


# Novel techniques for ground to space quantum channels




**UNIVERSITY OF WATERLOO** | **IQC** Institute for Quantum Computing  
**Thomas Jennewein**  
 Institute for Quantum Computing & Department of Physics and Astronomy,  
 University of Waterloo  
[Thomas.Jennewein@uwaterloo.ca](mailto:Thomas.Jennewein@uwaterloo.ca)  
 2020.07

1

**WATERLOO'S QUANTUM VALLEY**

**IQC @ 2019:**  
 31 faculty  
 157 Grad students  
 57 Postdoc  
 1800+ publications  
 \$600M+ funding  
 13 spin-offs

Quantum Valley Investments  
 IQC Canada  
 Quantum Valley Micro Lab  
 Institute for Quantum Computing at the University of Waterloo  
 IQC Centre  
 Institute for Quantum Computing  
 The Waterloo Institute for Quantum Computing

2

# Quantum Internet

**REVIEW SUMMARY**

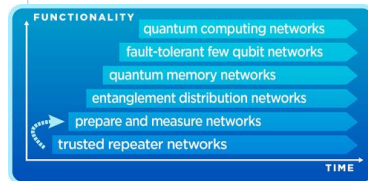
**QUANTUM INFORMATION**

## Quantum internet: A vision for the road ahead

Stephanie Wehner\*, David Elkouss, Ronald Hanson

Science 362, 303 (2018)

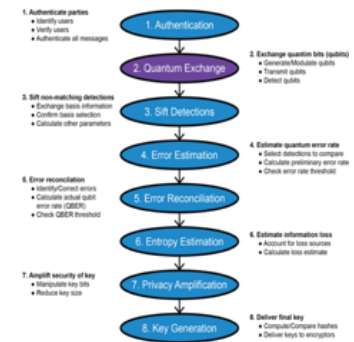
Quantum computing in the cloud:



10

# Quantum Key Distribution

Fixes the loophole of key distribution, where classical keys could be copied or compromised during transport. Only transmit single quanta of light per bit.



L. O. Mailloux et al. Journal of Cyber Security and Information Systems, 4, 2 – Basic Complexity

11

## Historical note on QKD

VOLUME 84, NUMBER 20      PHYSICAL REVIEW LETTERS      15 MAY 2000

### Quantum Cryptography with Entangled Photons

Thomas Jennewein,<sup>1</sup> Christoph Simon,<sup>1</sup> Gregor Weihs,<sup>1</sup> Harald Weinfurter,<sup>2</sup> and Anton Zeilinger<sup>1</sup>  
<sup>1</sup>*Institut für Experimentalphysik, Universität Wien, Boltzmanngasse 5, A-1090 Wien, Austria*  
<sup>2</sup>*Sektion Physik, Universität München, Schellingstrasse 4/III, D-80799 München, Germany*  
 (Received 24 September 1999)

By realizing a quantum cryptography system based on polarization entangled photon pairs we establish highly secure keys, because a single photon source is approximated and the inherent randomness of quantum measurements is exploited. We implement a novel key distribution scheme using Wigner's inequality to test the security of the quantum channel, and, alternatively, realize a variant of the BB84 protocol. Our system has two completely independent users separated by 360 m, and generates raw keys at rates of 400–800 bits/s with bit error rates around 3%.

PACS numbers: 03.67.Dz, 42.79.Sa, 89.80.+h

The primary task of cryptography is to enable two parties (commonly called Alice and Bob) to mask confidential messages, such that the transmitted data are illegible to any unauthorized third party (called Eve). Usually this is done using shared secret keys. However, in principle it is always possible to intercept classical key distribution unnoticed. The recent development of quantum key distribution [1] can cover this major loophole of classical cryptography. It allows Alice and Bob to establish two completely secure keys by transmitting single quanta (qubits) along a quantum channel. The underlying principle of quantum key distribution is that any attempt to intercept the key will be detected.

In any real cryptography system, the raw key generated by Alice and Bob contains errors, which have to be corrected by classical error correction [7] over a public channel. Furthermore, it has been shown that whenever Alice and Bob share a sufficiently secure key, they can enhance its security by privacy amplification techniques [8], which allow them to distill a key of a desired security level. A range of experiments have demonstrated the feasibility of quantum key distribution, including realizations using the polarization of photons [9] or the phase of photons in long interferometers [10]. These experiments have

12

THE NEW YORK TIMES, TUESDAY, MAY 2, 2000




## In Quantum World, Keys to New Codes


And Thomas Jennewein of the University of Vienna, lead author on the third paper, said that thinkable: "We realized a complete quantum cryptography system, almost ready to use."

13

## Why Satellites for Long Distance Q-Com?

- Ground-based
  - Practical systems typically 100 km
  - Demonstrations up to to 400 km
  - Optic fibre loss 0.15 dB/km at best
  - Free-space limited due to line-of-sight
  - Commercial Devices available:
  - **Note: Optical amplifiers not possible!**
- Longer distances:
  - Trusted Repeaters (> 2000km network China)
  - Long lifetime Quantum Memories
  - Quantum Repeaters
  - **Satellites**

$$T_{geo} \approx \frac{D_R^2 D_T^2}{\lambda^2 L^2}$$



Takesue et al. Nature Photonics 1, 343–348 (2007)  
 Ma, Fung, Lo, Phys. Rev. A 76, 012307 (2007)

14

## Quantum Communication in Space

### Dedicated quantum hardware in Space:


- China (J.W. Pan)
  - Entanglement Distribution over 1200 km ! (Science, 2017)
  - QKD, Teleportation (Nature 549, 43–47 and 70-73 (2017)
  - QKD between Beijing and Graz (PRL), QKD using Bell-pairs (CLEO 2019, Nature2020)
- Japan (NICT)
  - 50 kg satellite: Nature Photonics 11, 502–508 (2017)
- Singapore (A. Ling)
  - Correlated Photon Source onboard CubeSat (Phys. Rev. Applied 5, 054022, 2016)
  - SpooQey-1: July 2019: Entanglement in space




Beijing and Vienna have a quantum conversation September 2017, [www.physicsworld.com](http://www.physicsworld.com)  
[http://english.cas.cn/newsroom/news/2017/09/20170928\\_1\\_83577.shtml](http://english.cas.cn/newsroom/news/2017/09/20170928_1_83577.shtml)

19

### And was noticed by the world!



**TIME**  
2018



**JIAN-WEI PAN**  
by Anton Zeilinger

I can't imagine the emergence of quantum technology without Jian-Wei Pan. The world came to appreciate his work last summer, when he achieved quantum communication using quantum states of photons between Earth and China's Micius satellite orbiting more than 300 miles overhead—and establishing the country as a leader in the field.

In the section **Pioneers**.  
Announced April, 2018.

20

## Canadian Quantum Satellite



<http://www.asc-csa.gc.ca/eng/sciences/qeyssat.asp>






**Ministers Bains and Garneau celebrate \$80.9 million for the Canadian Space Agency**

News Release  
From Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada  
Funding will support new projects that will use Canadian innovations in space

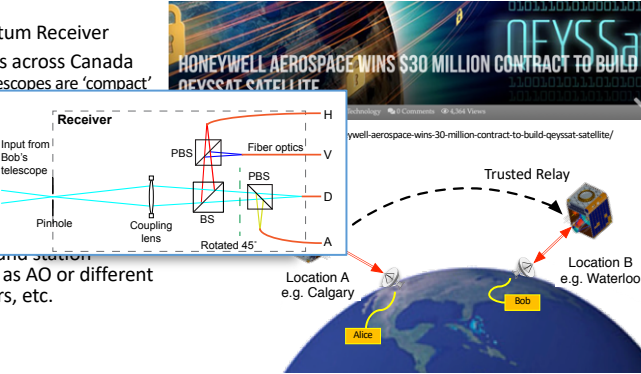


Minister Bains, April 2017

21

### QEYSSat will be a Technology Demonstration Platform

- Optimized Quantum Receiver
- Multiple partners across Canada
  - Transmitter telescopes are 'compact'
  - Networking with
  - Test link with
- Study of quantum entanglement
- Multiple ground stations and around the world
- Research on ground station capabilities such as AO or different quantum emitters, etc.



**HONEYWELL AEROSPACE WINS \$30 MILLION CONTRACT TO BUILD QEYSSAT SATELLITE**

Trusted Relay

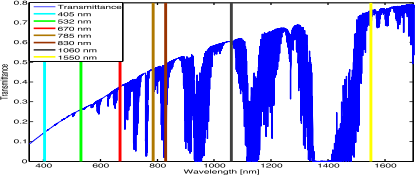
Location A e.g. Calgary

Location B e.g. Waterloo

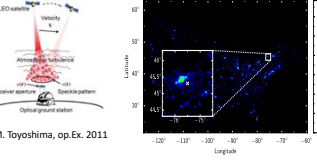
23

### Modeling the performance of satellite to ground quantum link

- Analysis of wavelengths with windows of 'good' atmospheric transmission
- Link modelled using turbulence; diffraction to account for beam obstruction; background signals



North America – the cutout is centred around Ottawa



Wavelength (nm)	Secure key length obtained for the upper quartile satellite pass (bits)	
	Downlink, WCP source	Uplink, WCP source
405	68.5	3.5
532	264.5	33.1
670	465.6	87.7
785	458.3	111.3
830	317.3	82.1
1060	175.4	67.6
1550	123.9	94.8


Related analysis:  
J. Barry et al., NJP, 2012  
P. Wolfers group, NIP, 2009  
R. Ursin group, NIP, 2013

J.P. Bourgoin, et al, NJP, 15:023006, 2013

29


### QEYSSat Payload Prototype

- Fully functional form-representative quantum-payload
- Components have 'path to flight'
- Projected mass: ~ 23 kg, Power <30W, envelope ~ 60cm<sup>3</sup>
- Tests: Radiation, TVAC, aircraft link




C. Pugh et al., Quantum Science and Technology, 2017; 2 (2): 024009


Press release: <https://uwaterloo.ca/institute-for-quantum-computing/news/iqc-advances-quantum-satellite-mission>



Full quantum receiver optics



Payload detectors and electronics



34


### Ground to Aircraft Demonstration



36

### Airborne QKD tracking system

- Airborne Trials 2016- Sep. 20 / 21
- Night #1: 7 passes, of which 2 acquired signal. Night #2: 8 passes, of which 5 acquired signal.
  - 3 km line pass:** secure key (finite size included) of 46805 bit, 35 seconds.
  - 10 km arc pass:** secure key (finite size included) 41899 bit, 250 seconds.



C. Pugh et al, Quantum Science and Technology, 2, 2, 024009 (2017)

37

### Novel Protocols for Free-Space Quantum Communications

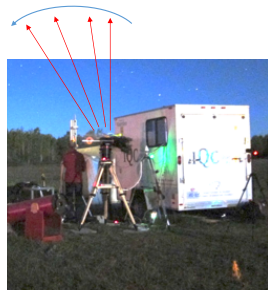
#### Lessons learnt from previous tests

- Reference Frame Independent QKD
- Alternative Encoding of Photonic Qubits
- HOM Interference with Structured Pulses

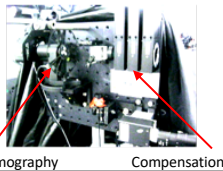
38

# I. Reference-Frame Alignment

- Challenge for QKD implementations
  - How to align the reference frames (e.g. polarization states at Alice have to match Bob's)?
  - Particular problem in our case is the motion of the telescope
  - Realtime Compensation:



Airborne Transmitter, Smith Falls, 2016



arxiv.org  
1810.04112

39

# Our satellite receiver has limited resource of 4 states

- New variant of the protocol: 6 – 4 state protocol

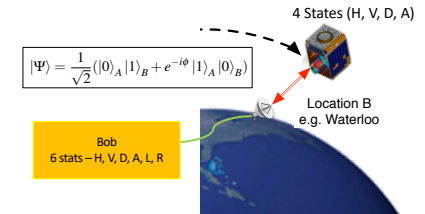
R. Tannous, MsC thesis, 2018.  
Arxiv 1905.09197

Channel Verification:

$$C = \sqrt{(X_A X_B)^2 + (Y_A X_B)^2}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \langle \sigma_Z \otimes \sigma_Z \rangle &= (1 - 2Q) \\ \langle \sigma_X \otimes \sigma_X \rangle &= (1 - 2Q) \cdot \cos \theta \\ \langle \sigma_Y \otimes \sigma_X \rangle &= -(1 - 2Q) \cdot \sin \theta \\ \langle \sigma_V \otimes \sigma_X \rangle &= (1 - 2Q) \\ \sigma_V &= (\cos \theta) \sigma_X - (\sin \theta) \sigma_Y \end{aligned}$$

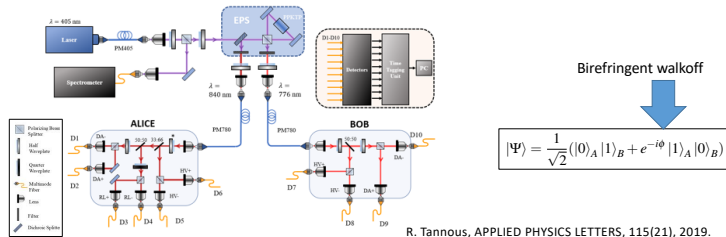
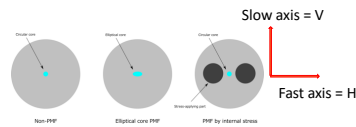
C will be constant even under varying phase theta, and if C drops <1, would reveal Eve!



41

# Experimental Setup

- Transmission over polarization maintaining fiber

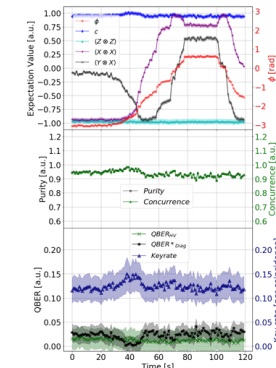


R. Tannous, APPLIED PHYSICS LETTERS, 115(21), 2019.

42

# Results

R. Tannous, APPLIED PHYSICS LETTERS, 115(21), 2019.



The phase is varied by tuning a birefringent element.

Coincidence Counts

Tomography to determine purity of state

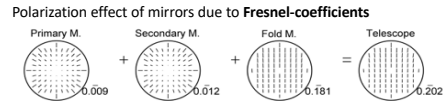
$$\begin{aligned} \text{QBER}_{HV} &= \frac{1 - \langle Z \otimes Z \rangle}{2} = \frac{N_{\text{bad}}}{N_{\text{total}}} \\ \text{QBER}^*_{\text{Diag}} &= \frac{1 - C}{2} \end{aligned}$$

$$R \geq Q_k (1 - f H_2(\text{QBER}_{HV}) - H_2(\text{QBER}^*_{\text{Diag}}))$$

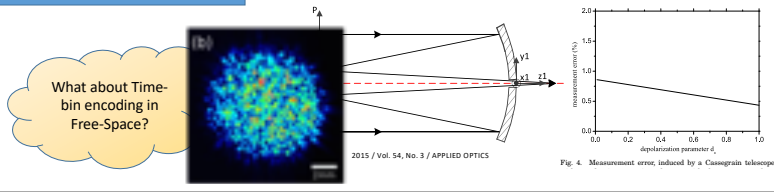
43

## II: Myth: You can only use polarization encoding in free-space quantum communications

**Depolarization of a Laser Beam at 6328 Å due to Atmospheric Transmission**  
 D. H. Hahn  
 February 1989 / Vol. 8, No. 2 / APPLIED OPTICS 367  
 Depolarization measured ca.  $10^{-7}$  to  $10^{-5}$  rad. Limited by apparatus and background light.



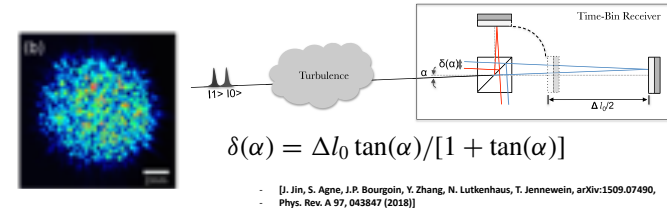
\*Retardance maps for each mirror element (first three panels) and the cumulative retardance for the entire telescope (last panel).  
 Breckinridge, Lam, Chipman, Publications of the Astronomical Society of the Pacific, Vol. 127, No. 951 (2015), pp. 445



44

## The issue with asymmetric MZI and distorted modes

- Different incident angles and modal distortions experience different Phase
- Tim—bin analyzer interferometer with ‘flat’ optics not suitable

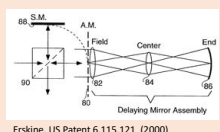


45

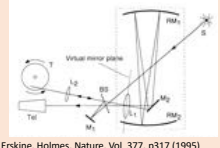
## Multi-mode Michelson Interferometers

Used in applications for multi-mode images in Doppler-LIDAR Velocimetry with incoherent light sources, Astronomy, Narrowband Filters in LIDAR

### Superimposing Interferometers

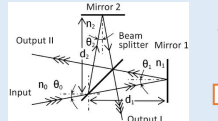


Erskine, US Patent 6,115,121 (2000)



Erskine, Holmes, Nature, Vol. 377, p317 (1995)

### Field-Widened Michelson Interferometers



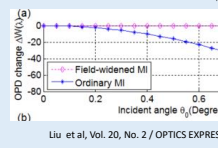
Appl. Opt. 11(3), 507–516 (1972).  
 Appl. Opt. 24(11), 1571–1584 (1985)

$$W = 2(n_1 d_1 - n_2 d_2) - \sin^2 \theta_1 \left( \frac{d_1}{n_1} - \frac{d_2}{n_2} \right)$$

$$= \frac{\sin^2 \theta_1}{4} \left( \frac{d_1}{n_1} - \frac{d_2}{n_2} \right) - \frac{\sin^2 \theta_2}{8} \left( \frac{d_1}{n_1} - \frac{d_2}{n_2} \right)$$

$$d_1 / n_1 - d_2 / n_2 = 0$$

$$W = 2(n_1 d_1 - n_2 d_2) - \frac{\sin^2 \theta_1}{4} \left( \frac{d_1}{n_1} - \frac{d_2}{n_2} \right) - \frac{\sin^2 \theta_2}{8} \left( \frac{d_1}{n_1} - \frac{d_2}{n_2} \right)$$



Liu et al, Vol. 20, No. 2 / OPTICS EXPRESS 1406 (2012)

46

## New Configuration with Symmetric Imaging Paths

- Observed interference visibilities of >97 % in both outputs,
- Average visibility of 98.5 % for the 4 QKD states.
- Photon collection into a multimode fiber of 80 %, from input to output!

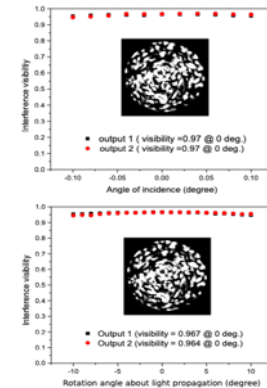
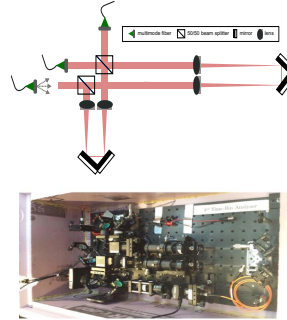
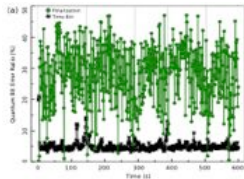


Figure 2. Measured interference visibilities with multimode beam (inset) while varying incidence (a) and rotation (b) angles.

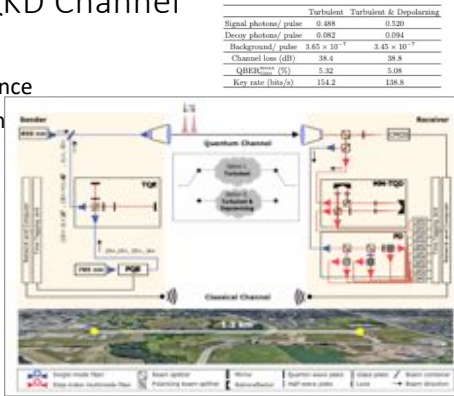
48

### Outdoor Time-Bin QKD Channel

- 1.2 km outdoor link
- Introduced additional turbulence
- also introduced depolarization
- Full BB84 protocol



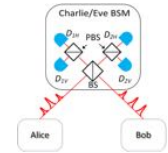
J. Jin et al., OPTICS EXPRESS, 27(26):37214–37223, 2019.



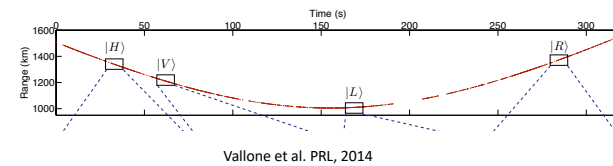
49

### Towards free-space MDI-QKD

- No trust on the central Bell-state measurement
- Ideally, the BSM would be located on the moving Systems, such as airplanes or satellites.
  - Challenge: The time-of-flight for each channel will be variable



Hoi-Kwong Lo group, Physical Review Letters 112(19), 2013

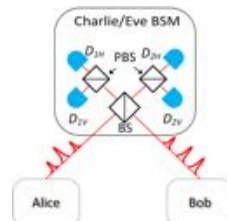


Vallone et al. PRL, 2014

54

### Challenge

- How to synchronize the wave packets emitted by Alice, Bob, such that they interfere on Charlie's beam splitter?
- With a moving systems, a real-time compensation is challenging.
  - Alice-Charlie, and Bob-Charlie, must independently measure the exact round trip time for their channels, and actively compensate for any changes.
  - This measurement requires two-way propagation of synchronization information (a-la Einstein)



Hoi-Kwong Lo group, Physical Review Letters 112(19), 2013

55

### Goal: Extract the synchronization of Alice and Bob only **after** the measurements

- Combination of DV and CV MDI-QKD, bring out the best of both worlds:
  - **Photon Detection** from Discrete Variable Schemes allows for channels with long distances / high transmission losses
  - **Long coherence wave packets**, inspired by Continuous Variables Schemes, offer ability for Alice, Bob, Charlie to operate almost independently

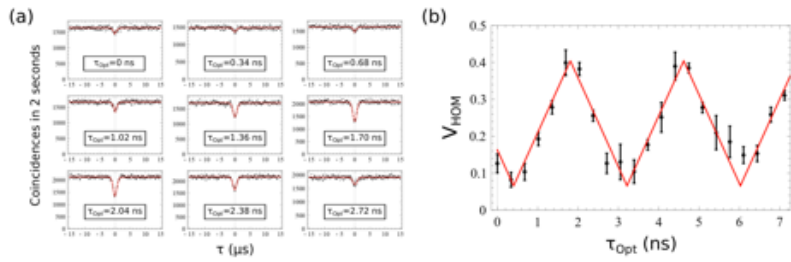


S. Pirandola, C. Ottaviani, G. Spedalieri, C. Weedbrook, S. L. Braunstein, S. Lloyd, T. Gehring, C. S. Jacobsen, U. L. Andersen, High-rate measurement-device-independent quantum cryptography, Nat. Photon. 9, p. 397-402, 2015.

Ulrik L. Andersen, Tobias Gehring, Christian S. Jacobsen and Stefano Pirandola, Effective measurement-device-independent quantum cryptography, SPIE Newsroom. DOI: 10.1117/2.1201509.006119

56

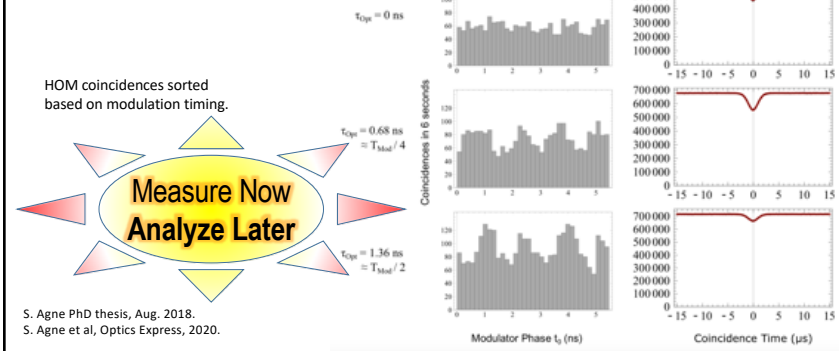
### Triangular HOM Interference



S. Agne PhD thesis, Aug. 2018.  
S. Agne et al, arXiv:2004.11259 [quant-ph], accepted in Optics Express, 2020.

59

### Time-resolved HQM



60

### Research on Quantum Networks

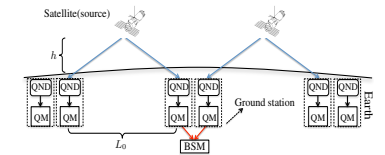
- Efficient and robust q-channels
- Dimensions – power – mass
  - chip scale systems ?
- Interfaces / transducers
  - connect channels with stationary qubits
- Long term q-memories
- Routing technologies
- Cost



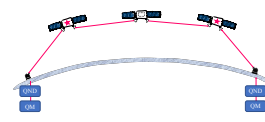
61

### Global Quantum Networks?

- A hybrid between satellite links and quantum repeaters may achieve overall best performance
- Satellites and Q-Repeaters
  - Distances up to 20,000 km



K. Boone, Bourgoin, Meyer-Scott, Heshami, TJ, Simon. PRA 91, 052325 (2015)



Daniel Oi, Strathclyde Group: Study on Quantum Memories on Satellites, Mustafa Gundogan, et al, arXiv:2006.10636v1

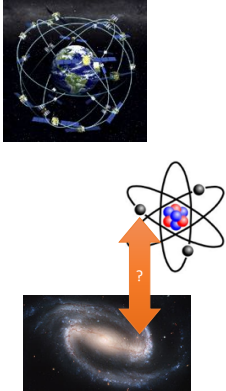
62



## Long-term vision for fundamental science

- Global Quantum Networks with satellites
  - We need to understand all (fundamental) effects that are going on in order to get desired behavior
- Question of unification of quantum theory and relativity
  - We need to explore regimes with large (relativistic) velocities and speeds, and gravitational influences.
  - Test the interplay of quantum mechanics and gravity

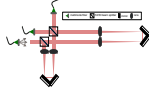
Review of possible science test for quantum entanglement in space:  
*Fundamental quantum optics experiments conceivable with satellites-reaching relativistic distances and velocities*  
 D. Rideout, T.J. et al. Class. Quant. Grav., 29(22):224011, 2012.




63

## Summary


- Quantum Communication in Space
- QEYSSat mission
- Exploring new directions for robust Free-Space Quantum Communications:
  - Time-bin
  - RFI-QKD
  - towards MDI-QKD



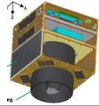
- J. Jin et al., OPTICS EXPRESS, 27(26):37214–37223, (2019).
- J. Jin, et al. Phys. Rev. A 97, 043847 (2018)



- C. Pugh et al, Quantum Science and Technology, 2, 2, 024009 (2017)



- R. Tannous, APPLIED PHYSICS LETTERS, 115(21), (2019).



- S. Agne et al, Optics Express, (2020).
- K. Boone, et al. PRA 91, 052325 (2015)
- J.P. Bourgoin, et al, NJP, 15:023006, (2013).

65



Thank You



66