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## Randomness Extraction from Bell Violation with Continuous Parametric Down-Conversion

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We present a violation of the Clauser-Horne-Shimony-Holt inequality without the fair sampling assumption with a continuously pumped photon pair source combined with two high efficiency superconducting detectors. Because of the continuous nature of the source, the choice of the duration of each measurement round effectively controls the average number of photon pairs participating in the Bell test. We observe a maximum violation of  $S = 2.016\,02(32)$  with an average number of pairs per round of  $\approx 0.32$ , compatible with our system overall detection efficiencies. Systems that violate a Bell inequality are guaranteed to generate private randomness, with the randomness extraction rate depending on the observed violation and on the repetition rate of the Bell test. For our realization, the optimal rate of randomness generation is a compromise between the observed violation and the duration of each measurement round, with the latter realistically limited by the detection time jitter. Using an extractor composable secure against quantum adversary with quantum side information, we calculate an asymptotic rate of  $\approx 1300$  random bits/s. With an experimental run of 43 min, we generated 617 920 random bits, corresponding to  $\approx 240$  random bits/s.

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Based on a violation of a Bell inequality, quantum physics can provide randomness that can be certified to be private, i.e., uncorrelated to any outside process [1–3]. Initial experimental realizations of such sources of certified randomness are based on atomic or atomiclike systems, but exhibit extremely low generation rates, making them impractical for most applications [2,4]. Advances in high efficiency infrared photon detectors [5,6], combined with highly efficient photon pair sources, allowed experimental demonstrations of loophole free violation of the Bell inequality using photons [7–10]. Because of the small observed violation of the Bell inequality in these setups, the random bit generation rate is on the order of tens per second in [11], where they close all loopholes and are limited by the repetition rate of the polarization modulators, and 114 bit/s [12], where they close only the detection loophole and the main limitation is the fixed repetition rate of the photon pair source.

In this work, we use a source of polarization entangled photon pairs operating in a continuous wave (cw) mode, and define measurement rounds by organizing the detection events in uniform time bins. The binning is set independently of the detection time, thus avoiding the coincidence loophole [13,14]. Superconducting detectors with a high detection efficiency allow us to close the

detection loophole. We show how, for fixed overall detection efficiency and pair generation rate, the time bin duration determines the observed Bell violation. We then estimate the rate of random bits that can be extracted from the system and its dependence on time bin width. The simplification of the definition of an experimental round and the absence of an intrinsic dead time found in experiments with pulsed photon pair sources [11,12] lead to a competitive randomness generation rate with a total acquisition time in the order of tens of minutes instead of the tens of hours.

*Theory.*—Bell tests are carried out in successions of rounds. In each round, each party chooses a measurement and records an outcome. The simplest meaningful scenario involves two parties, each of which can choose between two measurements with binary outcome. Alice and Bob’s measurements are labeled by  $x, y \in \{0, 1\}$ , respectively; their outcomes are labeled  $a, b \in \{+1, -1\}$ . As a figure of merit we use the Clauser-Horne-Shimony-Holt (CHSH) expression

$$S = E_{00} + E_{01} + E_{10} - E_{11}, \quad (1)$$

where the correlators are defined by

$$E_{xy} := \Pr(a = b|x, y) - \Pr(a \neq b|x, y). \quad (2)$$

73 As is well known, if  $S > 2$ , the correlations cannot be due  
 74 to preestablished agreement, and if they cannot be attrib-  
 75 uted to signaling either, the underlying process is neces-  
 76 sarily random. This is not only a qualitative statement: the  
 77 amount of extractable private randomness can be quanti-  
 78 fied. In the limit in which the statistics are collected from an  
 79 arbitrarily large number of rounds, the number of random  
 80 bits per round, according to [2], is at least  
 81

$$r_\infty \geq 1 - \log_2 \left( 1 + \sqrt{2 - \frac{S^2}{4}} \right). \quad (3)$$

82 Tighter bounds on the extractable randomness as a function  
 83 of  $S$  can be obtained by solving a sequence of semidefinite  
 84 programs [2].

85 Besides the no-signaling assumption, this certification of  
 86 randomness is device independent: it relies on the value of  
 87  $S$  extracted from the observed statistics, but not on any  
 88 characterization of the degrees of freedom or of the devices  
 89 used in the experiment. All that matters is that in every  
 90 round both parties produce an outcome. In our case, we  
 91 decide that, if a party's detectors did not fire in a given  
 92 round, that party will output  $+1$  for that round. This  
 93 convention allows us to use only one detector per party  
 94 [15,16]: in the rounds when the detector fires, the outcome  
 95 will be  $-1$ .

96 While the certification is device independent, the design  
 97 of the experiment requires detailed knowledge and control  
 98 of the physical degrees of freedom. Our experiment uses  
 99 photons entangled in polarization, produced by sponta-  
 100 neous parametric down-conversion (SPDC).  
 101

102 Let us first consider a simplified model, in which a pair  
 103 of photons is created in each round. Eberhard [17] famously  
 104 proved that, when the collection efficiencies  $\eta_A$  and  $\eta_B$   
 105 are not unity, higher values of  $S$  are obtained using nonmax-  
 106 imally entangled pure states. So we aim at preparing

$$|\psi\rangle = \cos\theta|HV\rangle - e^{i\phi}\sin\theta|VH\rangle, \quad (4)$$

107 where  $H$  and  $V$  represent the horizontal and vertical polari-  
 108 zation modes, respectively. The state and measurement that  
 109 maximize  $S$  are a function of  $\eta_A$  and  $\eta_B$ . For  $\phi = 0$ , the optimal  
 110 measurements correspond to linear polarization directions,  
 111 denoted  $\cos\alpha_x\hat{e}_H + \sin\alpha_x\hat{e}_V$  and  $\cos\beta_y\hat{e}_H + \sin\beta_y\hat{e}_V$ .

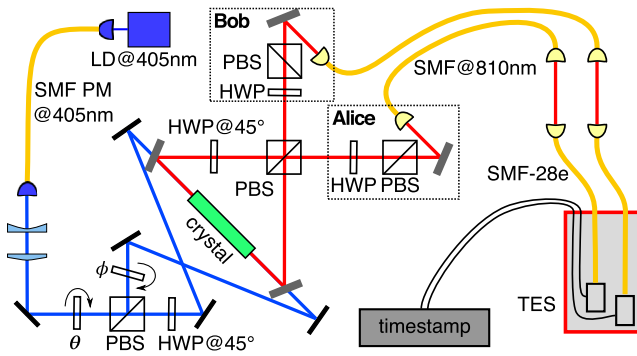
112 For a down-conversion source, the number of photons  
 113 produced per round is not fixed. If the duration  $\tau$  of a round  
 114 is much longer than the single-photon coherence time, and  
 115 no multiphoton states are generated (a realistic assumption  
 116 in a cw pumped scenario), the output of the source is  
 117 accurately described by independent photon pairs, whose  
 118 number  $v$  follows a Poissonian distribution  $P_\mu(v)$  of  
 119 average pairs per round  $\mu$ . The main contribution to  $S >$   
 120  $2$  will come from the single-pair events; notice that  $P_\mu(1) \leq$   
 121  $(1/e) \approx 0.37$  for a Poissonian distribution. So there is  
 122 always a large fraction of other pair number events, and  
 123

the observed value of  $S$  depends significantly on it [18].  
 For  $\mu \rightarrow 0$ , almost all rounds will give no detection, that is  
 $P(+1, +1|x, y) \approx 1$ , which leads to  $S = 2$ . So, for  $\mu \ll 1$   
 we expect a violation  $S \approx P_\mu(1)S_{\text{qubits}} + [1 - P_\mu(1)]2$ ,  
 where  $S_{\text{qubits}}$  is the value achievable with state (4). In the  
 other limit,  $\mu \gg 1$ , almost all rounds will have a detection,  
 that is,  $P(-1, -1|x, y) \approx 1$  and again  $S = 2$ . Before this  
 behavior kicks in, when more than one pair is frequently  
 present we expect a drop in the value of  $S$ , since the detections  
 may be triggered by independent pairs. An accurate model-  
 ing for any value of  $\mu$  is conceptually simple but notationally  
 cumbersome (see Supplemental Material [19]).

Photon pair sources based on pulsing quasi-cw sources  
 with a fixed repetition rate control the value of  $\mu$  by limiting  
 the pump power. With true cw pumping the average  
 number of pairs per round is  $\mu = (\text{pair rate})\tau$ , where  $\tau$   
 is the round duration. The resulting repetition rate of the  
 experiment is  $1/\tau$ . In this work, we fix the pair rate, while  $\tau$   
 is a free parameter that can be optimized to extract the  
 highest amount of randomness.

*Experimental setup.*—A sketch of the experimental  
 setup is shown in Fig. 1. The source for entangled photon  
 pairs is based on the coherent combination of two  
 collinear type-II SPDC processes [20]. We pump a  
 periodically poled potassium titanyl phosphate crystal  
 (PPKTP,  $2 \times 1 \times 10 \text{ mm}^3$ ) from two opposite directions  
 with light from the same laser diode (405 nm). Both pump  
 beams have the same Gaussian waists of  $\approx 350 \mu\text{m}$  located  
 within the crystal. Light at 810 nm from the two SPDC  
 processes is overlapped in a polarizing beam splitter  
 (PBS), entangling the polarization modes, and collected  
 into single mode fibers. When a single-photon pair is  
 generated, the resulting polarization state is given by  
 Eq. (4), where  $\theta$  and  $\phi$  are determined by the relative  
 intensity and phase of the two pump beams set by rotating  
 a half-wave plate before the first PBS, and the tilt of a  
 glass plate in one of the pump arms.

The effective collection modes for the down-converted  
 light, determined by the single mode optical fibers and  
 incoupling optics was chosen to have a Gaussian beam  
 waist of  $\approx 130 \mu\text{m}$  centered in the crystal in order to  
 maximize collection efficiency [21,22]. The combination  
 of a zero-order half-wave plate and another PBS (extinction  
 rate 1:1000 in transmission) sets the measurement bases  
 for light entering the single mode fibers. All optical  
 elements are antireflection coated for 810 nm. Light from  
 each collection fiber is sent to a superconducting transition  
 edge sensor (TES) optimized for detection at 810 nm [5],  
 which are kept at  $\approx 80 \text{ mK}$  within a cryostat. As the  
 detectors show the highest efficiency when coupled to  
 telecom fibers (SMF28+), the light collected in to single  
 mode fibers from the parametric conversion source is  
 transferred to these fibers via a free-space link. The TES  
 output signal is translated into photodetection event arrival  
 times using a constant fraction discriminator with an overall



F1:1 FIG. 1. Schematic of the experimental setup, including the  
 F1:2 source of the nonmaximally entangled photon pairs. A PPKTP  
 F1:3 crystal, cut and poled for type II spontaneous parametric down-  
 F1:4 conversion from 405 to 810 nm, is placed at the waist of a Sagnac-  
 F1:5 style interferometer and pumped from both sides. Light at 810 nm  
 F1:6 from the two SPDC process is overlapped in a polarizing beam  
 F1:7 splitter (PBS), generating the nonmaximally entangled state  
 F1:8 described by Eq. (4) when considering a single photon pair. A  
 F1:9 laser diode (LD) provides the continuous wave UV pump light. The  
 F1:10 combination of a half-wave plate (HWP) and polarization beam  
 F1:11 splitter (PBS) sets  $\theta$  by controlling the relative intensity of the two  
 F1:12 pump beams, while a thin glass plate controls their relative phase  $\phi$ .  
 F1:13 The pump beams enter the interferometer through dichroic mirrors.  
 F1:14 At each output of the PBS, the combination of a HWP and PBS  
 F1:15 projects the mode polarization before coupling into a fiber single  
 F1:16 mode for light at 810 nm (SMF@810). A free-space link is used to  
 F1:17 transfer light from SMF@810 to single mode fibers designed for  
 F1:18 1550 nm (SMF-28e). Eventually, the light is detected with high  
 F1:19 efficiency superconducting transition edge sensors (TES), and time  
 F1:20 stamped with a resolution of 2 ns.

179 timing jitter  $\approx 170$  ns, and recorded with a resolution of  
 180 2 ns. Setting Alice's and Bob's analyzing wave plates in the  
 181 natural basis of the combining PBS,  $HV$  and  $VH$ , we  
 182 estimate heralded efficiencies of  $82.42 \pm 0.31\%$  ( $HV$ ) and  
 183  $82.24 \pm 0.30\%$  ( $VH$ ). We identified two main sources of  
 184 uncorrelated detection events: intrinsic detector and back-  
 185 ground events at rates of  $6.7 \pm 0.58 \text{ s}^{-1}$  for Alice and  
 186  $11.9 \pm 0.77 \text{ s}^{-1}$  for Bob, respectively, and fluorescence  
 187 caused by the UV pump in the PPKTP crystal [23],  
 188 contributing  $0.135 \pm 0.08\%$  of the signal. With a total  
 189 pump power at the crystal of 5.8 mW we estimate a pair  
 190 generation rate  $\approx 2.4 \times 10^4 \text{ s}^{-1}$  (detected  $\approx 20 \times 10^3 \text{ s}^{-1}$ ),  
 191 and dark count-background rates of  $45.7 \text{ s}^{-1}$  (Alice) and  
 192  $41.5 \text{ s}^{-1}$  (Bob).

193 *Violation.*—For the measured system efficiencies ( $\eta_A \approx$   
 194  $82.4\%$ ,  $\eta_B \approx 82.2\%$ ) and rate of uncorrelated counts at  
 195 each detector ( $45.7 \text{ s}^{-1}$  Alice,  $41.5 \text{ s}^{-1}$  Bob), a numerical  
 196 optimization gives the following values of the state and  
 197 measurement parameters (see [19] for details):  $\theta = 25.9^\circ$ ,  
 198  $\alpha_0 = -7.2^\circ$ ,  $\alpha_1 = 28.7^\circ$ ,  $\beta_0 = 82.7^\circ$ , and  $\beta_1 = -61.5^\circ$ .  
 199 These are close to optimal for all values of  $\mu$ , and the  
 200 maximal violation is expected for  $\mu = 0.322$ .

201 We collected data for approximately 42.8 min, changing  
 202 the measurement basis every 2 min, cycling through the

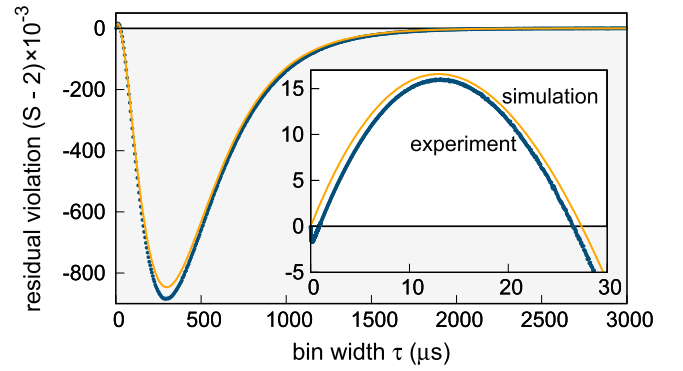
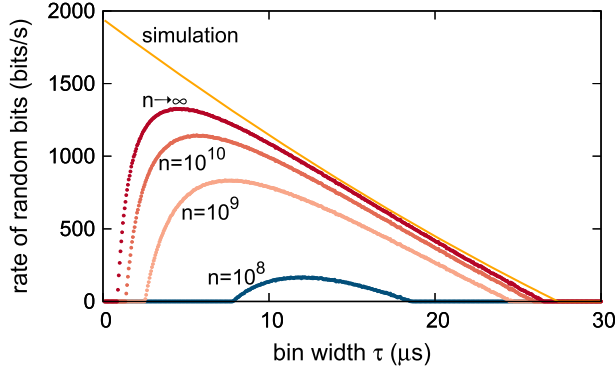


FIG. 2. Measured CHSH violation as a function of bin width  $\tau$   
 (blue circles). A theoretical model (orange continuous line) is  
 sketched in the main text and described in detail in [19]. Both  
 the simulation and the experimental data show a violation for short  
 $\tau$  (zoom in inset). The uncertainty on the measured value, calcu-  
 lated assuming IID, corresponding to one standard deviation due  
 to a Poissonian distribution of the events, is smaller than the  
 symbols. For  $\tau \lesssim 1 \mu\text{s}$  the detection jitter ( $\approx 170$  ns) is com-  
 parable with the time bin, resulting in a loss of observable  
 correlation and a fast drop of the value of  $S$ .

four possible basis combinations. The sequence of the four  
 settings is determined for every cycle using a pseudoran-  
 dom number generator. We periodically ensure that  $\phi \approx 0$   
 by rotating the phase plate until the visibility in the  
 $+45^\circ/-45^\circ$  basis is larger than 0.985. Excluding the  
 phase lock, the effective data acquisition time is  $\approx 34$  min.

In Fig. 2 we show the result of processing the time  
 stamped events for different bin widths  $\tau$ . The largest  
 violation  $S = 2.01602(32)$  is observed for  $\tau = 13.150 \mu\text{s}$ ,  
 which, with the cited pair generation rate of  $24 \times 10^3 \text{ s}^{-1}$ ,  
 corresponds to  $\mu \approx 0.32$ . The uncertainty is calculated  
 assuming that measurement results are independent and  
 identically distributed (IID). Since the fluctuations of  $S$  are  
 identical in the IID and non-IID settings, this uncertainty is  
 also representative of the  $p$  value associated with local  
 models [24,25]. The slight discrepancy between the exper-  
 imental violation and the simulation is attributed to the  
 nonideal visibility of the state generated by the photon  
 pair source. When  $\tau$  is comparable to the detection jitter,  
 detection events due to a single pair may be assigned  
 to different rounds, decreasing the correlations. This  
 explains the drop of  $S$  below 2 (which our simulation  
 does not capture because we have not included the jitter as  
 a parameter).

*Randomness extraction.*—In order to turn the output  
 data generated from our experiment into uniformly ran-  
 dom bits, we need to employ a randomness expansion  
 protocol [26]. Such a protocol consists of a predefined  
 number of rounds  $n$ , forming a block. Each round is  
 randomly assigned (with probability  $\gamma$  and  $1 - \gamma$ , respec-  
 tively) to one of two tasks: testing the device for faults or  
 eavesdropping attempts, or generating random bits. When  
 the test rounds show a sufficient violation, one applies a



F3:1 FIG. 3. Randomness generation rate  $r_n/\tau$  as a function of  $\tau$   
 F3:2 for different block sizes  $n$ . The points are calculated via Eq. (5)  
 F3:3 for finite  $n$  [Eq. (6) for  $n \rightarrow \infty$ ] and the violation measured in  
 F3:4 the experiment, assuming  $\gamma = 0$  (no testing rounds) and  $\epsilon_c =$   
 F3:5  $\epsilon_s = 10^{-10}$ . The continuous line is the asymptotic rate Eq. (6)  
 F3:6 evaluated on the values of  $S$  of the simulation shown in Fig. 2,  
 F3:7 for the same security assumptions.

236 quantum-proof randomness extractor to the block, obtaining  
 237  $m$  random bits. The performance of the extraction protocol  
 238 [27] is determined by completeness and soundness security  
 239 parameters  $\epsilon_c$  and  $\epsilon_s$ . To ensure the resulting string is  
 240 uniform to within  $\approx 10^{-10}$ , we choose  $\epsilon_c = \epsilon_s = 10^{-10}$ .  
 241 The extraction protocol is a one-shot extraction protocol;  
 242 i.e., the security analysis does not assume IID. The output  
 243 randomness is composable and secure against a quantum  
 244 adversary holding quantum side information [26]. The  
 245 details of the protocol execution (using also [28]) and its  
 246 security proof are given in [29].

247 For a block consisting of  $n$  rounds, the number of  
 248 random bits per round is at least

$$r_n = \eta_{\text{opt}}(\epsilon', \epsilon_{\text{EA}}) - 4 \frac{\log n}{n} + 4 \frac{\log \epsilon_{\text{EX}}}{n} - \frac{10}{n}, \quad (5)$$

249 where the function  $\eta_{\text{opt}}$  depends on the block size  $n$ ,  
 250 detected violation  $S$ , and auxiliary security parameters  $\epsilon'$ ,  
 251  $\epsilon_{\text{EA}}$ ,  $\epsilon_{\text{EX}}$ . The choice of these auxiliary security parameters  
 252 is required to add up to the chosen level of completeness  
 253 and soundness. In the limit  $n \rightarrow \infty$  we obtain a lower  
 254 bound on the number of random bits per round  
 255

$$r_\infty = 1 - h\left(\frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2}\sqrt{\frac{S^2}{4} - 1}\right), \quad (6)$$

256 where  $h(p) := -p \log_2 p - (1-p) \log_2 (1-p)$  is the  
 257 binary entropy function.

259 The extractable randomness rate  $r_n/\tau$  based on the  
 260 observed  $S$  is presented in Fig. 3 for various block sizes  
 261  $n$ . For comparison, we also plot the asymptotic value  $r_\infty/\tau$   
 262 with  $S$  given by the simulation. The most obvious feature  
 263 is that the highest randomness rate is not obtained at  
 264 maximal violation of the inequality. There, one gets highest  
 265 randomness per round, but it turns out to be advantageous

to sacrifice randomness per round in favor of a larger  
 number of rounds per unit time. This optimization will be  
 part of the calibration procedure for a random number  
 generator with an active switch of measurement bases. As  
 explained previously, the detection jitter affects the observ-  
 able violation for  $\tau$  comparable to it. This causes the sharp  
 drop for short time bins observed for the experimental data.  
 For fixed detector efficiencies, we expect the randomness  
 rate to increase with higher photon pair generation rate, that  
 is by increasing the pump power, and to be ultimately  
 limited by the detection time jitter. Here, the use of efficient  
 superconducting nanowire detectors will be a significant  
 advantage.

We generated a random string from the data used to  
 demonstrate the violation. We sacrificed  $\approx 22\%$  of the data  
 as calibration to determine the optimal bin width ( $8.9 \mu\text{s}$ ),  
 and estimate the corresponding violation. We applied the  
 extractor to the remaining  $\approx 78\%$  of the data, corresponding  
 to 175 288 156 bins, obtaining 617 920 random bits,  
 passing the NIST test suite [30]. The extractor required  
 a seed provided by the random number generator in [31].  
 From the total measurement time of 42.8 min, we calculate  
 a rate of  $\approx 240$  random bit/s. For details of the extraction  
 process see [32]. Considering only the net measurement  
 time, that is without the acquisition of the calibration  
 fraction of the data, the phase lock of the source, and  
 the rotation of wave plate motors, we obtain a randomness  
 rate of  $\approx 396$  bit/s. These numbers are not necessarily  
 optimal; more sophisticated analysis demonstrated random-  
 ness extraction for very low detected violations [11,33],  
 and may yield a larger extractable randomness also in our  
 case. Details of the extraction procedure are in [32].

*Conclusion.*—We experimentally observed a violation of  
 CHSH inequality with a continuous wave photon entangled  
 pair source without the fair-sampling assumption combin-  
 ing a high collection efficiency source and high detection  
 efficiency superconducting detectors, with the largest  
 detected violation of  $S = 2.016\,02(32)$ .

The generation rate of all probabilistic sources of  
 entangled photon pairs is limited by the probability of  
 generation of multiple pairs per experimental round,  
 according to Poissonian statistics. The flexible definition  
 of an experimental round permitted by the cw nature of our  
 setup allowed us to study the dependence of the observable  
 violation as function of the average number of photon  
 pairs per experimental round. This same flexibility can be  
 exploited to reduce the time necessary to acquire sufficient  
 statistics for these kinds of experiments: an increase in the  
 pair generation rate is accompanied by a reduction of the  
 round duration. This approach shifts the experimental  
 repetition rate limitation from the photon statistics to the  
 other elements of the setup, e.g., detectors time response or  
 active polarization basis switching speed.

The observation of a Bell violation also certifies the  
 generation of randomness. We estimate the amount of  
 randomness generated per round both in an asymptotic

322 regime and for a finite number of experimental rounds,  
 323 assuming a required level of uniformity of  $10^{-10}$ . When  
 324 considering the largest attainable *rate* of random bit  
 325 generation, the optimal round duration is the result of  
 326 the trade-off between observed violation and the number of  
 327 rounds per unit time. While for an ideal realization the  
 328 optimal round duration would be infinitesimally short, it is  
 329 limited in our system by the detection jitter time. Our proof  
 330 of principle demonstration can be extended into a complete,  
 331 loophole-free random number source. This requires closing  
 332 the locality and freedom-of-choice loopholes, with techni-  
 333 ques not different from pulsed photonic sources, with the  
 334 only addition of a periodic calibration necessary for  
 335 determining the optimal time bin.

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