

Quantum Physics

Numerical analysis of decoy state quantum key distribution protocols

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(Submitted on 30 Dec 2008 (v1), last revised 23 Jan 2009 (this version, v2))

Decoy state protocols are a useful tool for many quantum key distribution systems implemented with weak coherent pulses, allowing significantly better secret bit rates and longer maximum distances. In this paper we present a method to numerically find optimal three-level protocols, and we examine how the secret bit rate and the optimized parameters are dependent on various system properties, such as session length, transmission loss, and visibility. Additionally, we show how to modify the decoy state analysis to handle partially distinguishable decoy states as well as uncertainty in the prepared intensities.

Comments: 30 pages, 15 figures; v2: minor edits

Subjects: **Quantum Physics (quant-ph)**

Report number: LA-UR-08-08036

Cite as: [arXiv:0901.0013v2](https://arxiv.org/abs/0901.0013v2) [quant-ph]

Submission history

From: Jim Harrington [[view email](#)]**[v1]** Tue, 30 Dec 2008 21:13:01 GMT (219kb,D)**[v2]** Fri, 23 Jan 2009 20:19:05 GMT (223kb,D)*[Which authors of this paper are endorsers?](#)*

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