

François Morellet  
*Random Distribution of 40,000 Squares using the Odd and Even Numbers of a Telephone Directory 1960*



In-Silico generation of random bit streams



the value of unpredictability

Massimo Caccia

Università dell'Insubria & Random Power s.r.l.

[massimo.caccia@randompower.eu](mailto:massimo.caccia@randompower.eu)



May 24<sup>st</sup>, 2023

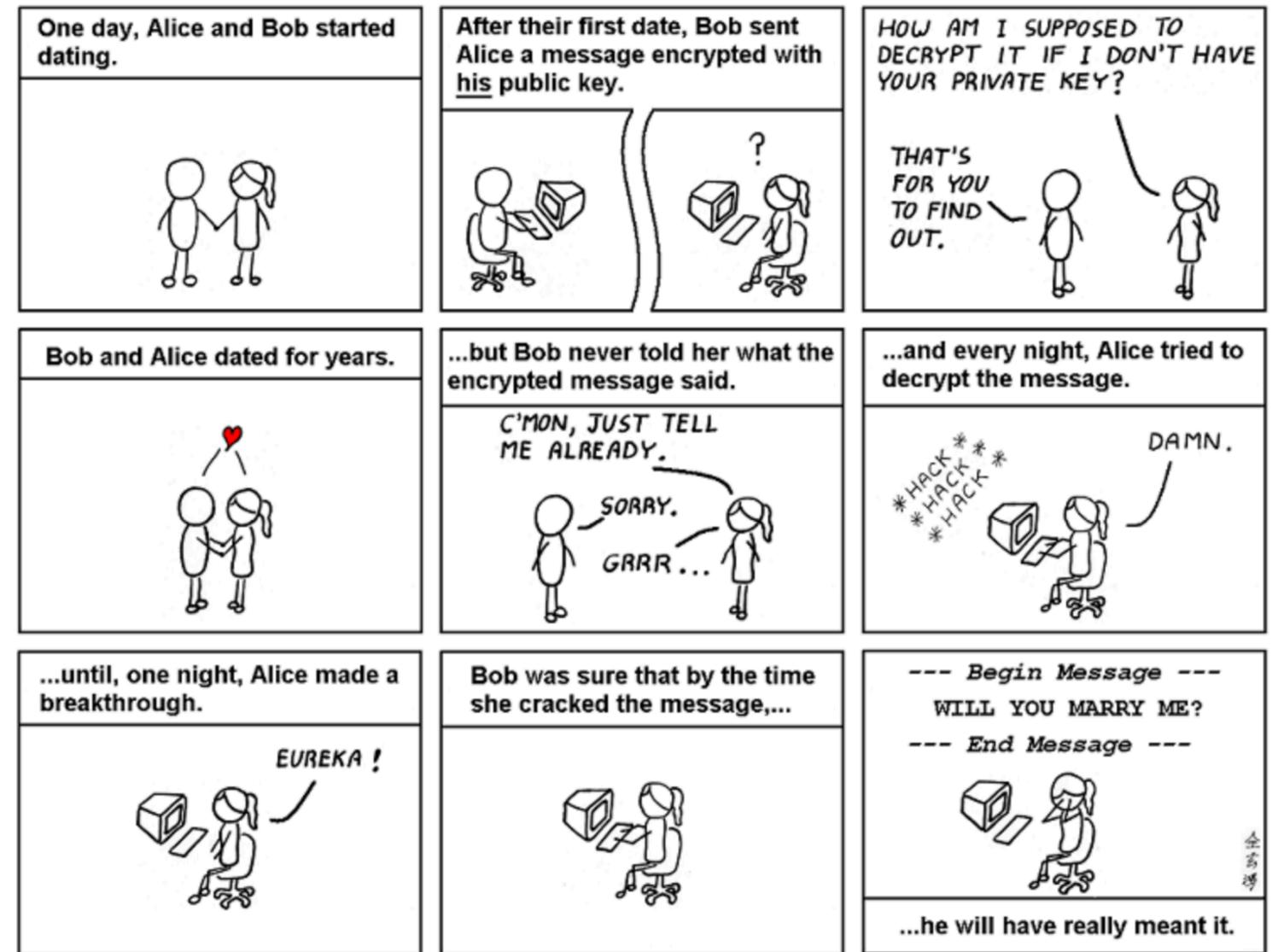


2 . i n t r o d u c t i o n :

# WHAT FOR?

**Unpredictability** to preserve the **predictability** of our clockwork world

► the **RSA** (Rivest–Shamir–Adleman) **public key cryptography protocol** uses two random prime numbers of length up to 2048 bits to generate the keys

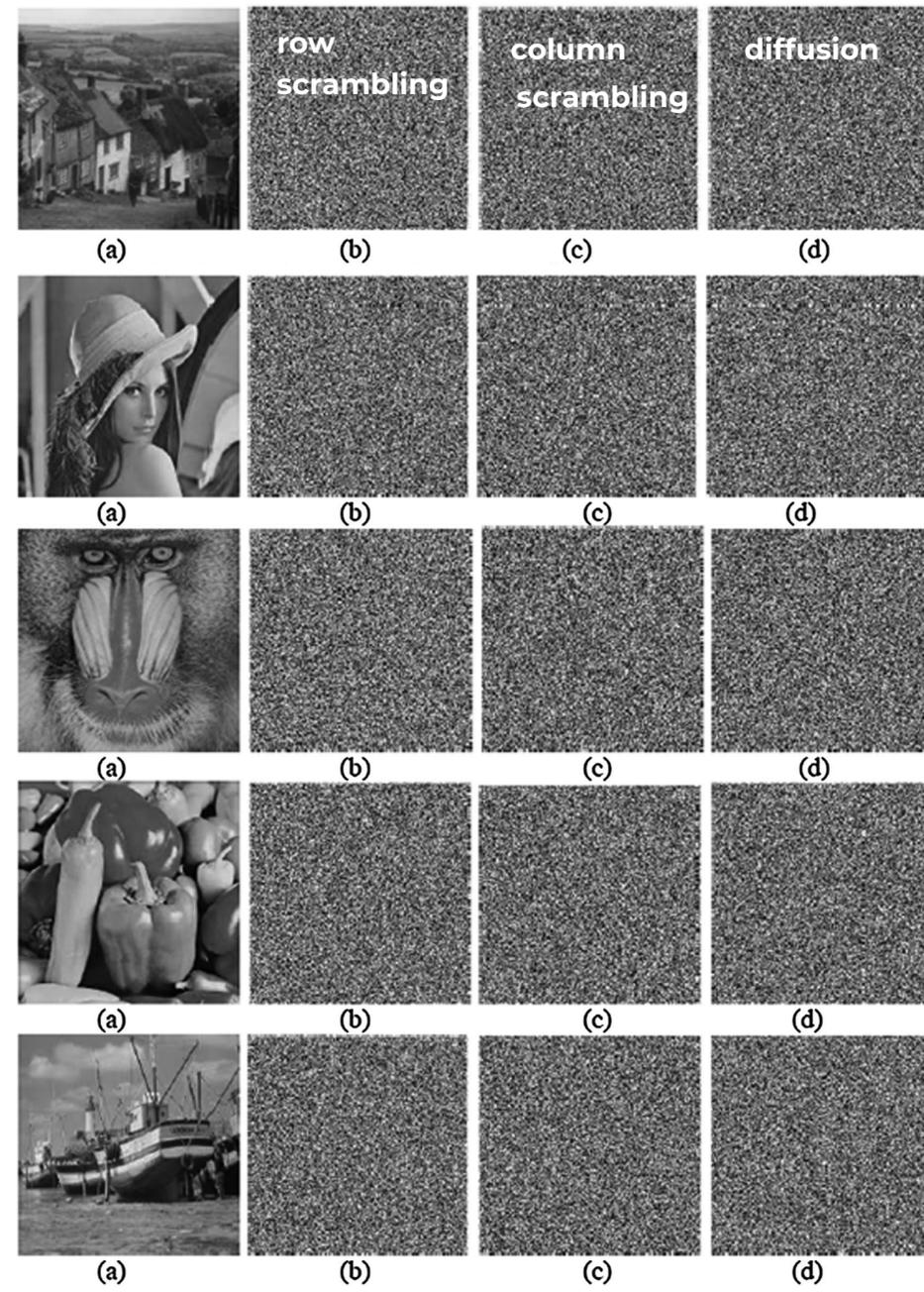
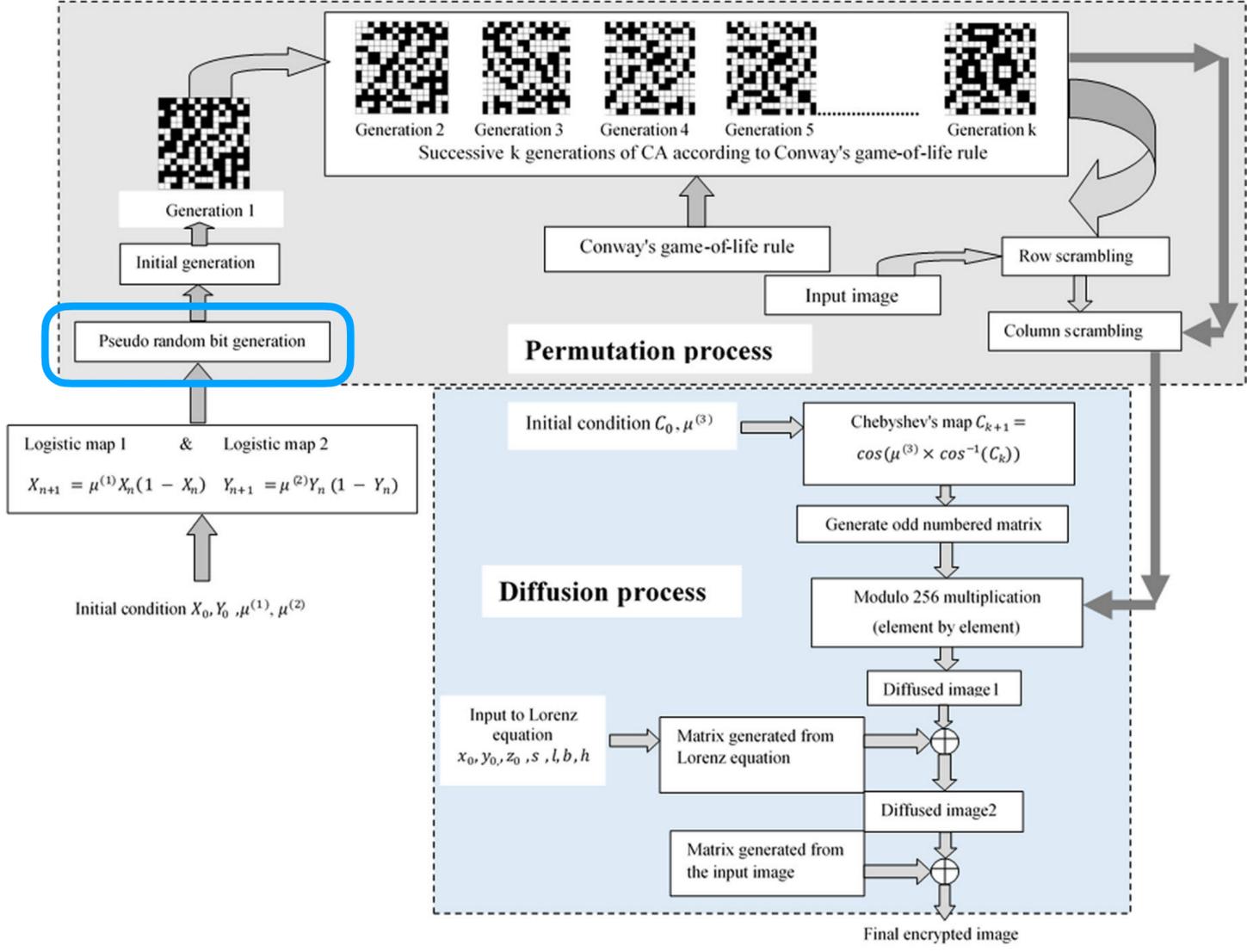


<https://xkcd.com>; Randall Munroe

# 1. introduction: WHAT FOR?

**Unpredictability** to preserve the **predictability** of our clockwork world

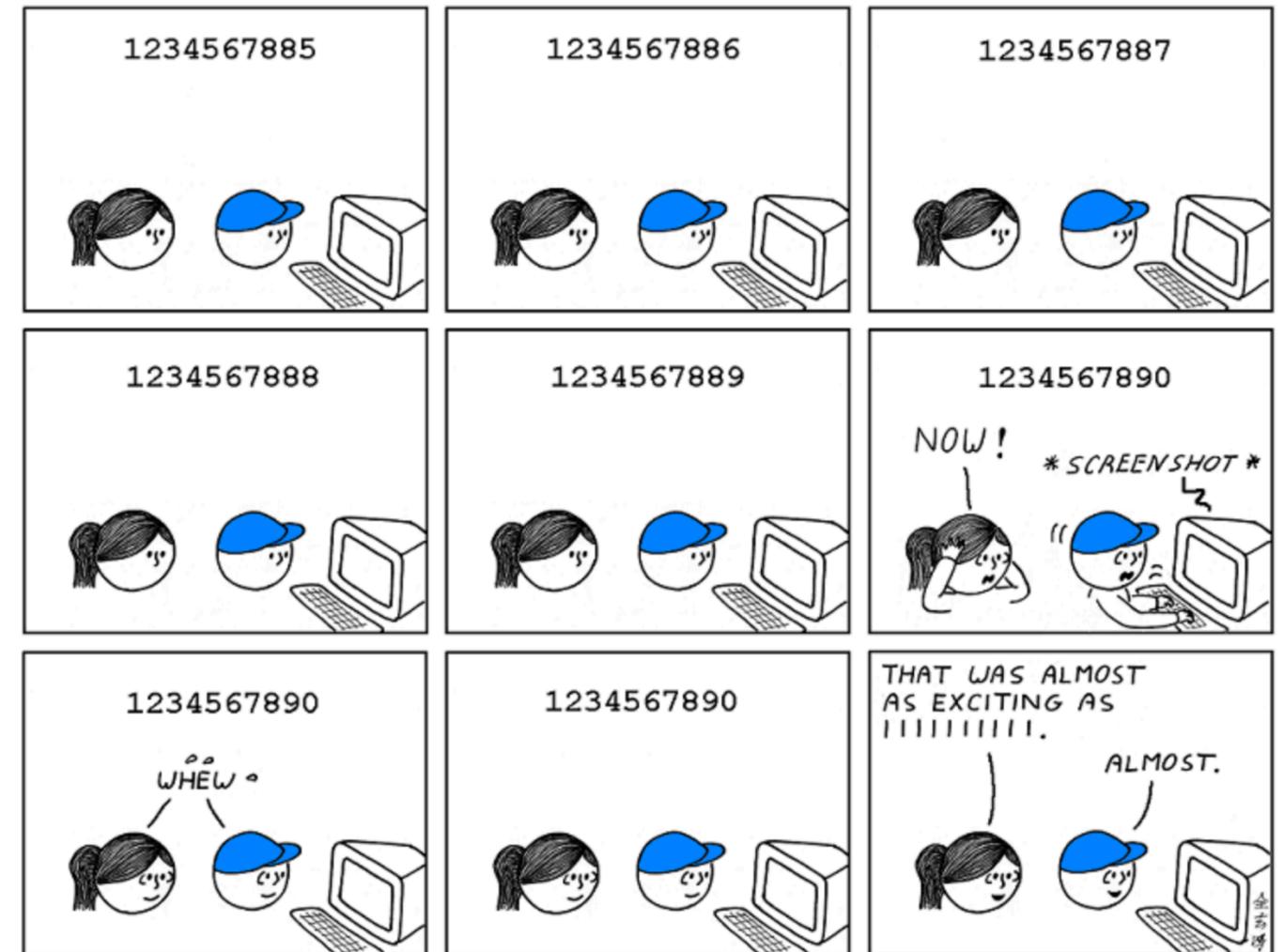
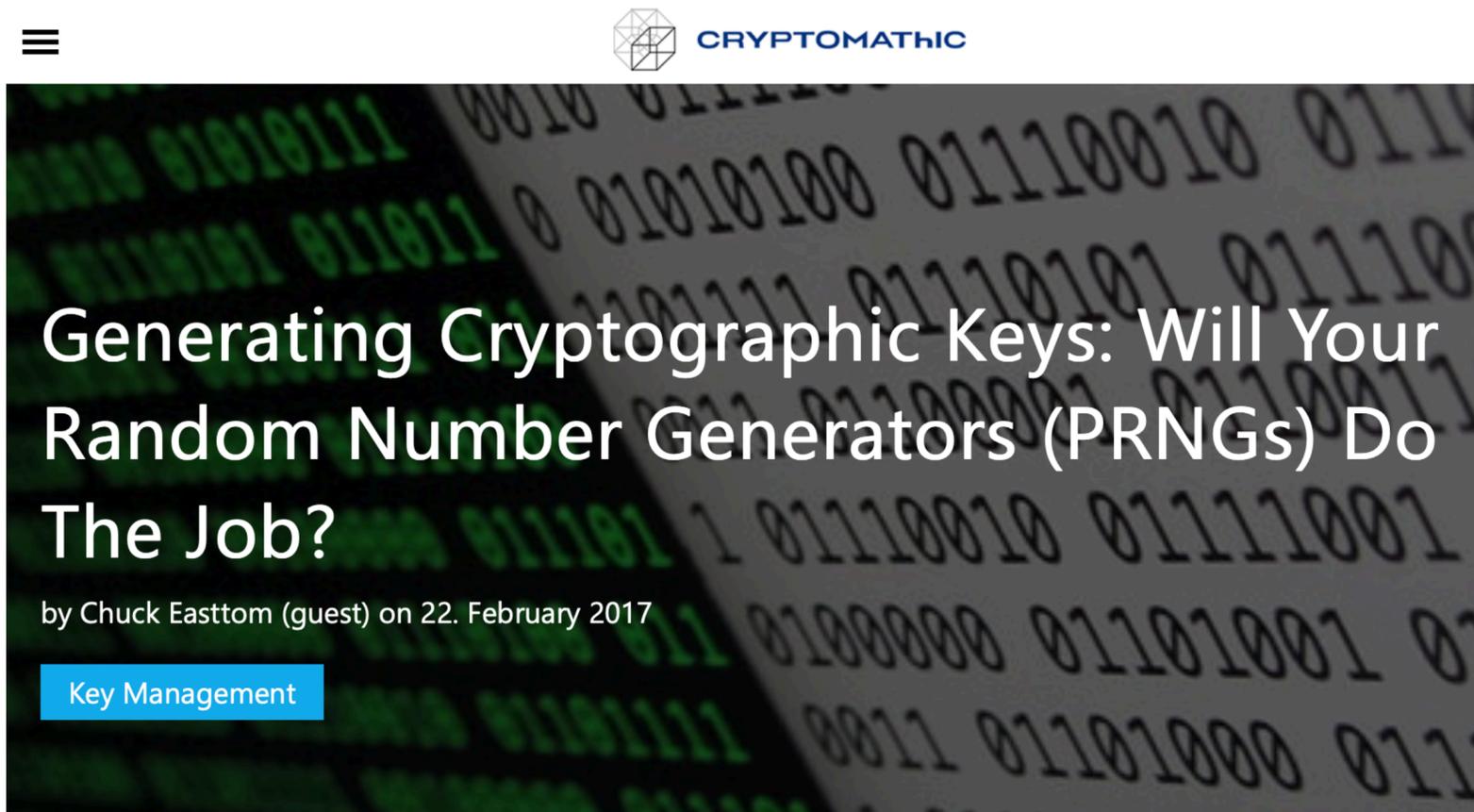
► **Image encryption** is also relying on random single-bit arrays:



B. Murugan et al., *A hybrid image encryption algorithm using chaos and Conway's game-of-life cellular automata*, Security Comm. Networks 2016; 9:634-651, DOI: 10.1002/sec.1386

# WHAT FOR?

there is definitely a hype about Random bit streams, not only for **crypto** but also for **gaming**, **virtual reality**, **Monte Carlo simulations** and **IoT** (notably car security, smart houses, drones to guarantee authentication and secure transmission & control)



<https://xkcd.com>; Randall Munroe



**Primary Market:**  
cybersecurity & simulation

## Quantum Random Number Generators: A Ten-year Market Assessment

Report IQT-QRNG-0121

Published January 19, 2021

**Main findings:** expected market volume of \$7.2B by 2026

- ▶ most relevant segment: [Data Centers](#) [\$3.1B]
- ▶ significant interest by [financial service providers](#) for improved Monte Carlo simulations & data protection [[\\$2.2B](#)]



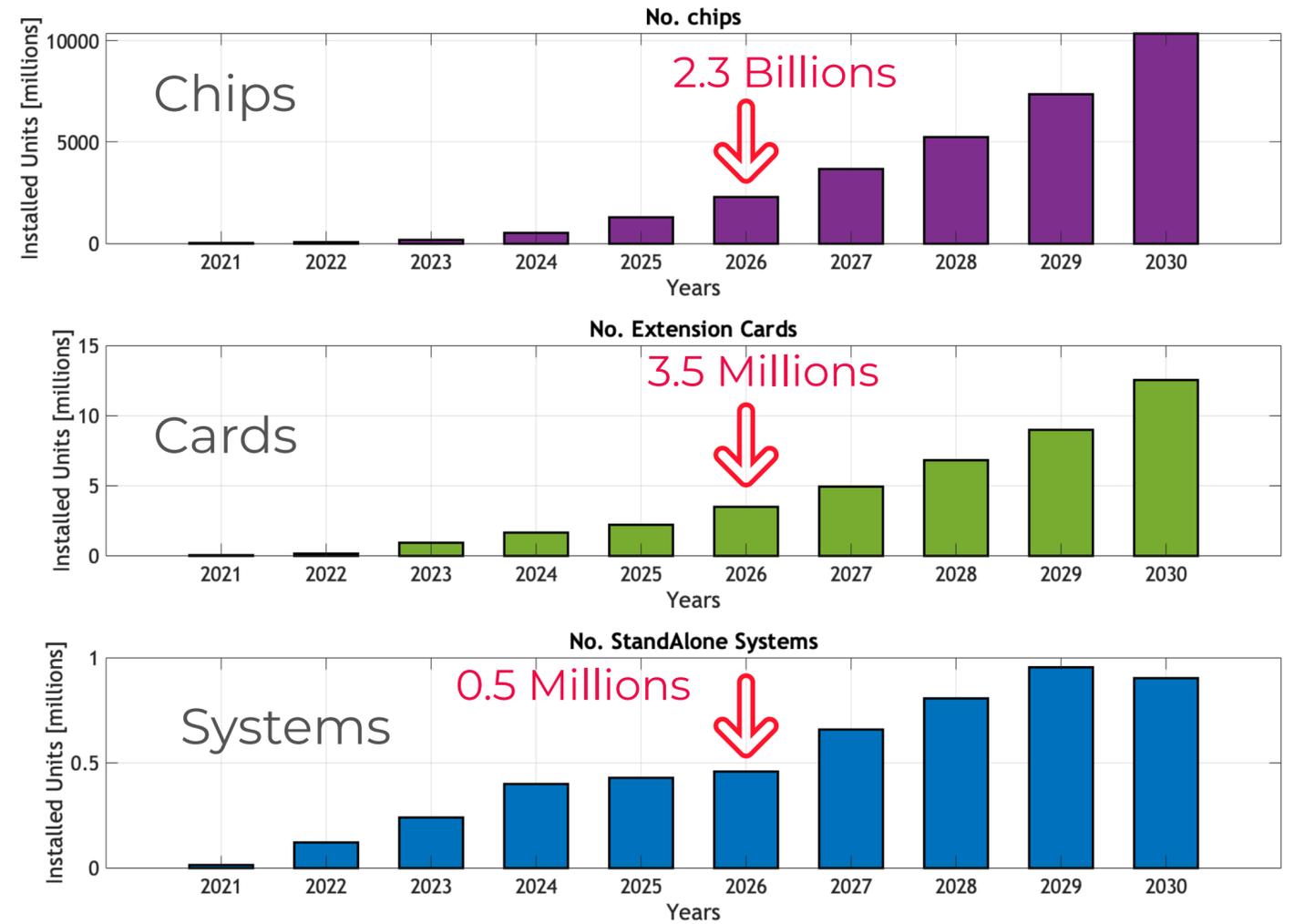
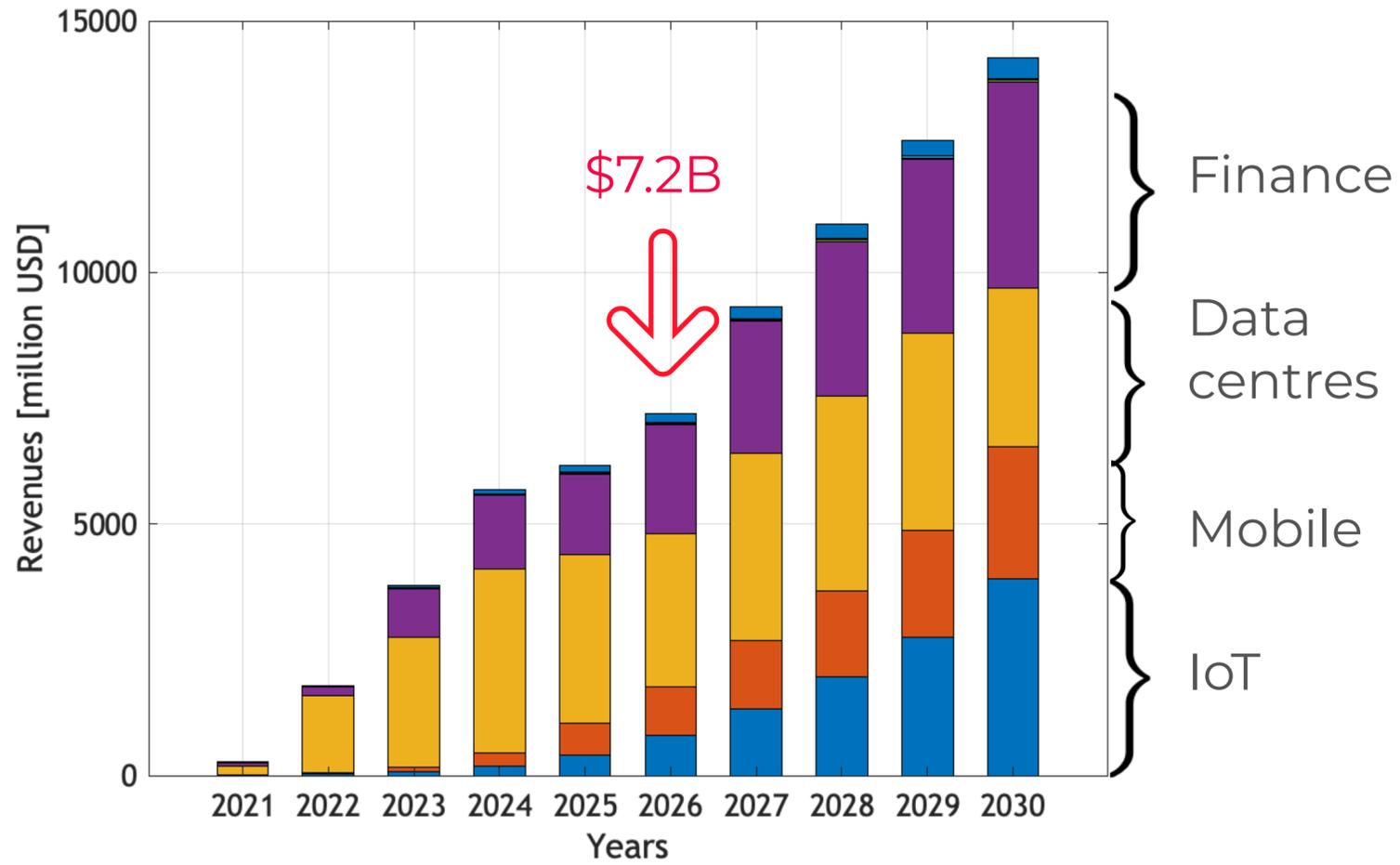
**Secondary Market:**  
gaming & gambling

Georges de la Tour  
The dice players (1651 c.a.)

### Main applications:

- ▶ Replacement market of  
“[physical gambling devices](#)”  
[~ 7 Million cabinets worldwide, 5 years lifespan ⇒ ~1.4M [new devices/year](#) ]
- ▶ [Random number streaming to on-line platforms](#)

# 2 . market potential :



Installed Units vs Time

Total Market by Product Type										
	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030
Chips	1.2	48.5	159.2	455.6	1,038.7	1,771.4	2,688.8	3,672.1	4,877.9	6,544.5
Extension Cards	85.6	210.7	1,014.7	1,560.8	1,768.0	2,388.7	2,915.5	3,414.4	3,841.2	4,577.7
Standalone Devices	180.0	1,530.0	2,594.5	3,658.0	3,356.7	3,035.8	3,712.1	3,874.1	3,904.8	3,134.7
<b>Total (\$M)</b>	<b>266.8</b>	<b>1,789.2</b>	<b>3,768.4</b>	<b>5,674.4</b>	<b>6,163.3</b>	<b>7,195.9</b>	<b>9,316.5</b>	<b>10,960.7</b>	<b>12,623.9</b>	<b>14,256.9</b>

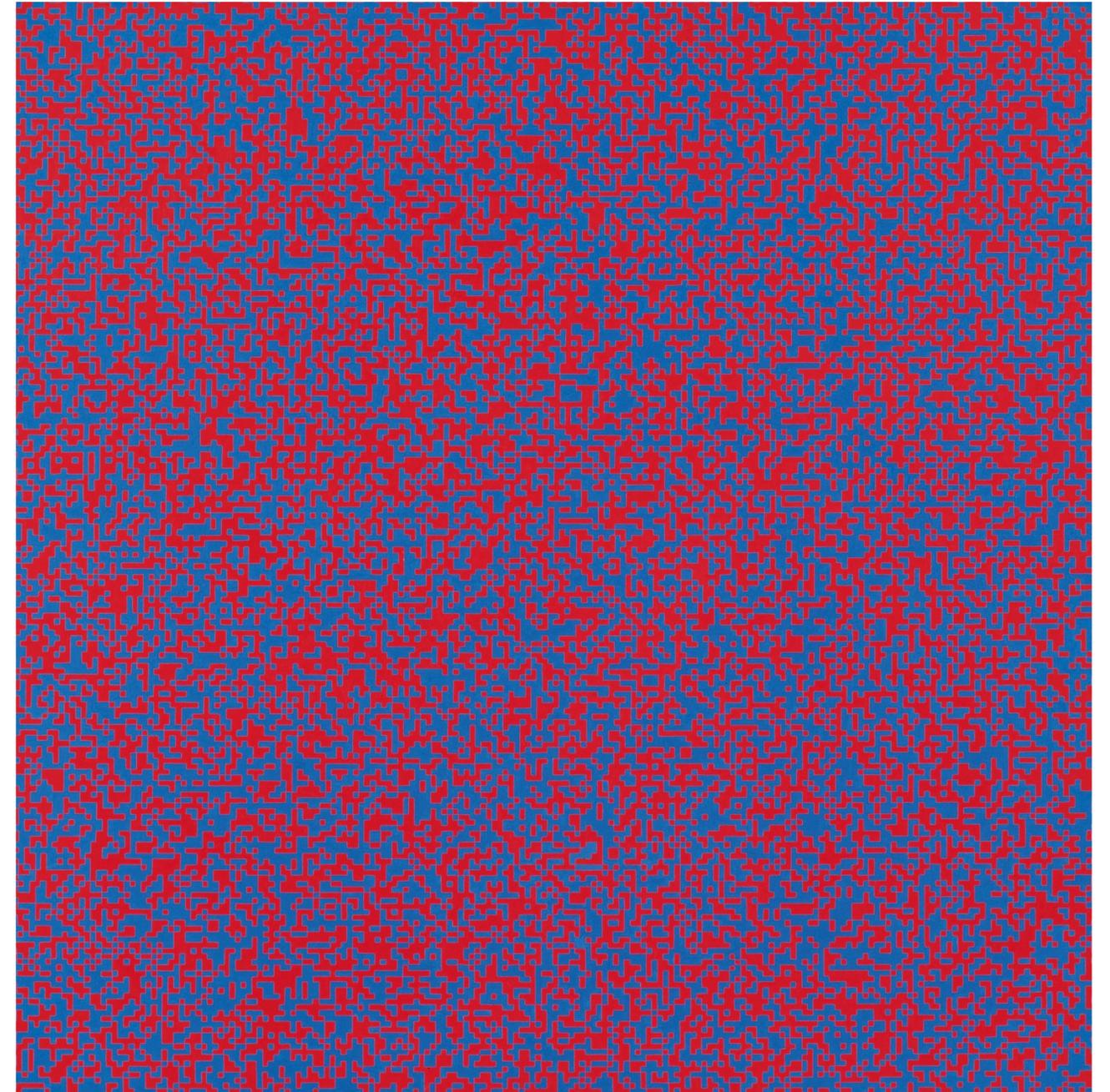
### 3 . t h e e s s e n c e o f r a n d o m n u m b e r g e n e r a t i o n :

# HOW TO GENERATE AN UNPREDICTABLE RANDOM NUMBER?

It is always nice to consider an artist's point of view:

"With *Random Distribution*, the purpose of my system was to cause a reaction between two colours of equal intensity. **I drew horizontal and vertical lines to make 40,000 squares. Then my wife or my sons would read out the numbers from the phone book (except the first repetitive digits), and I would mark each square for an even number while leaving the odd ones blank.** The crossed squares were painted blue and the blank ones red. For the 1963 Paris Biennale I made a 3-D version of it that was shown among the Groupe de Recherche d'Art Visuel installations (and re-created it again on different occasions). I wanted to create a dazzling fight between two colours that shared the same luminosity. This balance of colour intensity was hard to adjust because daylight enhances the blue and artificial light boosts the red. I wanted the visitors to have a disturbing experience when they walked into this room – to almost hurt their eyes with the pulsating, flickering balance of two colours. I like that kind of aggression."

excerpt from <https://www.tate.org.uk/context-comment/articles/65-38-21-4-72>



François Morellet (1926-2016)  
*Random Distribution of 40,000 Squares using the Odd and Even  
 Numbers of a Telephone Directory 1960*  
 MOMA, New York

# HOW TO GENERATE AN UNPREDICTABLE RANDOM NUMBER?

## PRNG

(PseudoRandom Number Generators)

are essentially a piece of software code  
⇒ they deterministic and in principle  
predictable

$$x_n \equiv ax_{n-1} + b \pmod{m}$$

an example of linear congruential generator

**J. Von Neumann: Anyone who considers arithmetical methods of producing random digits is, of course, in a state of sin.**

Von Neumann, John (1951). "Various techniques used in connection with random digits" (PDF). *National Bureau of Standards Applied Mathematics Series*. **12**: 36–38.

## TRNG

(True Random Number Generators)

are essentially coin flipping,  
namely get bits out observing unpredictable  
natural phenomena



[http://glee.wikia.com/wiki/File:281735\\_1342370254-coin-flip.gif.gif](http://glee.wikia.com/wiki/File:281735_1342370254-coin-flip.gif.gif)

# HOW TO GENERATE AN UNPREDICTABLE RANDOM NUMBER?

## PRNG

(PseudoRandom Number Generators)

Fast, cheap & reasonably easy. However:

- ▶ software Random Number Generation is PSEUDO
- ▶ code can be bugged
- ▶ and it may have a BACKDOOR

## TRNG

(True Random Number Generators)

Extracting bits from the observation of natural phenomena is not trivial and you may suffer from

- ▶ “coin bias” by the embodiment of a great principle
- ▶ weakness against environmental parameters
- ▶ a significant “attack surface”, conditioning the device in use
- ▶ low bit rate

Attack Trends  
Editor: David Ahmad, drma@mac.com

Two Years of Broken Crypto

Debian’s Dress Rehearsal



# HOW DO WE DO IT?

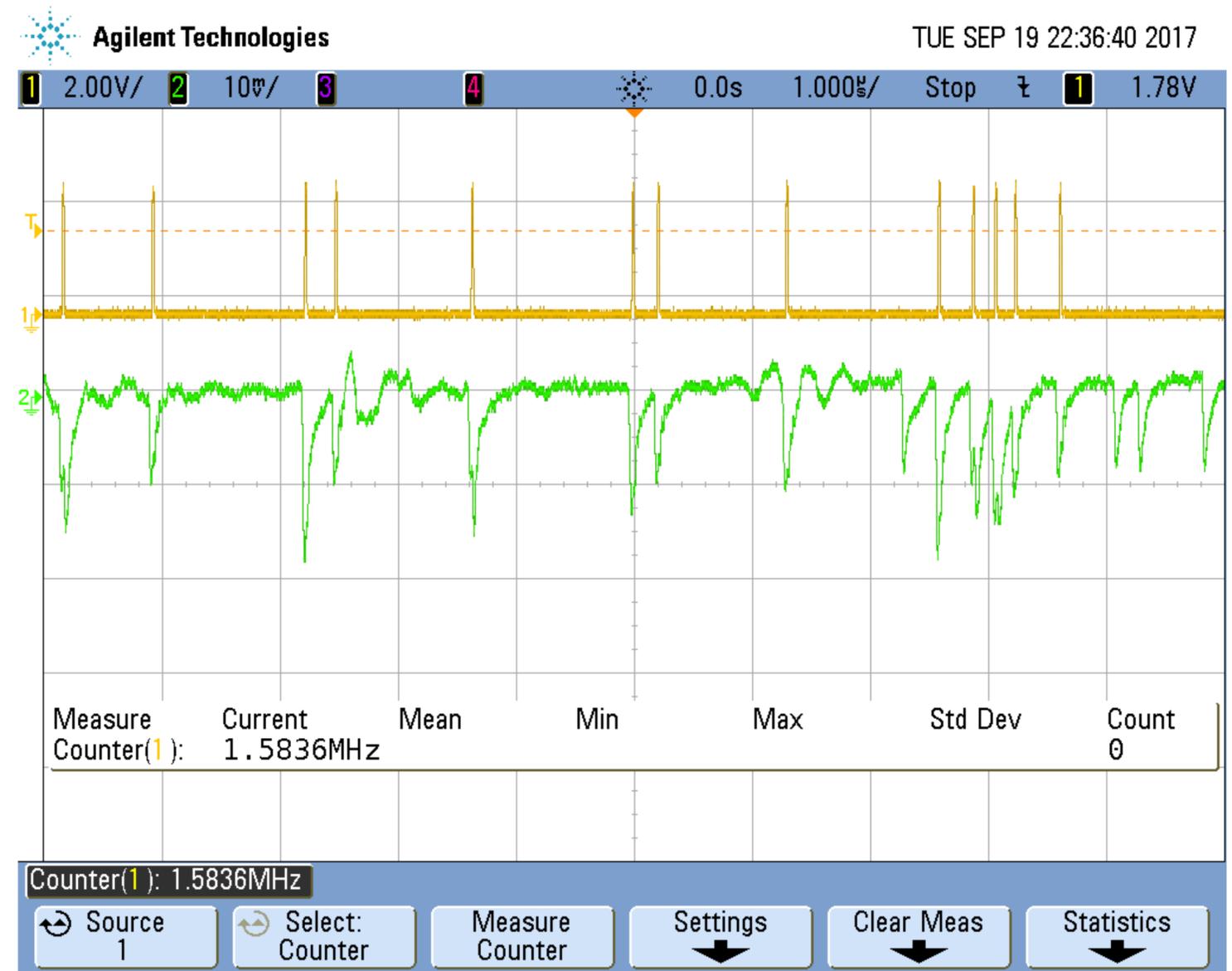
Inspired by Forrest Gump, we say:

## RADIOACTIVE IS WHAT RADIOACTIVE DOES

- ▶ emission by a radioactive source is due to the quantum laws of Nature
- ▶ decays of unstable nuclei are unpredictable

⇒ the sequence of detected decays can be used to generate random bits with different recipes:

- check the parity of the number of pulses in a time window
- pre-define the time window in a way that is equally like to have or not to have a single pulse



Sequence of pulses by the decay of a radioactive source in a nuclear physics detector

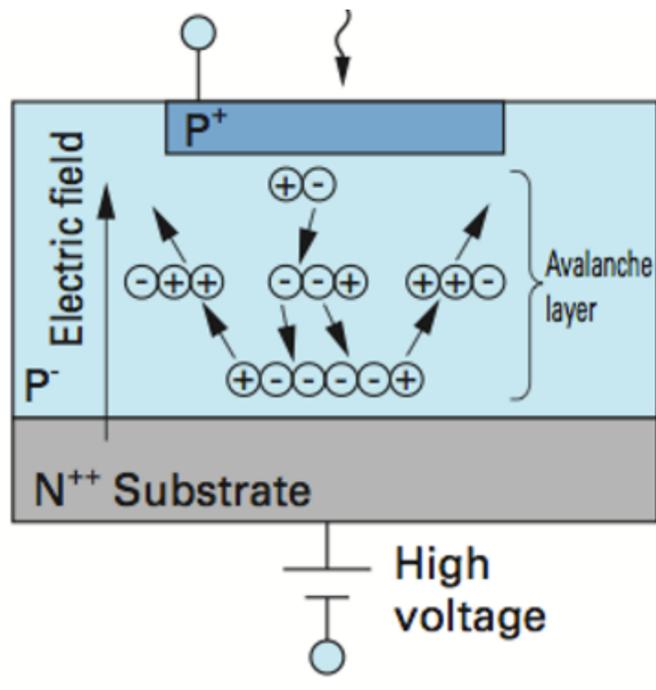
The idea behind **RANDOM POWER** is to replace a radioactive source with something safer, more handy, cost effective, simple, robust, providing sequences of pulses mimicking radioactive decays.

# ► The generator, an array of Single Photon Avalanche Diodes, namely p-n junctions operated beyond the breakdown voltage:

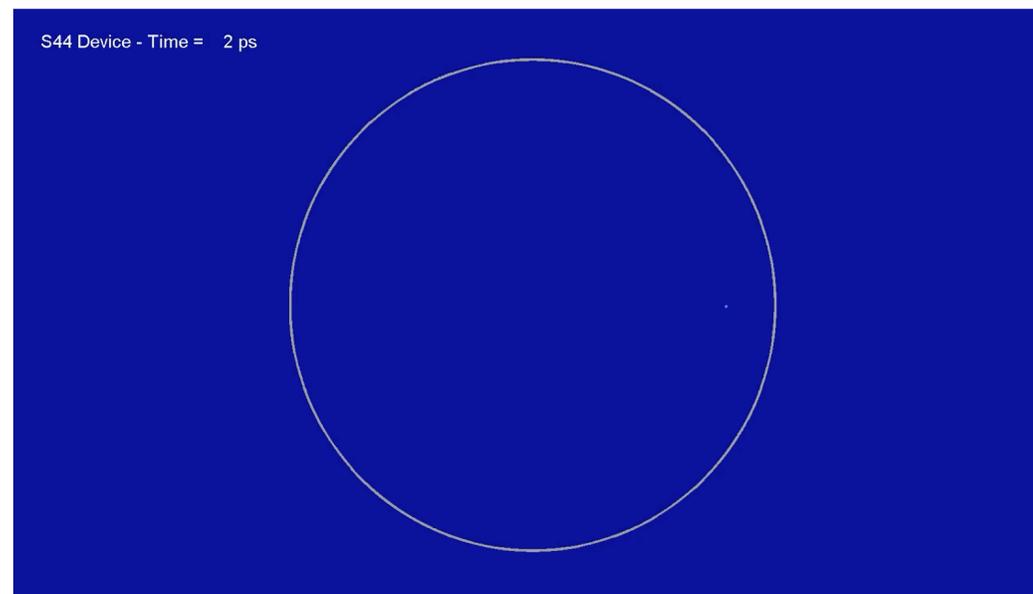
A pioneering development by Prof. S. Cova at Politecnico di Milano

Cova, S., Ghioni, M., Lacaita, A. L., Samori, C., and Zappa, F. "Avalanche photodiodes and quenching circuits for single-photon detection", Applied Optics, 35(12), 1956—1976 (1996)

The essence of a cell



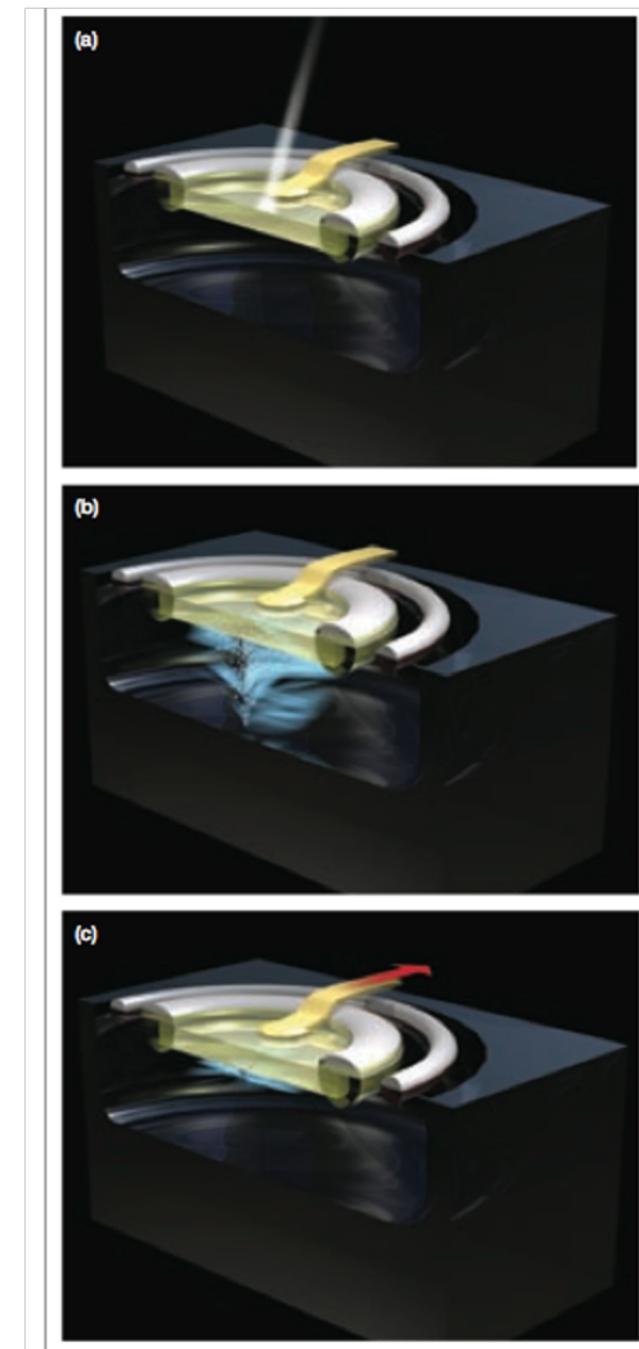
Simulation of an avalanche development



Courtesy of Ivan Rech, Politecnico di Milano [50 μm cell size]

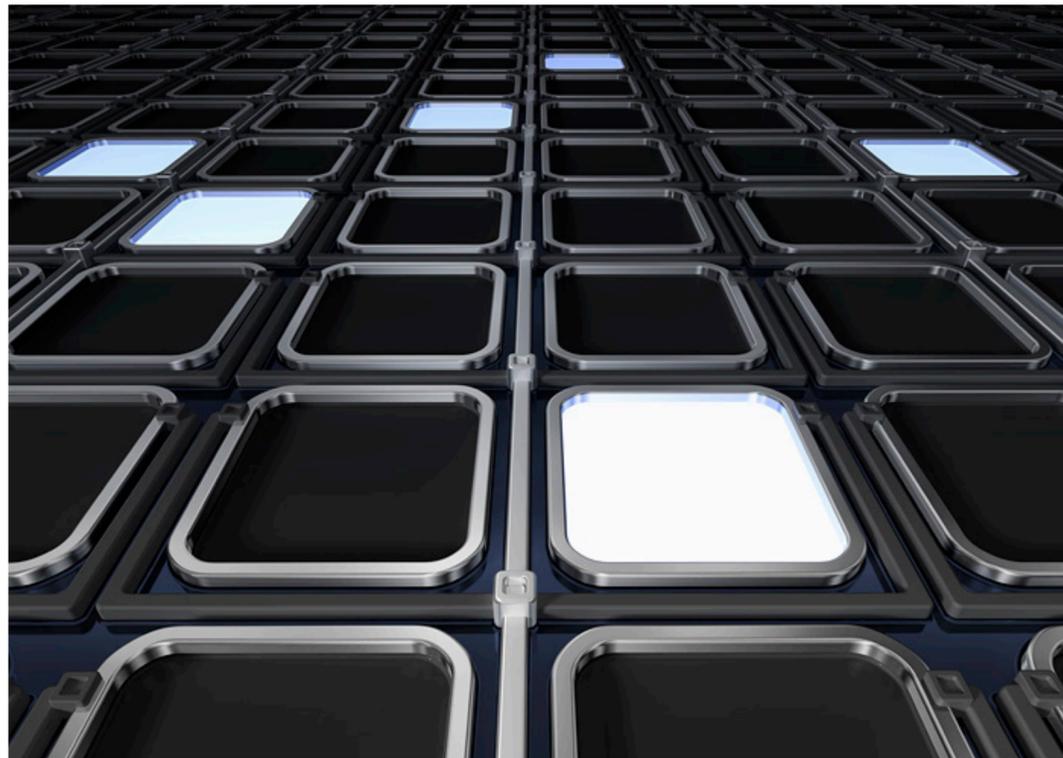
**Multiplication by about 1 000 000**

- Very shallow p-n junction → ~ 1 μm
- High electric field → > 3 x 10<sup>5</sup> V/cm
- Mean free path → ≈ 0.01 μm



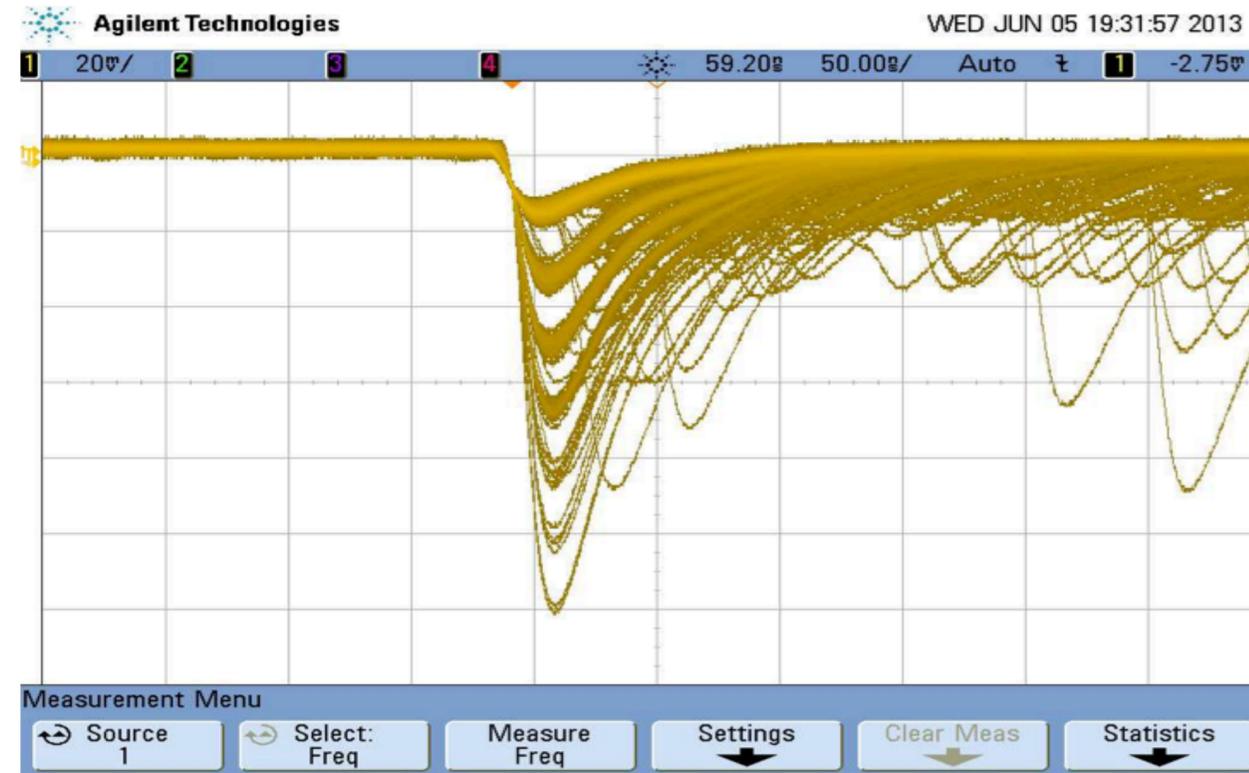
E. Charbon & S. Donati, OPN Optics & Photonics News, February 2010

▶ Not indexed arrays of SPAD, with a single output node, are nowadays known as **Silicon Photomultipliers**, the state-of-the-art room T detectors with single photon sensitivity and photon-number resolving capability:



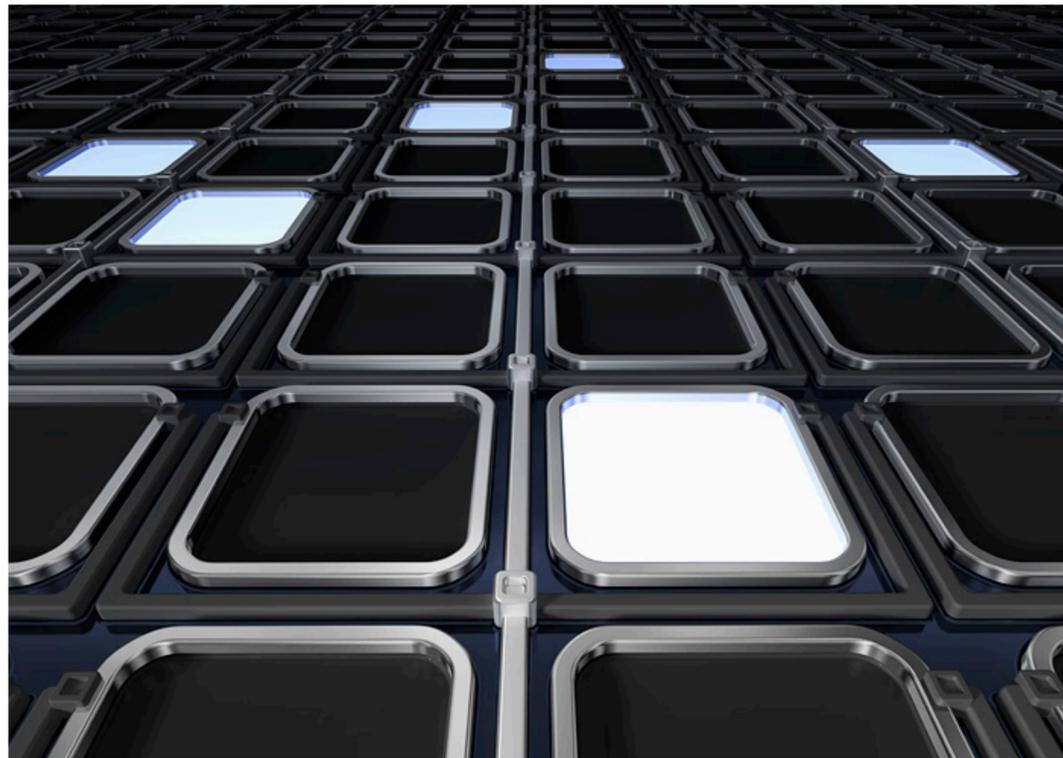
▶ SiPM may be seen as a collection of binary cells, fired when a photon is absorbed

**[in principle, a NATIVE DIGITAL DEVICE]**



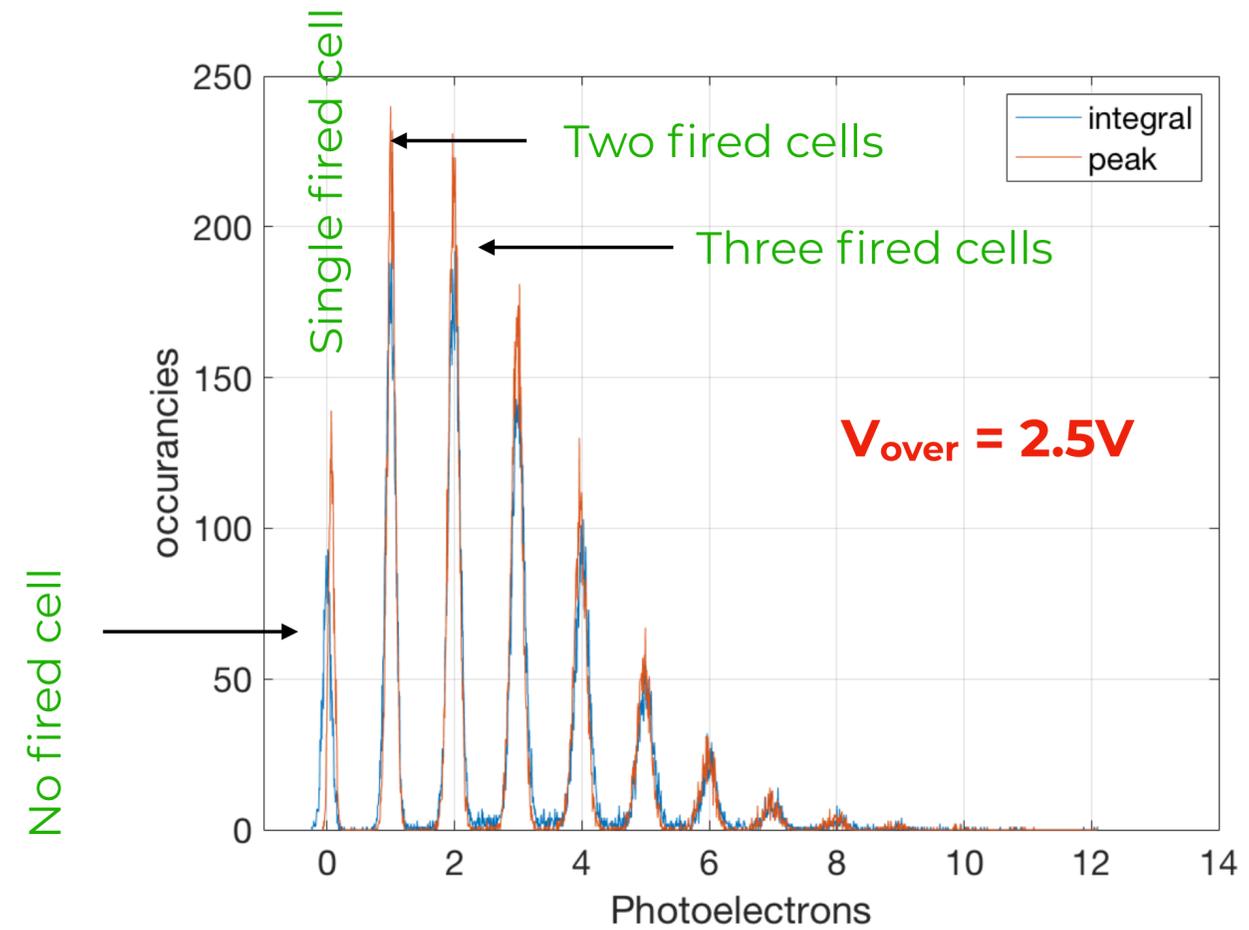
▶ “counting” cells provides an information about the intensity of the incoming light:

▶ Not indexed arrays of SPAD, with a single output node, are nowadays known as Silicon Photomultipliers, the state-of-the-art room T detectors with single photon sensitivity and photon-number resolving capability:



▶ SiPM may be seen as a collection of binary cells, fired when a photon is absorbed

[in principle, a NATIVE DIGITAL DEVICE]



▶ histogram of the response to a high statistics of low intensity light pulses

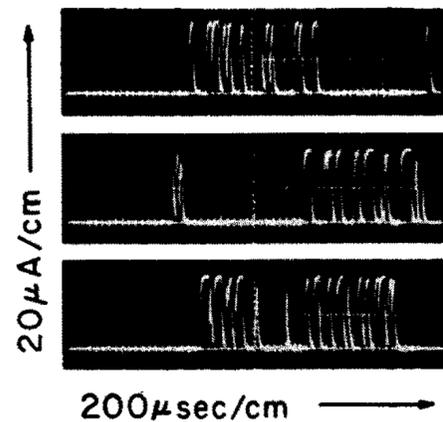
► **The name of the game:** charge carriers can be generated “spontaneously”, also when no light is illuminating the sensor

**A lesson from the past, when this was known since the early days of the Silicon technology development:**

1. INTRODUCTION

**M**OST reverse biased *p-n* junctions in silicon have their avalanche breakdown caused by microplasma effects. Microplasmas are small regions within the junction,<sup>1</sup> where a local disturbance of the electrical field is believed to reduce the breakdown voltage to a value below the breakdown voltage of the surrounding uniform junction.<sup>2-5</sup> As voltage is increased from low values microplasma breakdown is generally characterized by random “on-off” current fluctuations so long as currents remain below a critical value (40 to 120  $\mu\text{A}$ ).<sup>6-8</sup>

from paper 2



from paper 3

FIG. 5. Avalanche current as a function of time at low temperatures. The group character of the avalanche pulses is obvious.

1

**Avalanche Breakdown in Silicon**

K. G. MCKAY  
*Bell Telephone Laboratories, Murray Hill, New Jersey*  
(Received December 23, 1953)

2

**Model for the Electrical Behavior of a Microplasma\***

ROLAND H. HAITZ†  
*Shockley Laboratory, Clevite Corporation Semiconductor Division, Palo Alto, California*  
(Received 5 November 1963)

The complex current fluctuations observed in connection with microplasma breakdown can be explained by a simple model containing two constants: extrapolated breakdown voltage  $V_b$  and series resistance  $R_s$ ; and two continuous probability functions: turnoff probability per unit time  $p_{10}(I)$  as a function of pulse current  $I$  and turn-on probability per unit time  $p_{01}$ . Experimental methods allowing an accurate measurement of these four quantities are described. The new concept of an extrapolated breakdown voltage  $V_b$  is discussed based on two independent measurements: one of secondary multiplication and the other of instantaneous current, both as a function of voltage. Within the experimental accuracy of 20 mV both methods extrapolated to one and the same breakdown voltage. The turnoff probability  $p_{10}(I)$  is determined by a new combination of experimental techniques to cover the current range from 5 to 70  $\mu\text{A}$  with a variation of 11 decades for  $p_{10}(I)$ . The observation of a narrow turnoff interval is explained quantitatively.

3

**Mechanisms Contributing to the Noise Pulse Rate of Avalanche Diodes\***

ROLAND H. HAITZ†  
*Shockley Research Laboratory, Semiconductor Division of Clevite Corporation, ‡ Palo Alto, California*  
(Received 16 November 1964)

► **The name of the game: charge carriers can be generated “spontaneously”, also when no light is illuminating the sensor**

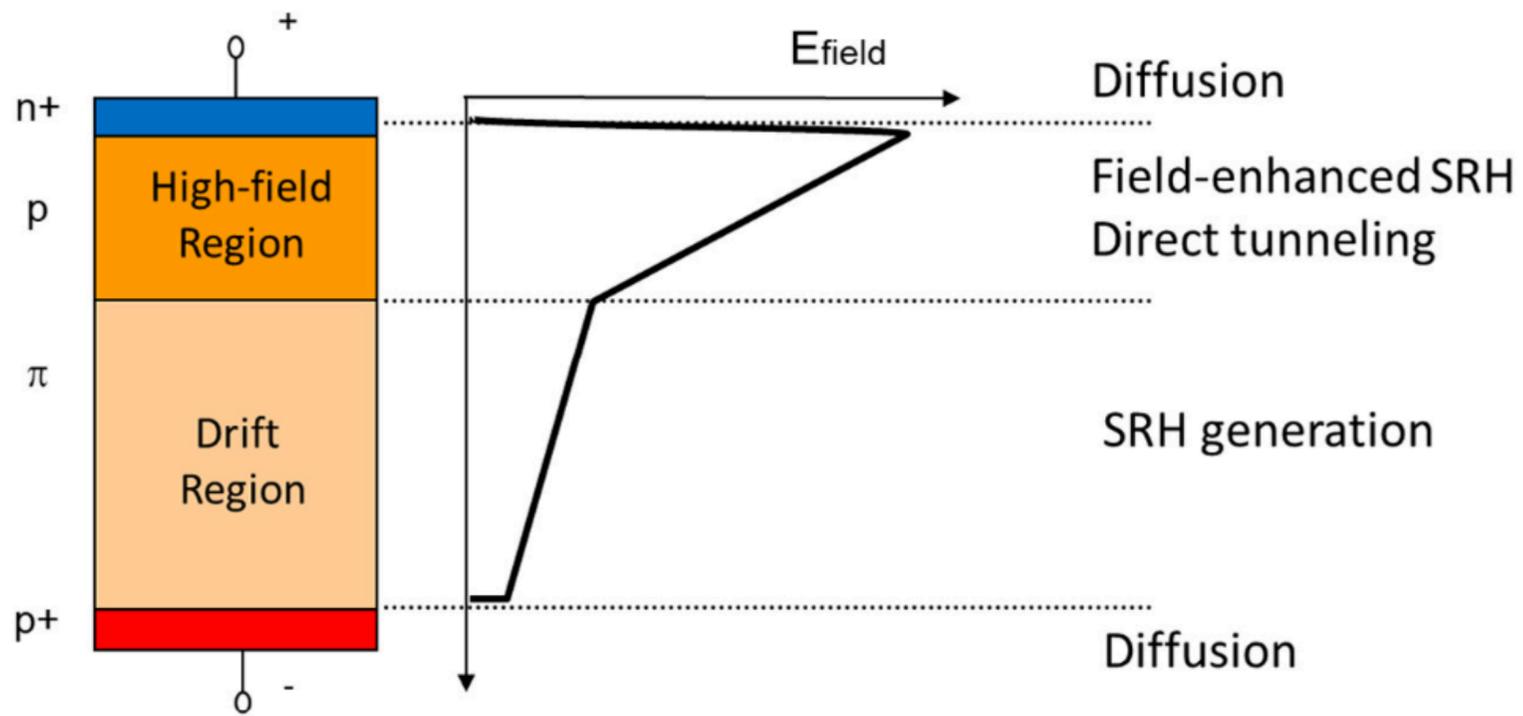


Fig. 8. Representation of the different sources of primary dark events and their location in the SPAD structure.

after A. Gola, C. Piemonte, NIM A926 (2019) 2-15

**Key issues:**

- \* in SiPM, the Dark Count Rate is O(1 KHz)/cell, 50 μm pitch (it may be higher for SPAD arrays in CMOS technology)
- \* provided the nature of the Dark Pulses, we have a significant dependence on Temperature
- \* forget-me-not: the Over-voltage is affecting the triggering probability

**Thermal generation of carriers by states in the bang-gap**

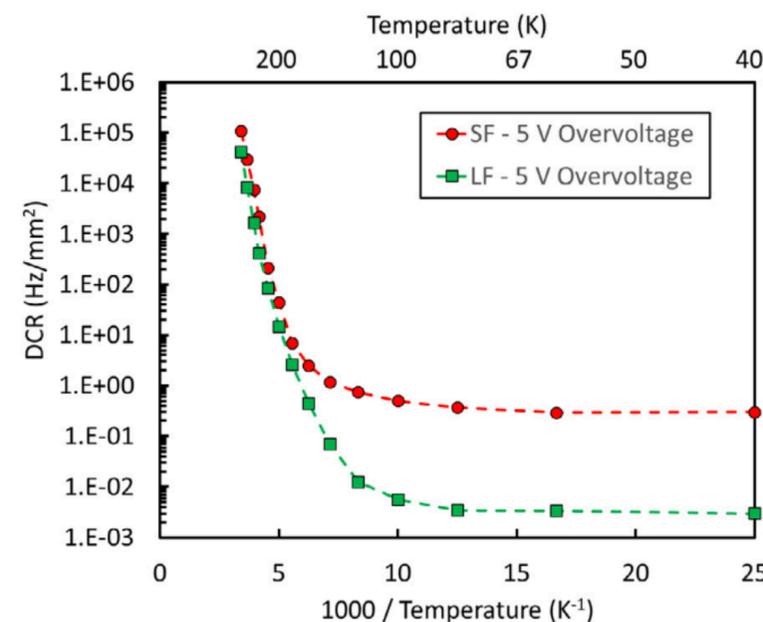
(Shockley-Read-Hall statistics), where trapping and de-trapping is increased by the high electric field in the junction. The

**Generation rate** can be written as:

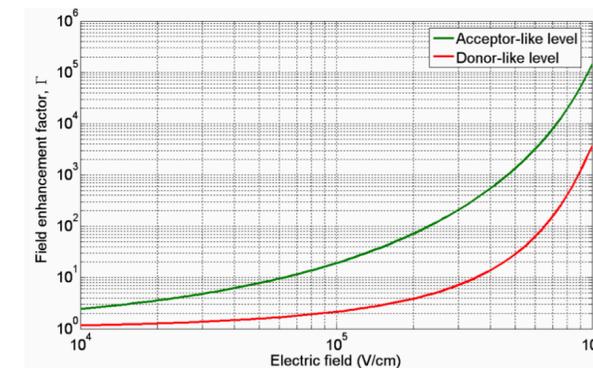
$$G = \frac{n_i}{2 \cdot \cosh\left(\frac{E_0 - E_t}{kT}\right)} N_t \sigma v_{th} = \frac{n_i}{\tau_{g0}}$$

- E<sub>0</sub> = Fermi level
- E<sub>t</sub> = trapping level
- n<sub>i</sub> = intrinsic carrier concentration
- N<sub>t</sub> = trapping concentration
- σ = trapping cross section
- v<sub>th</sub> = thermal velocity

$$G = \frac{(1 + \Gamma) n_i}{\tau_{g0}} \quad \Gamma \text{ "boost" by the field}$$

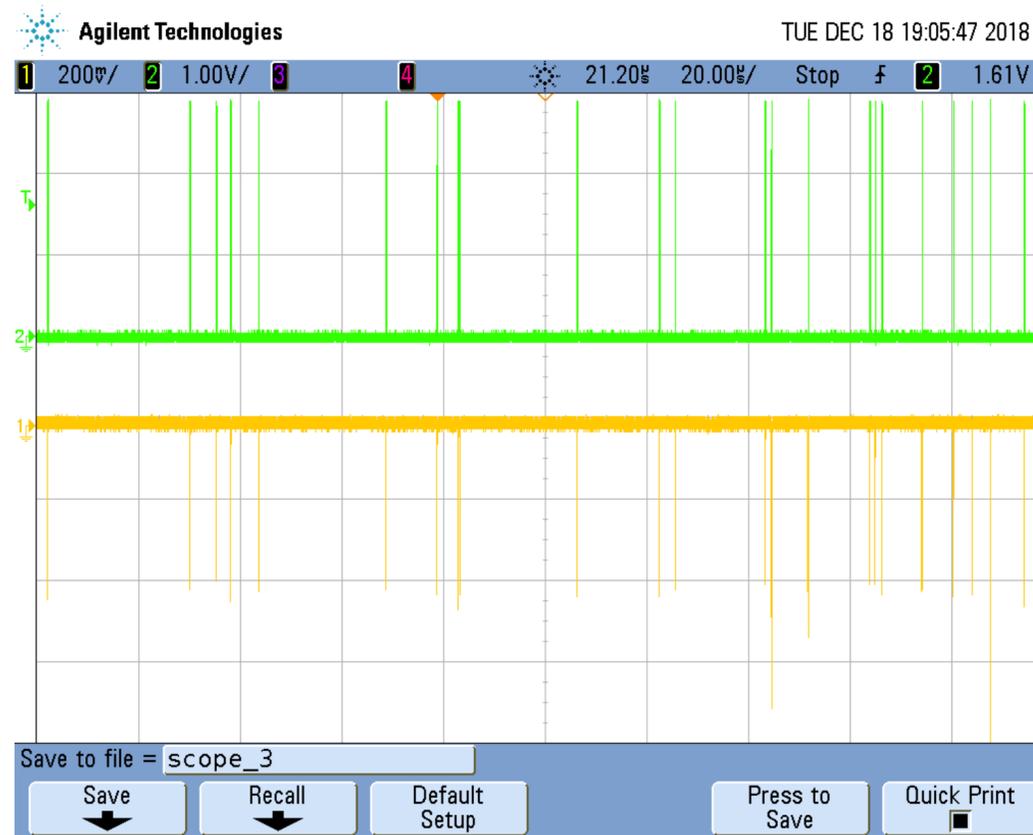


F. Acerbi, et al., IEEE Trans. Electron Devices 64 (2) (2017) 521-526.



# ► The essence of : turning unpredictable “Dark Pulses” into bits

1. tag & time stamp the occurrences of the random pulses



2. analyse the time series of the pulses:



\*bit 1:  $\Delta t_{12}$  vs  $\Delta t_{34}$

\*bit 2:  $\Delta t_{23}$  vs  $\Delta t_{45}$

\*bit 3:  $\Delta t_{56}$  vs  $\Delta t_{78}$

\*bit 4:  $\Delta t_{67}$  vs  $\Delta t_{89}$

This is the essence of

# RANDOM POWER

-Italian Patent granted on Sept.17th, 2020

- 2019 Int'l: PCTIB2019/058340
- application extended to EU, US, China, JP, Korea in April 2021

A genuine **Q(quantum)-True Random Number Generator**, namely **a Quantum Coin Flipper**

providing virtually endless streams of

**RANDOM BITS → CRYPTOGRAPHIC KEYS**

**shielded against any bias by the fundamentals of Quantum Mechanics**



5 . a glance at competitors :

# ARE WE ALONE IN THE UNIVERSE?



		
<b>History</b>	<b>Established in 2001</b>	Starting-up
<b>Technology floor</b>	<b>QTRNG platform + services</b>	Minimum Viable Product
<b>Complexity</b>	<b>HIGH</b>	<b>LOW</b>
<b>Efficiency</b>	<b>LOW</b>	<b>HIGH</b>
<b>Robustness</b>	<b>LOW</b>	<b>HIGH</b>
<b>Miniaturisation</b>	<b>BIG chip</b>	<b>SMALL chip viable</b>
<b>Cost of the single generator board</b>	<b>1000+ EUR</b>	<b>500 EUR</b>

ID Quantique - <https://www.idquantique.com>

+ a handful of other players:



Major advantage of the Random Power technology, fully CMOS compliant, offering the possibility to integrate the device into a custom chip with advanced features

# KEY ISSUES OF

# RUNDOM POWER

▶ **endogenous in-silico seeding of the pulses**

▶ **self-amplification of the seeds in excess of a factor 1 000 000, making pulse tagging robust**

▶ **bit extraction through a non parametric local analysis of the time series of pulses**

▶ no influence of temperature on the randomness of the occurrences

▶ **no need of post-processing to correct left-over bias**

▶ maximum bit/occurrence rate = 40% [2 random bits every 5 pulses]

▶ **current rate at the 100Kbps rate for every mm<sup>2</sup> of Silicon sensor**

▶ **potential to embed the system into an ASIC [Application Specific Integrated Circuit]**

[simplicity]

[robustness]

[efficiency]

[miniaturisation] RUNDOM  
POWER

# WHERE ARE WE NOW

The **MINIMUM VIABLE PRODUCT [MVP]**, the progenitor of a class of Quantum Random Bit Generators:



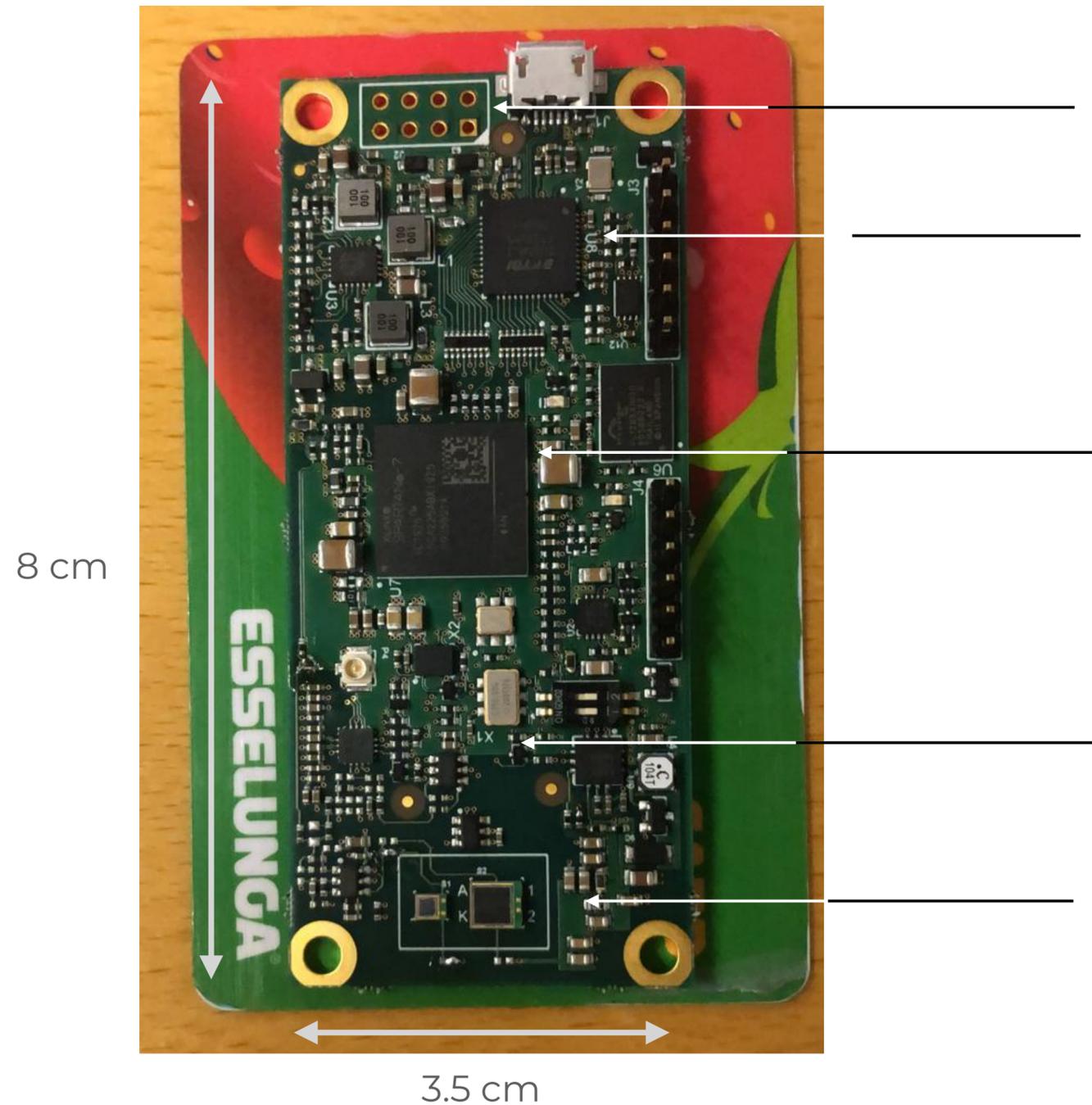
Developed thanks to the **seed capital [100 000 €]** granted by



which selected Random Power as one of 170 “breakthrough projects” out of 1211 submissions

Qualified according to the NIST standards  
(National Institute of Standard & Technology)

# WHERE ARE WE NOW



Upon request, bits can be routed on pins

FTDI chip for data routing on the USB

FPGA embedding a proprietary TDC and implementing the bit extraction + real-time sanity checks (MONOBIT&RUNS) + conditioning function (SHA-256)

Amplification & discrimination

Single generator (either 1x1 mm<sup>2</sup> or 3x3 mm<sup>2</sup> - Bit rate for the smaller area device: O(100 kbps) - operated with overvoltage stabilisation against Temperature variations

```

finalAnalysisReport_PART2.txt
-----
RESULTS FOR THE UNIFORMITY OF P-VALUES AND THE PROPORTION OF PASSING SEQUENCES
-----
generator is </Users/Luca/Documents/Random_Power/ProgramAndTechnical/ATTRACT_Eu_Board_Fw8/
TestFW8_4BitNoReshape_1GB_Part2.bin>
-----
C1 C2 C3 C4 C5 C6 C7 C8 C9 C10 P-VALUE PROPORTION STATISTICAL TEST
-----
100 110 95 93 90 90 114 101 98 109 0.682823 986/1000 Frequency
97 102 94 103 107 97 105 106 102 87 0.941144 993/1000 BlockFrequency
95 95 101 100 113 106 93 100 89 108 0.842937 989/1000 CumulativeSums
94 112 117 90 93 91 89 96 123 95 0.125927 987/1000 CumulativeSums
100 93 91 112 93 112 99 110 101 89 0.647530 992/1000 Runs
105 91 96 80 121 99 85 100 107 116 0.092597 989/1000 LongestRun
100 104 89 110 97 88 126 84 99 103 0.148653 992/1000 Rank
95 109 103 113 85 94 90 100 106 105 0.630872 995/1000 FFT
104 98 91 89 104 90 110 104 115 95 0.632955 987/1000 NonOverlappingTemplate
111 93 112 88 96 95 100 101 106 98 0.798139 981/1000 NonOverlappingTemplate
111 100 93 94 101 109 93 87 117 95 0.514124 986/1000 NonOverlappingTemplate
86 94 119 101 107 98 93 103 98 101 0.626709 998/1000 NonOverlappingTemplate
93 112 93 103 91 89 94 99 115 111 0.498313 989/1000 NonOverlappingTemplate
84 106 101 109 86 119 111 96 94 94 0.249284 988/1000 NonOverlappingTemplate
114 92 98 96 105 105 101 100 83 106 0.682823 992/1000 NonOverlappingTemplate
117 87 98 101 100 106 91 94 105 101 0.697257 991/1000 NonOverlappingTemplate
90 93 97 107 99 89 100 116 108 101 0.689019 994/1000 NonOverlappingTemplate
99 108 98 99 116 104 98 85 96 97 0.743915 991/1000 NonOverlappingTemplate
88 93 103 101 112 94 111 99 100 99 0.829047 988/1000 NonOverlappingTemplate
96 97 103 103 106 108 114 97 93 83 0.651693 987/1000 NonOverlappingTemplate
108 95 97 109 84 94 101 101 91 120 0.388990 988/1000 NonOverlappingTemplate

```

series of tests on non-overlapping templates

```

80 98 115 100 98 115 107 91 83 113 0.106877 993/1000 OverlappingTemplate
86 116 121 101 91 87 96 101 87 114 0.084037 990/1000 Universal
97 90 107 116 110 95 103 93 92 97 0.668321 987/1000 ApproximateEntropy
70 62 54 60 55 66 60 63 77 65 0.668486 626/632 RandomExcursions
62 69 58 70 58 61 56 71 63 64 0.909311 626/632 RandomExcursions
60 53 59 62 76 72 60 59 66 65 0.681642 620/632 RandomExcursions
70 64 83 45 62 69 70 65 51 53 0.040275 622/632 RandomExcursions
66 69 69 73 73 38 49 52 70 0.009611 627/632 RandomExcursions
65 52 67 82 68 54 51 63 72 58 0.136536 627/632 RandomExcursions
61 55 60 72 66 71 67 56 55 69 0.711017 626/632 RandomExcursions
47 61 62 58 71 63 71 61 68 70 0.553450 625/632 RandomExcursions
60 57 66 62 58 61 67 67 73 61 0.941564 624/632 RandomExcursionsVariant
60 70 43 60 64 58 58 88 64 67 0.030676 622/632 RandomExcursionsVariant
66 58 51 65 51 61 72 72 71 65 0.447593 624/632 RandomExcursionsVariant
63 67 59 46 67 60 68 70 73 59 0.483876 623/632 RandomExcursionsVariant
61 67 58 69 63 74 48 60 66 66 0.615645 624/632 RandomExcursionsVariant
75 62 63 58 63 55 66 54 71 65 0.717488 624/632 RandomExcursionsVariant
68 63 66 54 57 65 63 67 56 73 0.827336 620/632 RandomExcursionsVariant
75 54 64 57 65 64 56 62 64 71 0.733547 623/632 RandomExcursionsVariant
76 68 70 56 55 50 66 52 64 75 0.176734 624/632 RandomExcursionsVariant
89 63 57 59 59 55 58 68 63 61 0.134074 624/632 RandomExcursionsVariant
67 68 61 57 60 69 66 63 63 58 0.979797 624/632 RandomExcursionsVariant
65 64 62 71 58 68 67 53 60 64 0.917568 626/632 RandomExcursionsVariant
71 58 56 62 75 62 67 64 53 64 0.701268 626/632 RandomExcursionsVariant
64 71 49 62 61 69 69 59 59 69 0.694743 626/632 RandomExcursionsVariant
61 65 54 59 63 63 64 76 62 65 0.879806 626/632 RandomExcursionsVariant
58 55 57 67 65 66 54 66 76 68 0.642077 629/632 RandomExcursionsVariant
46 64 65 61 64 61 81 59 75 56 0.150772 624/632 RandomExcursionsVariant
50 56 65 67 74 67 51 63 73 66 0.353061 629/632 RandomExcursionsVariant
106 107 87 107 94 109 100 83 92 115 0.352107 989/1000 Serial
105 100 94 98 96 95 96 101 95 120 0.790621 991/1000 Serial
105 97 89 101 96 106 92 112 105 97 0.875539 991/1000 LinearComplexity

```

-----  
The minimum pass rate for each statistical test with the exception of the random excursion (variant) test is approximately = 980 for a sample size = 1000 binary sequences.  
The minimum pass rate for the random excursion (variant) test is approximately = 618 for a sample size = 632 binary sequences.  
For further guidelines construct a probability table using the MAPLE program provided in the addendum section of the documentation.  
-----

▶ A proto-randomness farm based on 10 boards have been collecting about 1.5 Tb, qualified through the NIST and TESTU01 suites.

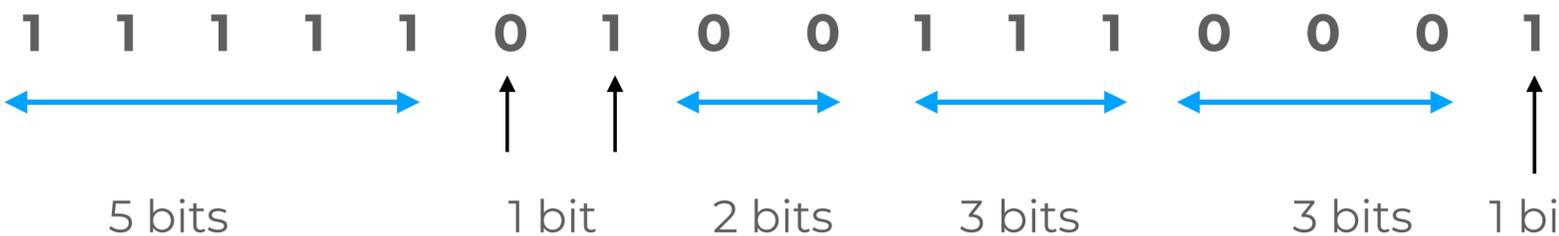
Results show that the stream looks extremely “white”, essentially with no failures on the raw data beside what can be statistically expected.

▶ Two tests have been implemented in firmware to guarantee real-time sanity checks:

\* **MONOBIT**: essentially testing the asymmetries between 0’s and 1’s in a bit string:

1 1 1 1 1 0 1 0 0 1 1 1 0 0 0 1

\* **RUNS**: testing the statistics of the number of sequences of identical bits in a string



# WHAT'S NEXT?

$\approx 10^5 \text{ €}$

[2021-2022]

$\approx n \times 10^5 \text{ €}$

[2022-2023]

$\approx 2-3 \times 10^6 \text{ €}$

[2022-2025]

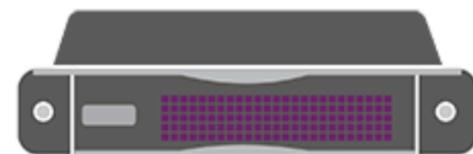


▶ **GO TO THE MARKET and EXPLOIT THE MVP**



- ▶ Enhance IP protection
- ▶ build int'l collaborations
- ▶ grant seeking

▶ GO MACRO & SECURE:



▶ development of "agnostics" applications



e.g. LINUX entropy pool refill

▶ GO MICRO & SECURE:



▶ High End applications [e.g. Differential privacy is one of our priorities, even if FULL HOMOMORPHIC ENCRYPTION is still the holy grail]

Time & Money

# 7 . r o a d m a p :

## Phase II:

- ▶ submission Sept. 20th, 2021
- ▶ notification of approval Jan. 31st, 2022
- ▶ Duration: May 2022 to August 2024
- ▶ funding: 2 MEUR
- ▶ selection & competitiveness:



**1211 submissions in Phase 1 → 170 approved → 87 submissions for phase II (68 R&D proposals) → 18 R&D approved**



Proposals received	TOTAL FUNDING	SUBMITTED PROPOSALS
R&D&I Projects Thematic call 	€25M	68
Academy call 	€2M	10
Socioeconomic Studies call 	€1M	9

**combined success rate: 18/1211 = 1.5%, so we did well!**

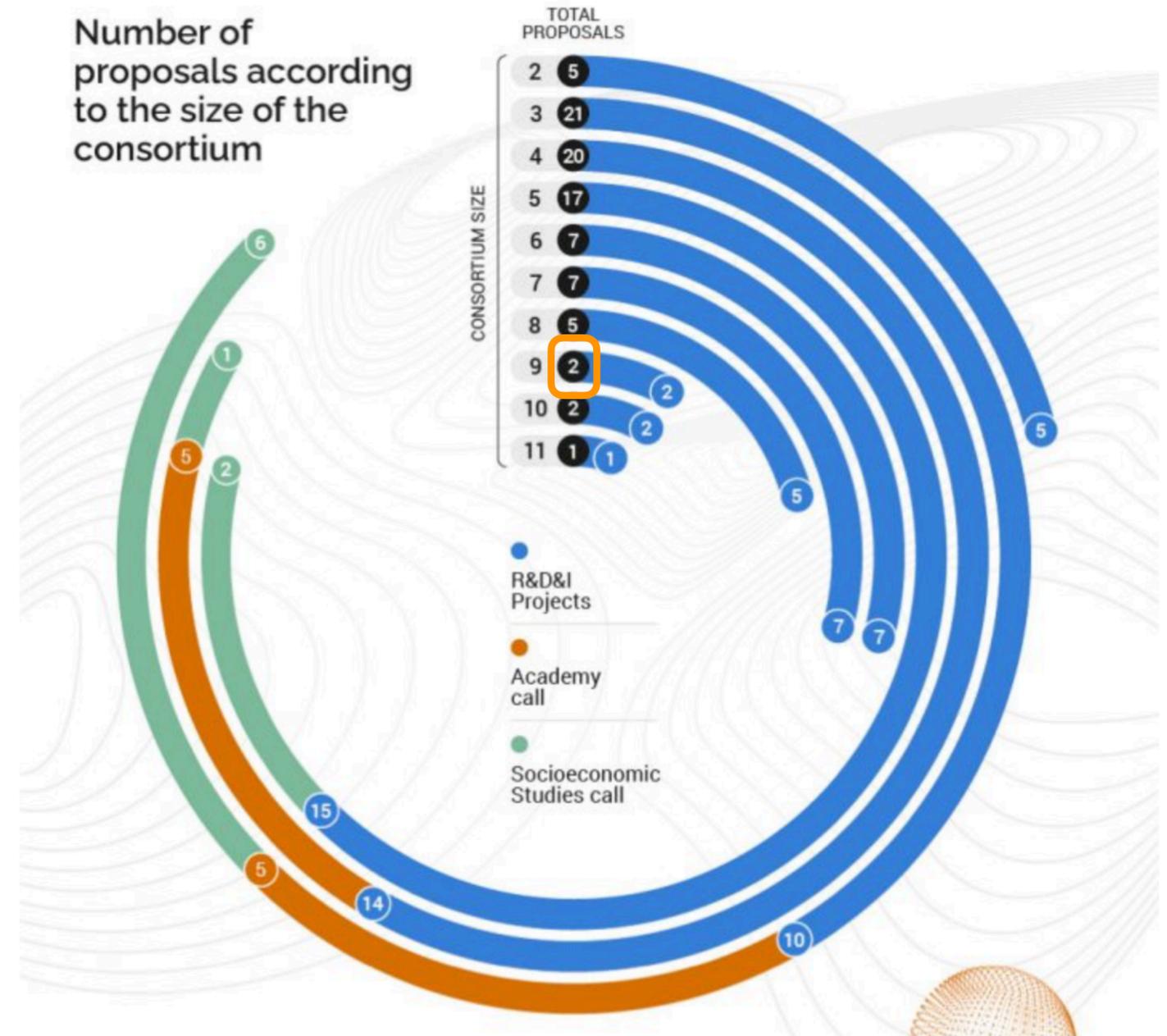
# 7 . r o a d m a p :



Our consortium:

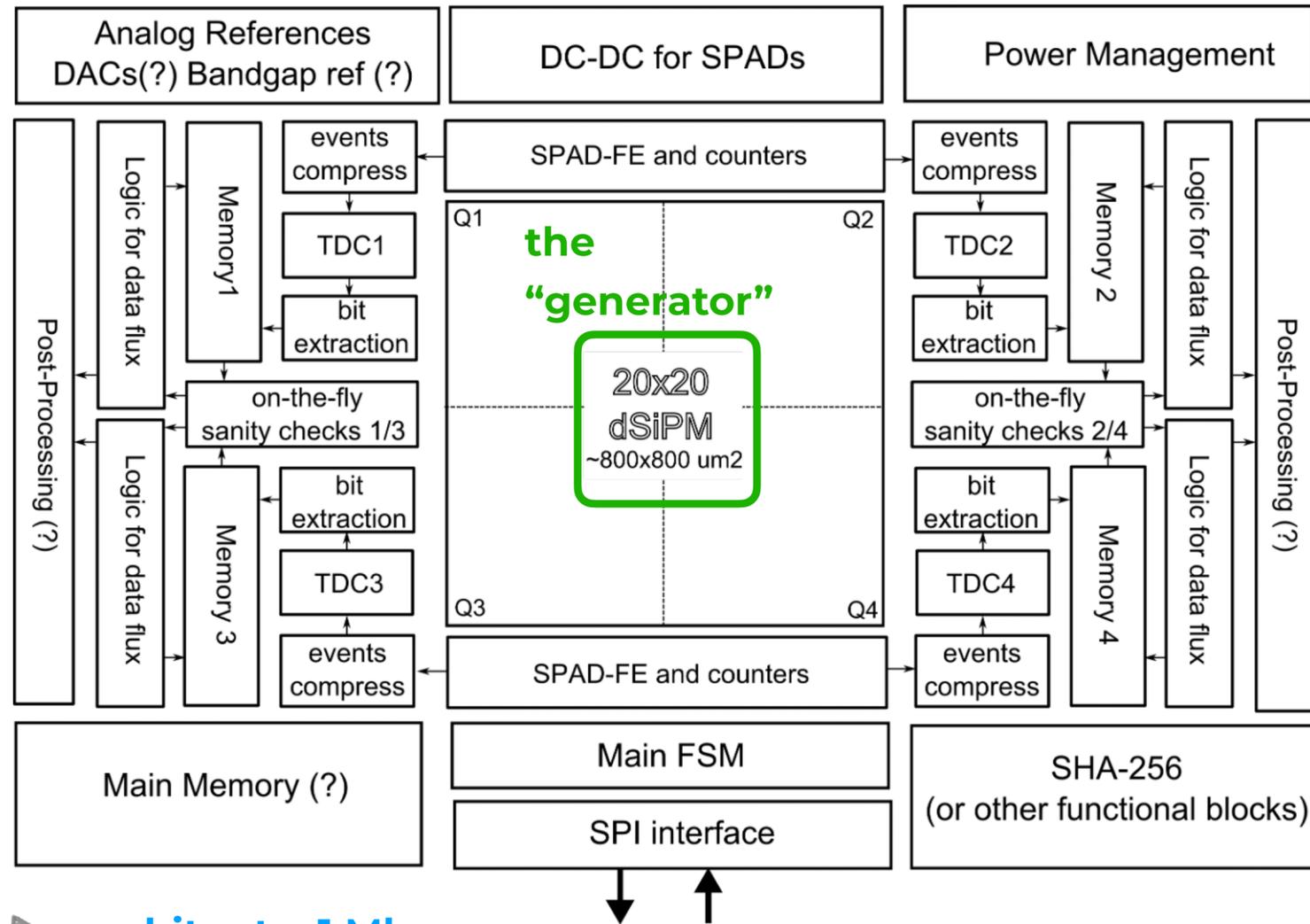


leading party



# Our main goals:

► design a FIPS-compliant ASIC embedding a SPAD array in standard CMOS technology:



- raw bit rate: 1 Mbps
- FIPS mode (NIST DRBG): 4096 Bytes in 1050 μs (31.2 Mbps) with prediction resistance
- bits delivered in an encrypted stream
- expected to be back from the foundry in Dec. 2023

► design a scalable multi-generator system based on an array of SiPM and a LIROC front end ASIC by LIROC

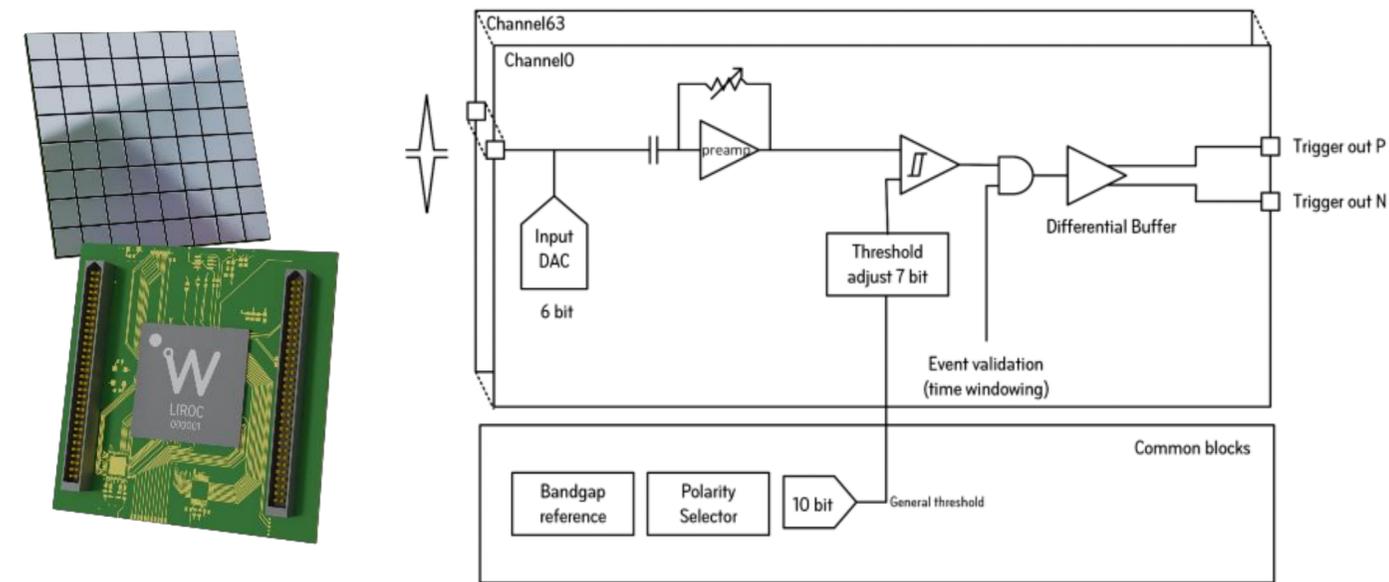


Table 2 - LIROC main features and performances

Detector Read-Out	SiPM, SiPM array
Number of Channels	64
Signal Polarity	Positive or Negative (selectable ASIC-wise)
Sensitivity	Trigger on 1/3 of photo-electron
Timing Resolution	Better than 20 ps FWHM on single photo-electron Better than 5ns double-peak separation on single photo-electron
Dynamic Range	Over 100MHz photon counting rate
Packaging & Dimension	BGA 20x20 mm2 Flip-Chip low inductance packaging technology

- raw bit rate: 50 Mbps/board
- FIPS mode (NIST DRBG): 32x the raw bit stream
- DRBG isolated in the Trusted Execution Environment of a KRIA KR26 System-On-chip

► Hw for the 64 generator board expected in June 2023

# State-of-the-art (May2023 update):

► design a FIPS-compliant ASIC embedding a SPAD array in standard CMOS technology (TJ 180 nm node):

\* **Entropy Producer:**

- SPAD test structures under test
- on-cell functions and signal compression scheme defined
- DC-DC converter for biasing designed
- protocol for rate stabilisation vs T defined
- NIST Real-time tests implemented
- two different TDC designs implemented

\* **Entropy Consumer:**

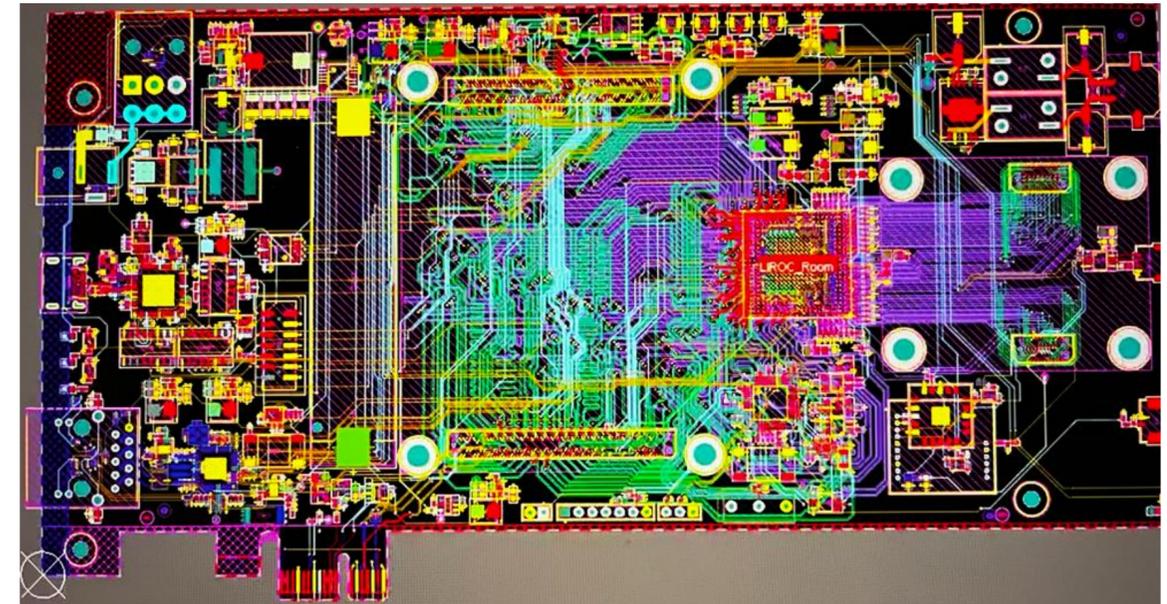
- NIST DRBG implemented (based on AES256)
- Known-Good-Answer tests implemented
- Encryption of the bit stream implemented
- single user authentication implemented

\* **Integration & verification on the way**

\* **Packaging under study**

\* **planned tape-out: Early September 2023**

► design a scalable multi-generator system based on an array of SiPM and a LIROC front end ASIC by LIROC



- \* design completed, production ongoing
- \* box with anti-tamper micro-switch and ventilation designed and being produced



# RANDOM POWER

[www.randompower.eu](http://www.randompower.eu)

**Established in June 2021**



This project has received funding from the ATTRACT project funded by the EC under Grant Agreement 777222



**Join us, we will be happy to walk with you!**



CONTACT US at:

▶ [massimo.caccia@randompower.eu](mailto:massimo.caccia@randompower.eu)

● [marcello.esposito@randompower.eu](mailto:marcello.esposito@randompower.eu)

\* [lorenza.paolucci@randompower.eu](mailto:lorenza.paolucci@randompower.eu)