OFF?

*Classical*



*Quantum*



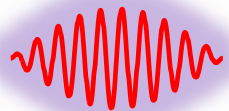
# The Two Golden Rules of QC

## Rule #1

### Superposition

A **qubit** can behave  
as if it is both  
“0” and “1”

$$|\text{cat}\rangle + |\text{cat}\rangle$$



Wave behaviour

## Rule #2

### Measurement uncertainty

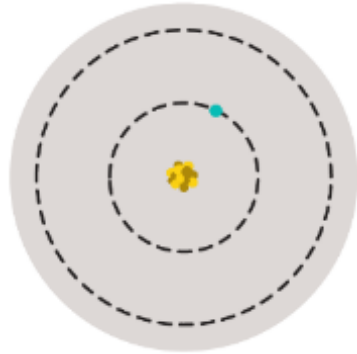
When asked where it is,  
the **qubit** will be either  
“0” or “1”



Particle behaviour



# Pick Your Qubit



Atoms & Ions

Isolate a single or small number of atoms, and use their electron energy as a qubit.



Photons

Create a single photon, and encode information in its polarization or color.



Spin

Use the magnetic properties of electrons and molecules and flip them using radio waves.



Superconducting Circuits

Cool circuits to near absolute zero and measure wave properties of electrons.

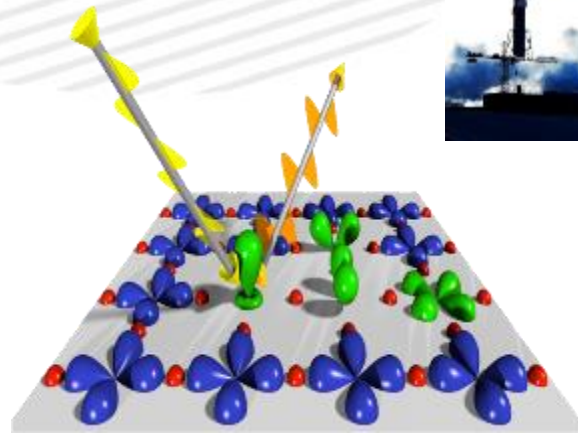
# Quantum Computing

What's it useful for?



**Except with some  
Quantum pieces**

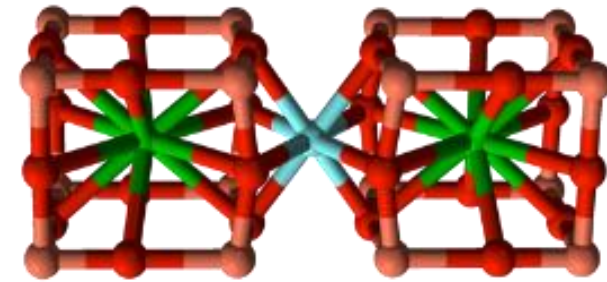
# Quantum Simulation



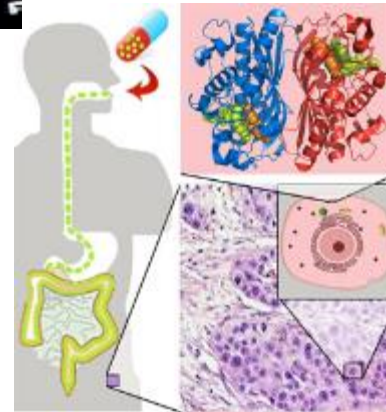
Quantum Chemistry



Environment



Materials



Biochemistry/Medicine

# Factoring

$$21 = \boxed{?}$$

$$65 = \boxed{?}$$

$$56,153 = \boxed{?}$$

$$42,623,381 = 5,407 \times 7,883$$

$$711,520,814,263,508,933 = 756,065,159 \times 941,083,987$$

Classical Factoring Algorithms

Time  $\sim 10^{(\log N)^{1/2}}$

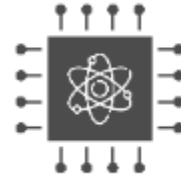
Quantum Factoring Algorithms

Time  $\sim (\log N)^2$

# Quantum information

Uses principles like superposition  
to transform information  
in new ways

A blend of physics,  
chemistry, mathematics,  
engineering, and computer science.



Computing



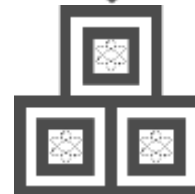
Communication



Sensors



Materials



Foundations

Slides

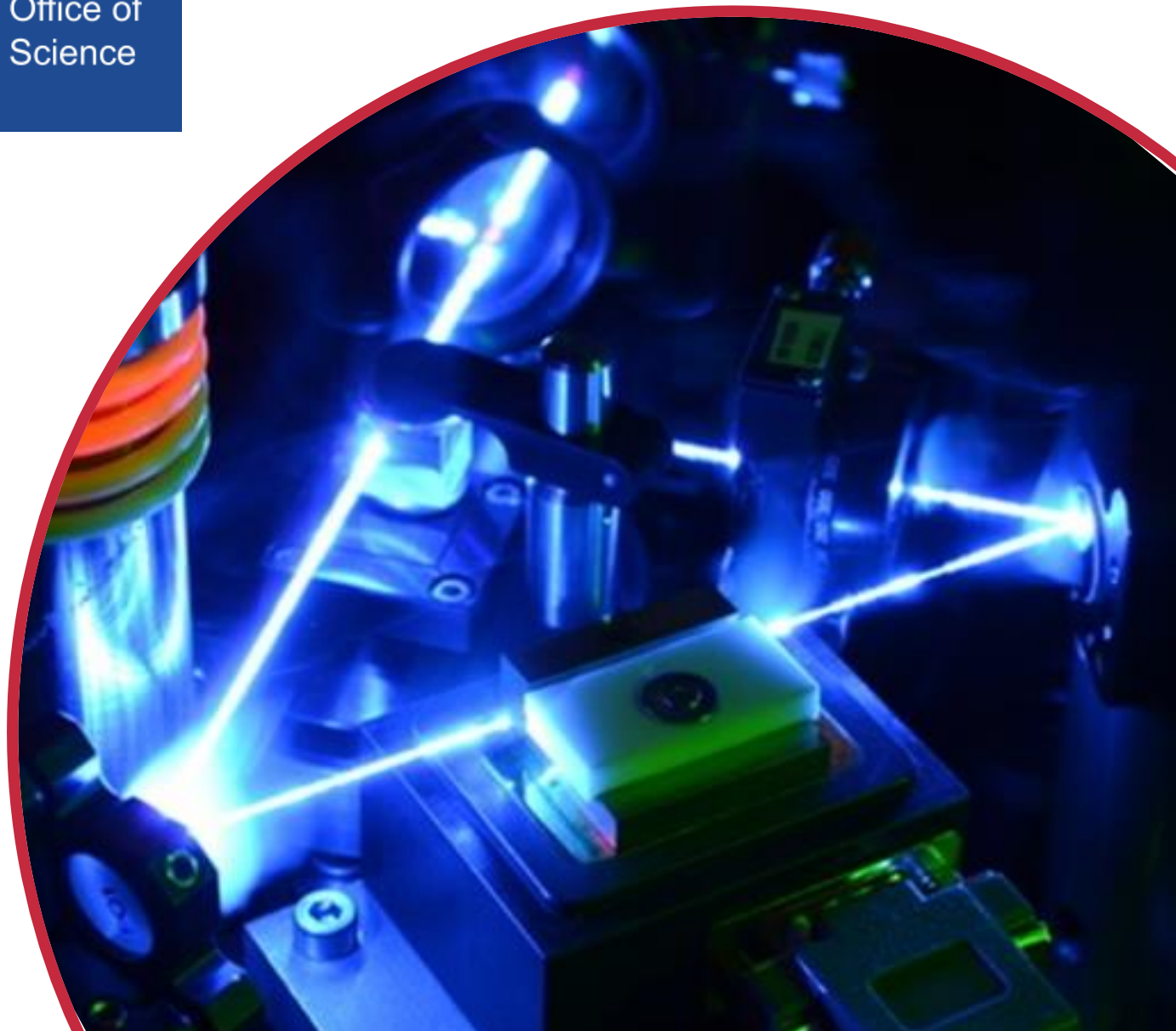


U.S. DEPARTMENT OF  
**ENERGY**

Office of  
Science

# QUANTUM OPTICS

ANDREW CAMERON



# Which of the following is NOT made of photons?

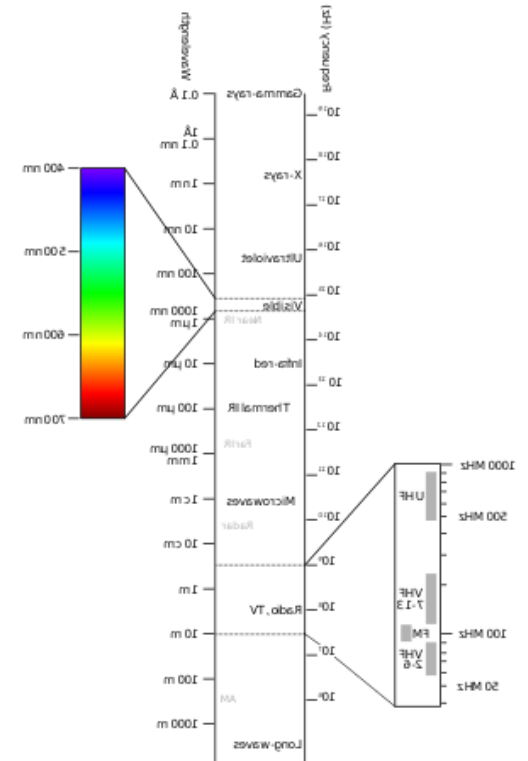
**A.** Laser light

**B.** X-Rays

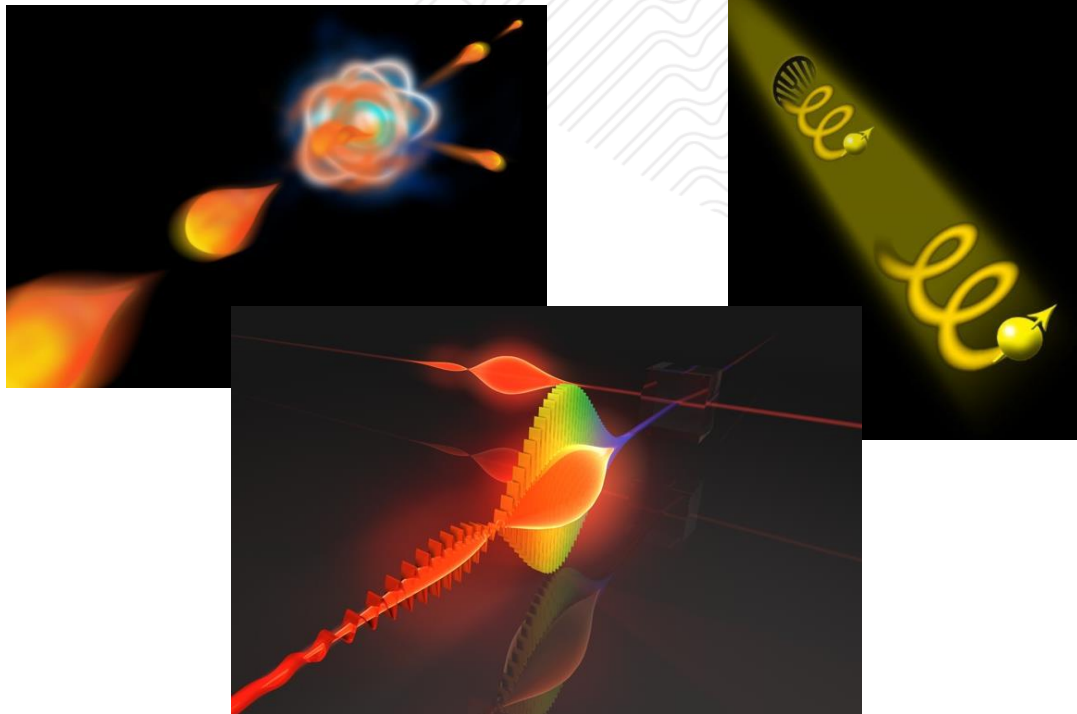
**C.** Gamma Rays

**D.** Radio Signals

**E.** They're all made of photons



# What's a photon?



A photon is a countable unit of light

Creation Operator

Vacuum  
(nothing)

One Photon

$$\hat{a}^\dagger | \text{○} \rangle = | \text{●} \rangle$$

$$\hat{a}^\dagger | \text{●} \rangle = \boxed{?}$$

# Standard model of particle physics

	three generations of matter (fermions)			interactions / force carriers (bosons)	
	I	II	III		
mass	$\approx 2.2 \text{ MeV}/c^2$	$\approx 1.28 \text{ GeV}/c^2$	$\approx 173.1 \text{ GeV}/c^2$	0	$\approx 124.97 \text{ GeV}/c^2$
charge	$\frac{2}{3}$	$\frac{2}{3}$	$\frac{2}{3}$	0	0
spin	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	1	0
	<b>u</b> up	<b>c</b> charm	<b>t</b> top	<b>g</b> gluon	<b>H</b> higgs
	<b>d</b> down	<b>s</b> strange	<b>b</b> bottom	<b><math>\gamma</math></b> photon	
	<b>e</b> electron	<b><math>\mu</math></b> muon	<b><math>\tau</math></b> tau	<b>Z</b> Z boson	
	<b><math>\nu_e</math></b> electron neutrino	<b><math>\nu_\mu</math></b> muon neutrino	<b><math>\nu_\tau</math></b> tau neutrino	<b>W</b> W boson	

QUARKS

LEPTONS

SCALAR BOSONS

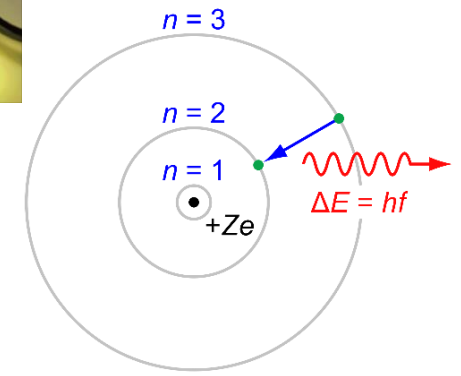
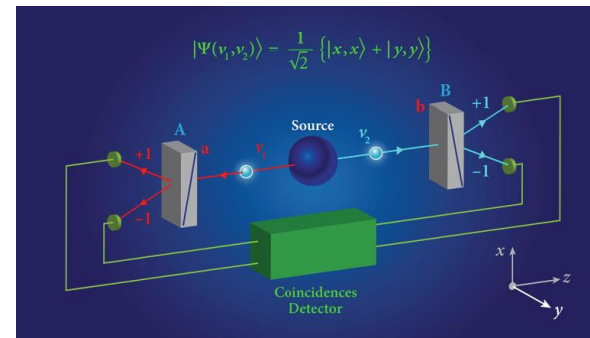
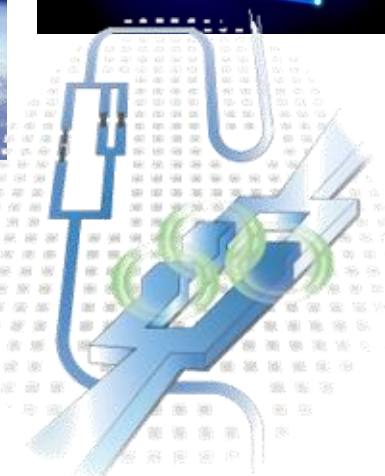
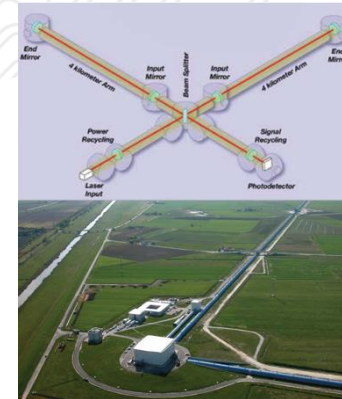
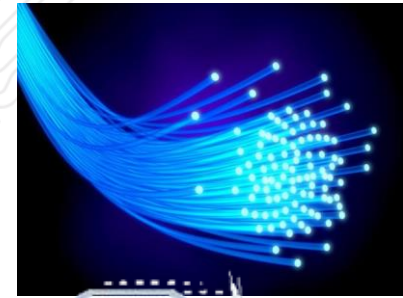
GAUGE BOSONS  
VECTOR BOSONS



# But why do we care?

Uses of photonic qubits include:

- Quantum & optical communications
- Connecting physical qubits
- Photonic quantum computing
- Quantum metrology & sensing
- Foundational physics



# Quantum optics

- How do we make qubits with photons?
- How can we make photons talk to each other?
- How can we measure photons?
- How can we make photons?
- How can we verify photons?

# What do we need to make a qubit?

$$|0\rangle = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$|+\rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$|+i\rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ i \end{bmatrix}$$

$$|1\rangle = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

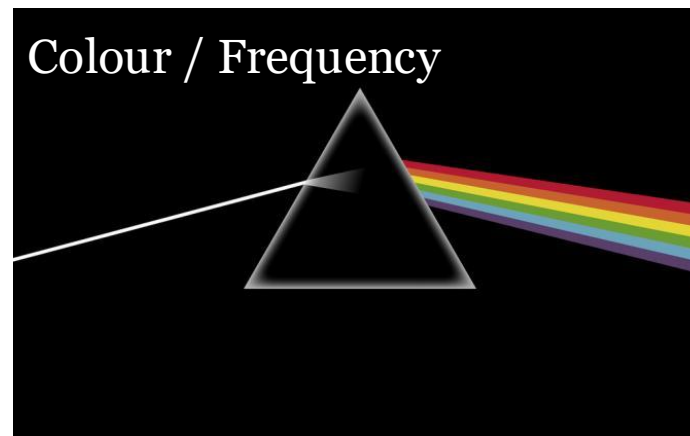
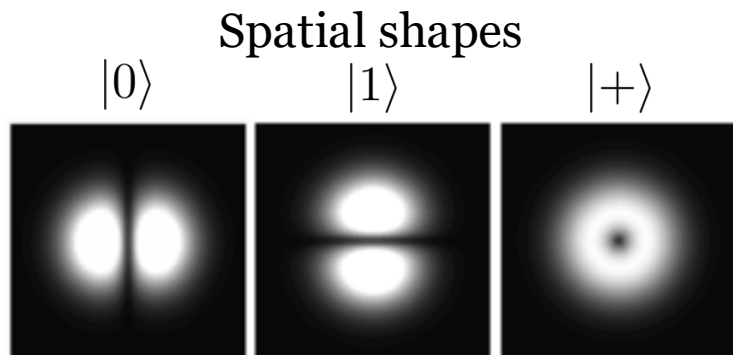
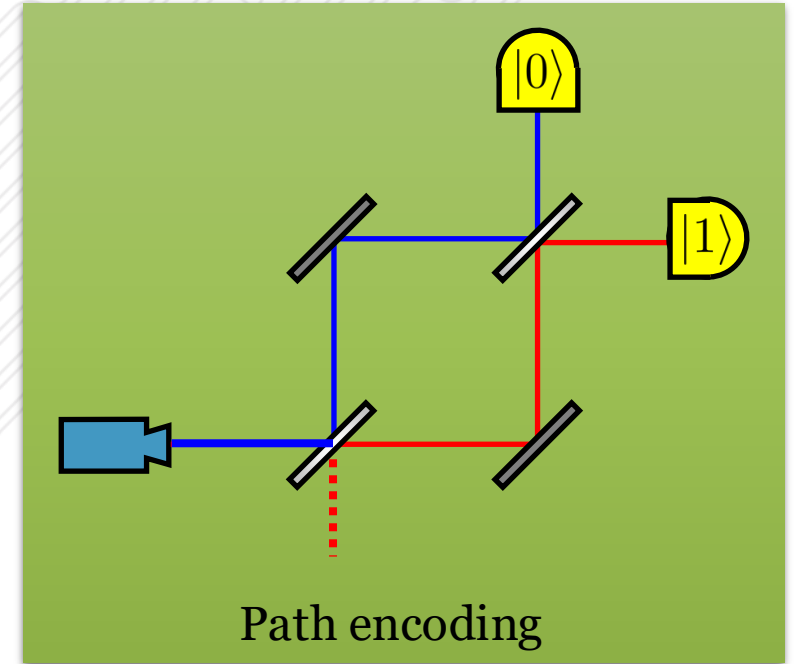
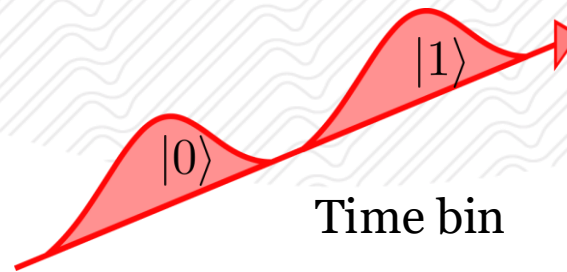
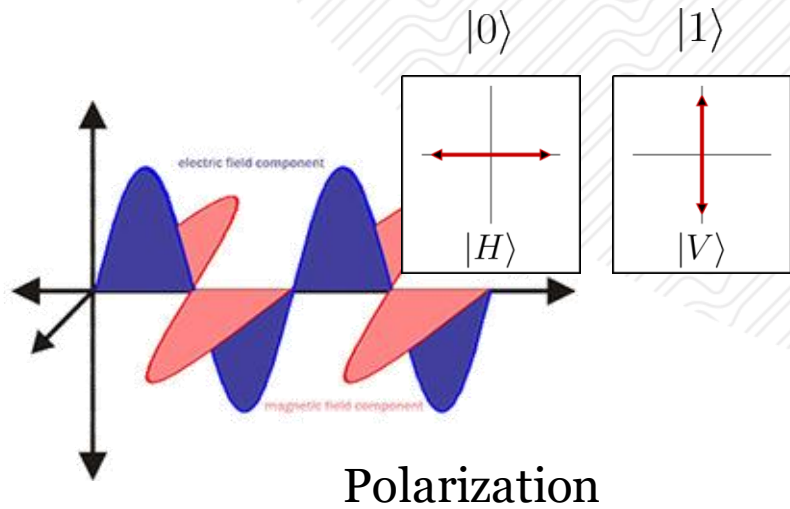
$$|-\rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$|-i\rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ -i \end{bmatrix}$$

Well-defined  
basis states...

...which can be controlled and measured  
in coherent superpositions

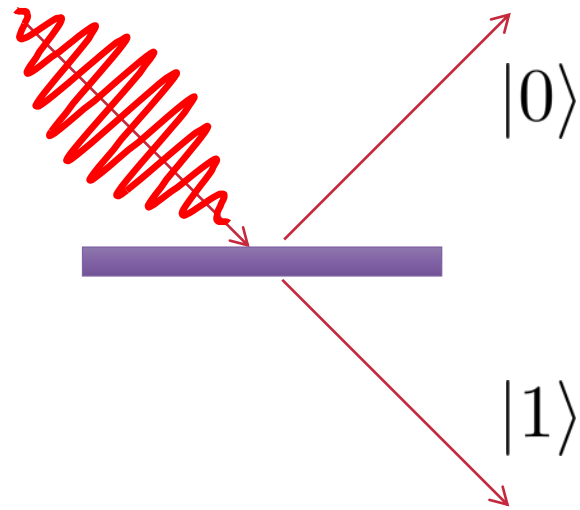
# Making a qubit with photons



# Path encoding toolbox

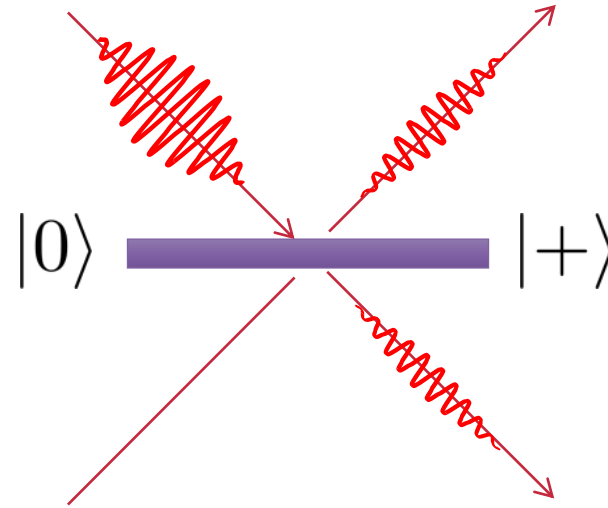
Basic tools

Simple  
"dual-rail"  
encoding

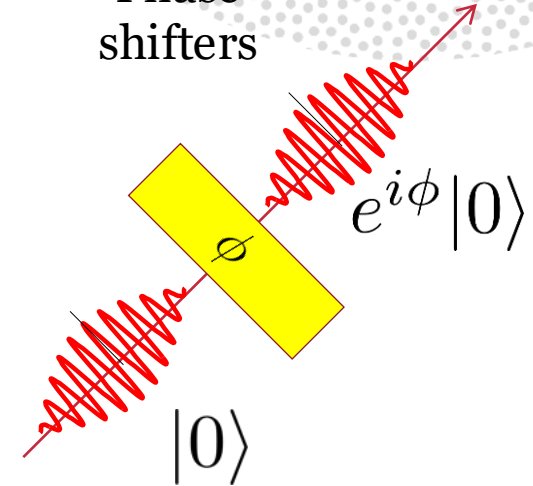


Qubit states  
defined by  
path of photon

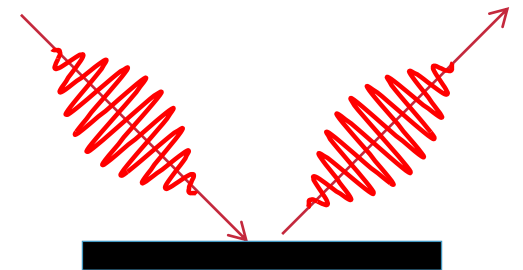
Beam splitters  
(Hadamard)



Phase  
shifters



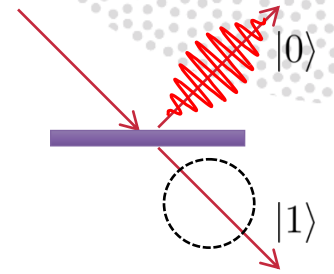
Mirrors



# Path-encoded qubits

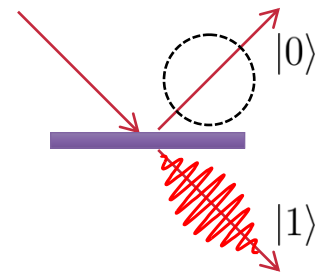
$$|0\rangle = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} = \hat{a}_0^\dagger | \circ \rangle_0 | \circ \rangle_1 = | \bullet \rangle_0 | \circ \rangle_1$$

Photon here                      No photon here



$$|1\rangle = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} = \hat{a}_1^\dagger | \circ \rangle_0 | \circ \rangle_1 = | \circ \rangle_0 | \bullet \rangle_1$$

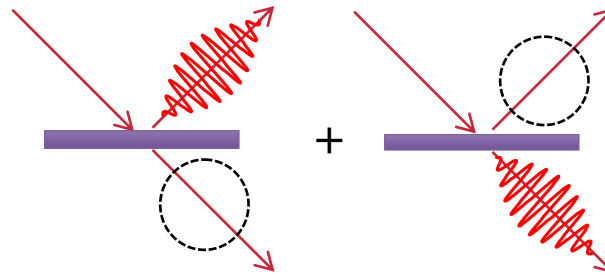
No photon here                      Photon here



# Path-encoded qubits

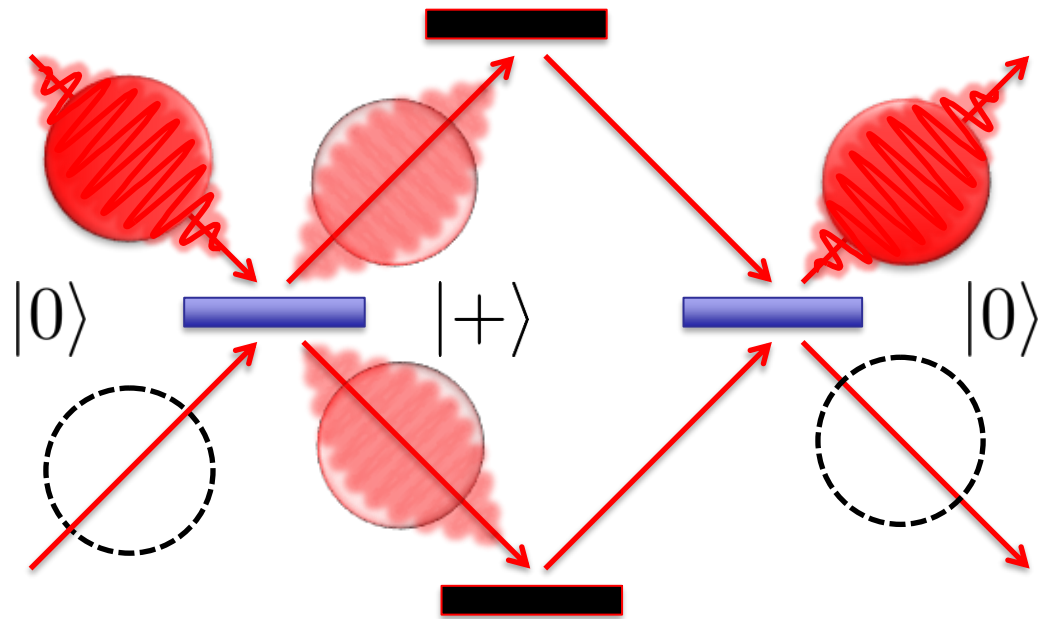
$$\begin{aligned} |+\rangle &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \left( \hat{a}_0^\dagger + \hat{a}_1^\dagger \right) |\circ\rangle_0 |\circ\rangle_1 \\ &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \left( |\bullet\rangle_0 |\circ\rangle_1 + |\circ\rangle_0 |\bullet\rangle_1 \right) \end{aligned}$$

Superposition!



A **single** photon in a superposition of **two** paths

# Single-photon interference



Start with a single photon in  $|0\rangle$

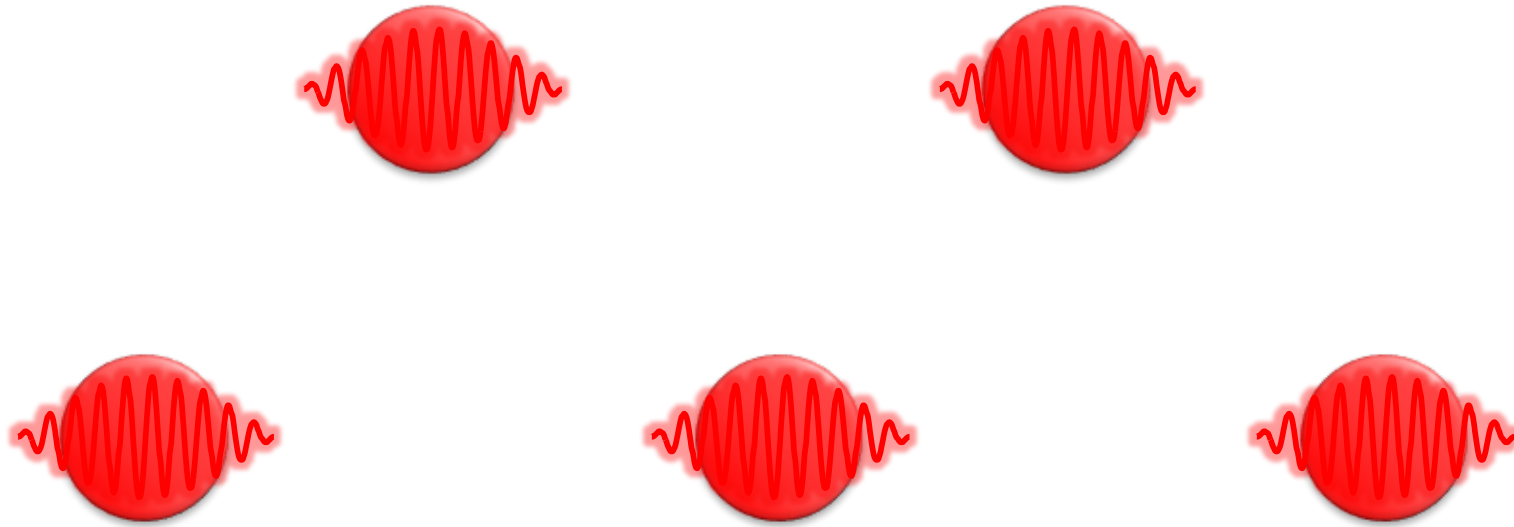
Beamsplitter puts it into  
superposition state  $|+\rangle$

Recombine paths to state  $|0\rangle$

We see the same interference for photons that we do for laser light

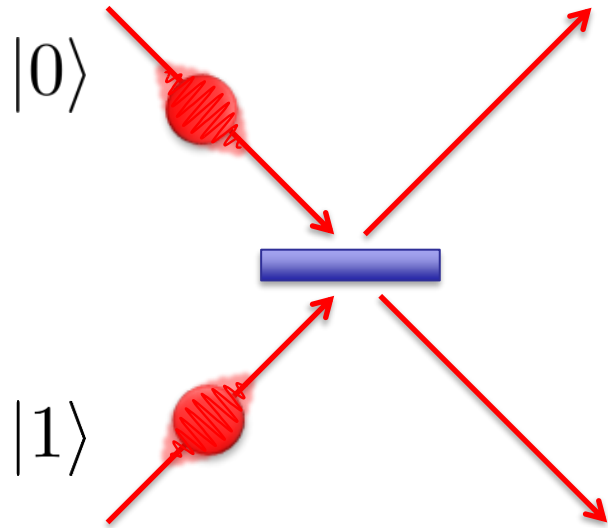
# What about more photons?

We've seen that quantum light and single photons give the same interference patterns. What about multiple photons?



Let's make photons talk to each other!

# Two-Photon Interference



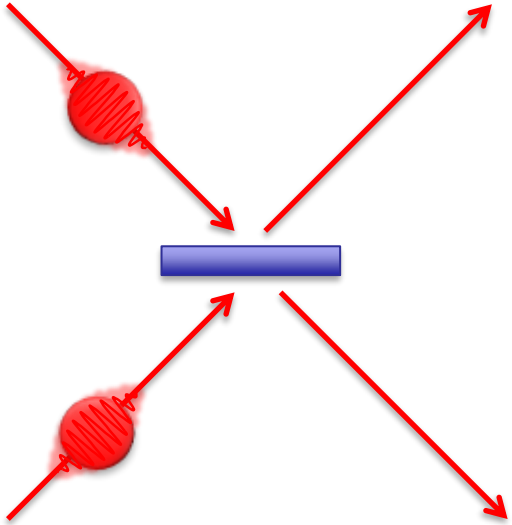
We start with  
two *indistinguishable* photons  
in two different paths

$$\begin{aligned} |\psi\rangle &= \hat{a}_0^\dagger \hat{a}_1^\dagger | \circ \rangle_0 | \circ \rangle_1 \\ &= | \bullet \rangle_0 | \bullet \rangle_1 \end{aligned}$$

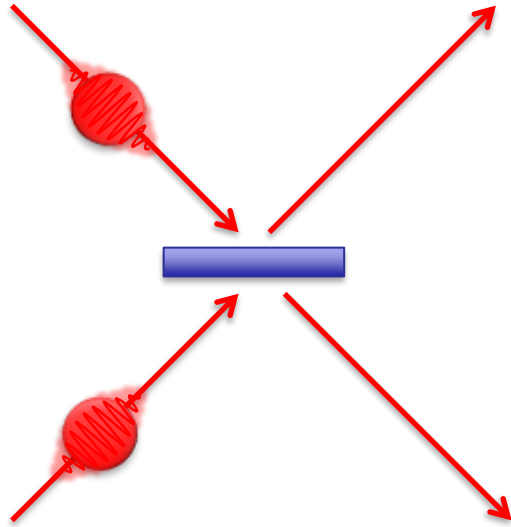
What happens at the beamsplitter?

# Two-Photon Interference

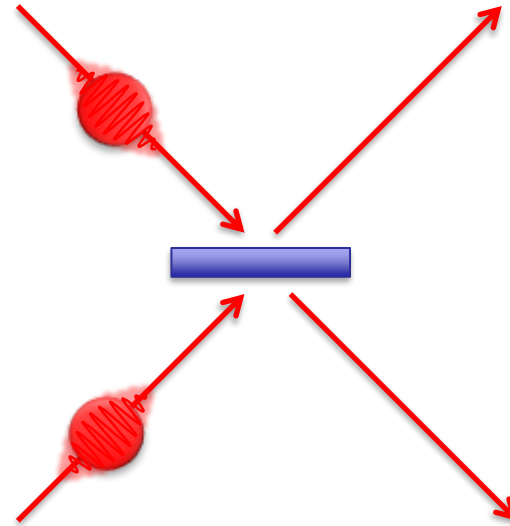
What can happen?



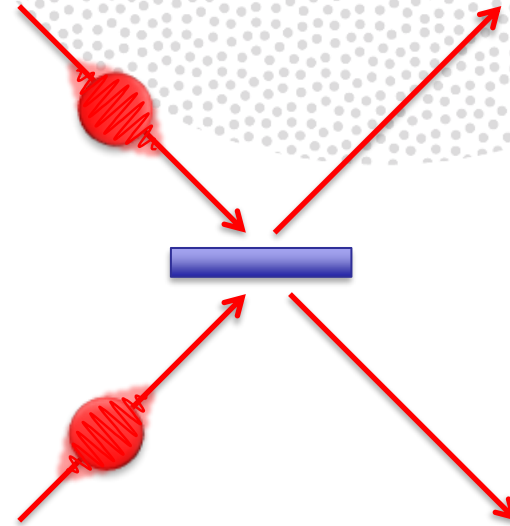
or



or



or



Both pass

$$|\bullet\rangle_0|\bullet\rangle_1$$

One passes, one reflects

$$|\circ\rangle_0|\bullet\bullet\rangle_1$$

$$|\bullet\bullet\rangle_0|\circ\rangle_1$$

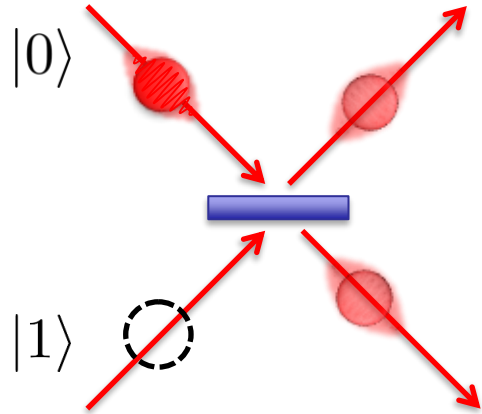
Both reflect

$$|\bullet\rangle_0|\bullet\rangle_1$$

What *does* happen?

# Two-Photon Interference

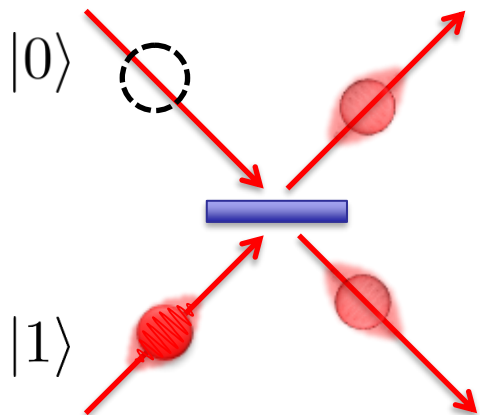
Examine what happens to each photon individually...



Qubits:  $H|0\rangle = |+\rangle$

Photons:  $\hat{U}_{BS} |\bullet\rangle_0 |\circ\rangle_1 = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} (|\bullet\rangle_0 |\circ\rangle_1 + |\circ\rangle_0 |\bullet\rangle_1)$

Operators:  $\hat{U}_{BS} \hat{a}_0^\dagger |\circ\rangle_0 |\circ\rangle_1 = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} (\hat{a}_0^\dagger + \hat{a}_1^\dagger) |\circ\rangle_0 |\circ\rangle_1$



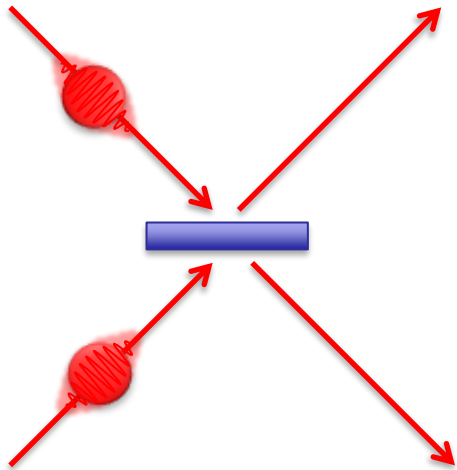
Qubits:  $H|1\rangle = \boxed{?}$

Photons:  $\hat{U}_{BS} |\circ\rangle_0 |\bullet\rangle_1 = \boxed{?}$

Operators:  $\hat{U}_{BS} \hat{a}_1^\dagger |\circ\rangle_0 |\circ\rangle_1 = \boxed{?}$

# Two-Photon Interference

$$\hat{U}_{\text{BS}} \hat{a}_0^\dagger \hat{a}_1^\dagger |\circ\rangle_0 |\circ\rangle_1 = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \underbrace{\left( \hat{a}_0^\dagger + \hat{a}_1^\dagger \right)} \times \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \left( \hat{a}_0^\dagger - \hat{a}_1^\dagger \right) |\circ\rangle_0 |\circ\rangle_1$$



Expand it out!

$$= \frac{1}{2} \left( \hat{a}_0^\dagger \hat{a}_0^\dagger + \cancel{\hat{a}_0^\dagger \hat{a}_1^\dagger} - \cancel{\hat{a}_1^\dagger \hat{a}_0^\dagger} - \hat{a}_1^\dagger \hat{a}_1^\dagger \right) |\circ\rangle_0 |\circ\rangle_1$$

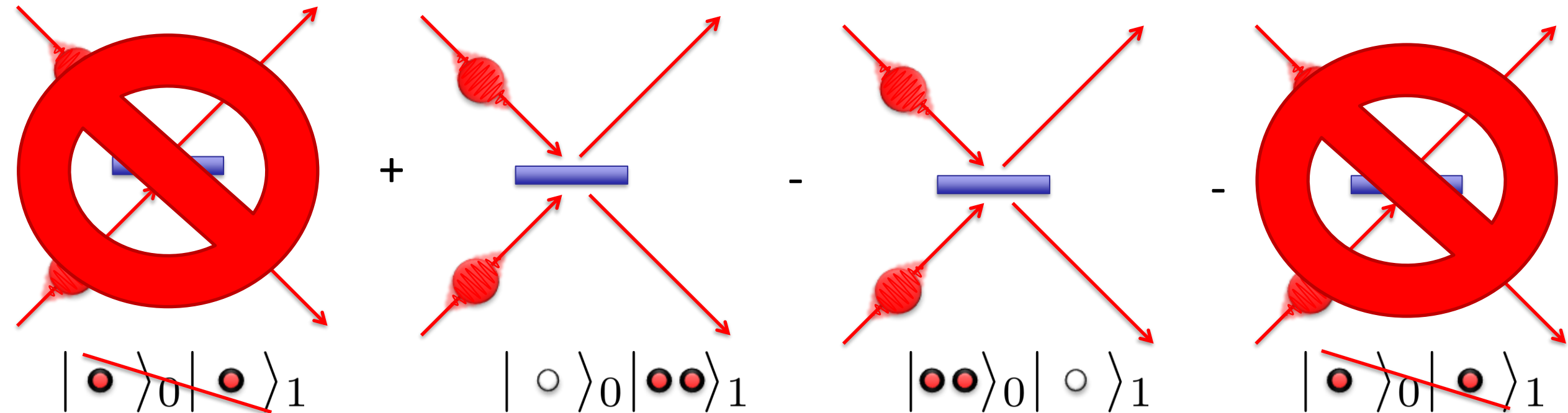
Destructive interference!

# Two-Photon Interference

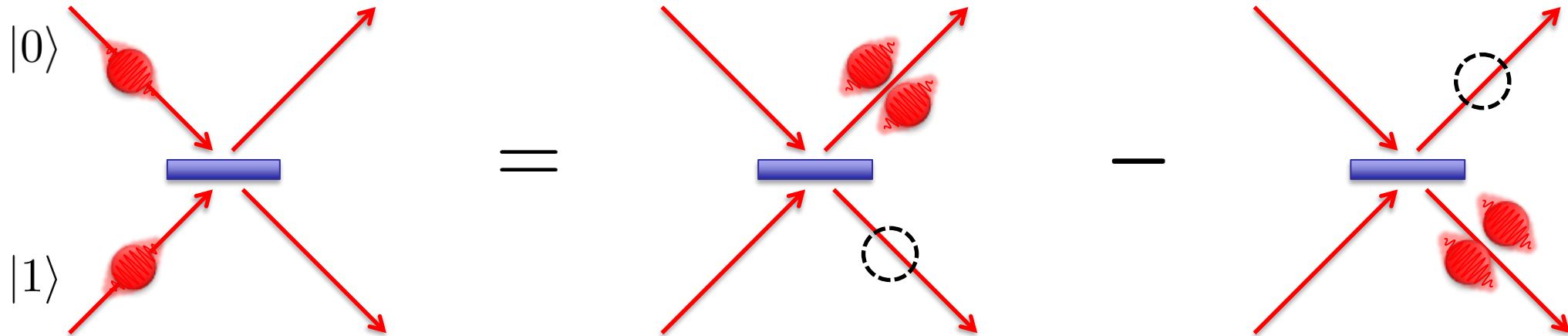
$$\hat{U}_{\text{BS}} \hat{a}_0^\dagger \hat{a}_1^\dagger |\circ\rangle_0 |\circ\rangle_1 = \frac{1}{2} \left( \hat{a}_0^\dagger \hat{a}_0^\dagger + \hat{a}_0^\dagger \hat{a}_1^\dagger - \hat{a}_1^\dagger \hat{a}_0^\dagger - \hat{a}_1^\dagger \hat{a}_1^\dagger \right) |\circ\rangle_0 |\circ\rangle_1$$

$$= \frac{1}{2} (|\circ\rangle_0 | \bullet\bullet \rangle_1 - | \bullet\bullet \rangle_0 |\circ\rangle_1)$$

Photons always travel *together!*



# Two-Interference (The Hong-Ou-Mandel Effect)



Photons always travel ***together!***

$$\hat{U}_{\text{BS}}|\bullet\rangle_0|\bullet\rangle_1 = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(|\circ\rangle_0|\bullet\bullet\rangle_1 - |\bullet\bullet\rangle_0|\circ\rangle_1)$$

The presence of one photon affects the path of the other

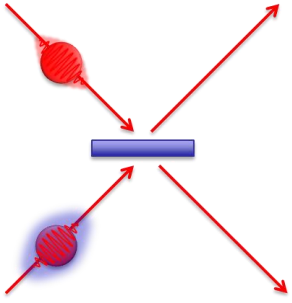


Can build entangling gates

Superposition of higher photon numbers



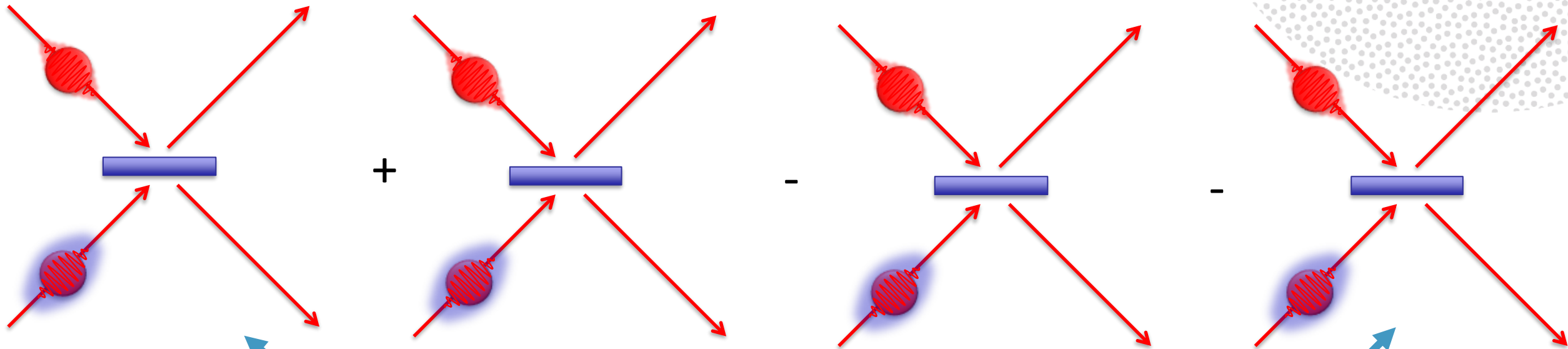
Useful for quantum metrology



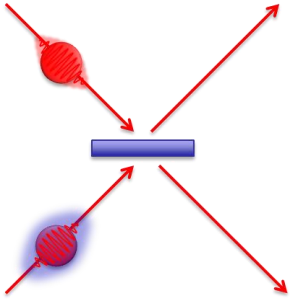
What happens if the two photons  
have two different colours?

---

- A.** They still travel together
- B.** They go in opposite directions
- C.** They go in random directions  
(no interference)
- D.** They form a quantum colour
- E.** It's impossible to know



No longer indistinguishable  
↓  
No more destructive interference



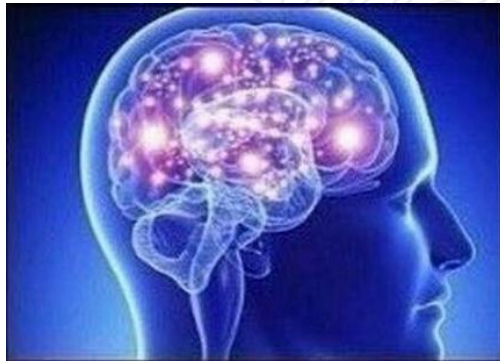
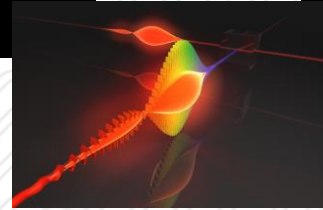
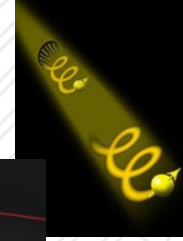
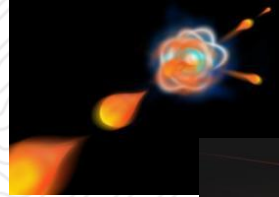
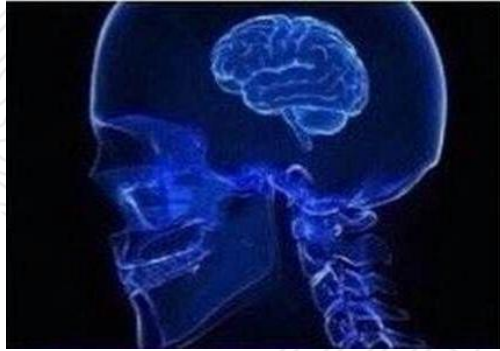
What happens if the two photons have two different colours?

- A.** They still travel together
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- D.** They form a quantum colour
- E.** It's impossible to know

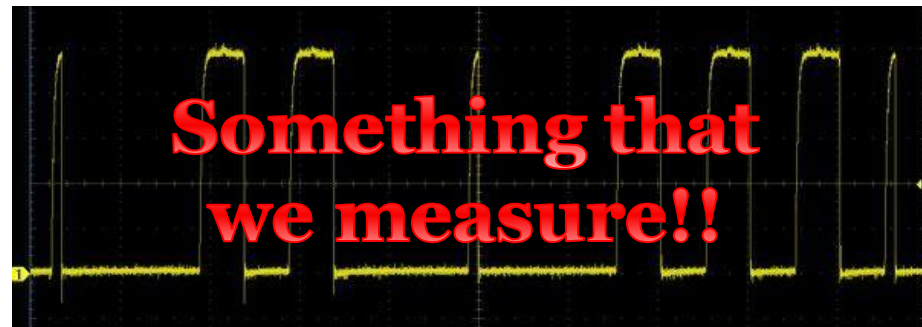


**Question  
Break**

# What's a photon really?



$$\hat{a}^\dagger | \circ \rangle = | \bullet \rangle$$

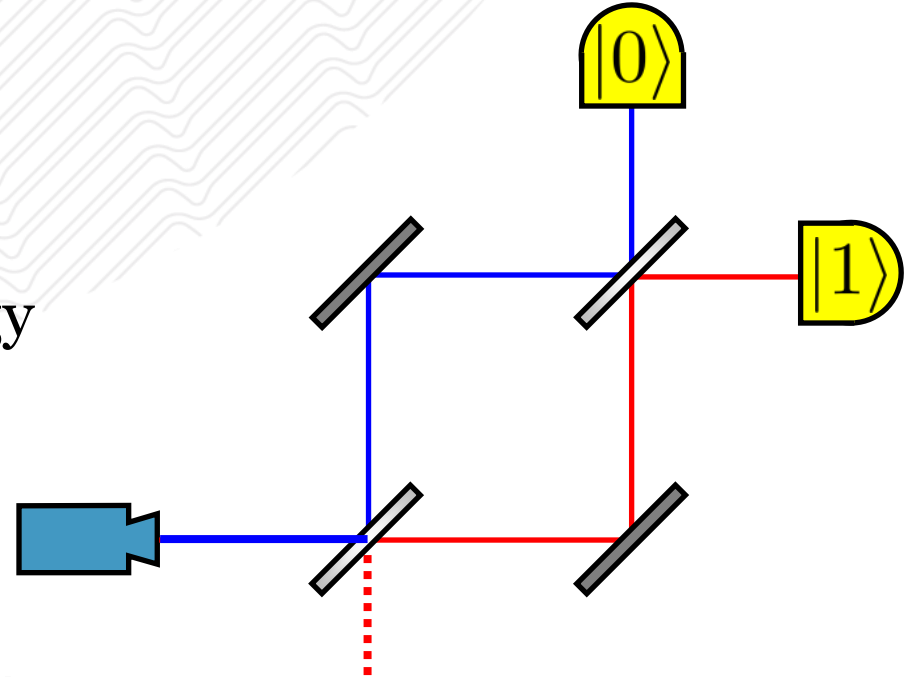


voltage

# Detecting photons

A good photon detector should be:

- Sensitive!
  - It should respond to a single photon of energy
- Efficient!
  - It shouldn't miss too many photons
- Isolated!
  - It should respond to only the interesting photons



# What can detect a single photon?

PRL 112, 213601 (2014)

PHYSICAL REVIEW LETTERS

week ending  
30 MAY 2014

## Interaction of Fixed Number of Photons with Retinal Rod Cells

Nam Mai Phan,<sup>1,3</sup> Mei Fun Cheng,<sup>1</sup> Dmitri A. Bessarab,<sup>2</sup> and Leonid A. Krivitsky<sup>1,\*</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Data Storage Institute, Agency for Science Technology and Research (A-STAR), 117608, Singapore  
<sup>2</sup>Institute of Medical Biology, Agency for Science Technology and Research (A-STAR), 138648, Singapore

<sup>3</sup>Department of Bioengineering, National University of Singapore, 117576, Singapore

(Received 18 December 2013; published 29 May 2014)

New tools and approaches of quantum optics offer a unique opportunity to generate light pulses carrying a precise number of photons. Accurate control over the light pulses helps to improve the characterization of photoinduced processes. Here, we study interaction of a specialized light source which provides flashes containing just one photon, with retinal rod cells of *Xenopus laevis* toads. We provide unambiguous proof of the single-photon sensitivity of rod cells without relying on the statistical modeling. We determine their quantum efficiencies without the use of any precalibrated detectors and obtain the value of  $(29 \pm 4.7)\%$ . Our approach provides the path for future studies and applications of quantum properties of light in phototransduction, vision, and photosynthesis.



*Xenopus laevis*  
“African clawed toad”

## ARTICLE

Received 15 Jan 2016 | Accepted 7 Jun 2016 | Published 19 Jul 2016

DOI: 10.1038/ncomms12172

OPEN

## Direct detection of a single photon by humans

Jonathan N. Tinsley<sup>1,2,†,\*</sup>, Maxim I. Molodtsov<sup>1,2,3,\*</sup>, Robert Prevedel<sup>1,2,3</sup>, David Wartmann<sup>1,†</sup>,

Jofre Espigulé-Pons<sup>2,4</sup>, Mattias Lauwers<sup>1</sup> & Alipasha Vaziri<sup>1,2,3,5</sup>

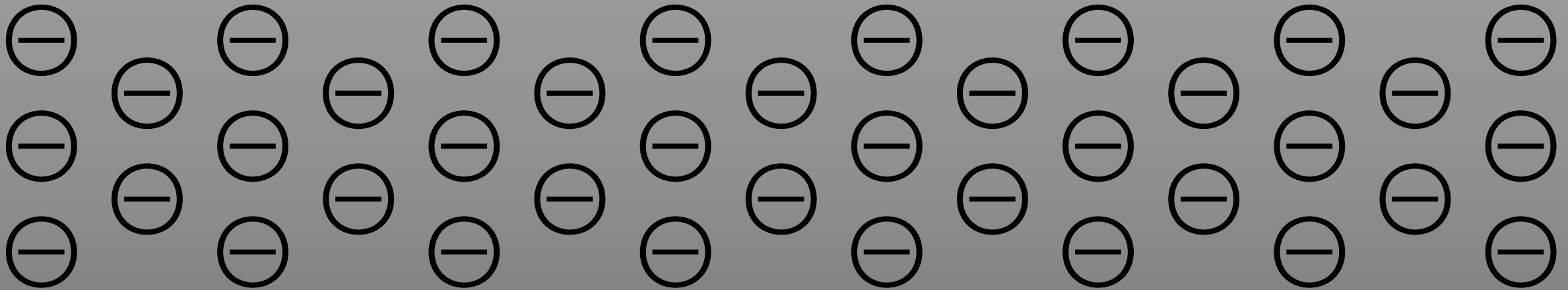


Sensitivity – Efficiency - Isolation

# The photoelectric effect



One photon is converted  
into one electron

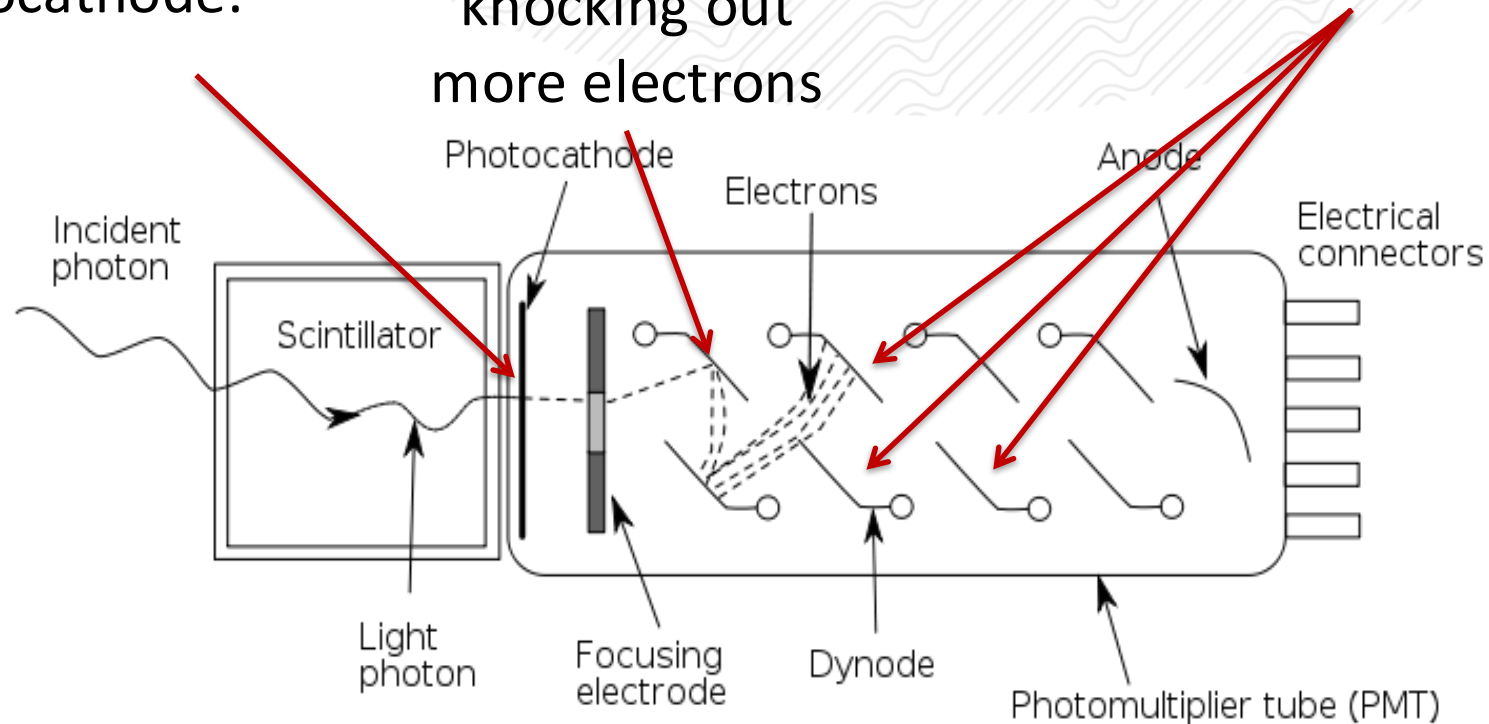


# Photomultiplier Tubes

A photon knocks one electron out of photocathode.

The electron is accelerated, and crashes on next electrode, knocking out more electrons

This happens many times, until a measureable electrical signal is produced



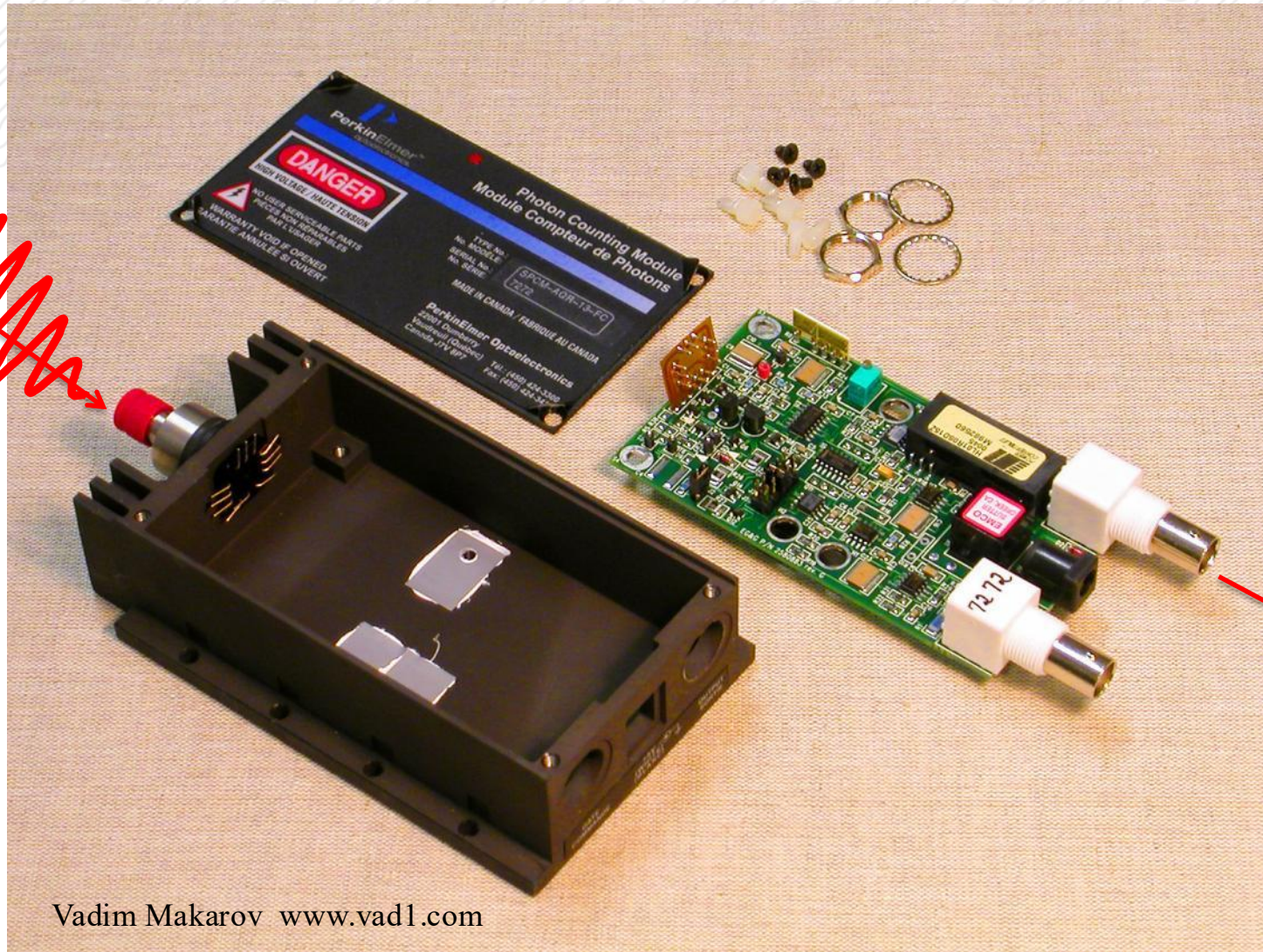
<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Photomultiertube.svg>



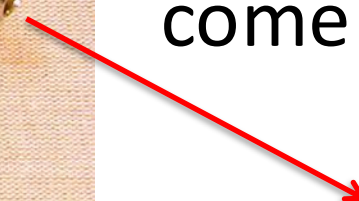
<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Pmside.jpg>

# Photon Detectors tl;dr

Photons  
go in



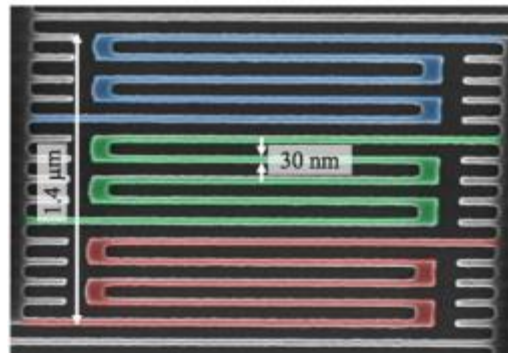
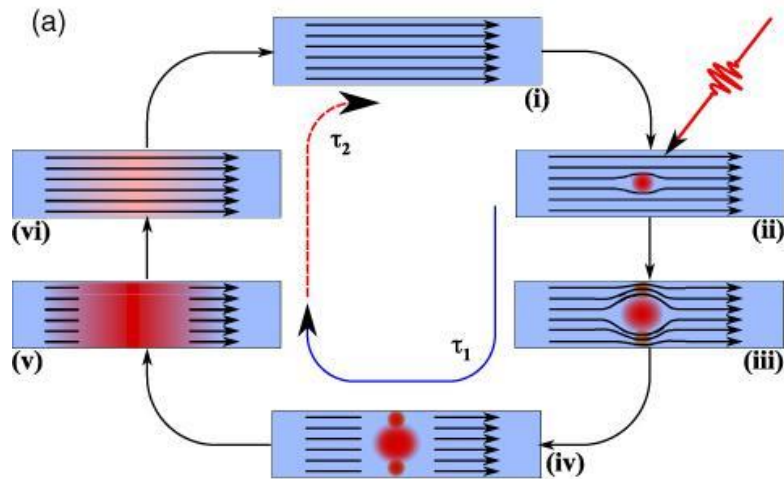
Electrical  
pulses  
come out



# Superconducting Detectors

Superconductors are very sensitive to heating!

If a very thin superconductor absorbs a single photon, it may stop superconducting.



Detect one photon  
as a spike in resistance

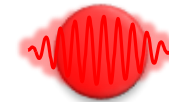
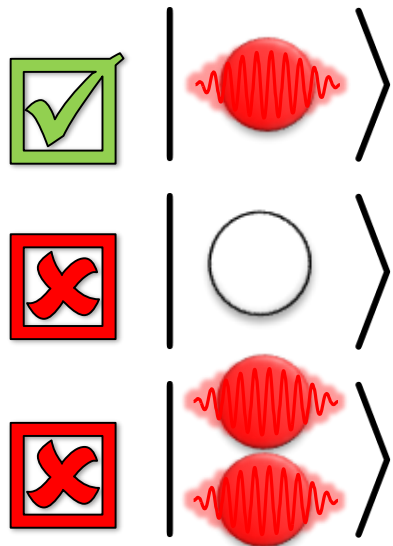
Very efficient,  
but need very thin wires  
( $\sim 50$  nm)  
at very low temperatures  
( $\sim 5$  K)

# How do we make a photon?

We want **one and only one** photon!

We want it to **be there when we ask for it!**

We want it to be **the right shape and color!**

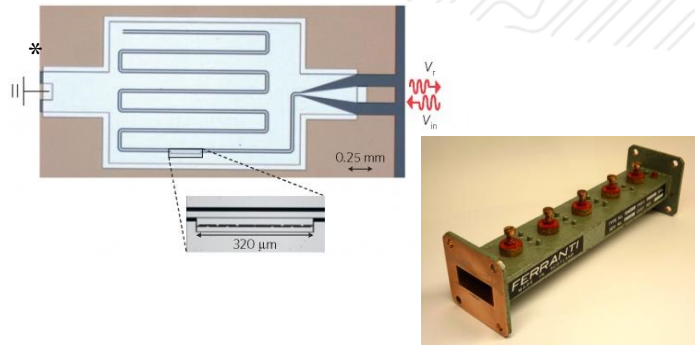
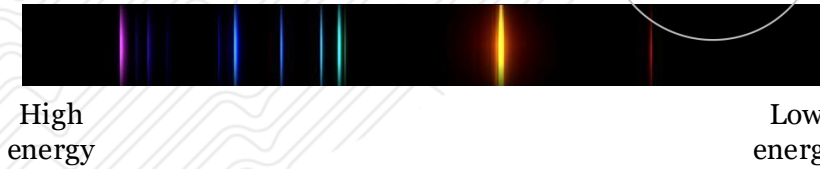
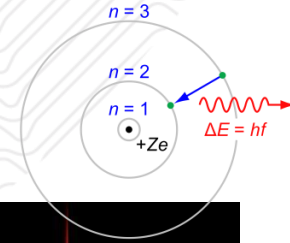
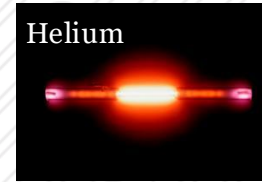


# What kind of photons do we want?

We want to excite an atom



It should have an exact energy,  
probably visible



We want to talk  
to superconducting circuits

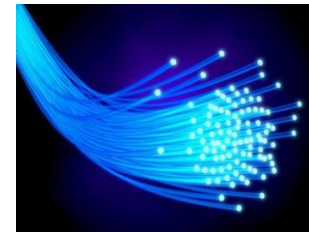


It should probably be a microwave

We want to send it across a city



It should probably be sent through fibre,  
likely in the infrared energy region



# Double-Slit with “Photons”



*Proc. Camb. Philos. Soc.*, 15 (1909), 114–115  
**Interference Fringes with  
Feeble Light**

G. I. TAYLOR  
*Trinity College, Cambridge, UK*

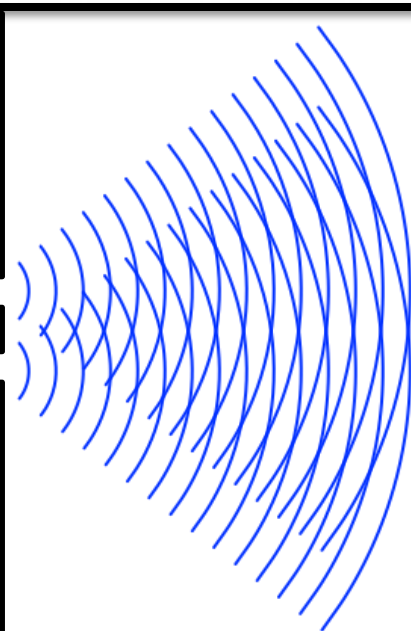
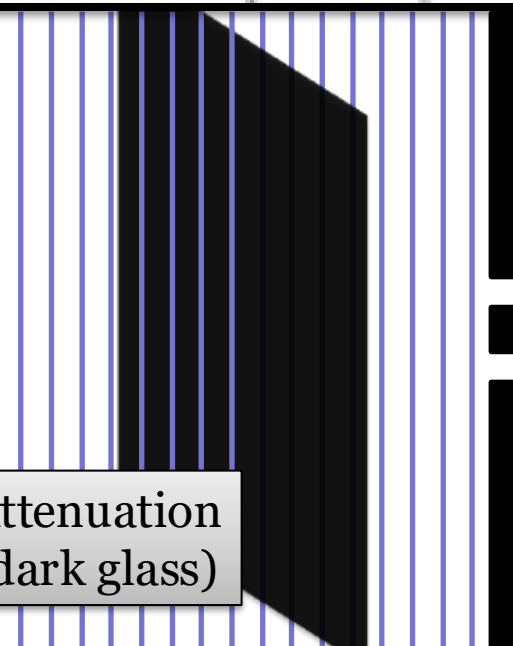
Less than one photon  
in the experiment at a time

Light source  
(flame)

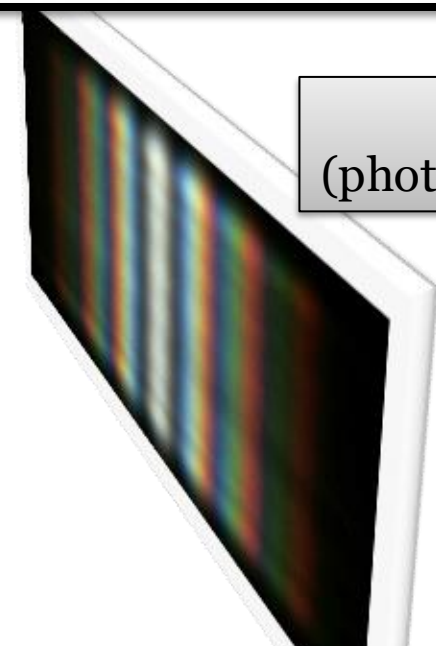
inverse ratio of the corresponding intensities. The longest time was 2000 hours or about 3 months. In no case was there any diminution in the sharpness of the pattern although the plates did not all reach the standard black-



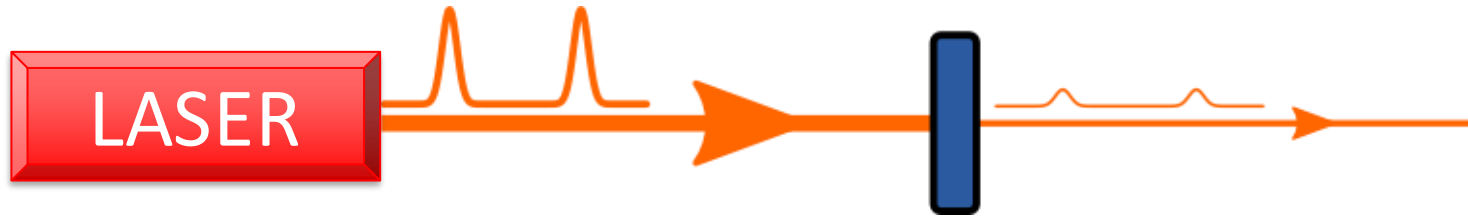
Attenuation  
(dark glass)



Detection  
(photographic sheet)



# Weak Coherent Light

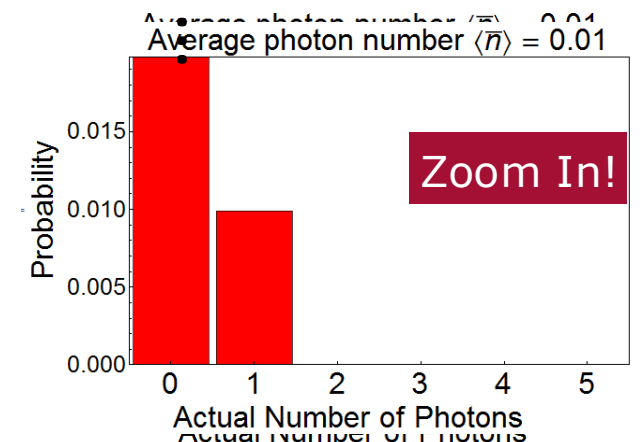
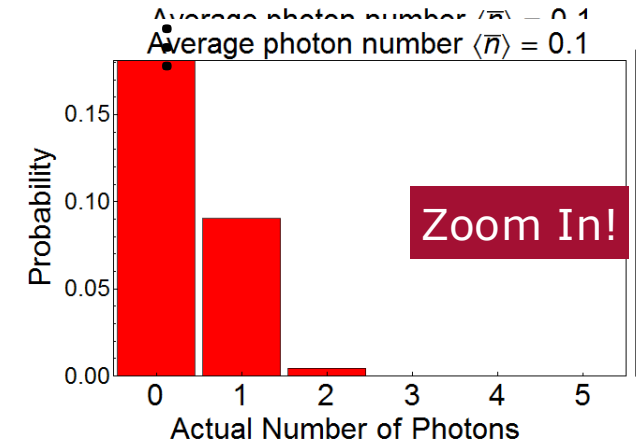
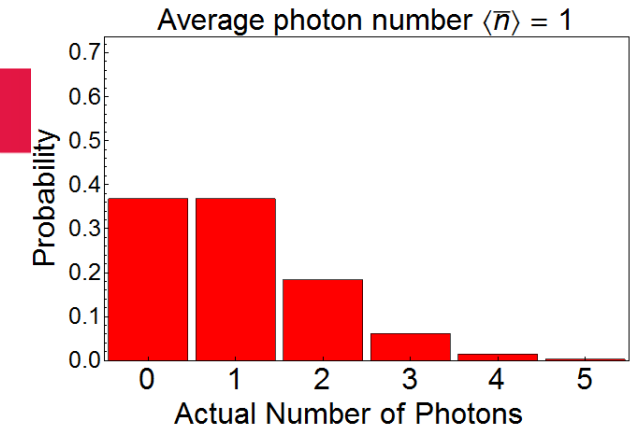


We can create “approximate” photons the same way using very weak laser pulses

Output light is weak enough that most pulses have **zero** photons

If we measure any photons, it’s unlikely that there was ever more than one

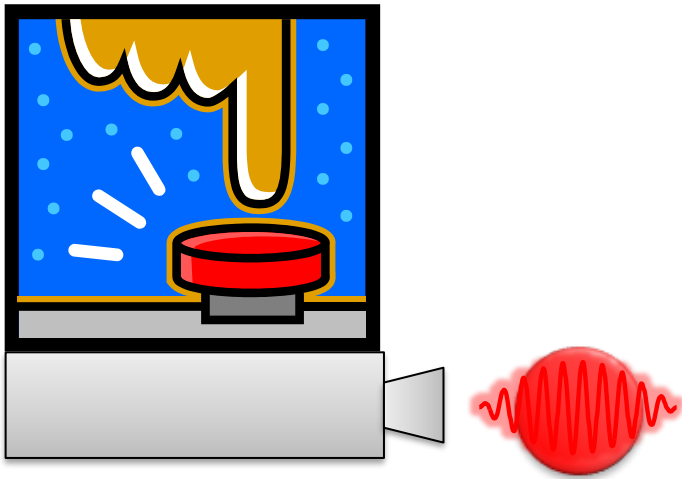
Good enough for (most) QKD!



# Photons on Demand

## Goal

Push a button,  
out comes a photon

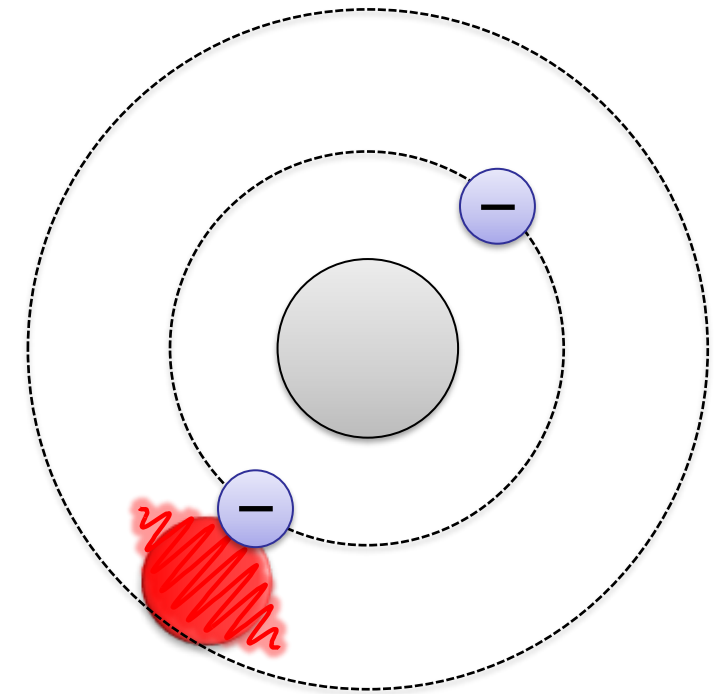
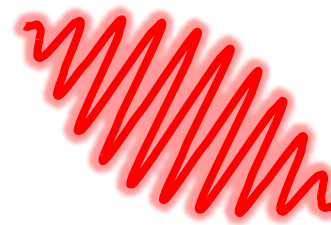


## Problems

Isolating a single atom is hard  
Photons are emitted in every direction

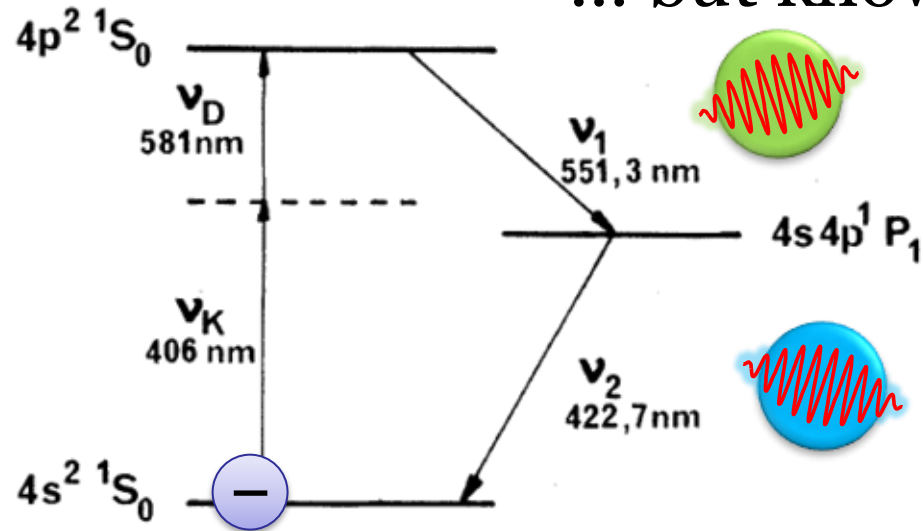
## Idea

Isolate a single atom,  
excite it only once



# Heralded Single Photons

A compromise: We don't get photons on demand...  
... but know when to expect them!



Photons must come in **pairs**

FIG. 1. Relevant levels of calcium. The atoms, selectively pumped to the upper level by the nonlinear absorption of  $\nu_K$  and  $\nu_D$ , emits the photons  $\nu_1$  and  $\nu_2$  correlated in polarization.

# Heralded Single Photons

A compromise: We don't get photons on demand...  
... but know when to expect them!

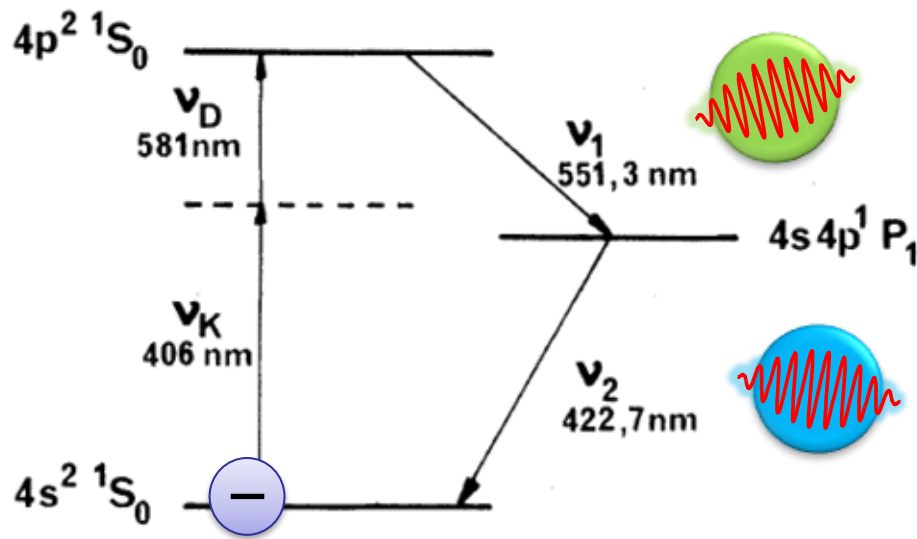


FIG. 1. Relevant levels of calcium. The atoms, selectively pumped to the upper level by the nonlinear absorption of  $\nu_K$  and  $\nu_D$ , emits the photons  $\nu_1$  and  $\nu_2$  correlated in polarization.

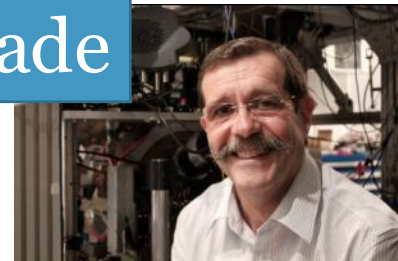
A. Aspect et al. PRL 47, 460–463 (1981)



A photon is coming!

I'm ready!

Atomic cascade



Big problem:  
No idea where to look!

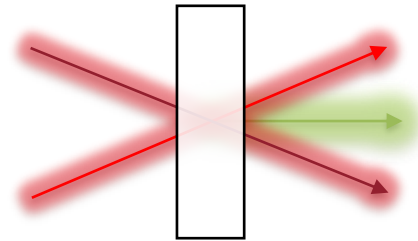


# Using Nonlinear Optics

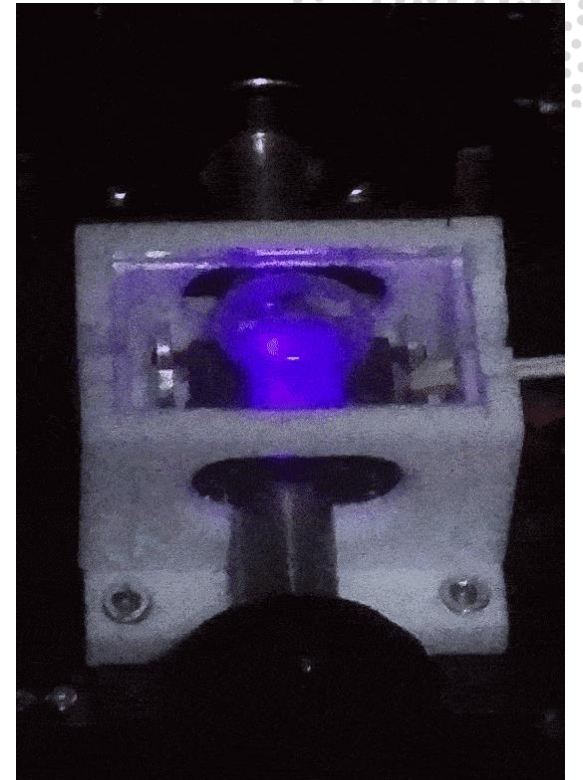


Prof. Donna Strickland  
2018 Nobel Prize in Physics

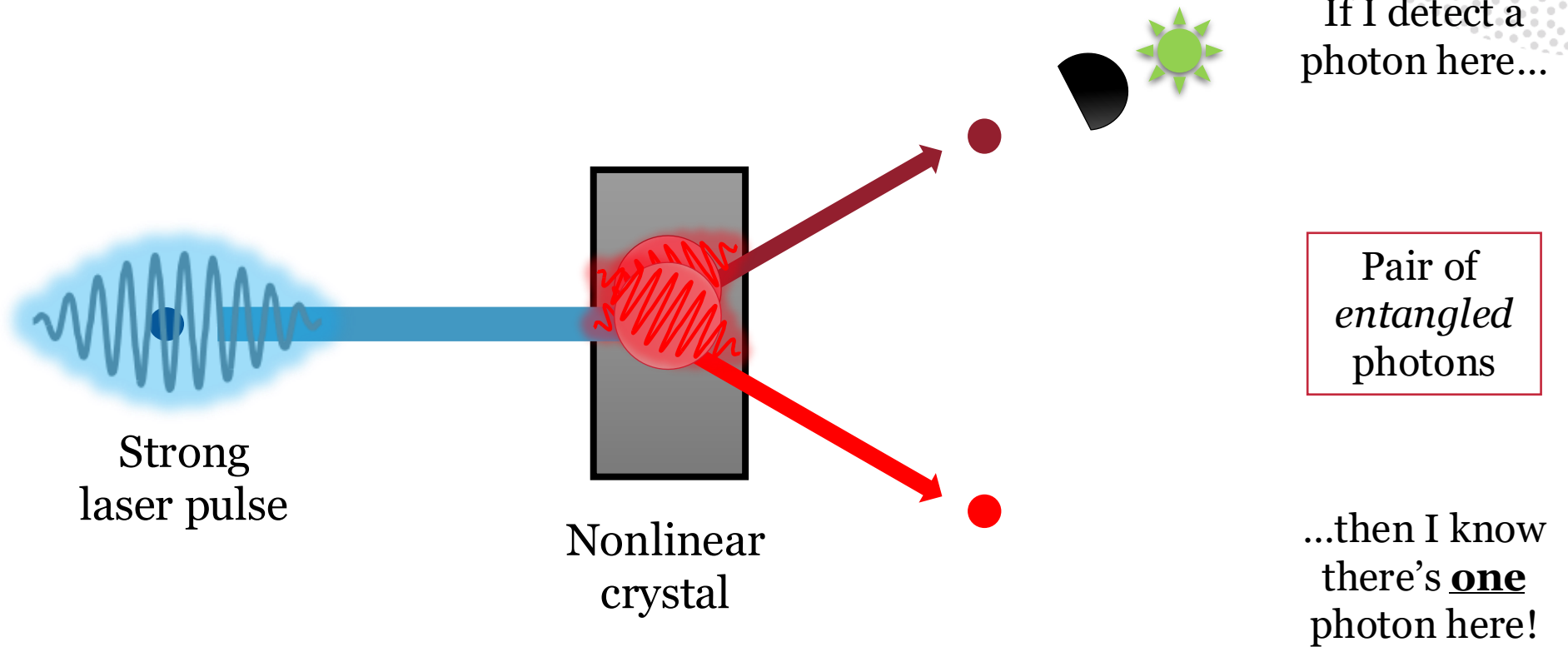
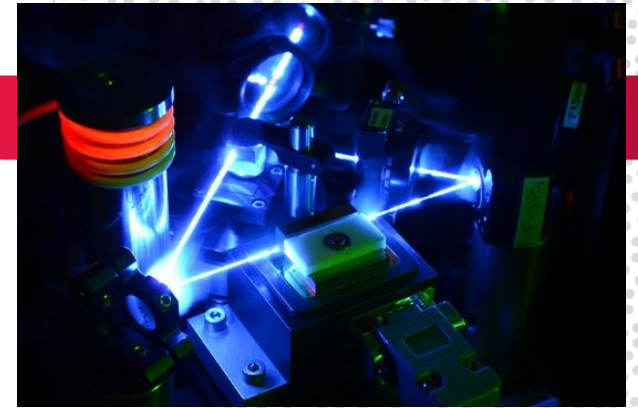
Nonlinear interactions  
allow light to change color



Essential for  
generating and interfacing  
single photons

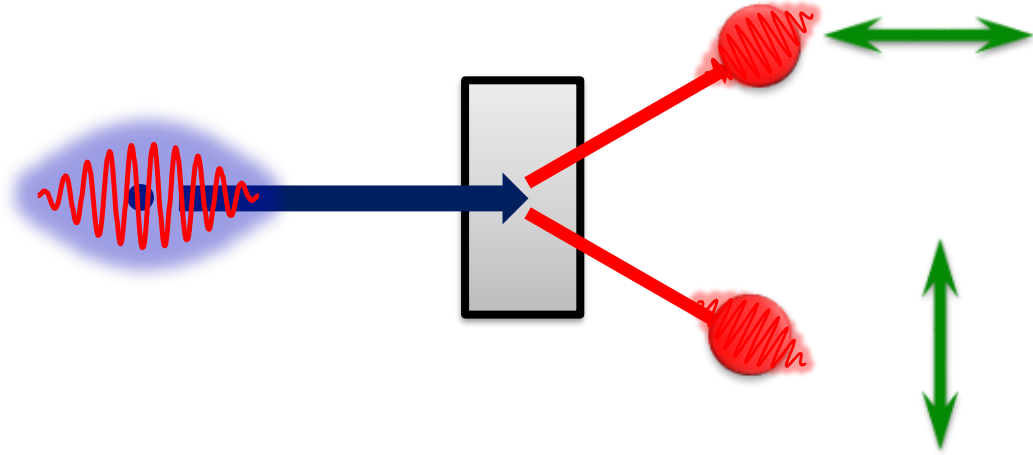


# Heralded Single Photons



Spontaneous Parametric Downconversion (SPDC)

# Polarization Entanglement



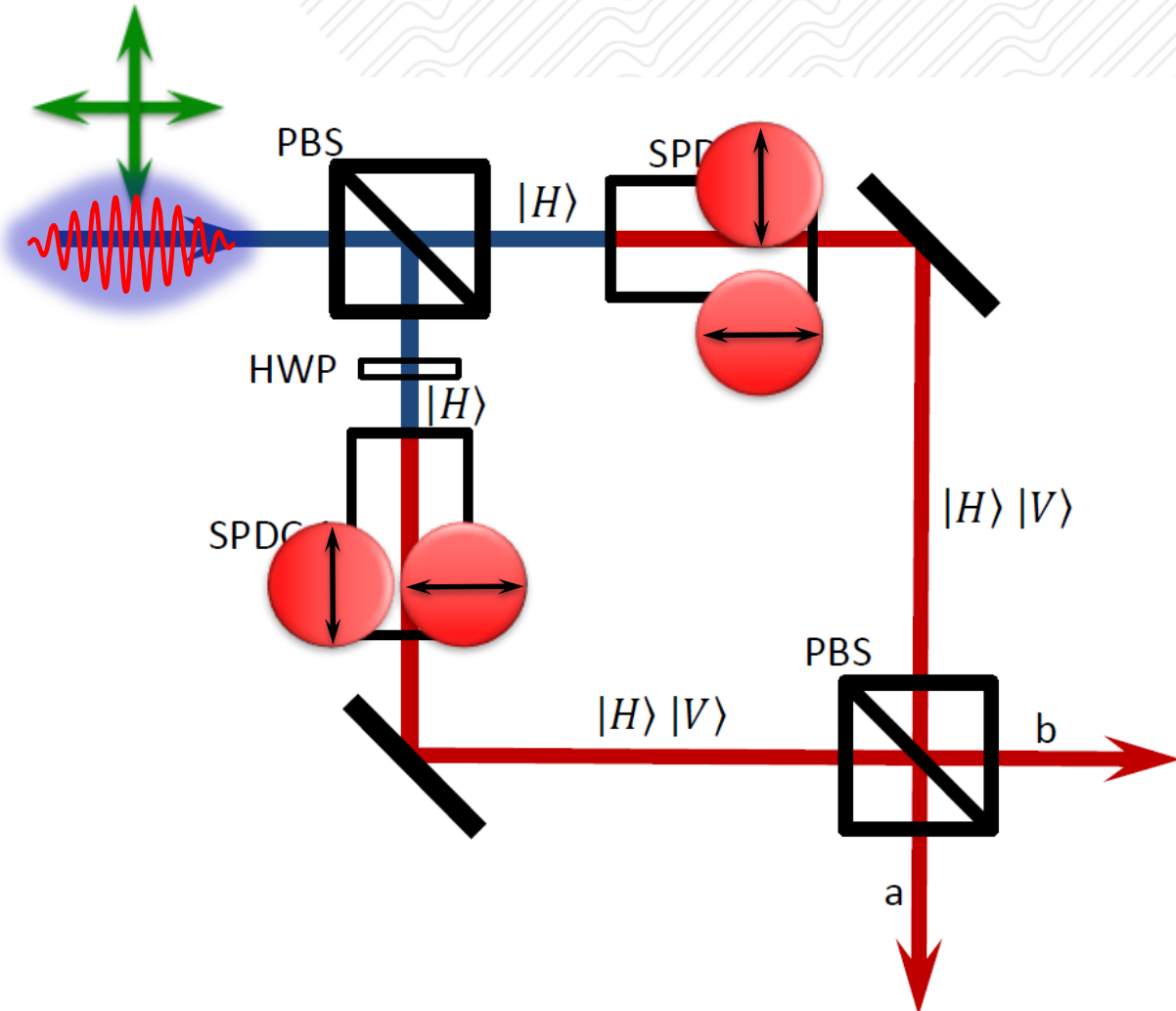
In many crystals,  
the geometry ensures that both photons  
are orthogonally polarized

$$|\psi\rangle = |H\rangle_s |V\rangle_i$$

The dream:  $|\Psi^-\rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} (|H\rangle_s |V\rangle_i - |V\rangle_s |H\rangle_i)$

Can be done by confusing the photons

# Polarization Entanglement

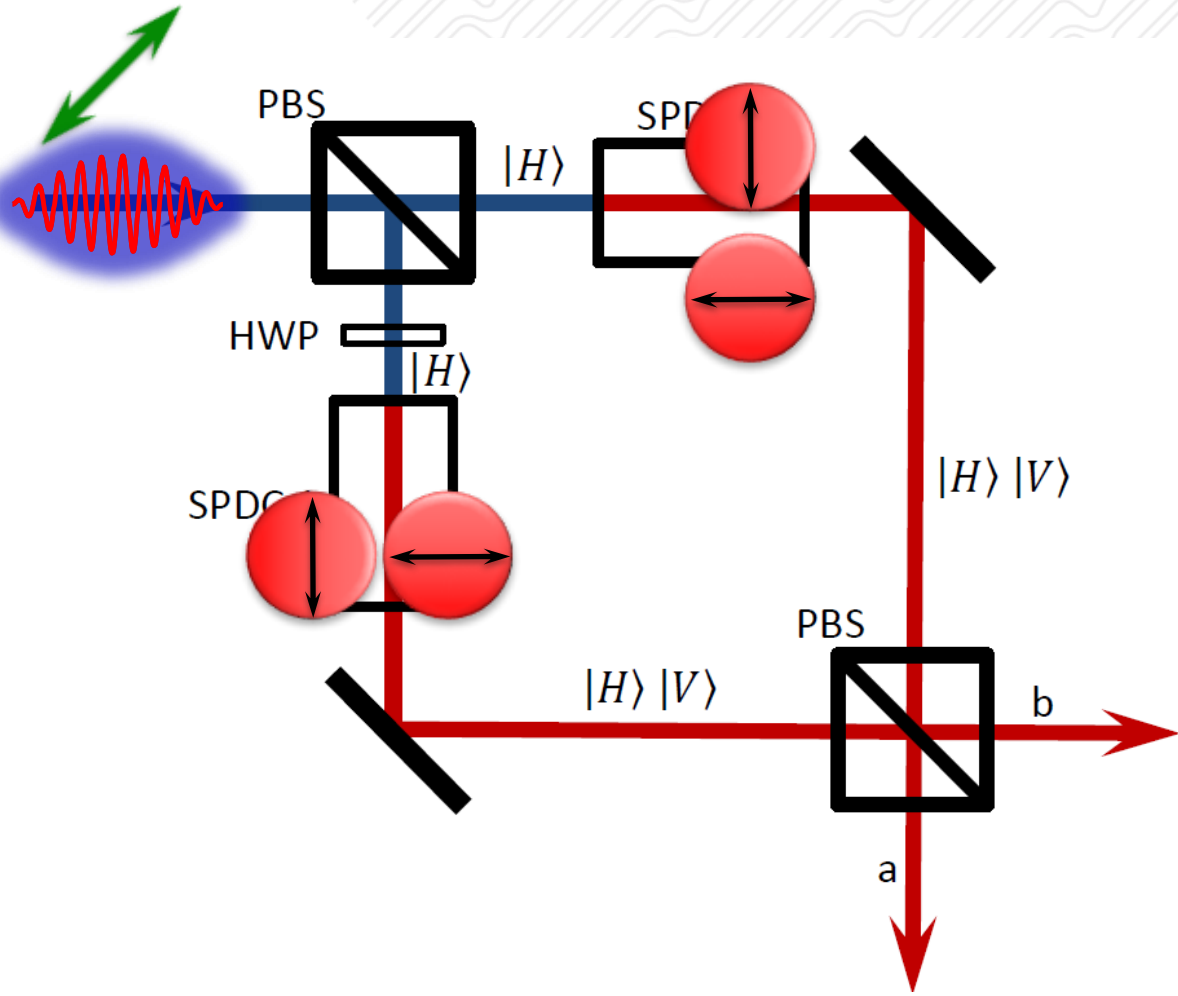


Interferometric solution  
 Each crystal produces:  
 $|\psi\rangle = |H\rangle_s |V\rangle_i$   
 Assume only one  
 downconversion happens

If SPDC 1:  $|\psi\rangle = |V\rangle_a |H\rangle_b$

If SPDC 2:  $|\psi\rangle = |H\rangle_a |V\rangle_b$

# Polarization Entanglement



## Interferometric solution

Each crystal produces:

$$|\psi\rangle = |H\rangle_s |V\rangle_i$$

Assume only one

downconversion happens

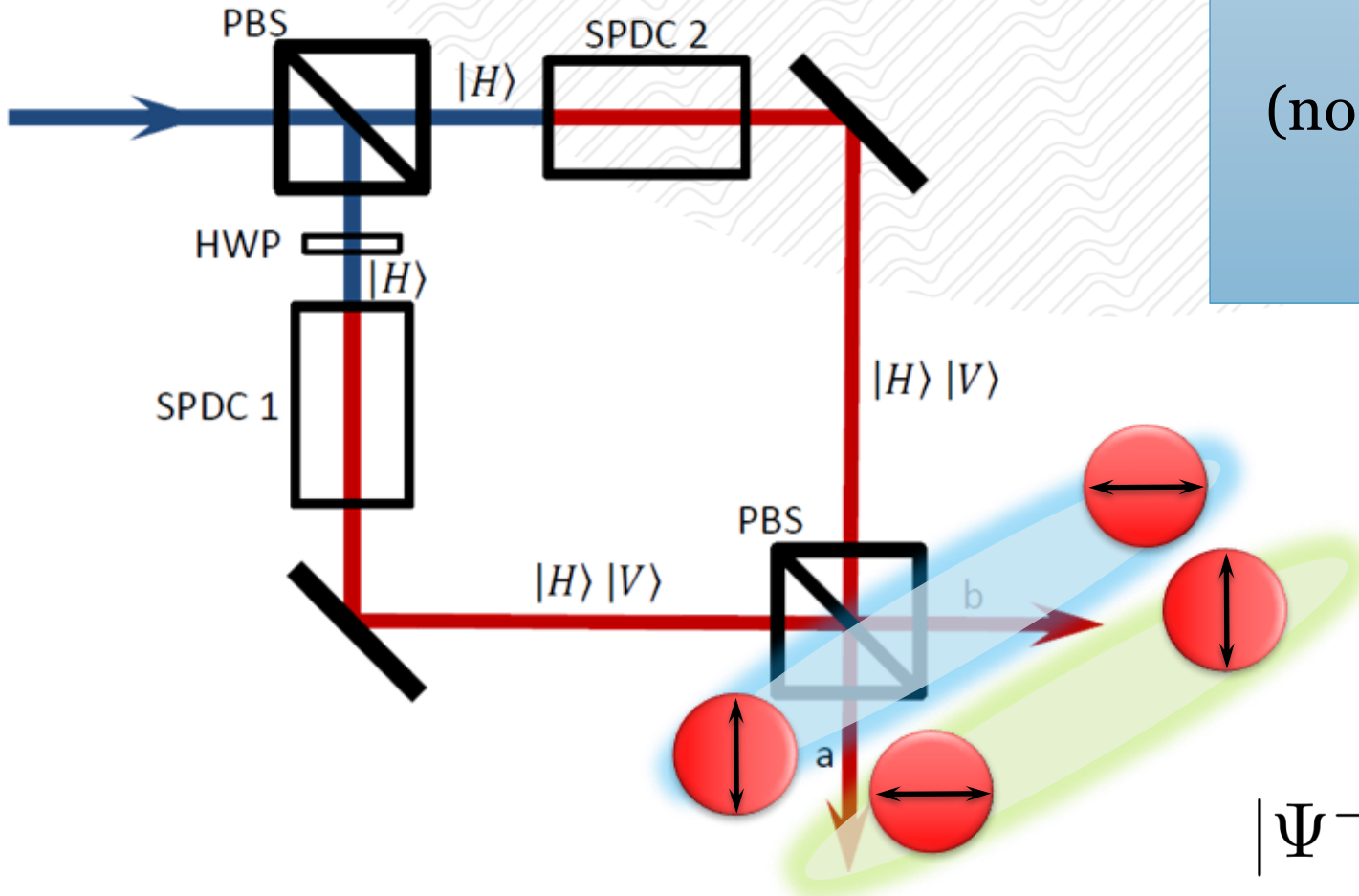
If SPDC 1:  $|\psi\rangle = |V\rangle_a |H\rangle_b$

If SPDC 2:  $|\psi\rangle = |H\rangle_a |V\rangle_b$

Superposition:

$$|\Psi^-\rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} (|H\rangle_s |V\rangle_i - |V\rangle_s |H\rangle_i)$$

# Polarization Entanglement



If events are indistinguishable (no information exists that tells which crystal produced photons), we get entanglement!

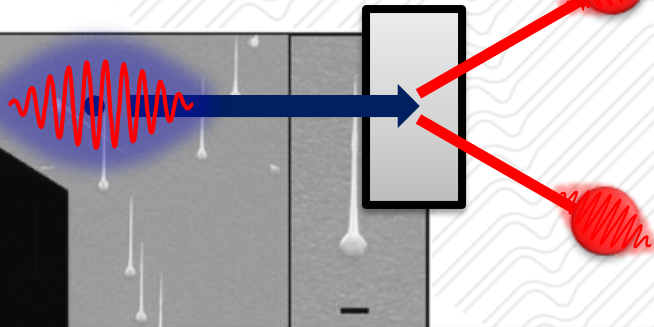
If SPDC 1:  $|\psi\rangle = |V\rangle_a |H\rangle_b$

If SPDC 2:  $|\psi\rangle = |H\rangle_a |V\rangle_b$

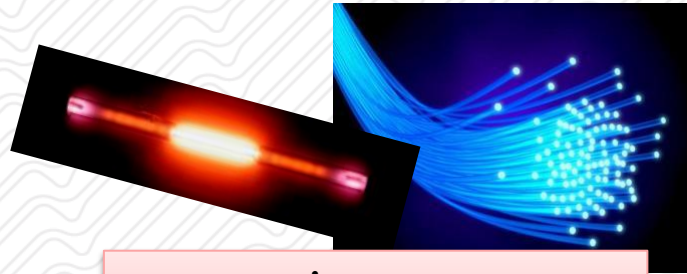
Superposition:

$$|\Psi^-\rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} (|H\rangle_s |V\rangle_i - |V\rangle_s |H\rangle_i)$$

# Photons! Photons! Photons!



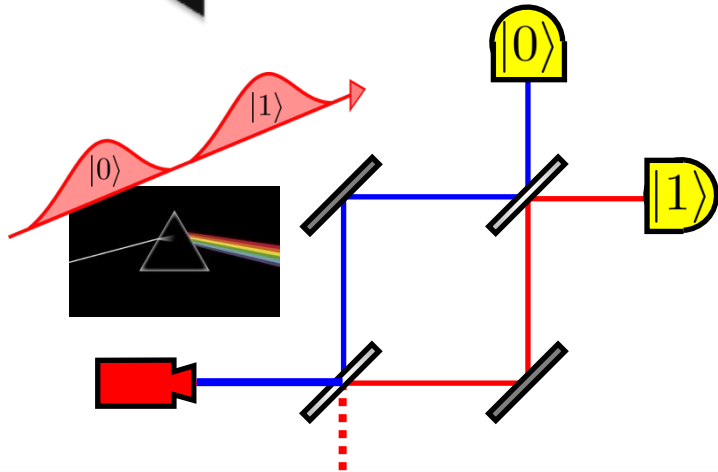
There's more than one way to make a photon...



...in many shapes and colours...

$$\hat{a}^\dagger | \circ \rangle = | \bullet \rangle$$

...which are mathematically defined by creation operators...



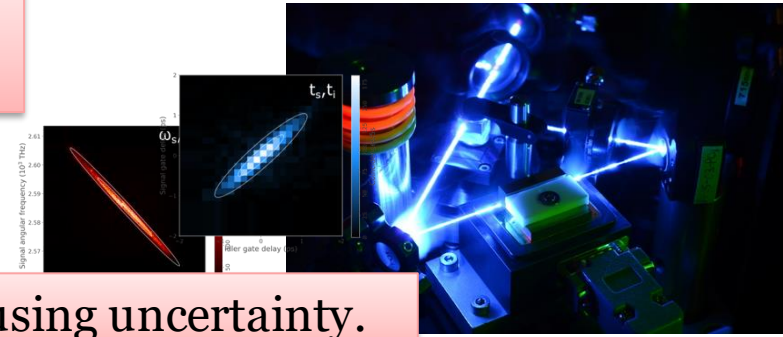
...which can be implemented in many ways...

$$\hat{a}_0^\dagger | \circ \rangle_0 | \circ \rangle_1 = | \bullet \rangle_0 | \circ \rangle_1$$

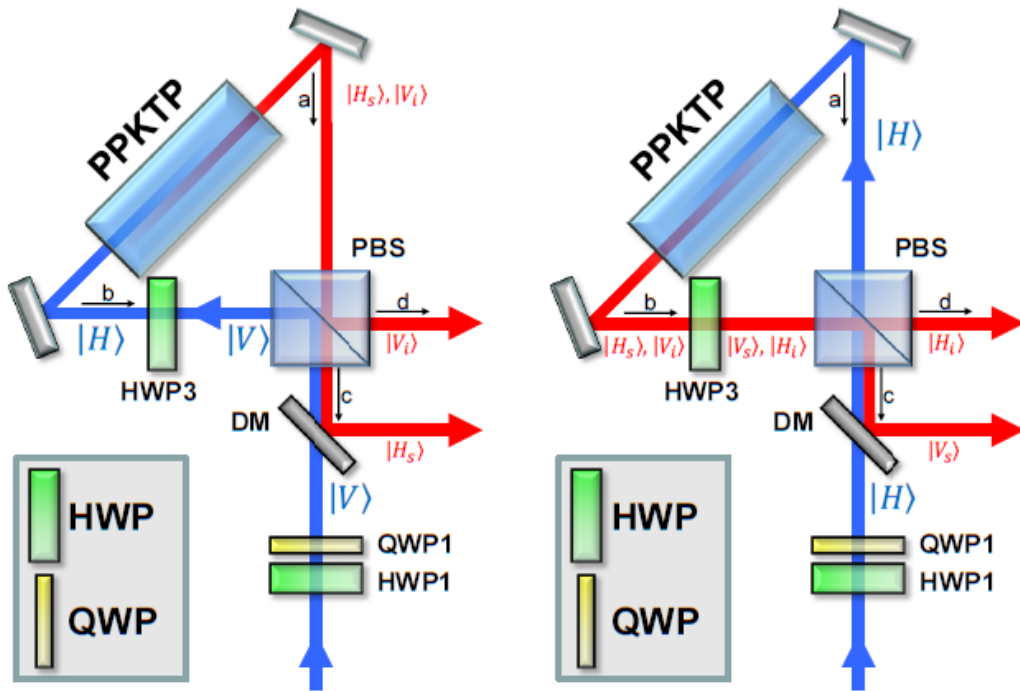
Photon here      No photon here

...which can be used to define photonic qubits...

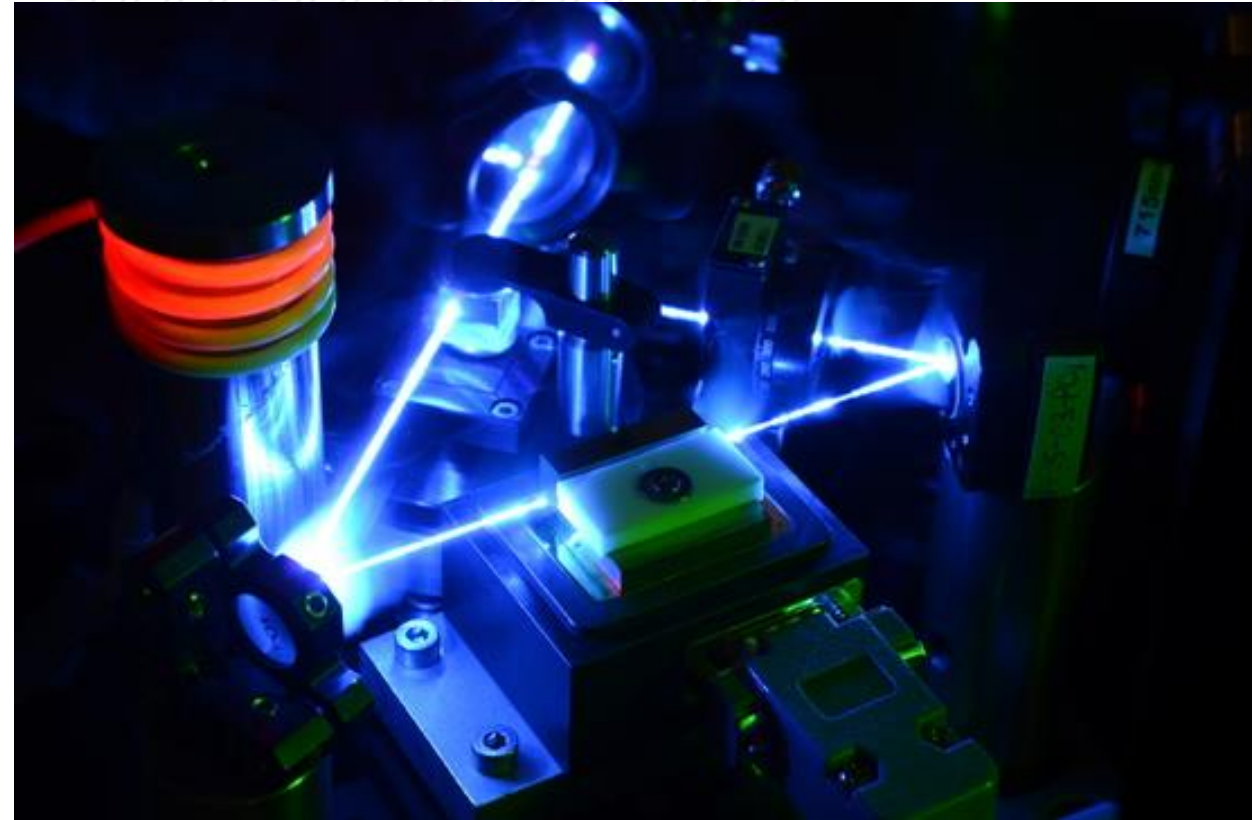
...and entangled using uncertainty.



# Polarization Entanglement in the Lab



Folded for stability  
(Sagnac Interferometer)





## Quantum Networking in Chicago



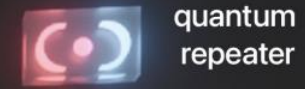
# The quantum internet

Long-baseline  
quantum telescope

Entangled clock  
synchronization

Distributed  
quantum  
computing

Exponentially  
improved sensor  
data collection



quantum  
repeater



quantum  
router



quantum  
switch



quantum  
transducer



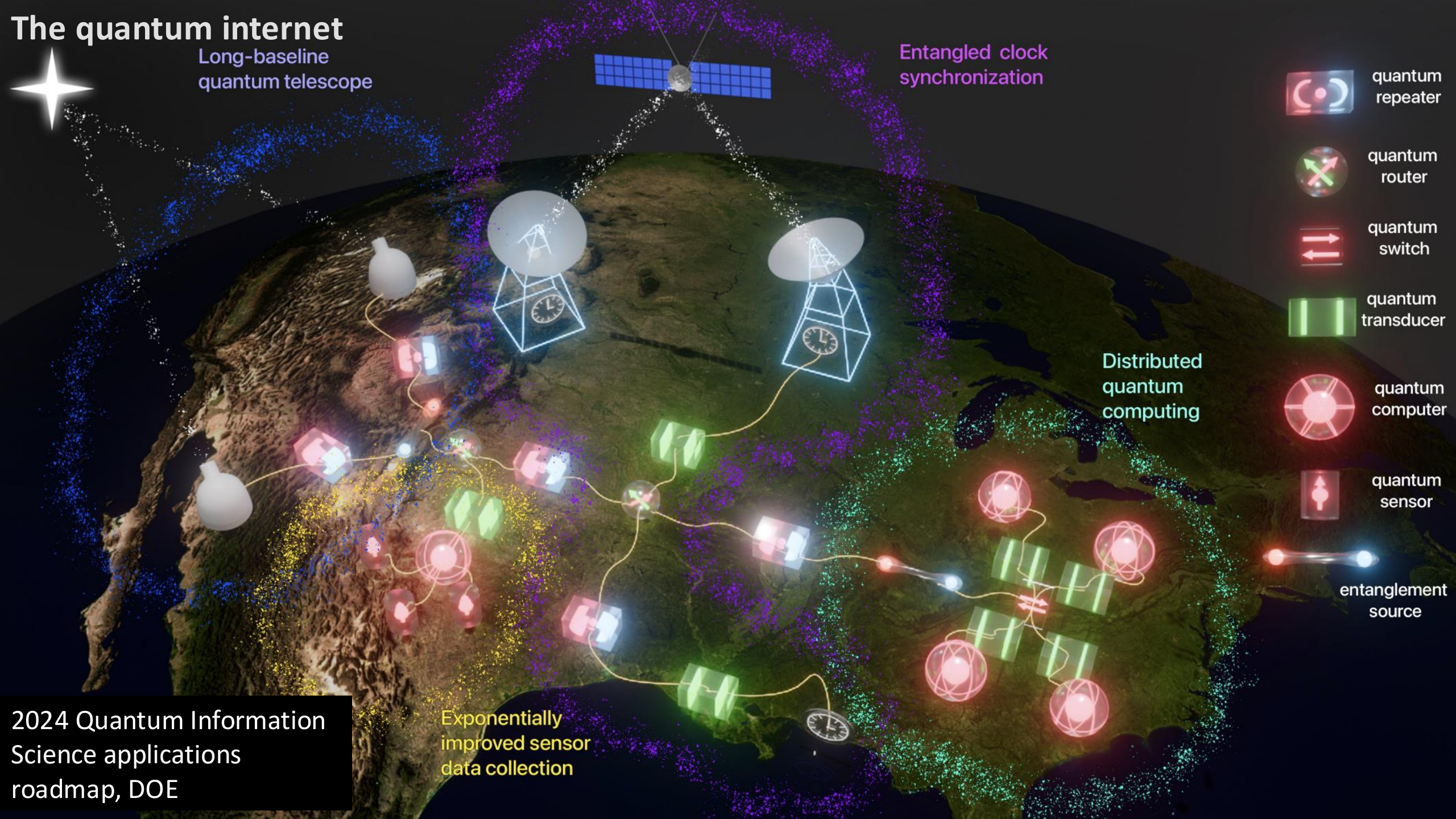
quantum  
computer



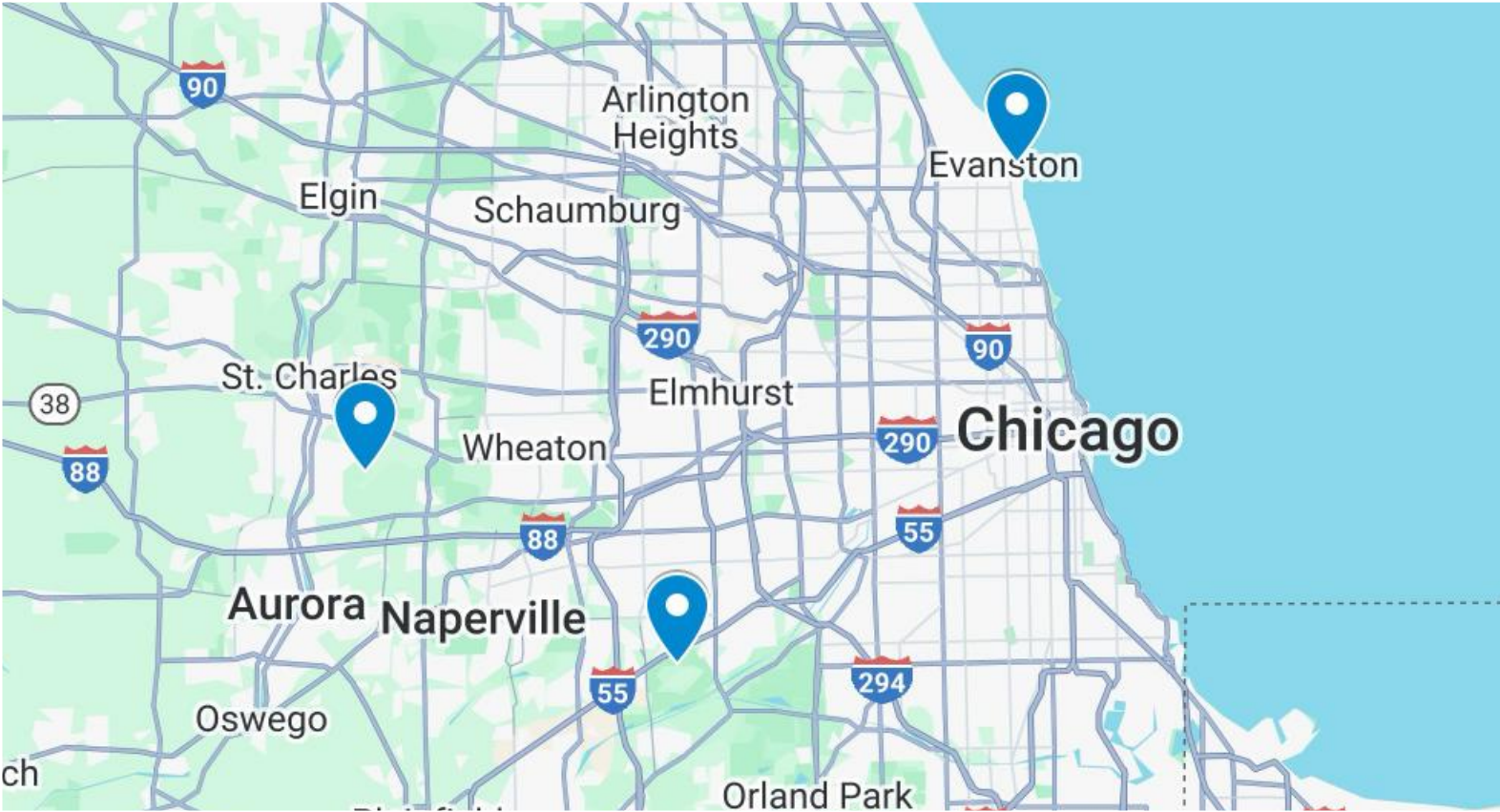
quantum  
sensor

entanglement  
source

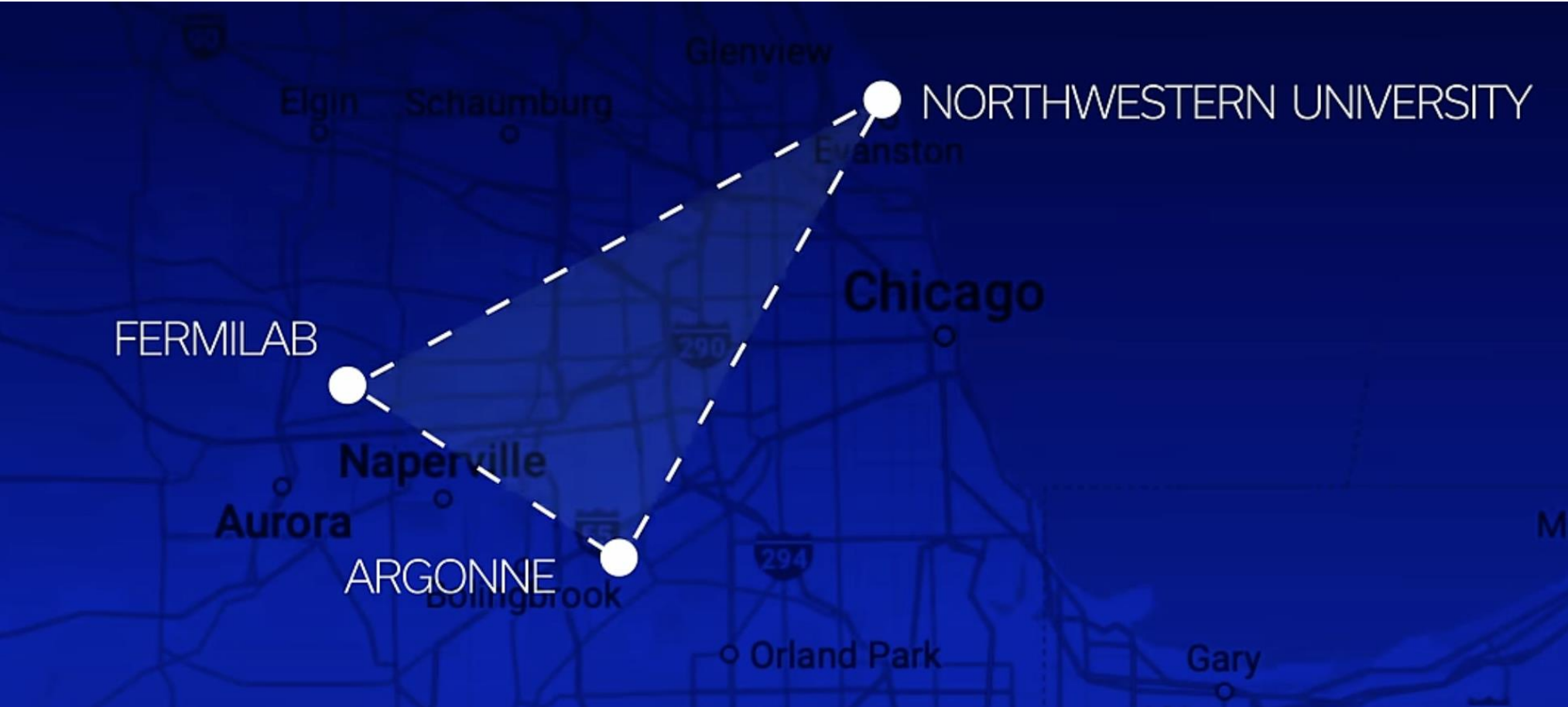
2024 Quantum Information  
Science applications  
roadmap, DOE



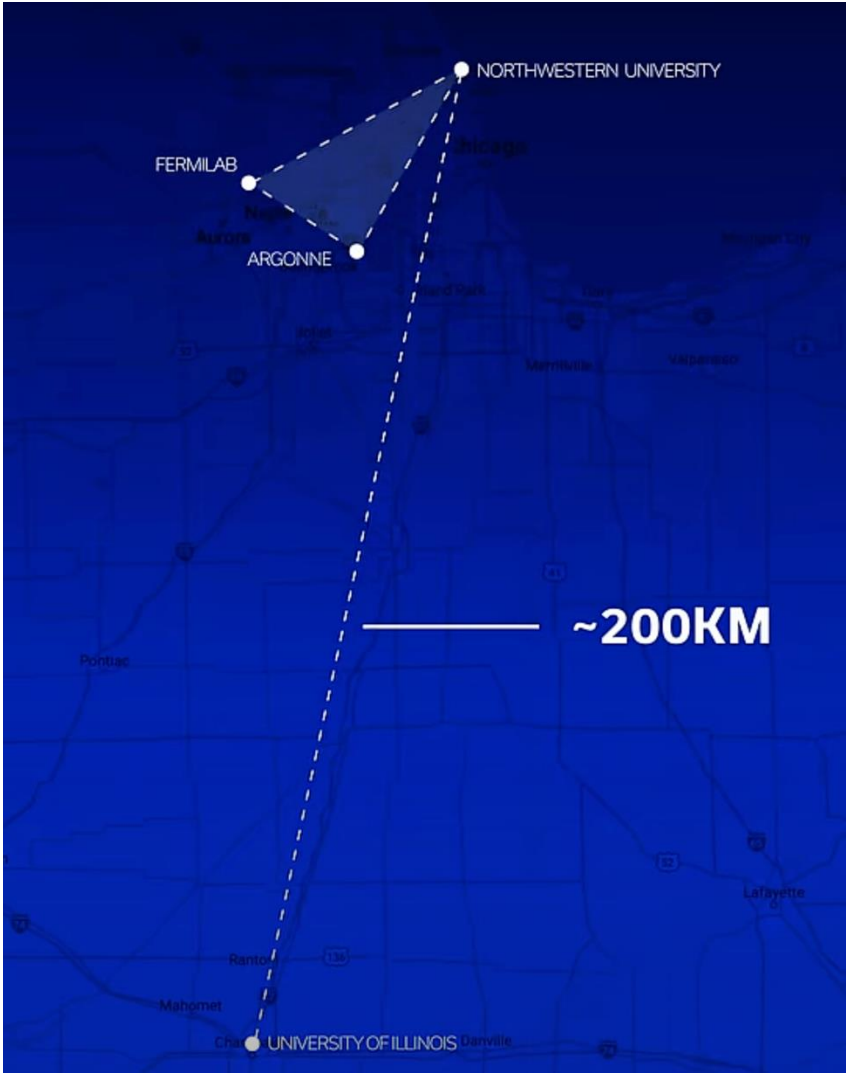
# Advanced Quantum Network (AQNET)



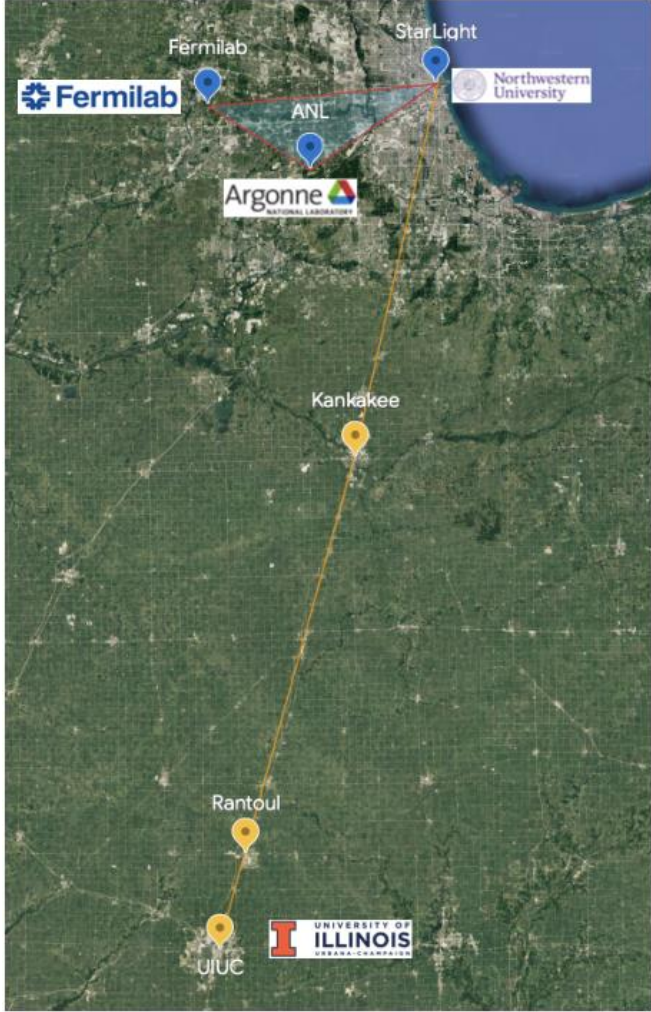
# Advanced Quantum Network (AQNET)



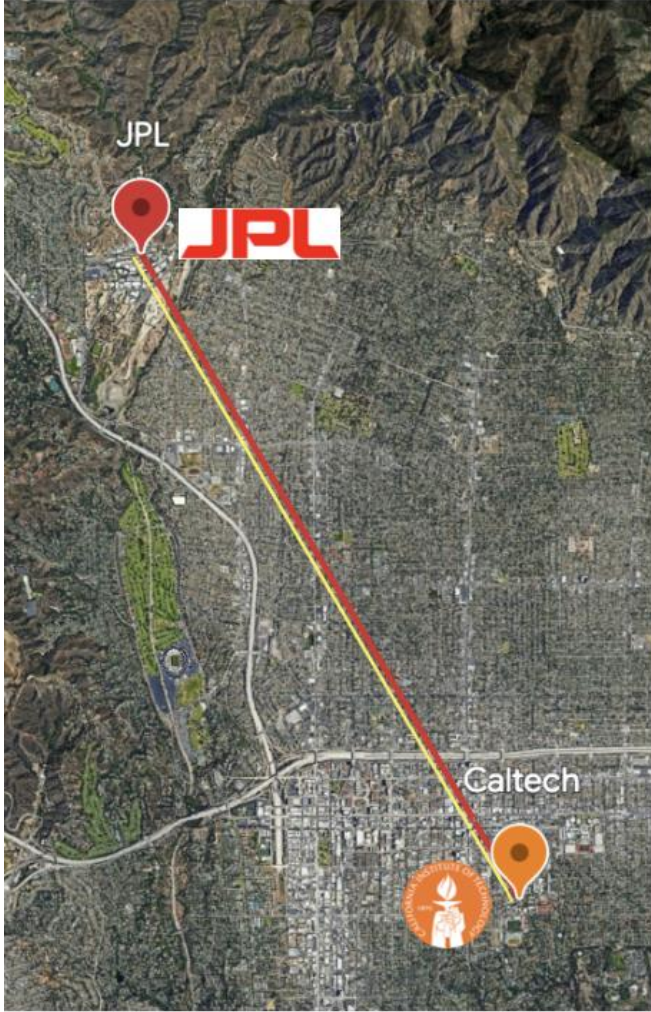
# Advanced Quantum Network (AQNET)



# Chicago-based Networks developed in parallel with Pasadena-based Networks

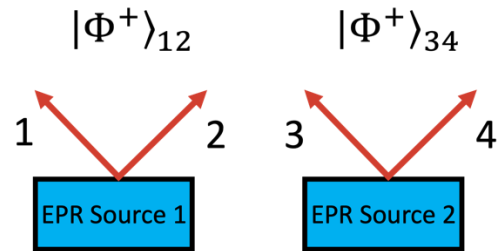


AQNET



# Moving to long distance

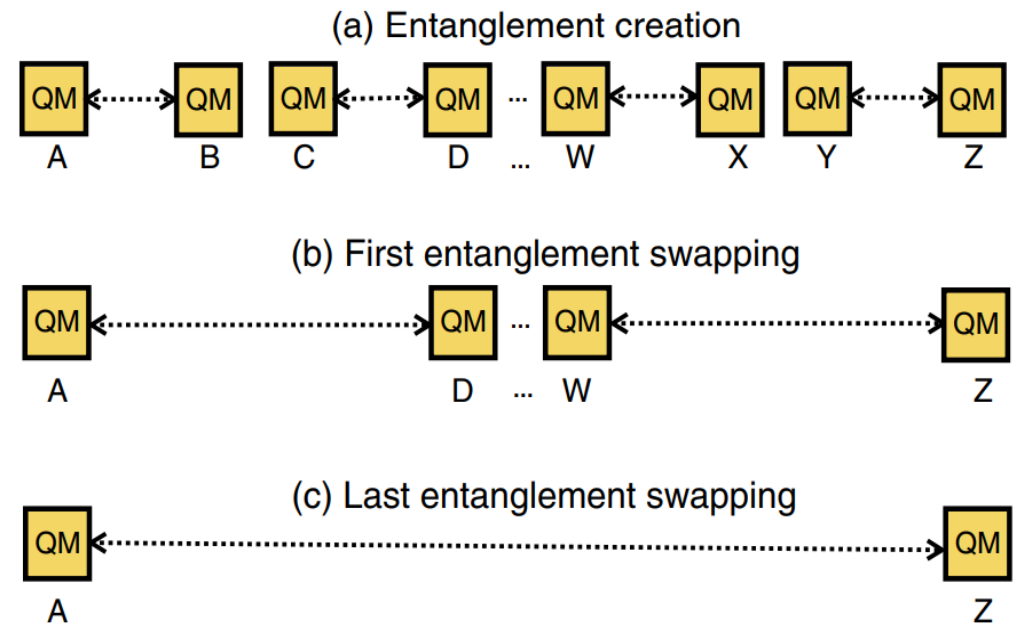
## Entanglement Swapping



$$\begin{aligned}
 |\Psi\rangle_{1234} &= |\Phi^+\rangle_{12} \otimes |\Phi^+\rangle_{34} \\
 &= \frac{1}{2}(|ee\rangle + |ll\rangle) \otimes (|ee\rangle + |ll\rangle) \\
 &= \frac{1}{2}|\Psi^+\rangle_{14}|\Psi^+\rangle_{23} + \frac{1}{2}|\Psi^-\rangle_{14}|\Psi^-\rangle_{23} \\
 &\quad + \frac{1}{2}|\Phi^+\rangle_{14}|\Phi^+\rangle_{23} + \frac{1}{2}|\Phi^-\rangle_{14}|\Phi^-\rangle_{23}
 \end{aligned}$$

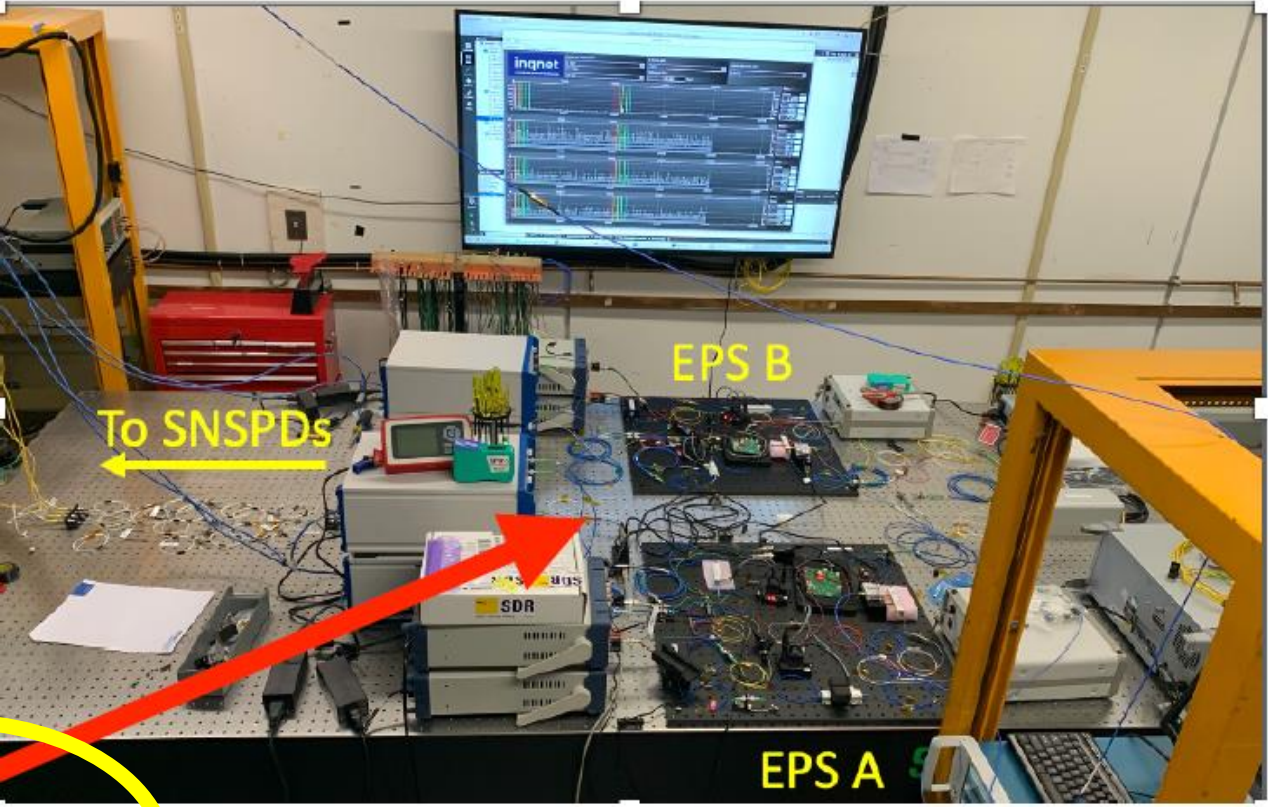
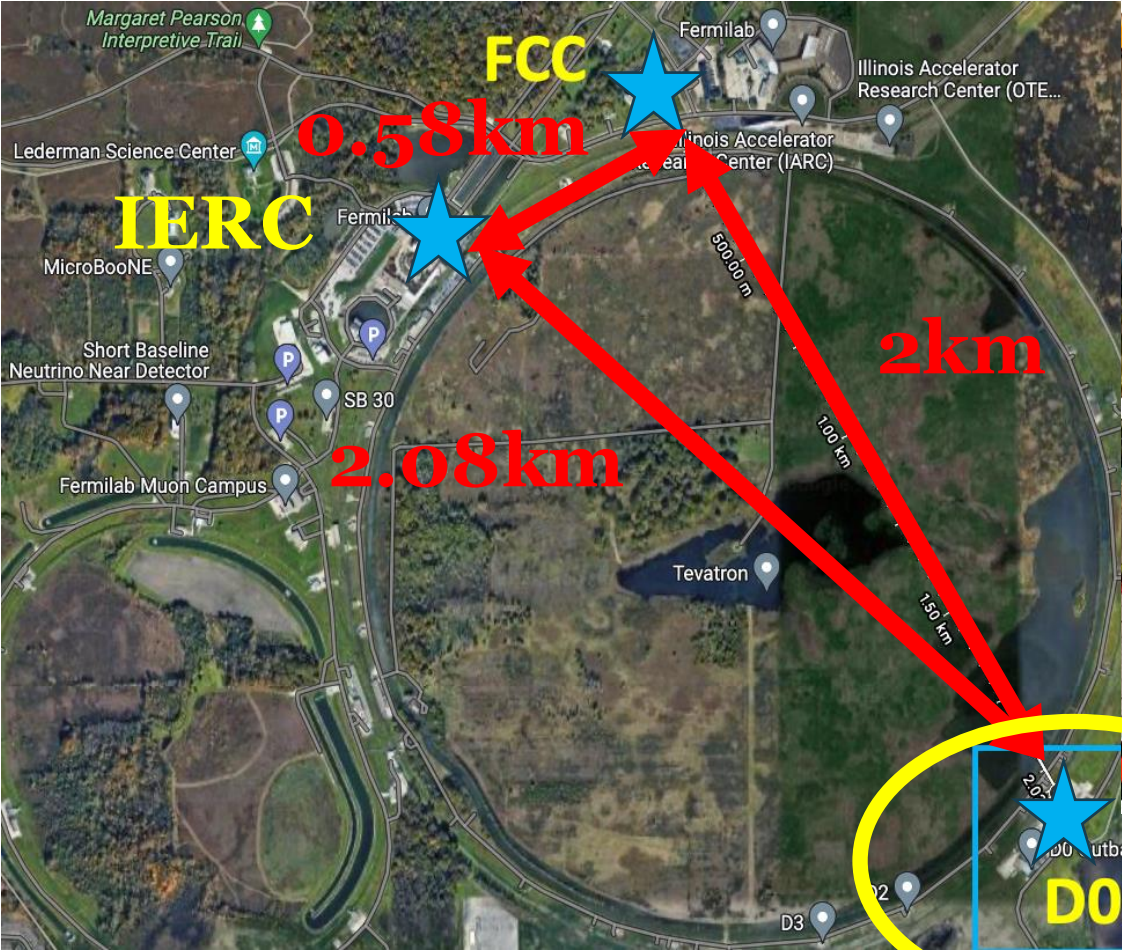
Projective measurement of photons 2 and 3 in the Bell basis entangles photons 1 and 4

## Quantum Repeater



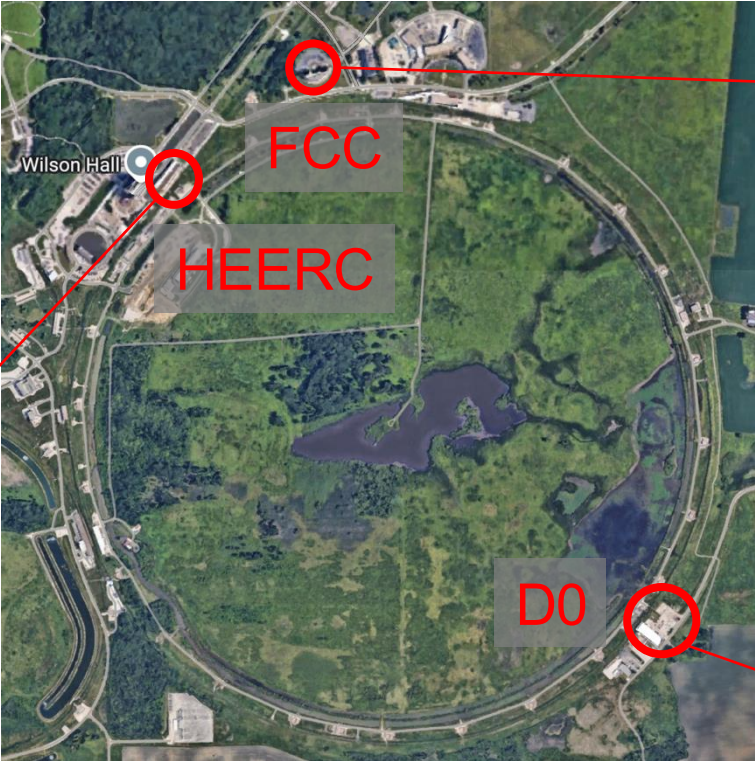
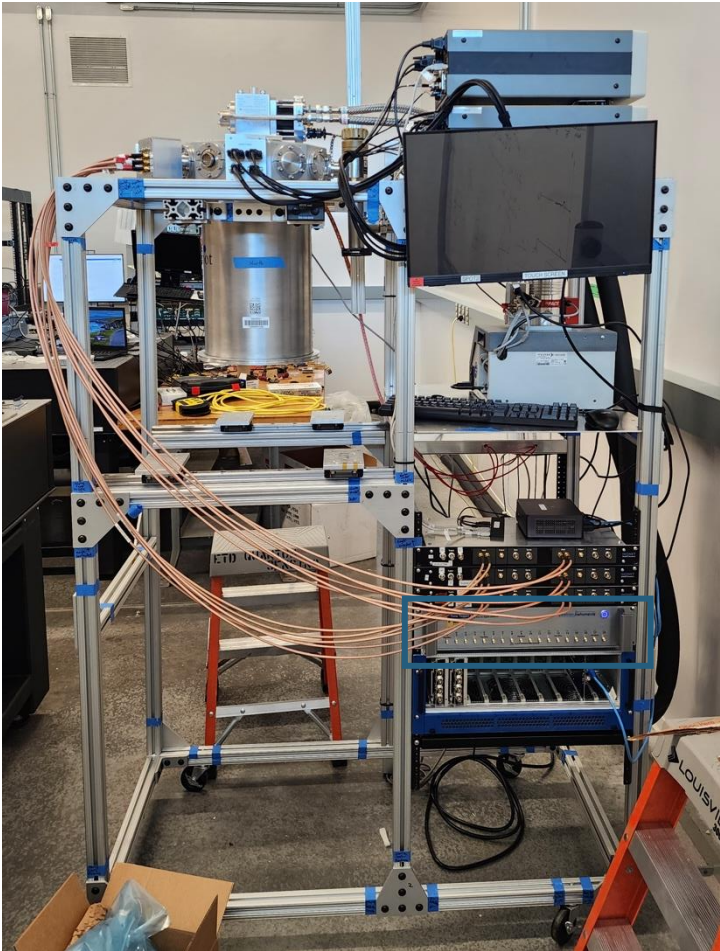
Nicolas Sangouard, Christoph Simon, Hugues de Riedmatten, and Nicolas Gisin. *Rev. Mod. Phys.* **83**, 33 (2011).

# Fermilab Quantum Network



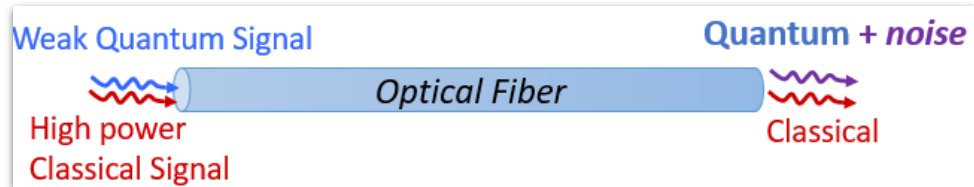
Entanglement Swapping Testbed

# Readiness for multi-building experiments



# Noise Sources and Wavelength Selection

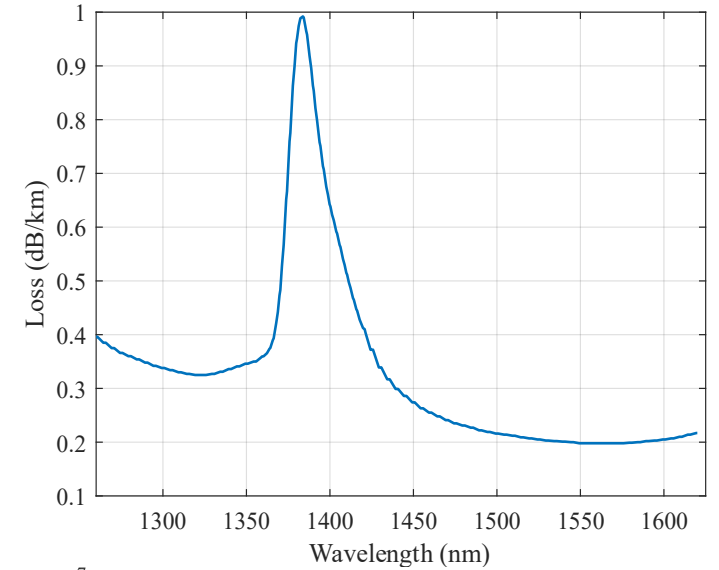
## Noise photons



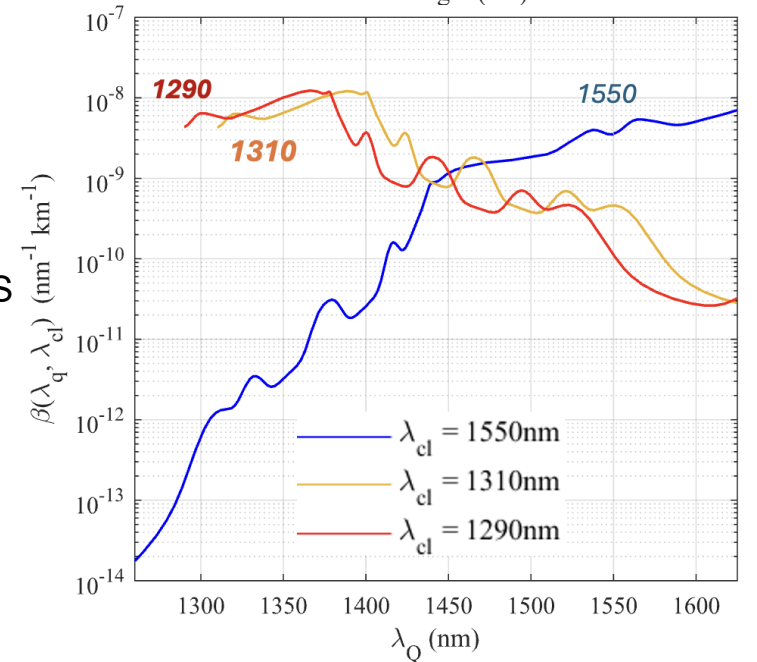
## Spontaneous Raman scattering

- Broadband spectrum (>54 THz) → spanning all telecom channels for any classical channel selection

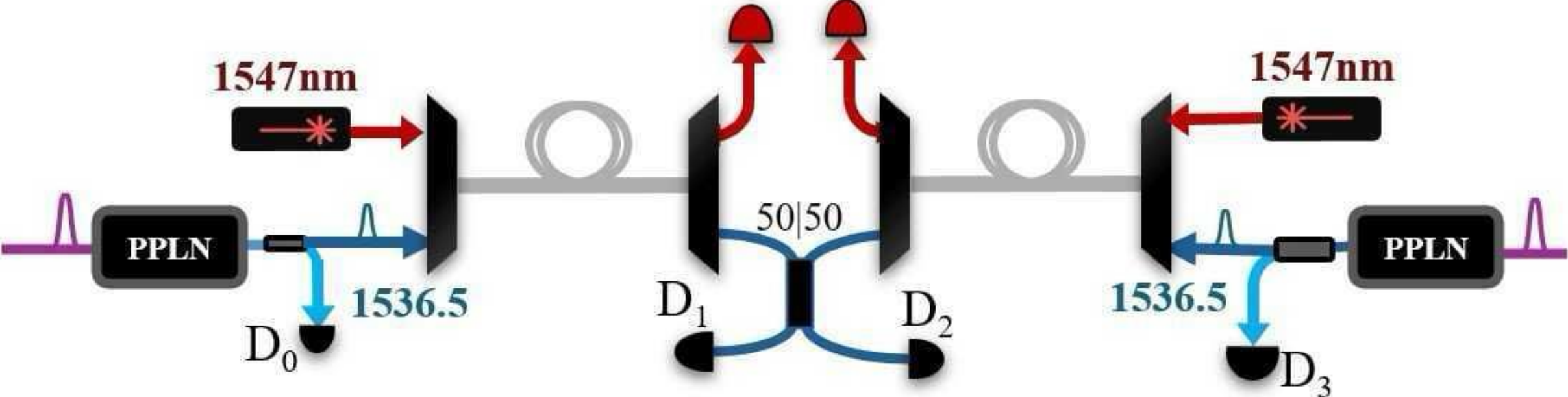
Corning SMF-28 loss spectrum



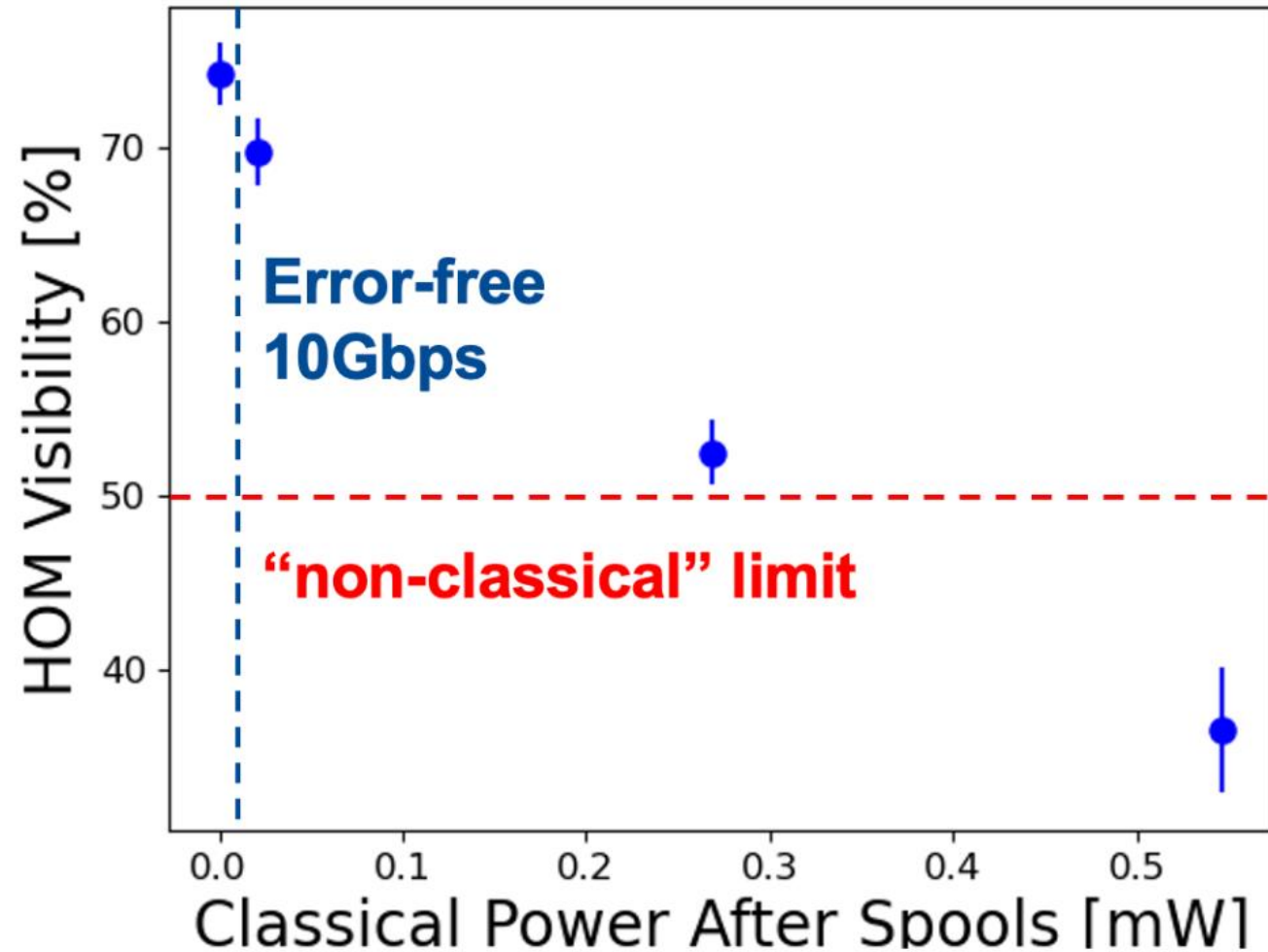
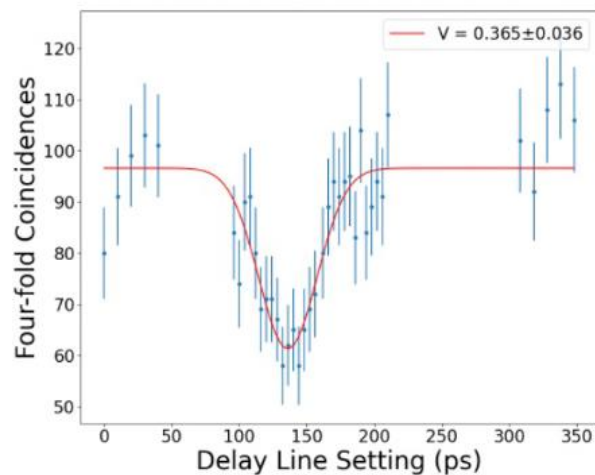
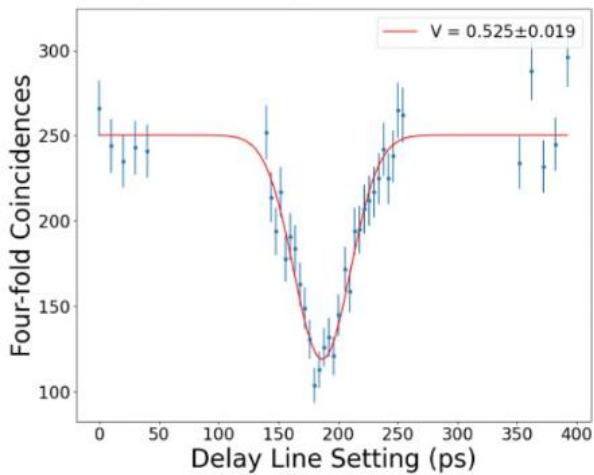
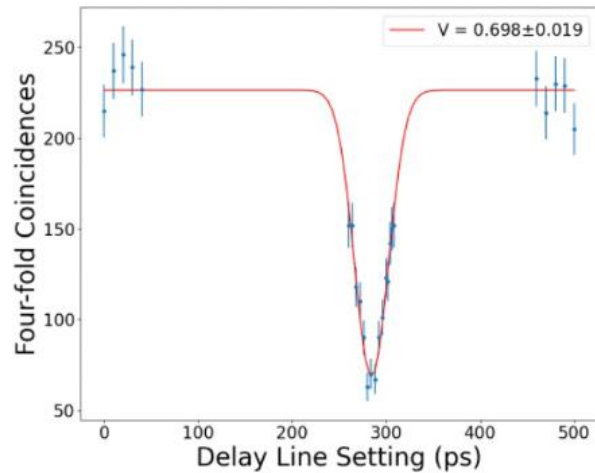
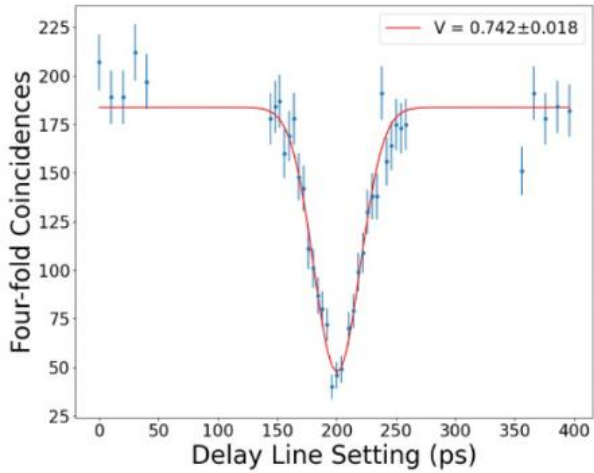
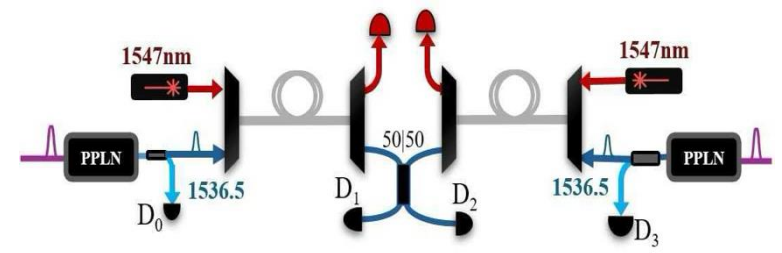
Simulated SpRS coeff spectrum



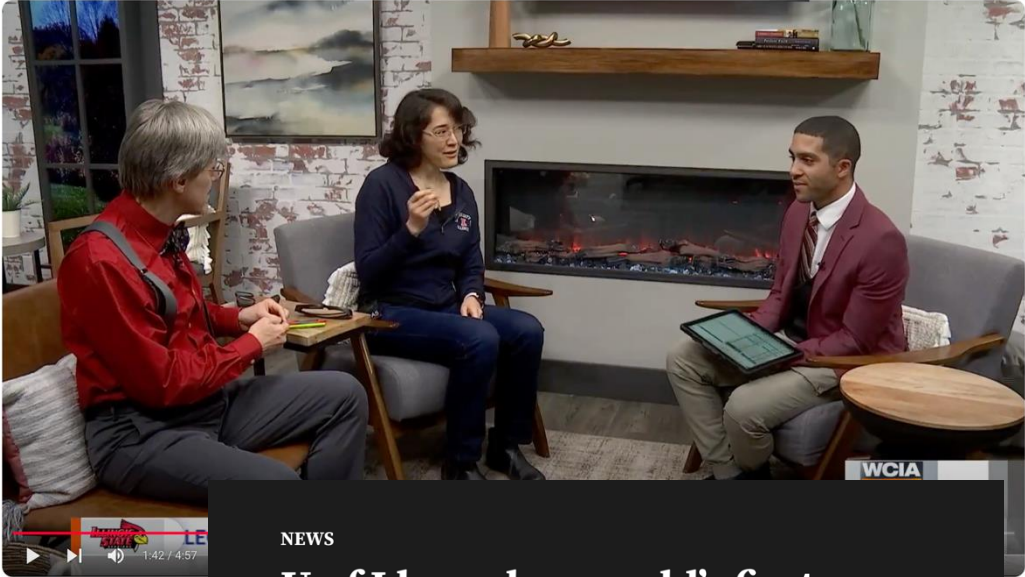
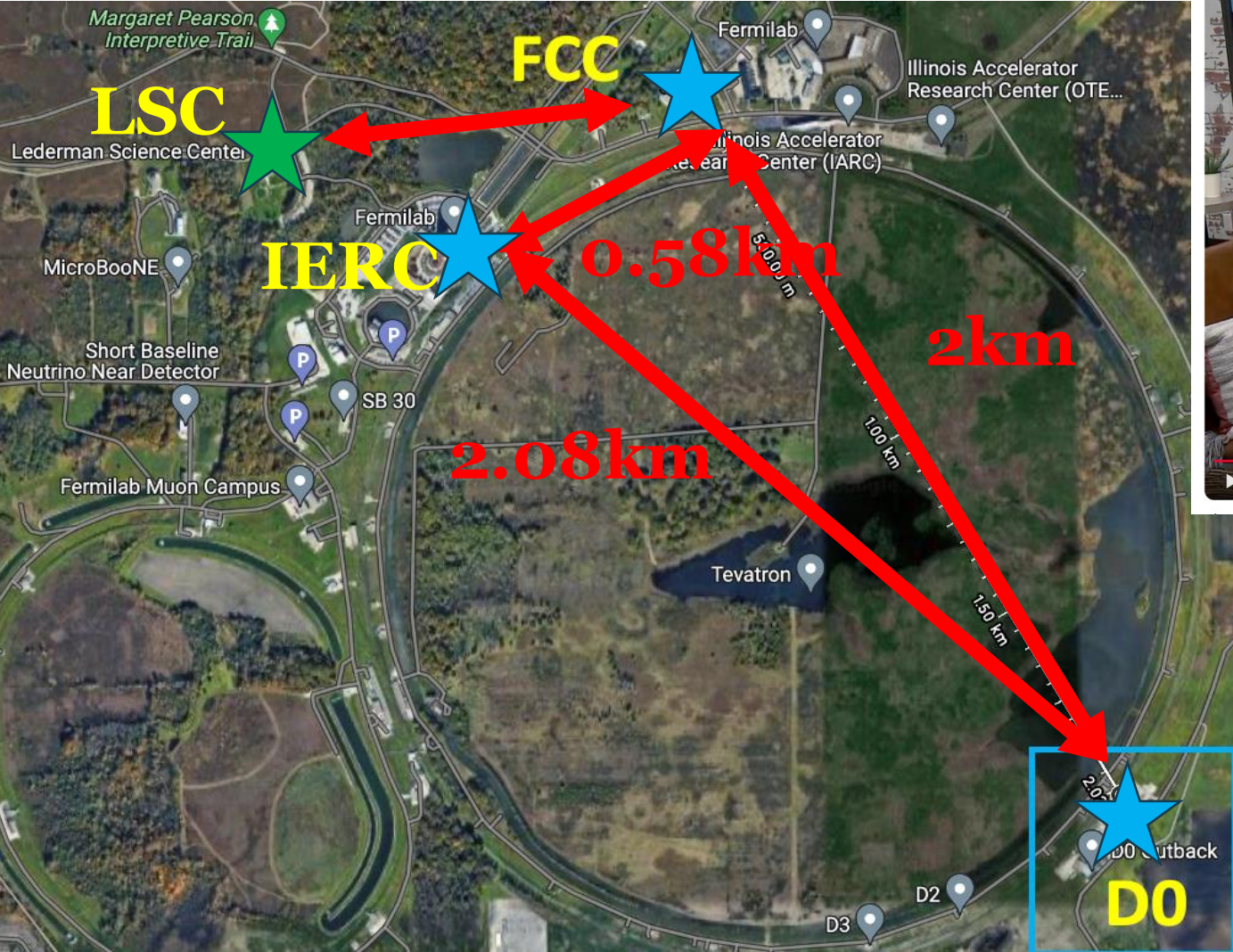
# Entanglement swapping in the presence of classical communications



# Hong-Ou-Mandel Interference with Coexistence



# 4<sup>th</sup> Node on Campus for the Public – Building off of UIUC success.



NEWS

## U of I launches world's first public quantum network at Urbana Free Library

by: Jack Krumm  
 Posted: Nov 5, 2023 / 04:06 PM CST  
 Updated: Nov 5, 2023 / 04:06 PM CST

SHARE

URBANA, ILL. (WCIA) — The University of Illinois' Grainger College of Engineering launched the world's first public quantum network this weekend at the Urbana Free Library.

The network's link will send photons through fiber optic cables from the labs on U of I's campus to the library. The goal is to make quantum information more accessible to everybody for secure communication with quantum computers.



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF  
**ENERGY**

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Science

