

VINTAGE VERIFICATION

FOR TRUSTED RADIATION MEASUREMENTS AND
A WORLD FREE OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS

Moritz Kütt and Alex Glaser

34c3, Leipzig, December 2017

Revision 4

BACKGROUND

NUCLEAR WEAPONS: WHERE WE ARE IN 2017/2018

USA
6,800



U.S. Nuclear Weapon

Russia
7,000

United Kingdom
215



215



France
300



Israel
80



Pakistan
135



India
125



China
270



North Korean Nuclear Weapon

North Korea
15

***There remain about
15,000 nuclear weapons
in the world today***

“THE PEANUT”



September 2, 2017, Source: KCNA/EPA

North Korea tested a nuclear weapon with an estimated yield of 250 kt(TNT) on September 3, 2017

200 kt
(47.8 square miles)
Area destroyed by mass fire

200 kt
(5.7 square miles)
Area destroyed by air blast

16 kt
Hiroshima-sized
explosion
(1.1 square miles)

***A modern nuclear weapon has
a destructive power tens to
hundreds of times greater than
the Hiroshima bomb***

New York City

A 200-kt nuclear explosion would immediately kill more than 1,300,000 million people in New York City and the surrounding areas. Fallout effects would significantly increase this number.



Bilge Ebiri ✓
@BilgeEbiri

Follow

Can't lose the 2020 election if there is no 2020.



12:40 PM - 8 Aug 2017

 **NBC NEWS**

EXCLUSIVE INVESTIGATIONS OCT 11 2017, 7:23 AM ET

Trump Wanted Tenfold Increase in Nuclear Arsenal, Surprising Military

by COURTNEY KUBE, KRISTEN WELKER, CAROL E. LEE and SAVANNAH GUTHRIE

www.chappatte.com/en/images/trump-president and twitter.com/bilgeebiri/status/895006813078401027

www.nbcnews.com/news/all/trump-wanted-dramatic-increase-nuclear-arsenal-meeting-military-leaders-n809701

THE BAN TREATY

NEGOTIATED BY 122 COUNTRIES, UNITED NATIONS, MARCH–JULY 2017



Source: Tamara Patton

Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons

www.icanw.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/07/TPNW-English1.pdf

THE BAN TREATY

AND THE 2017 NOBEL PEACE PRIZE FOR ICAN



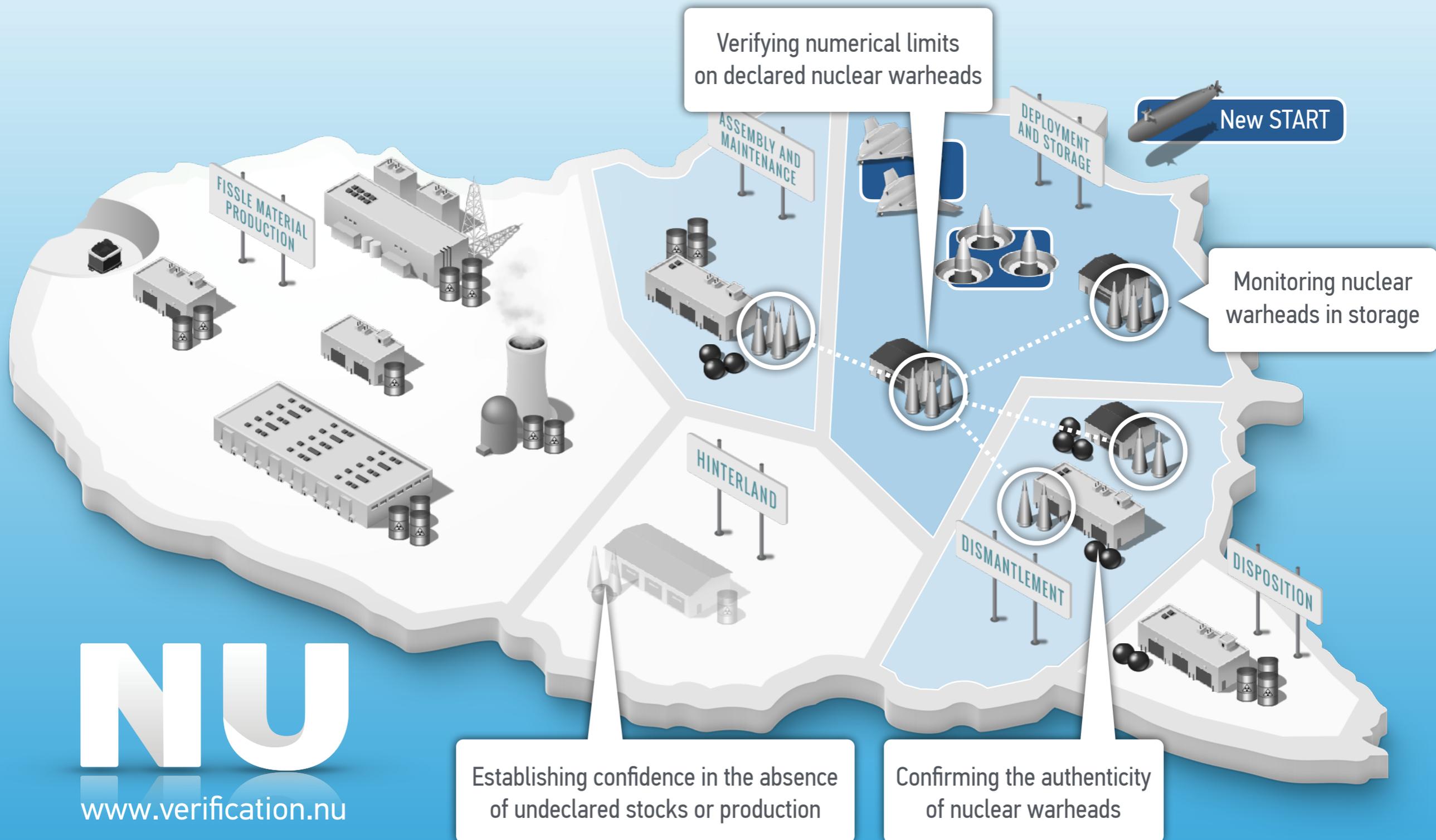
*Tim Wright and Ray Acheson
with Ban Treaty*



*Setsuko Thurlow and Beatrice Fihn
with Berit Reiss-Andersen*

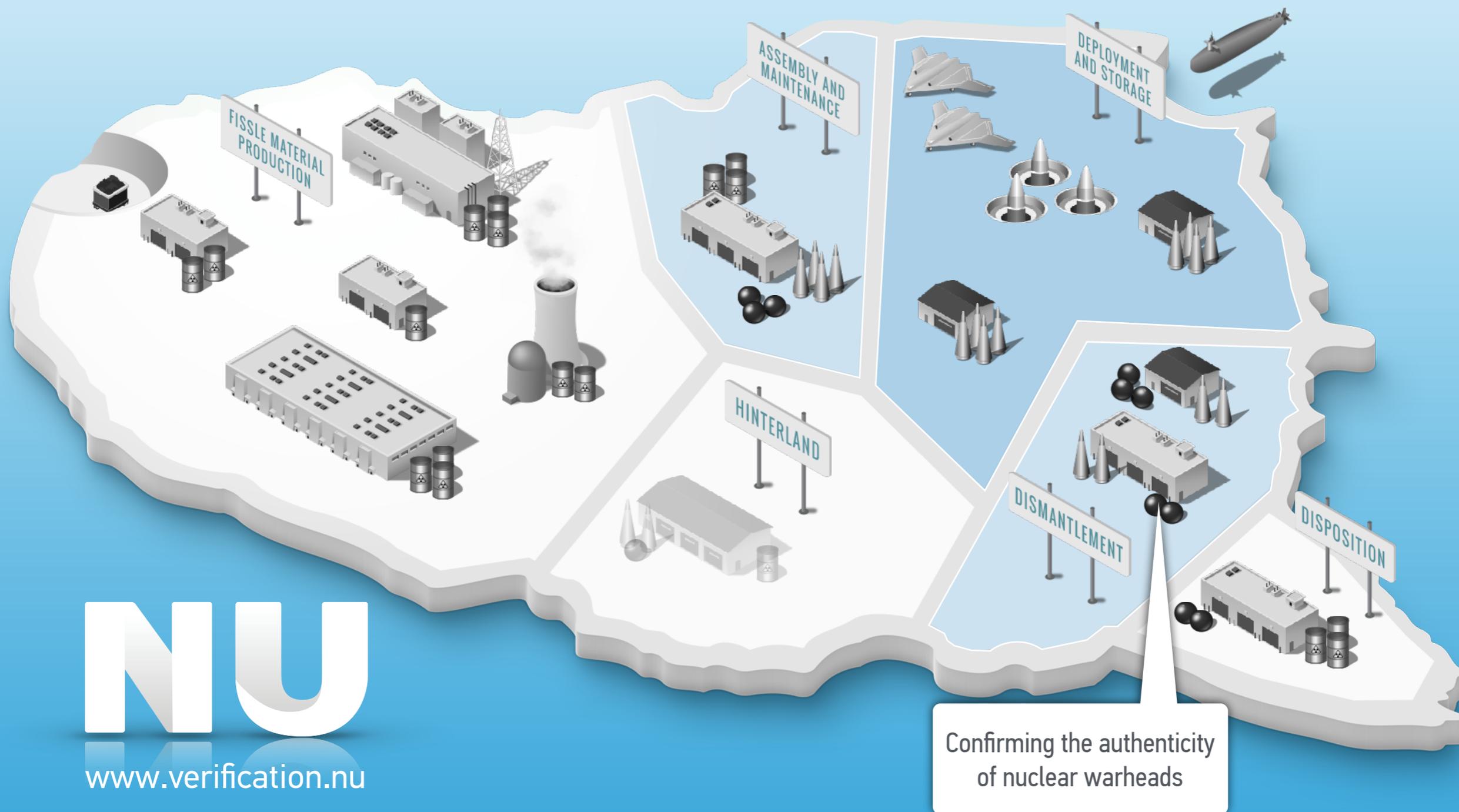
WHAT IS TO BE VERIFIED?

VERIFICATION CHALLENGES OF DEEP REDUCTIONS AND A NUCLEAR WEAPON FREE WORLD



NU
www.verification.nu

VERIFICATION CHALLENGES OF DEEP REDUCTIONS AND A NUCLEAR WEAPON FREE WORLD



**CONFIRMING THE
AUTHENTICITY OF WARHEADS**

THERMONUCLEAR WARHEAD

ON AVERAGE, A MODERN NUCLEAR WARHEAD MAY CONTAIN 3–4 KG OF PLUTONIUM AND UP TO 25 KG OF HIGHLY ENRICHED URANIUM

Primary

Typically contains plutonium (and/or highly enriched uranium)



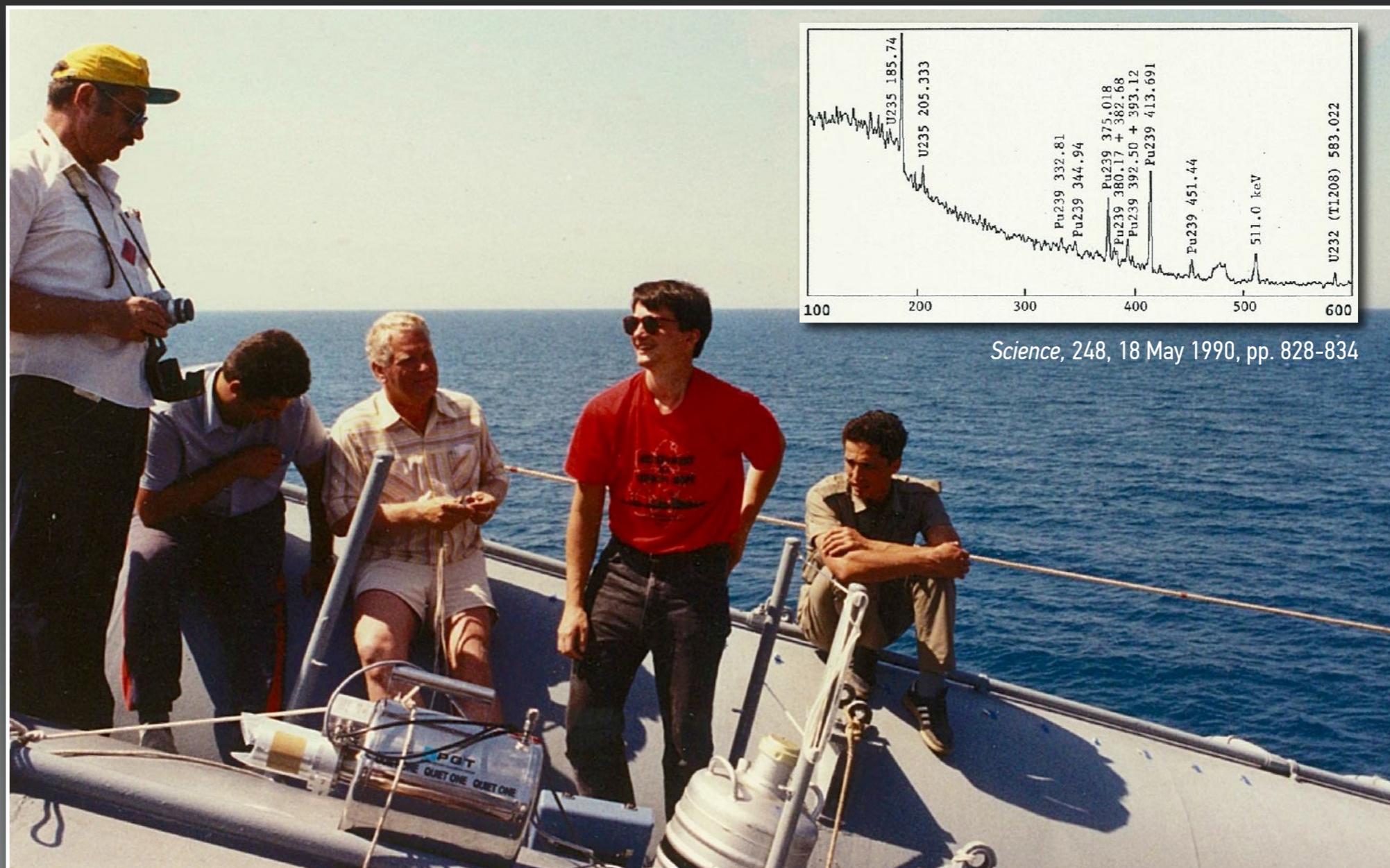
Secondary

Typically contains highly enriched uranium (and lithium-deuteride as fusion fuel)

Source: fas.org; U.S. Department of Defense

NUCLEAR WEAPONS HAVE UNIQUE RADIATION SIGNATURES

BUT THEY ARE SENSITIVE AND CANNOT BE REVEALED TO INSPECTORS



Science, 248, 18 May 1990, pp. 828-834

U.S. Scientists on a Soviet Cruiser in the Black Sea, 1989

NUCLEAR WARHEAD VERIFICATION

KEY CONCEPTS OF (PROPOSED) INSPECTION SYSTEMS

ATTRIBUTE APPROACH

Confirming selected characteristics of an object in classified form (for example, the presence/mass of plutonium)

TEMPLATE APPROACH

Comparing the radiation signature from the inspected item with a reference item (“golden warhead”) of the same type

INFORMATION BARRIERS

Technologies (and procedures) that prevent the release of sensitive nuclear information
(Examples to follow)

FUNDAMENTAL UNRESOLVED CHALLENGE

How can information barriers simultaneously be authenticated and certified, i.e., trusted by inspector team and host team at the same time?

"ALL I see is a green LED
with a battery connected to it."

Russian nuclear weapons expert during technology demonstration
at a U.S. national laboratory in the early 2000s

WHY ARE WARHEAD INSPECTIONS SO HARD?

(AS SEEN FROM INSPECTOR'S PERSPECTIVE)

VERY LITTLE (IF ANY) INFORMATION ABOUT THE INSPECTED ITEM CAN BE REVEALED

Some information may be shared in advance, but no additional information during inspection

ADVERSARY/COMPETITOR HAS (DE FACTO) INFINITE RESOURCES

ADVERSARY/COMPETITOR MAY BE EXTREMELY MOTIVATED (TO DECEIVE INSPECTOR)

Stakes are very high (especially when the number of weapons drops below ~1,000)

HOST HAS LAST OWNERSHIP OF INSPECTION SYSTEM BEFORE THE MEASUREMENT

(and inspector never again has access to system after the measurement is complete)

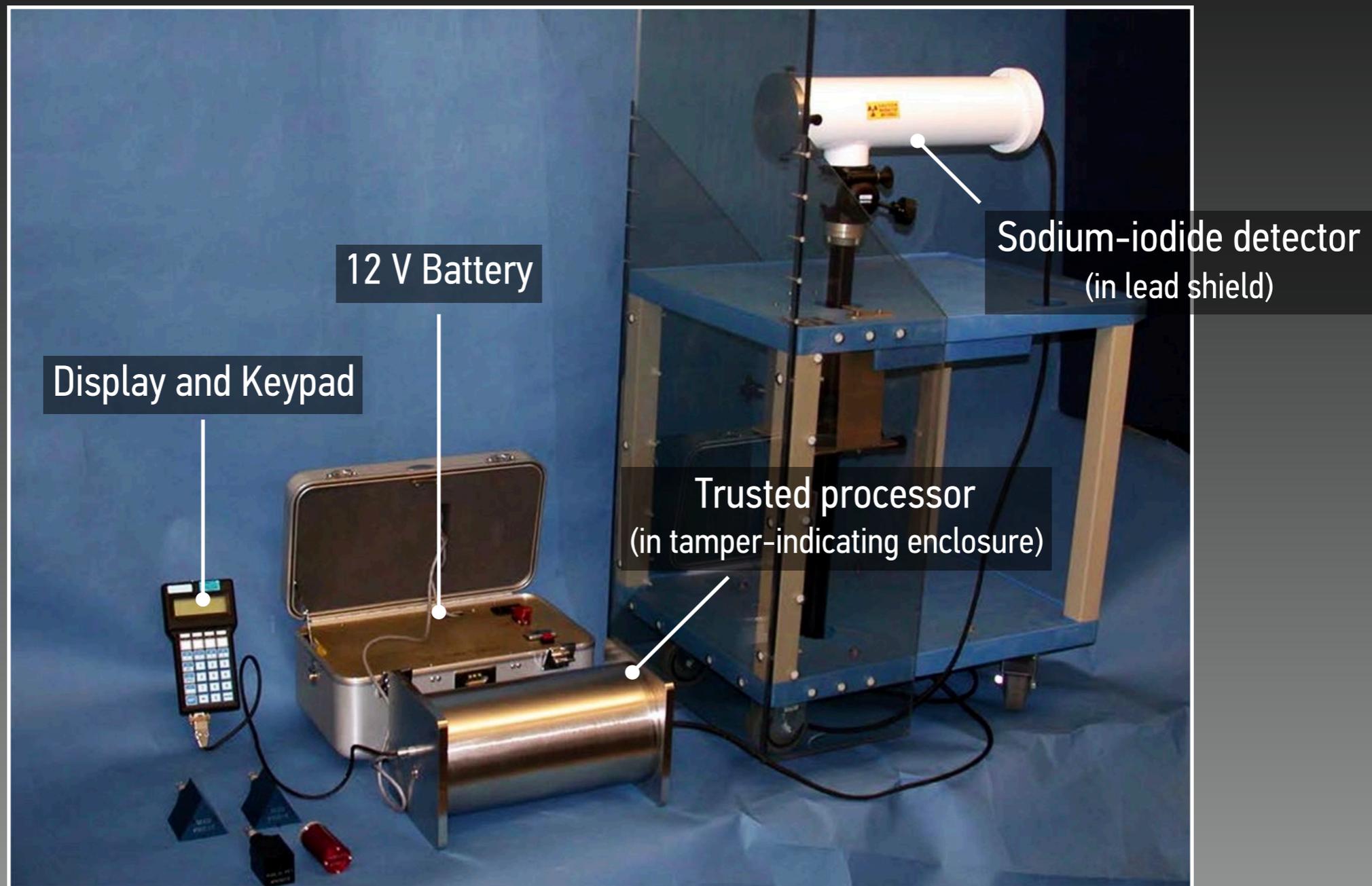
EXAMPLE 1

TRUSTED RADIATION
IDENTIFICATION SYSTEM (TRIS)

Sandia National Laboratories, 1999–2001

TRUSTED RADIATION IDENTIFICATION SYSTEM

(SANDIA NATIONAL LABORATORIES)



K. D. Seager, R. L. Lucero, T. W. Laub, K. W. Inch, D. J. Mitchell, Trusted Radiation Identification System (TRIS) Users Manual SAND2017-0578TR, Sandia National Laboratories, Albuquerque, New Mexico, December 2002 (July 2011 Revision)

WHAT WE LIKE ABOUT TRIS



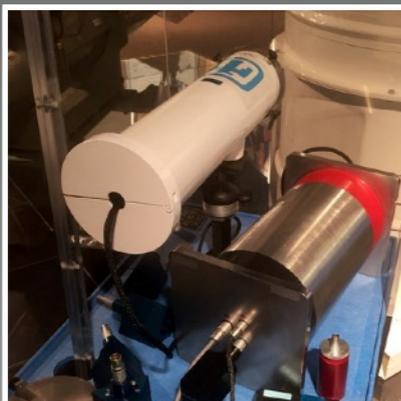
SIMPLE DETECTOR SYSTEM

Passive low-resolution measurement (of gamma emissions from inspected item) with standard sodium-iodide detector



STRONG TAMPER INDICATING ENCLOSURE

Spiral tamper board and eddy-current scanner to confirm integrity of enclosure; Red-side (classified) and black-side processors communicate optically (through pinholes)

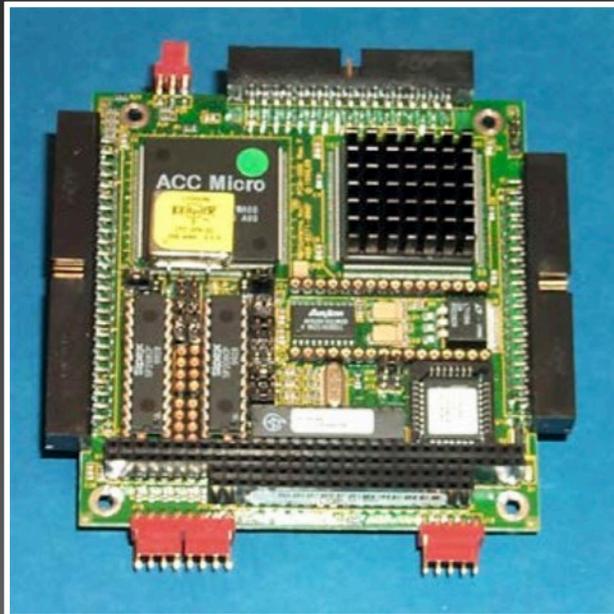


FAST TEMPLATE APPROACH WITH SIMPLE (AND ROBUST) PASS/FAIL ALGORITHM

Measurement only takes 30–60 seconds; uses 16 numbers and standard statistical test to determine inspection result

Source: U.S. Department of Energy (top and middle), Authors (bottom)

WHAT WE DON'T LIKE AS MUCH



COMPLEX (AND MOSTLY) CLOSED HARDWARE PLATFORM

Includes a PC/104 board made by *WinSystems* (winsystems.com) based on an AMD 586 CPU (~ 4 million transistors) and a Xilinx FPGA to acquire and digitize detector data



ESTABLISHING INSPECTOR CONFIDENCE REMAINS A CHALLENGE

On inspector confidence versus information security:
The protection of classified information is the more important requirement, which dictates that the inspection equipment must be provided by the host country. (TRIS User's Manual)

Source: TRIS User's Manual, 2002/2011 (top) and Joint US-UK Report, 2010, U.S. Department of Energy

EXAMPLE 2

UK-NORWAY
INFORMATION BARRIER

UK-Norway Initiative, 2007–2017

www.ukni.info

UK-NORWAY INFORMATION BARRIER

Phase III Design of Information Barrier



Source: ukni.info

WHAT WE LIKE ABOUT THE UKNI-IB



CLEAR OPERATIONAL PROCEDURES

Straightforward interface allows host and inspector to continuously follow sequence of operations and measurement results



COMPREHENSIVE DOCUMENTATION

Project partners have often presented progress in public venues;
Schematics and Bill of Materials for hardware and ADA software available at www.ukni.info



JOINT DESIGN EFFORT INVOLVING NON-WEAPON STATE

First collaboration between weapon owner and non-weapon state sheds light on possible design challenges for verification among all countries

Source: ukni.info (top and bottom) and pxhere.com/en/photo/536212 (middle)

WHAT WE DON'T LIKE AS MUCH



COMPLEX DETECTOR SYSTEM WITH ATTRIBUTE APPROACH

High-purity Germanium (HPGe) detector requires cryogenic cooling, difficult to operate in the field, inevitable collection of detailed spectra

Complex algorithm, confirms presence and isotopics of plutonium



CLOSED-CHIP ARCHITECTURE MICROCONTROLLER

UKNI design uses two modern 8 bit microcontrollers:

ATmega 2560 for data analysis, *ATtiny13A* for timing of analog circuit; certification and authentication of these controllers could be challenging; built-in flash memory possible data leak

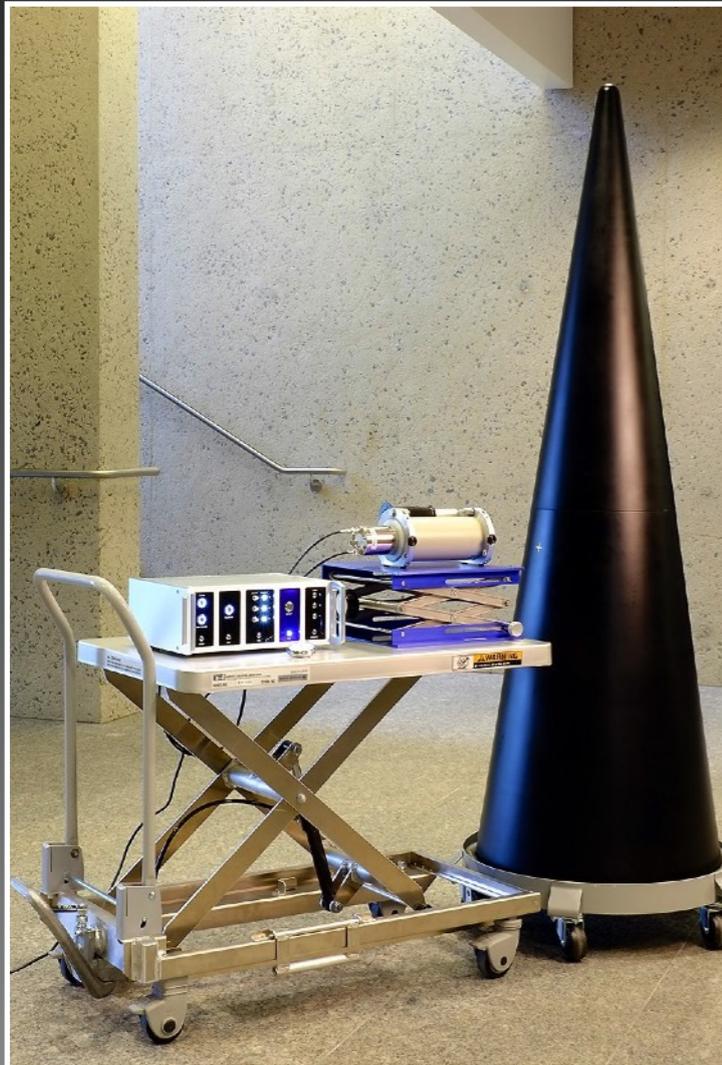
Source: ukni.info and instructables.com

EXAMPLE 3

INFORMATION BARRIER
EXPERIMENTAL

Princeton University, 2016

INFORMATION BARRIER EXPERIMENTAL

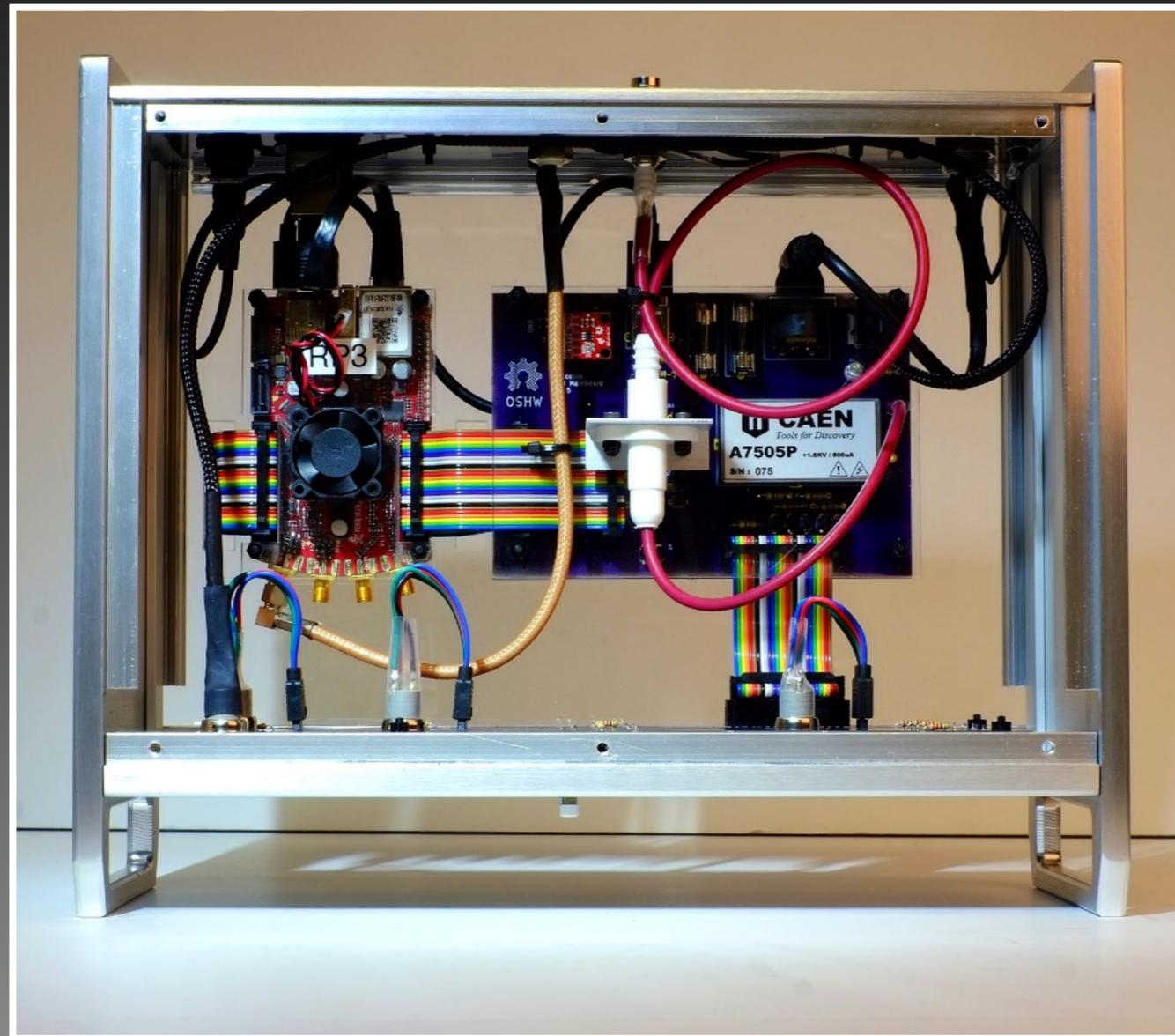


Source: Authors

M. Kütt, M. Göttsche, and A. Glaser, "Information Barrier Experimental," *Measurement*, 114, 2018

M. Göttsche, J. Schirm, and A. Glaser, "Low-resolution Gamma-ray Spectrometry for an Information Barrier Based on a Multi-criteria Template-matching Approach," *Nuclear Instruments and Methods A*, 840, 2016, pp. 139–144

INFORMATION BARRIER EXPERIMENTAL



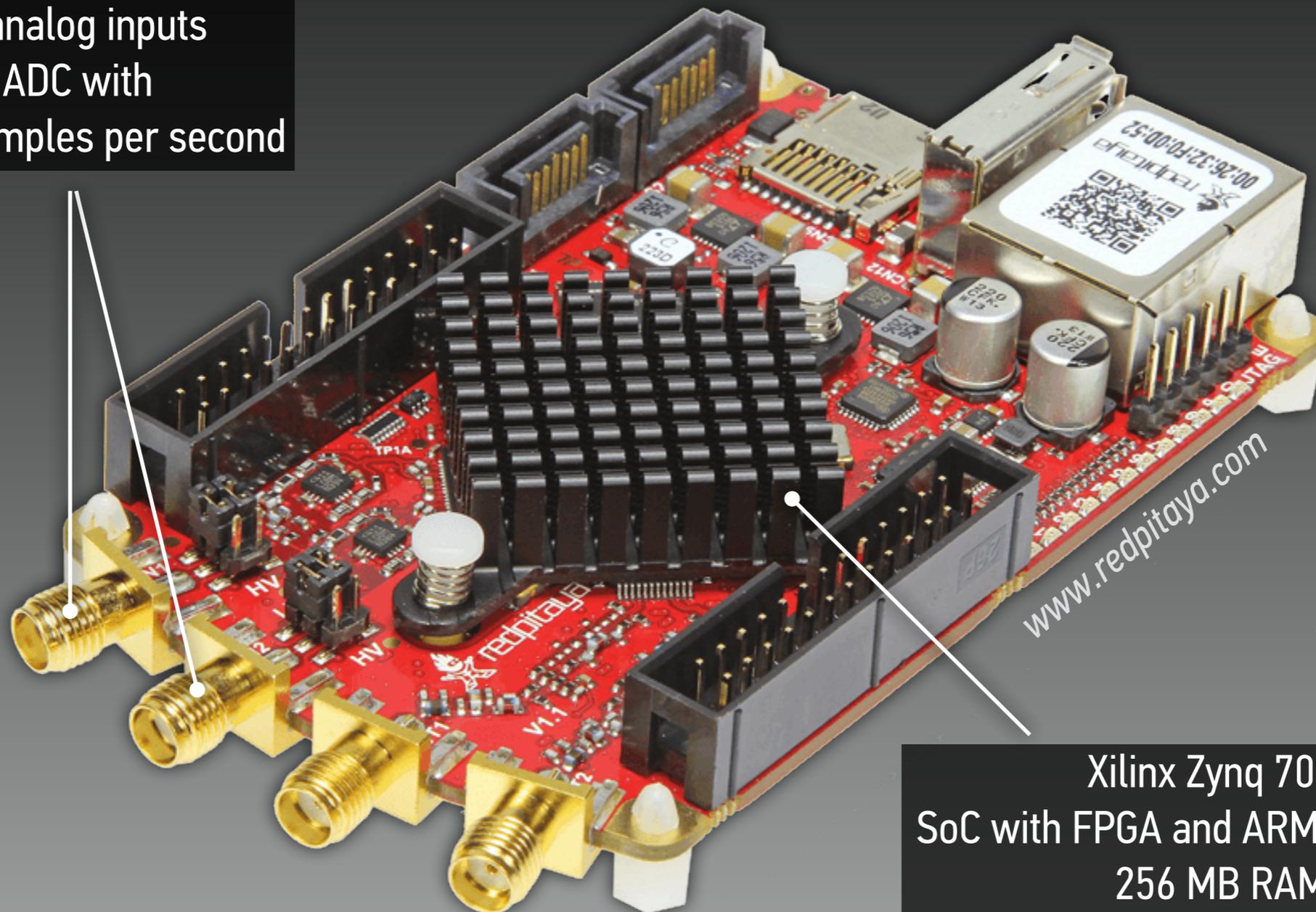
M. Kütt, M. Göttsche, and A. Glaser, "Information Barrier Experimental," *Measurement*, 114, 2018

M. Göttsche, J. Schirm, and A. Glaser, "Low-resolution Gamma-ray Spectrometry for an Information Barrier Based on a Multi-criteria Template-matching Approach," *Nuclear Instruments and Methods A*, 840, 2016, pp. 139–144

INFORMATION BARRIER EXPERIMENTAL

(BASED ON THE RED PITAYA)

Two fast analog inputs
14-bit ADC with
125 million samples per second



Xilinx Zynq 7010
SoC with FPGA and ARM A9 (2 cores)
256 MB RAM

VINTAGE VERIFICATION

THE BEST OF ALL WORLDS?

“TRUST THROUGH SIMPLICITY AND OBSOLESCENCE?”



SIMPLE DETECTOR SYSTEM

Sodium-iodide scintillation detector for inherently low-resolution gamma spectroscopy; Widely available, cheap, and simple to use in the field



VINTAGE COMPUTING PLATFORM

Simple, quasi open-source architecture; backdoors and hidden switches unlikely in hardware designed in the distant past, at a time, when use for sensitive measurements was never envisioned



BRING-YOUR-OWN-INFORMATION-BARRIER (BYOIB) OPTION

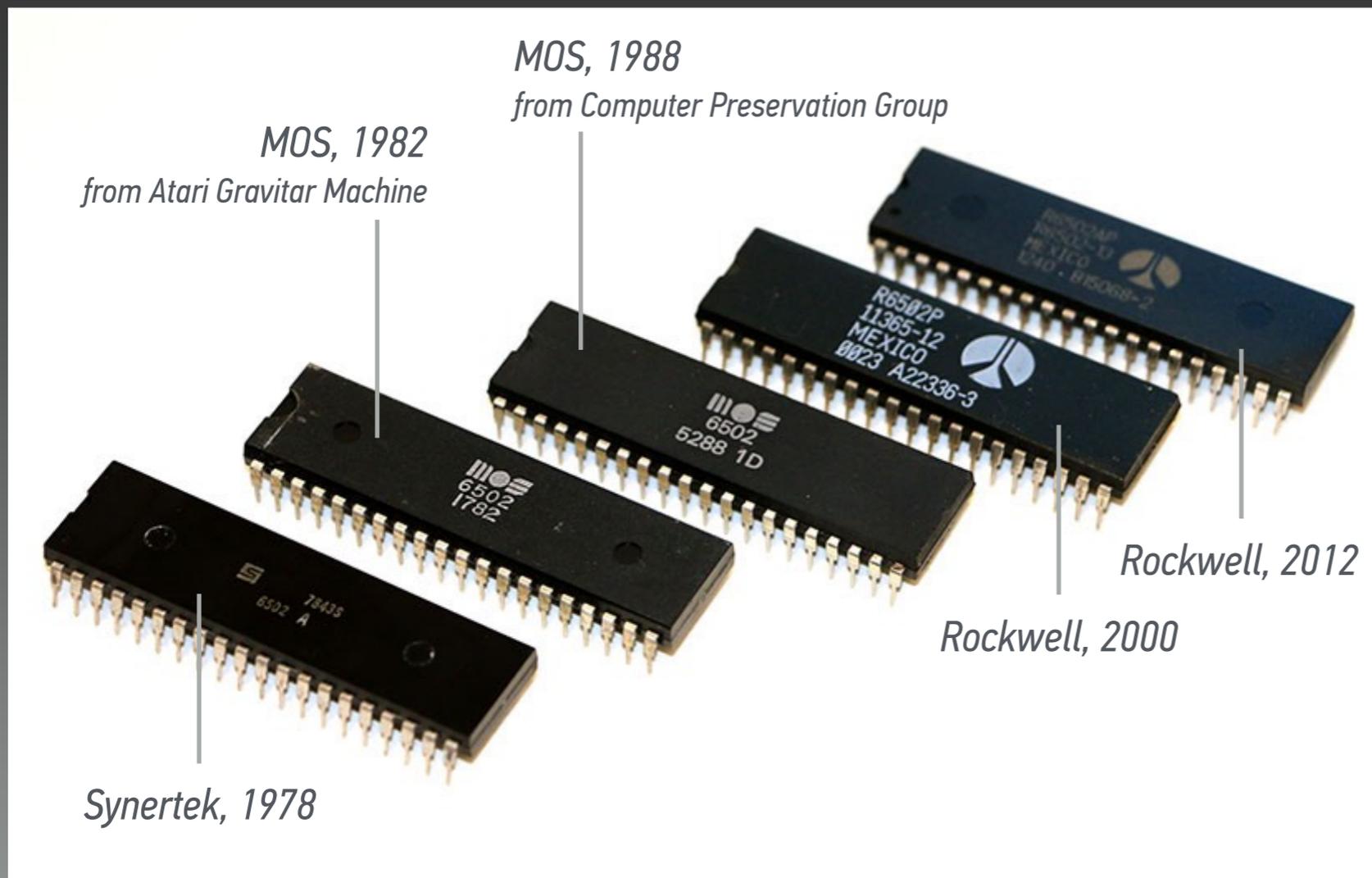
Limited capabilities make it difficult and perhaps impossible to surreptitiously implement extra functionalities to leak secret information; this should simplify verification, as hardware could be inspector-supplied or jointly acquired

Source: Authors (top and middle) and ayaypicante.com (bottom)

WHY CHOOSING THE 6502?

(STILL) FEWER TRANSISTORS THAN THERE ARE NUCLEAR WEAPONS TODAY

(3510 TRANSISTORS, 1 MEGAHERTZ, 56 INSTRUCTIONS)



Five of the 10 billion units made



In-house 6502 functionality testing

Original Apple II

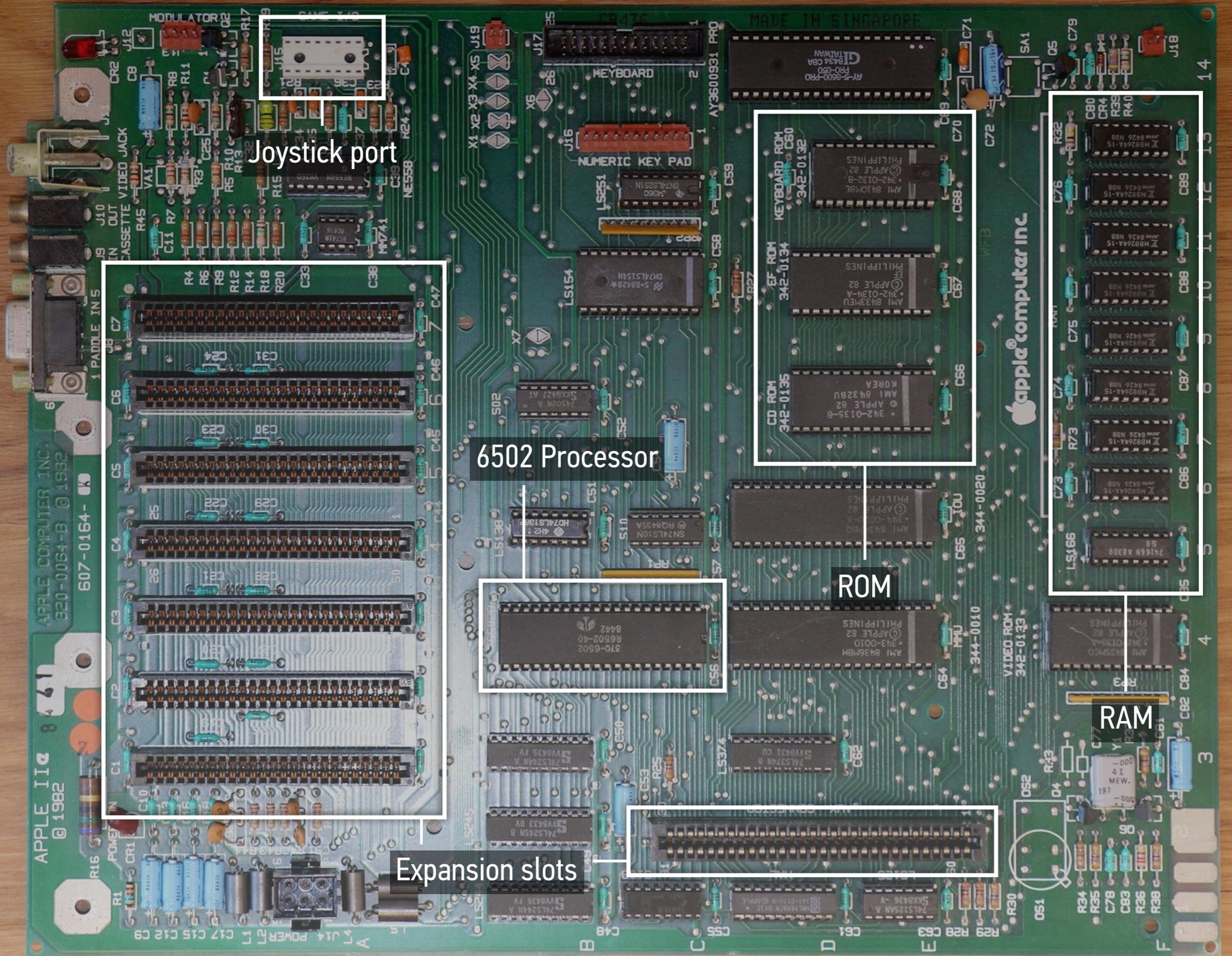




Most hackers and hobbyists liked to customize, modify, and jack various things into their computers. To Jobs, this was a threat to a seamless end-to-end user experience.

Wozniak, a hacker at heart, disagreed. He wanted to include eight slots on the Apple II for users to insert whatever smaller circuit boards and peripherals they might want. Jobs insisted there be only two, for a printer and a modem.

Walter Isaacson, Steve Jobs



Joystick port

Expansion slots

6502 Processor

ROM

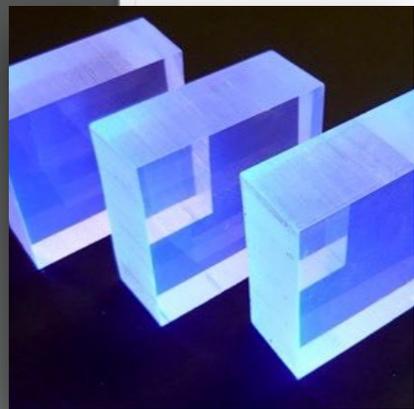
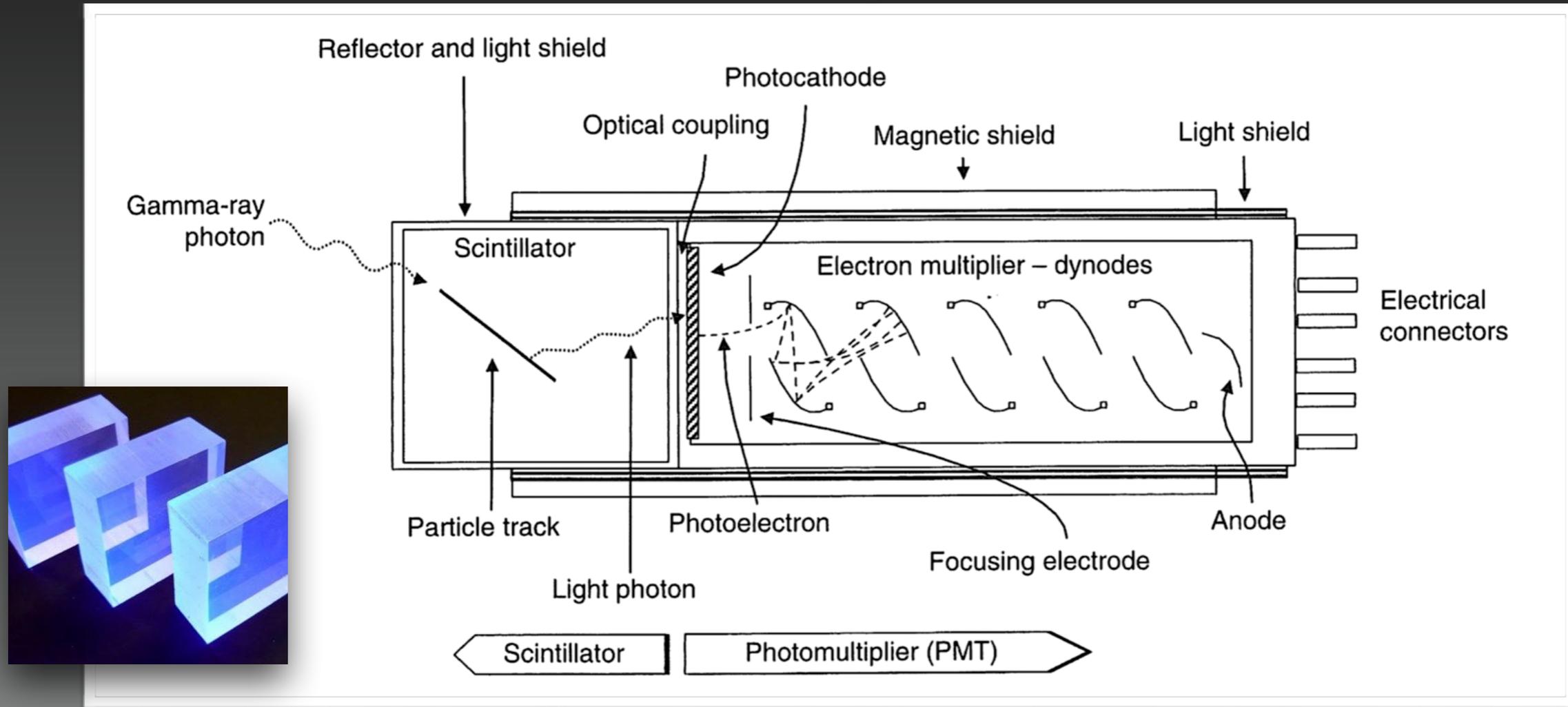
RAM

DEMO TIME

(BOOT FROM DISK, TURN ON HIGH VOLTAGE, ACQUIRE TEMPLATE)

youtu.be/QfXNulrrJQw

SCINTILLATION DETECTOR



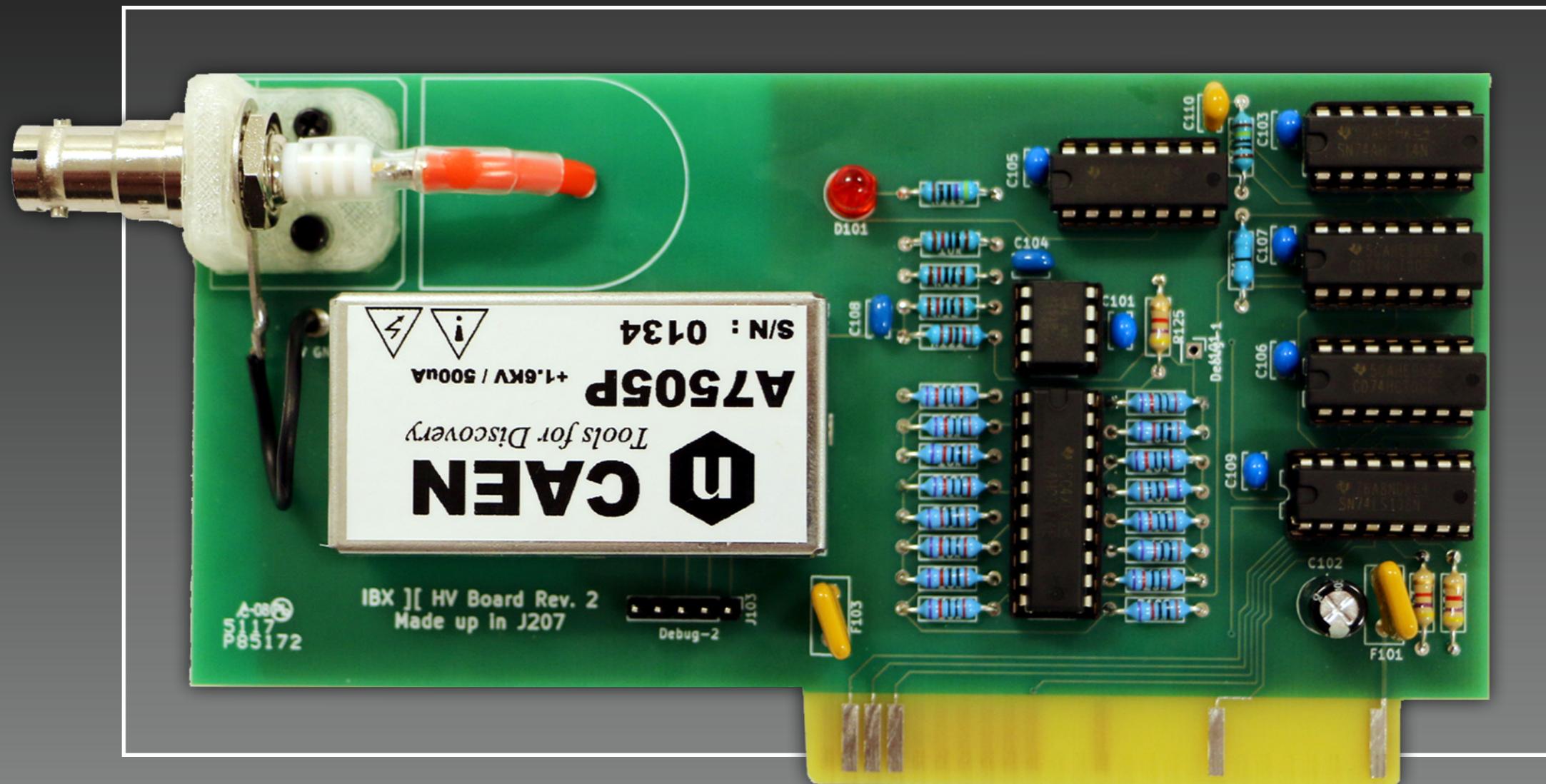
Source: G. Gilmore, *Practical Gamma-ray Spectroscopy*, Wiley, 2011

About 38,000 photons per MeV of energy deposited in NaI
For each electron from cathode, photomultiplier produces on the order 10 million electrons

INFORMATION BARRIER EXPERIMENTAL II

HIGH VOLTAGE BOARD

IBX II HIGH VOLTAGE BOARD

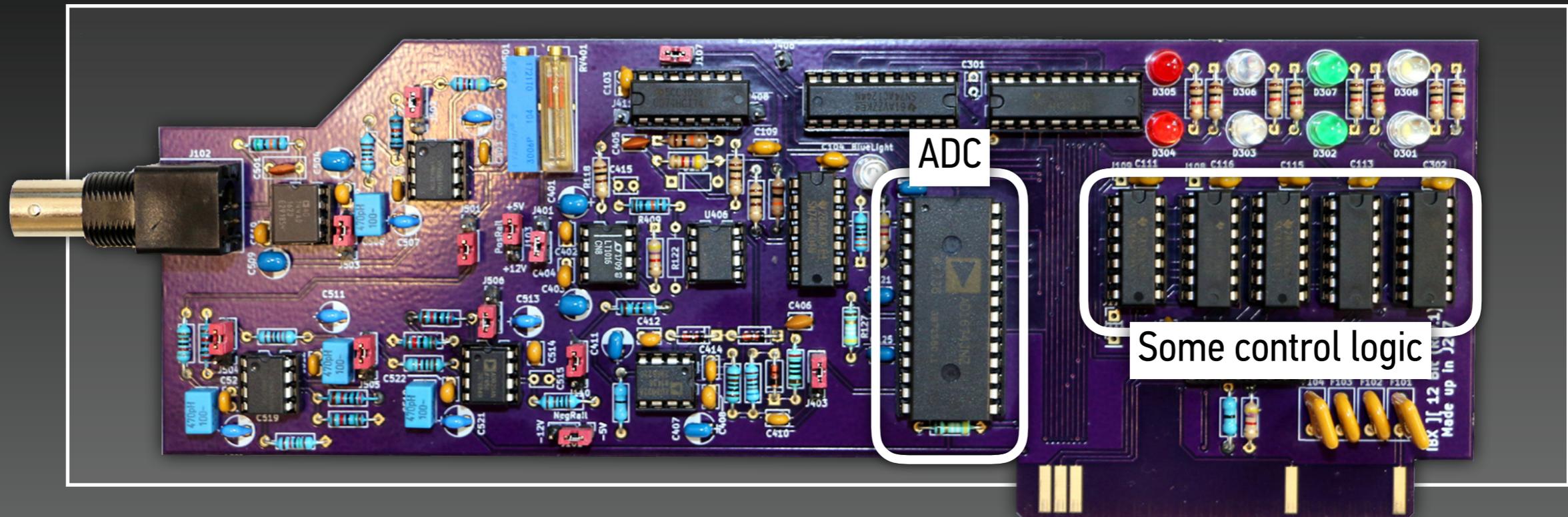


We use a simple R2R Digital-to-Analog Conversion to adjust high voltage (photomultiplier tube needs ramping to protect equipment)

INFORMATION BARRIER EXPERIMENTAL II

DATA ACQUISITION BOARD

IBX II DATA ACQUISITION BOARD

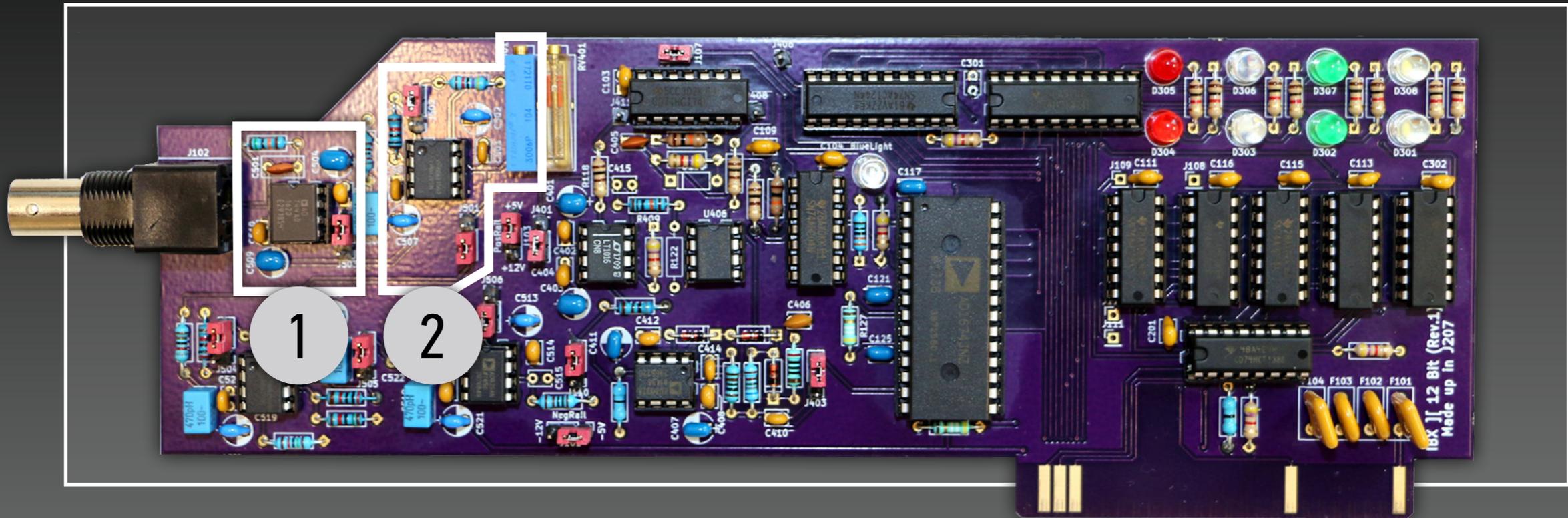


As ADC, we use an AD1674 (12-bit flash ADC with 8-bit bus-interface and internal voltage reference)

The ADC samples an incoming pulse in 10–15 μ s

Decode logic (and ADC timing) uses only Quad-NAND (7400) and Hex-NOT (7404) chips, in addition to one 3-to-8 decoder (74138)

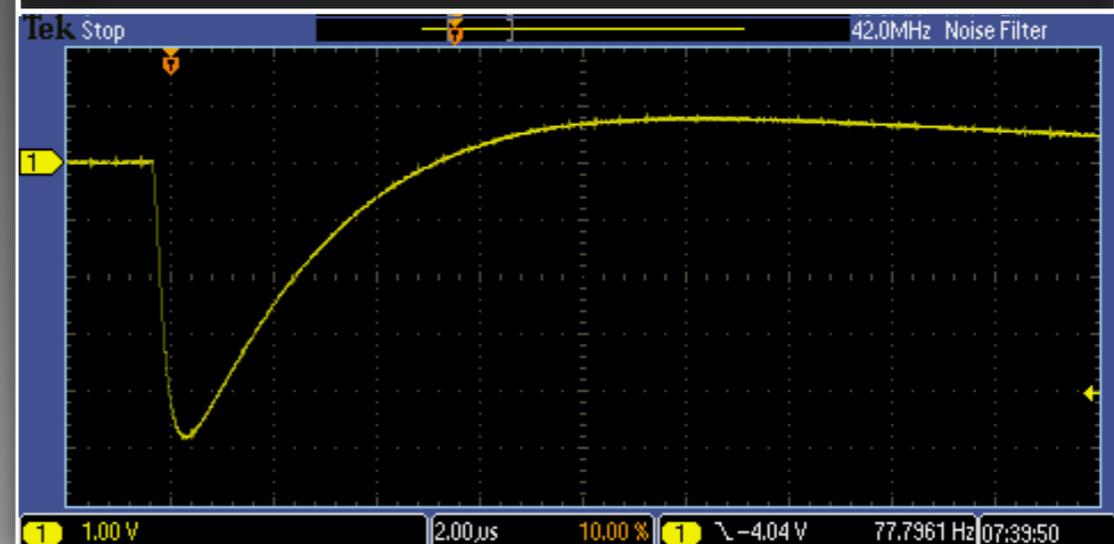
IBX II DATA ACQUISITION BOARD



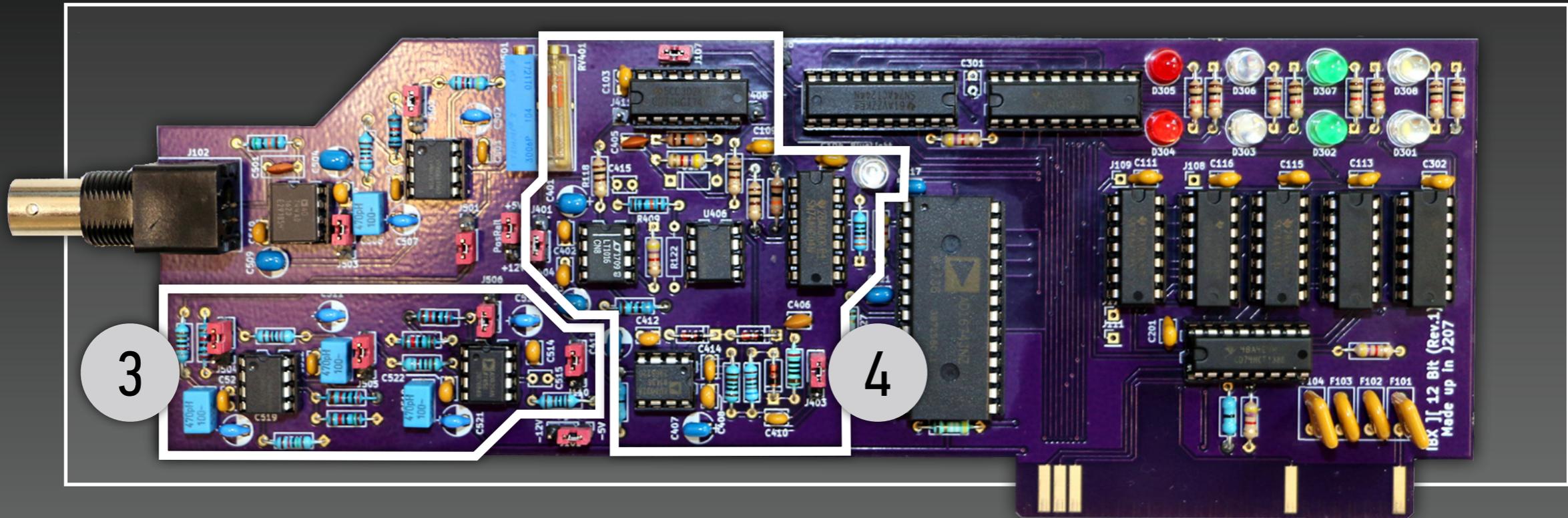
1 Pre-amplifier: Charge-sensitive OpAmp



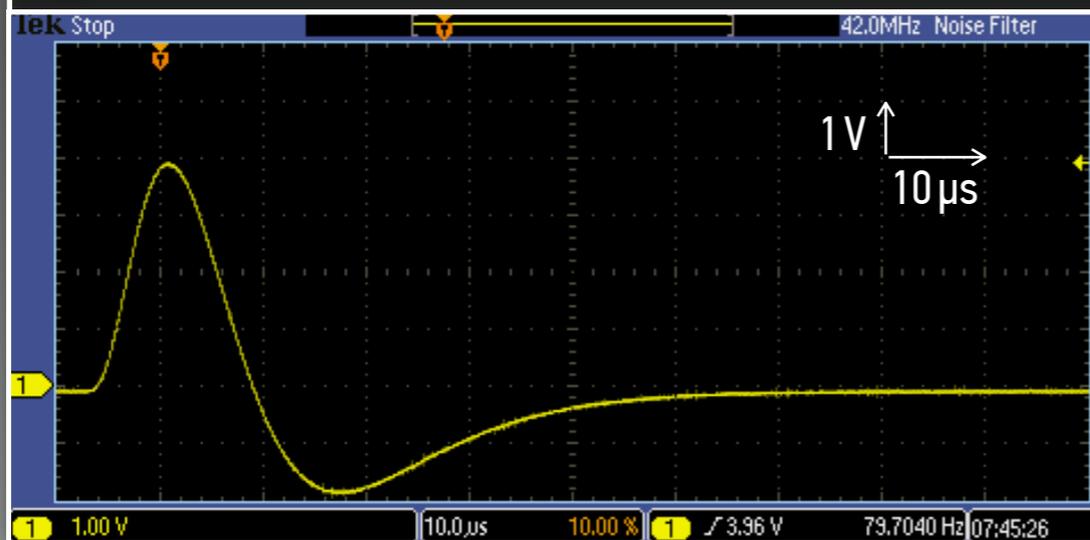
2 Differentiating OpAmp ... and adjustable gain



IBX II DATA ACQUISITION BOARD



3 Pulse-shaping: Series of low-pass filters



4 Peak detect & hold ... and ADC timing

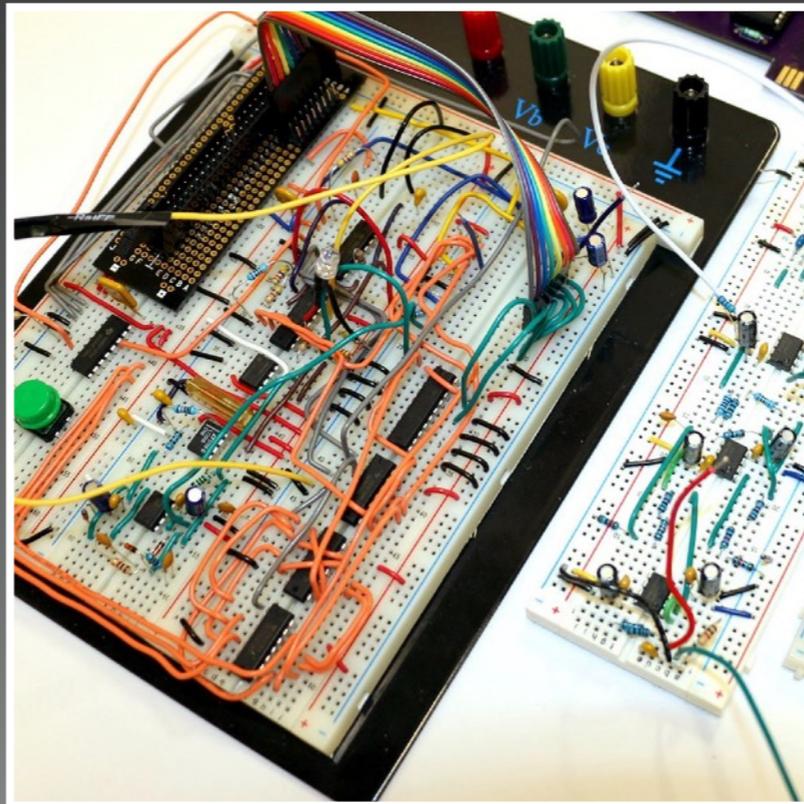


DEVELOPMENT FOR VINTAGE COMPUTING PLATFORMS

LESSONS LEARNED



Read actual (!) books



Design, try, repeat



Choose a real-world problem

github.com/nuclearfutureslab/ibxII-software

DEMO TIME

(INSPECT ... WITH ANOTHER CHECK SOURCE?)

youtu.be/QfXNulrrJQw

COMPARING TWO RADIATION SPECTRA

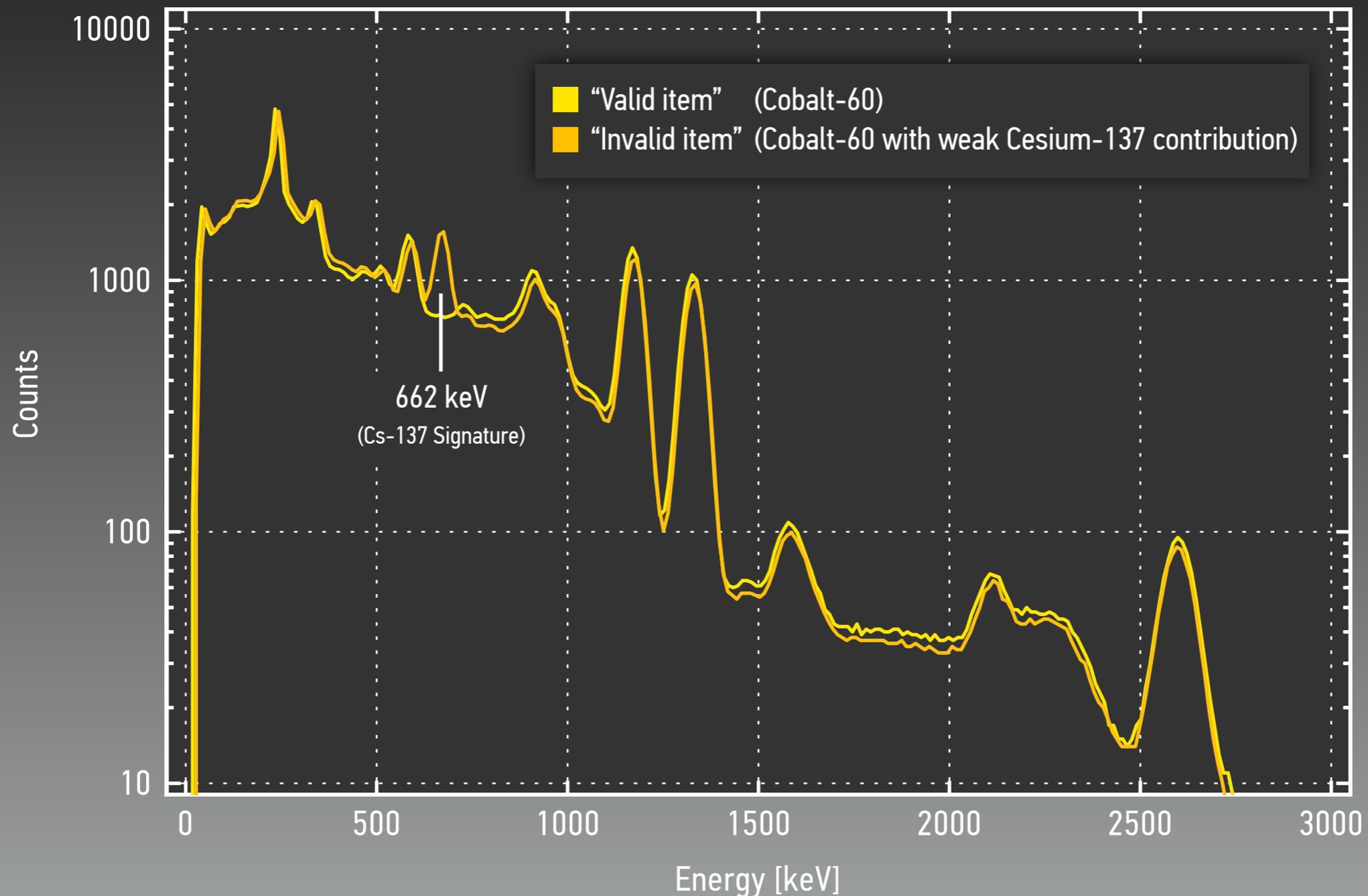
WITH 6502-STYLE COMPUTATIONAL EFFORT

(INSPIRED BY TRIS)

(SKIP TO END)

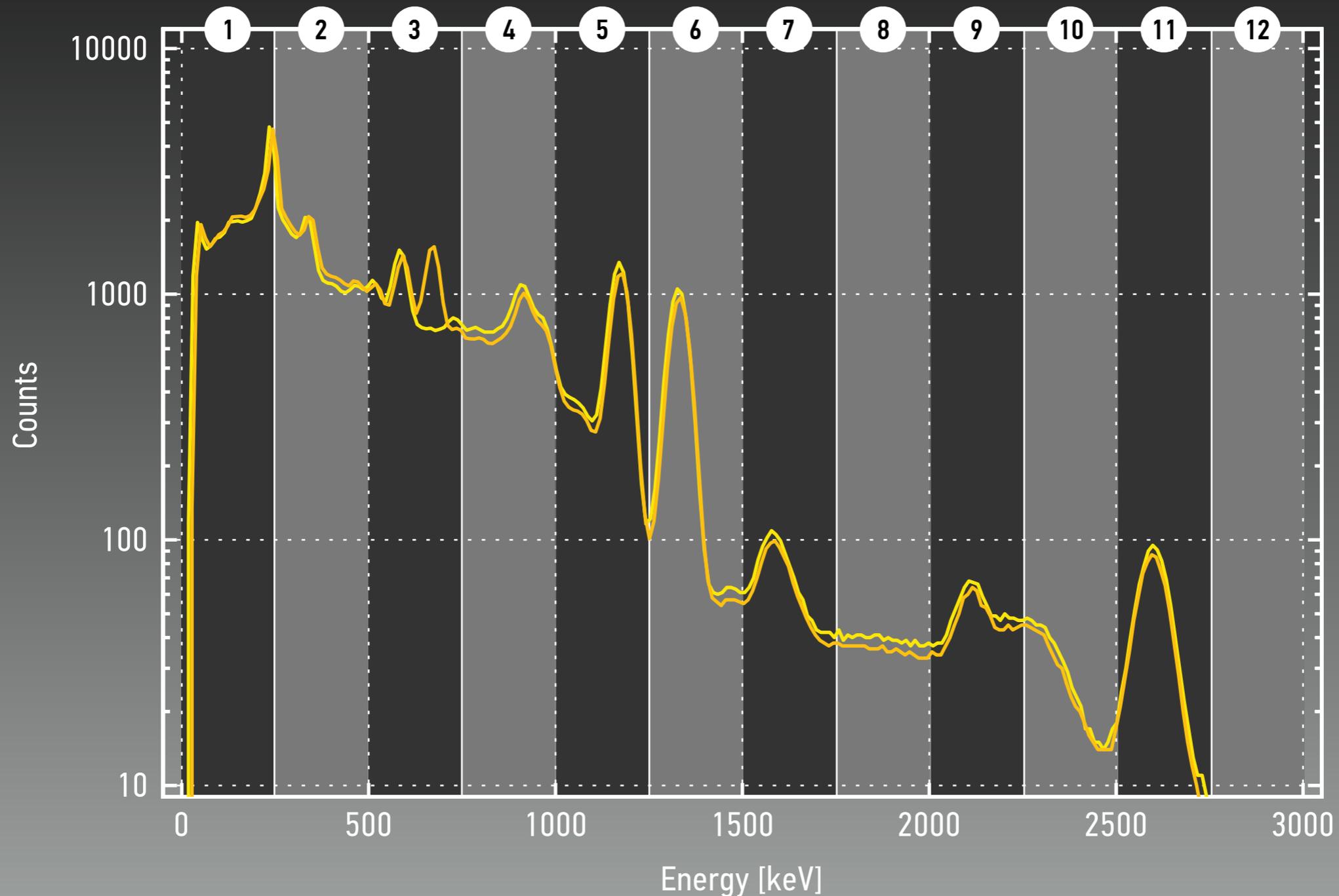
COMPARING TWO RADIATION SPECTRA

(AND DISTINGUISHING A "VALID" ITEM FROM AN "INVALID" ONE)



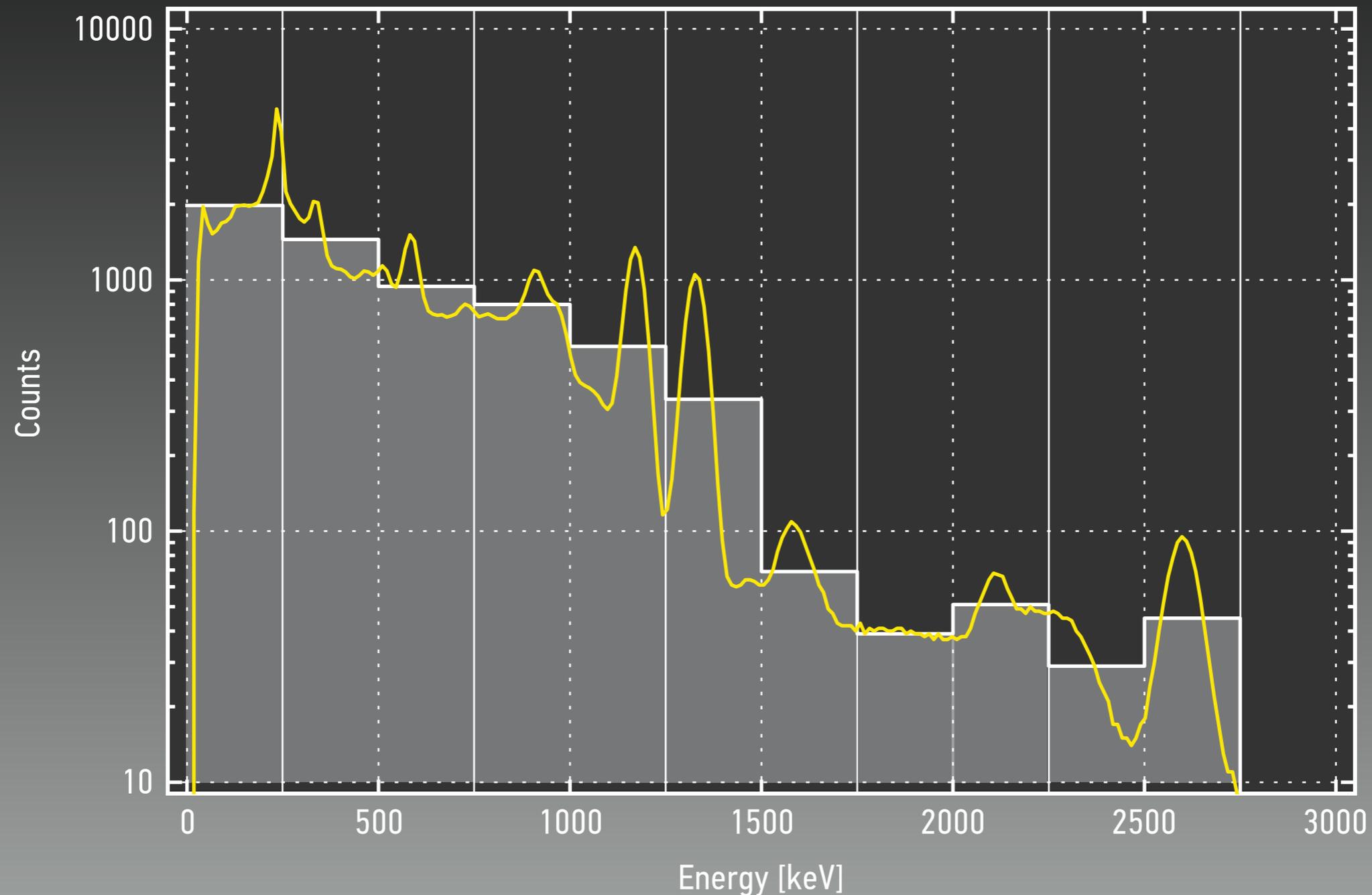
COMPARING TWO RADIATION SPECTRA

(SIMPLIFYING THE PROBLEM BY INTRODUCING A SMALL NUMBER OF BINS)



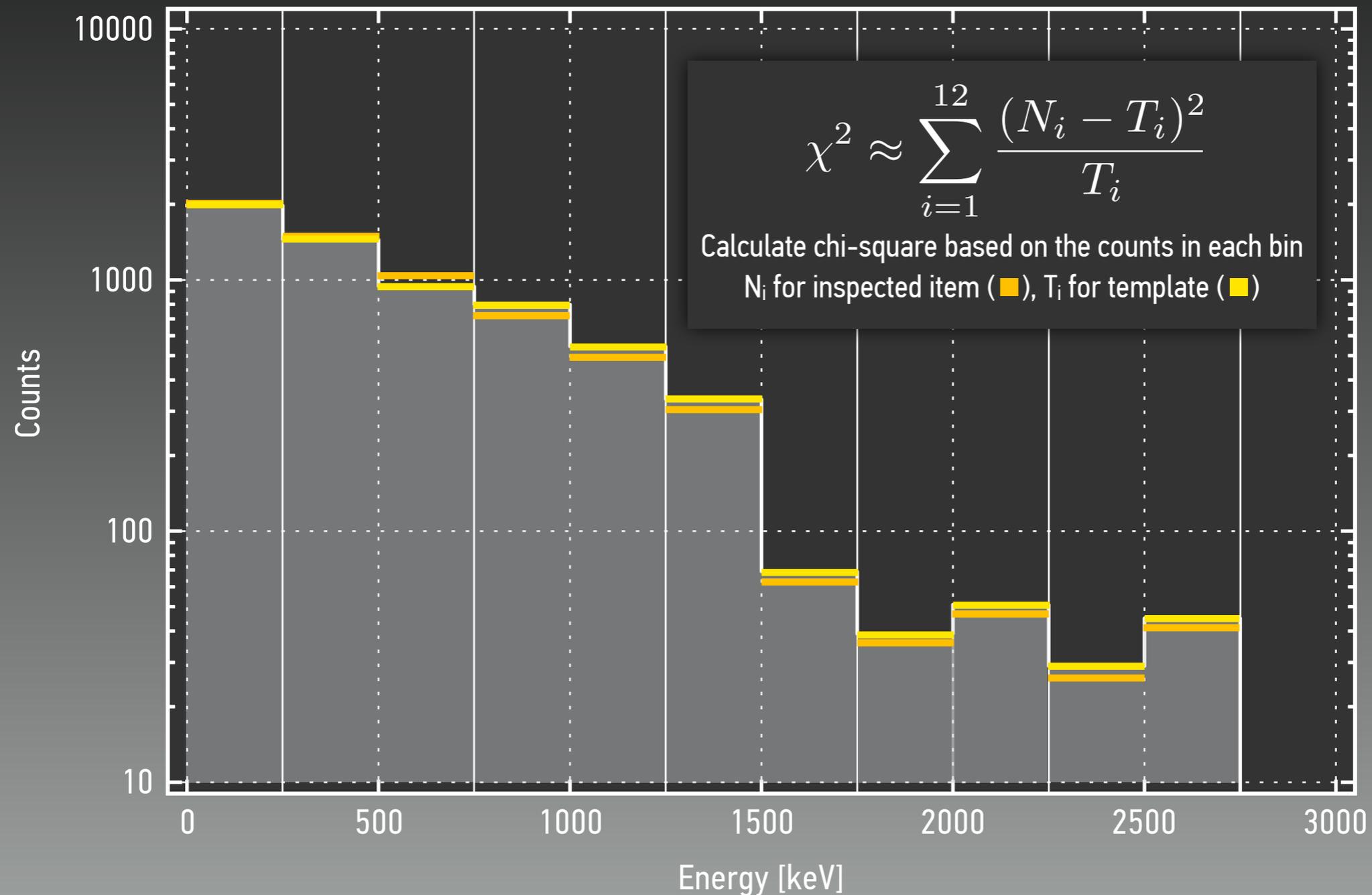
COMPARING TWO RADIATION SPECTRA

BASED ON EXTREMELY SIMPLE (12-NUMBER) FINGERPRINT



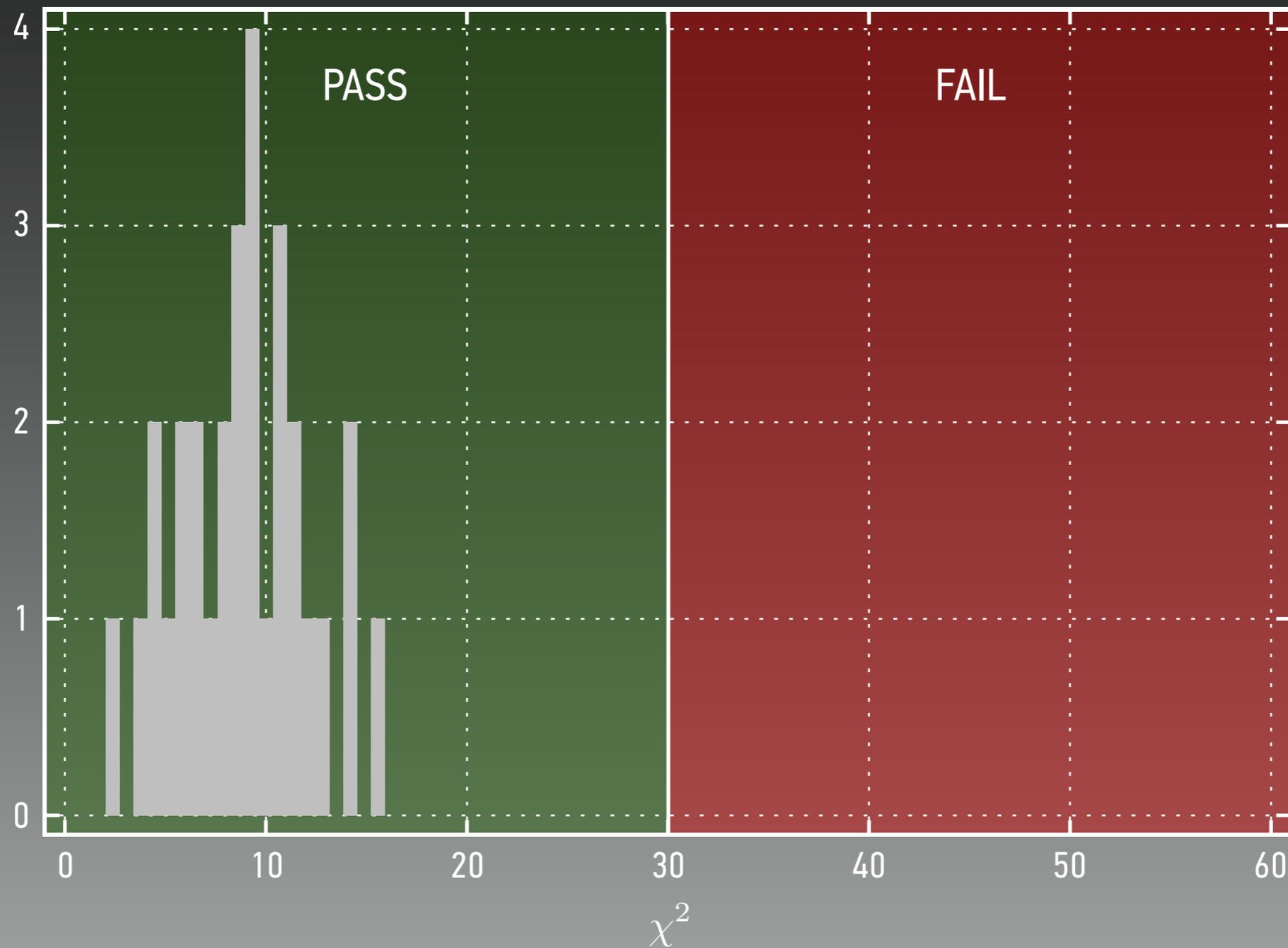
COMPARING TWO RADIATION SPECTRA

USING A STANDARD STATISTICAL HYPOTHESIS TEST



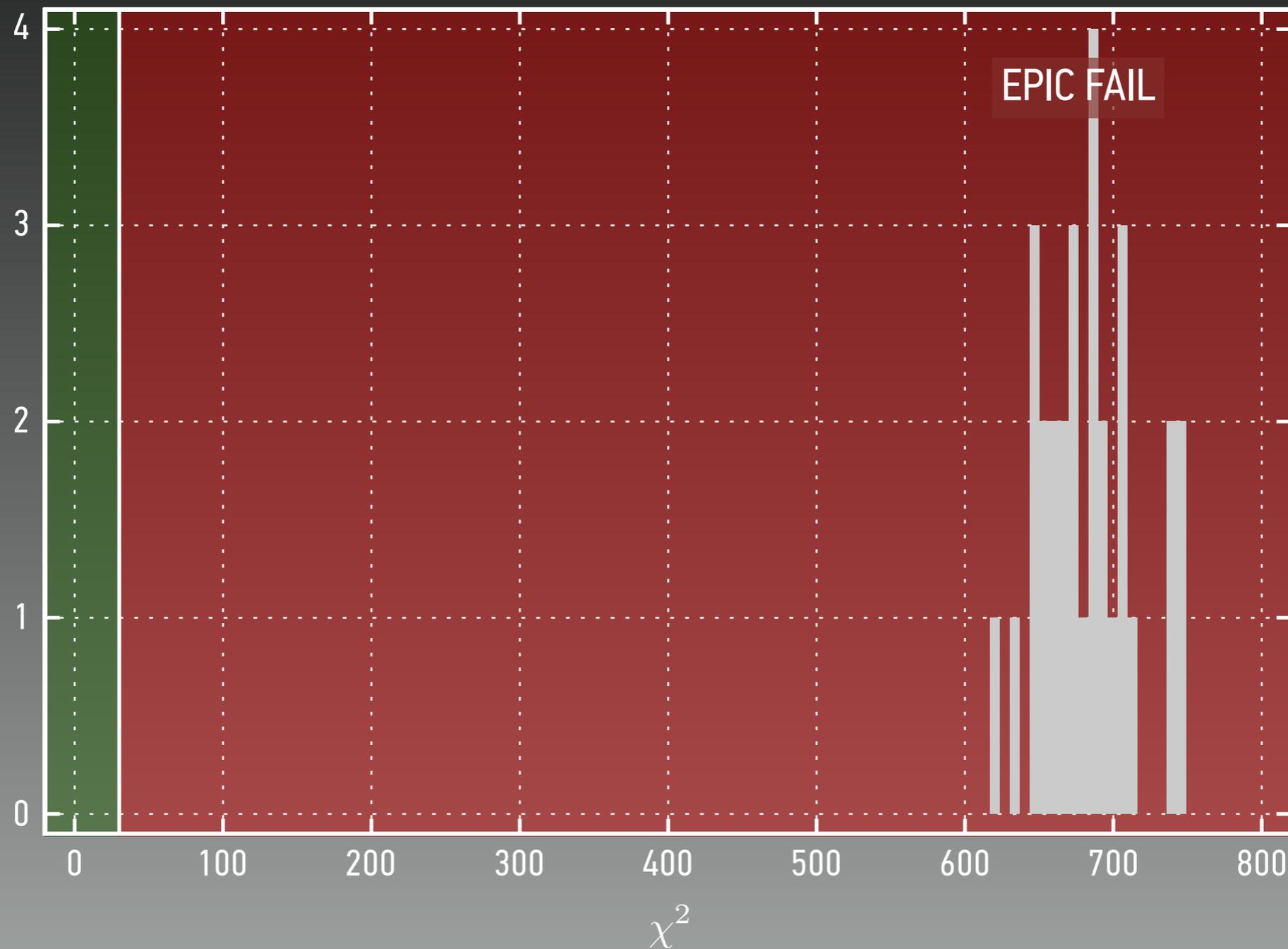
SCORING SIMILARITY

RESULTS FROM THIRTY INSPECTIONS OF A "VALID" ITEM



SCORING SIMILARITY

RESULTS FROM THIRTY INSPECTIONS OF AN "INVALID" ITEM



WHERE DO WE GO
FROM HERE?

CAN WE TURN THIS INTO A VIABLE DEVICE FOR TRUSTED MEASUREMENTS?

```
19 • 0000-B3FF (pseudo trk 1)
20 • 0-3)
21 .....
22 SETUP LDA #<VTOC
23 STA A1
24 LDA #>VTOC
25 STA A1+1
26 LDA #<END
27 STA A2
28 LDA #>END
29 STA A2+1
30 LDA #000
31 STA A4
32 LDA #000
33 STA A4+1
34 SEC
35 JMP ALDRIVE
36
```

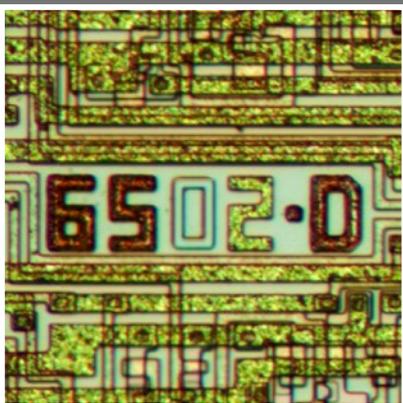
REVISING IBX II SOFTWARE AND HARDWARE (EXPANSION CARDS)

Clean up Assembler code; add some extra functionalities to subtract background and correct for detector drift; replace high-voltage module with basic circuitry



PACKAGING THE EQUIPMENT

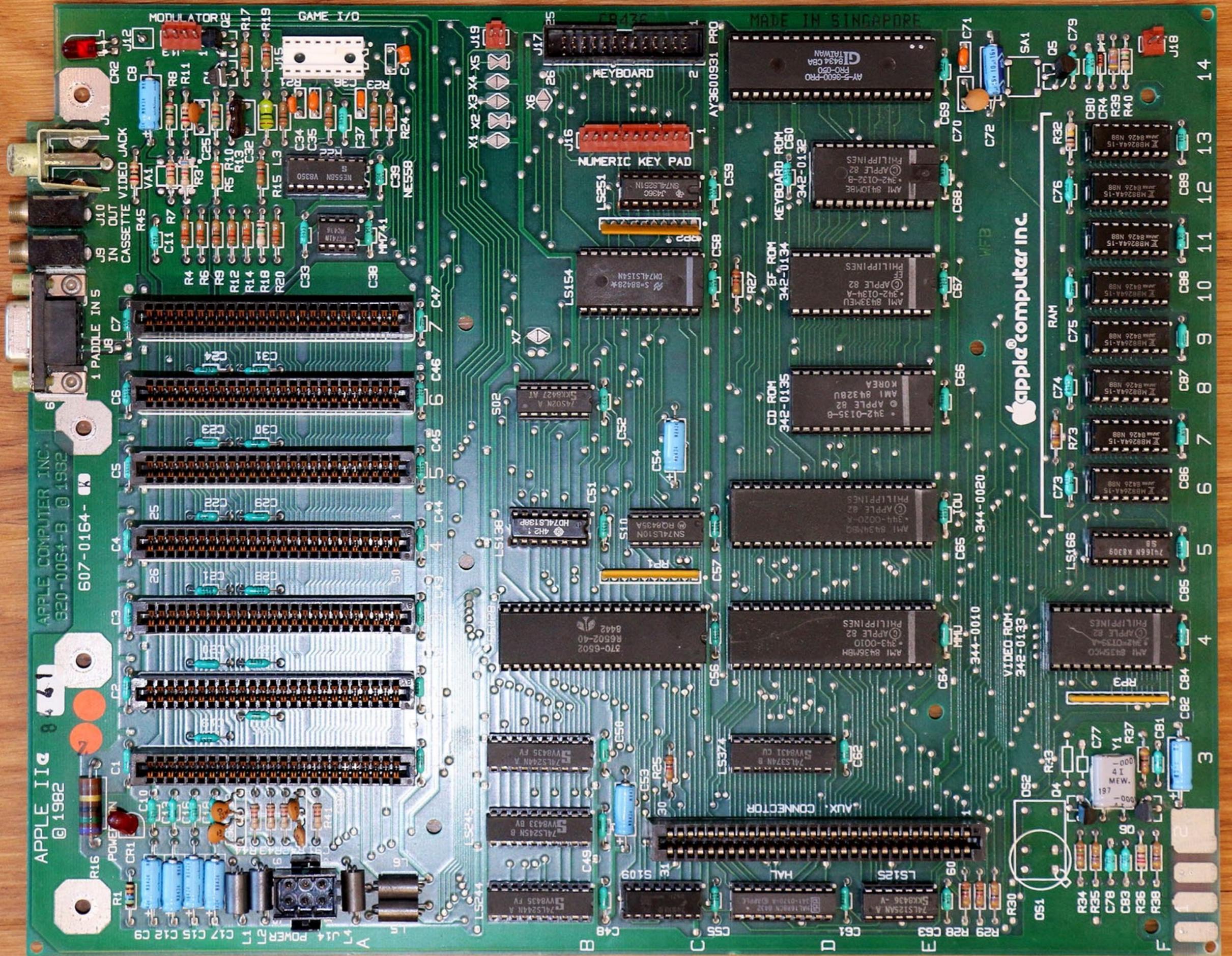
Examine viability of attacks on hardware and software; consider RF enclosure for device; Need for tamper-indicating features ... or bring-your-own information barrier?



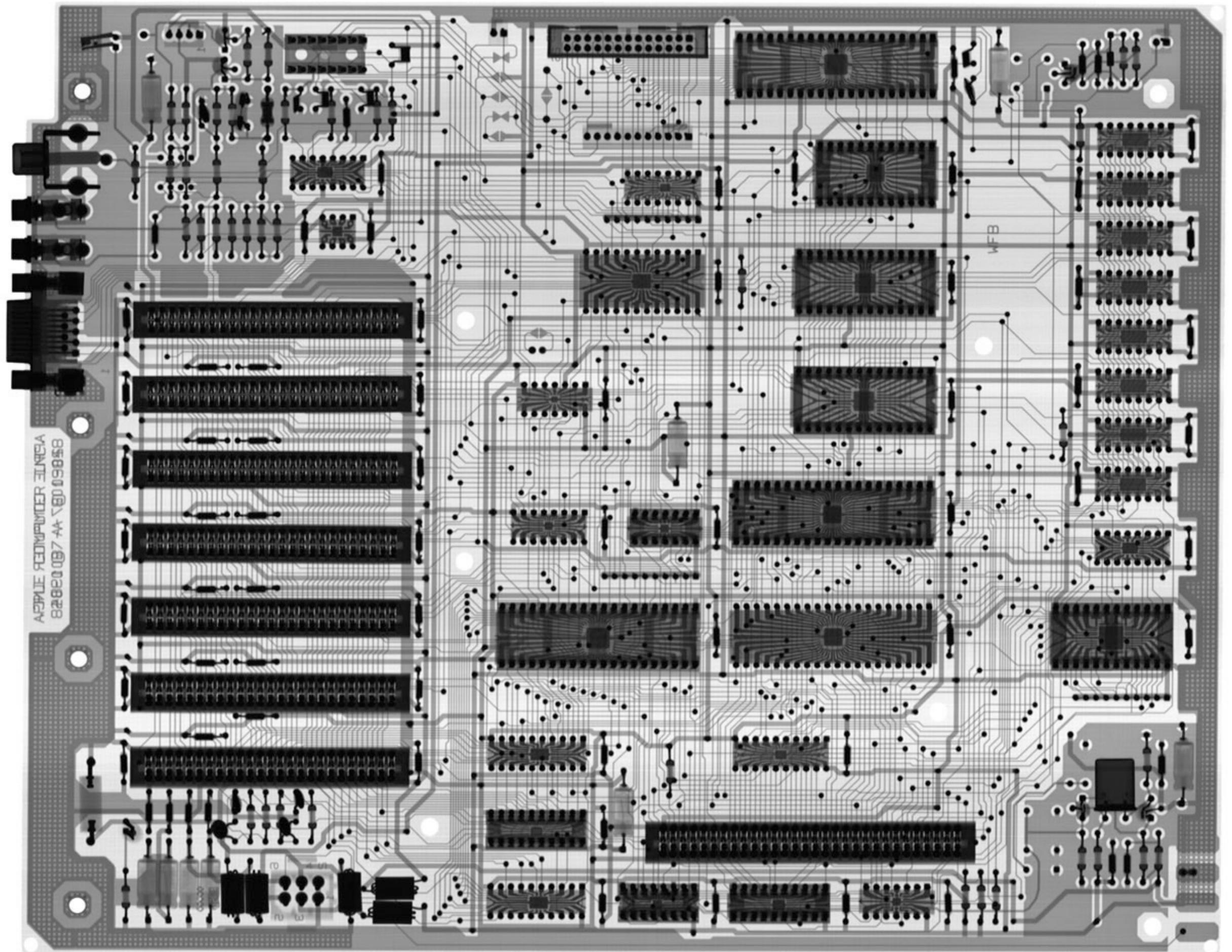
PROVING THAT THE HARDWARE (... and the 6502, in particular ...) IS GENUINE

Explore ways to prove authenticity of hardware to address usual concerns about hidden switches, side channels, etc.; ideally, based on “physical” evidence

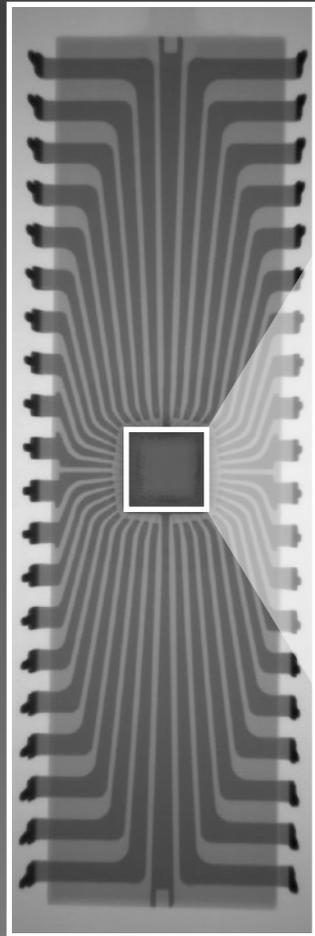
Source: www.ramayes.com (middle), visual6502.org (bottom)



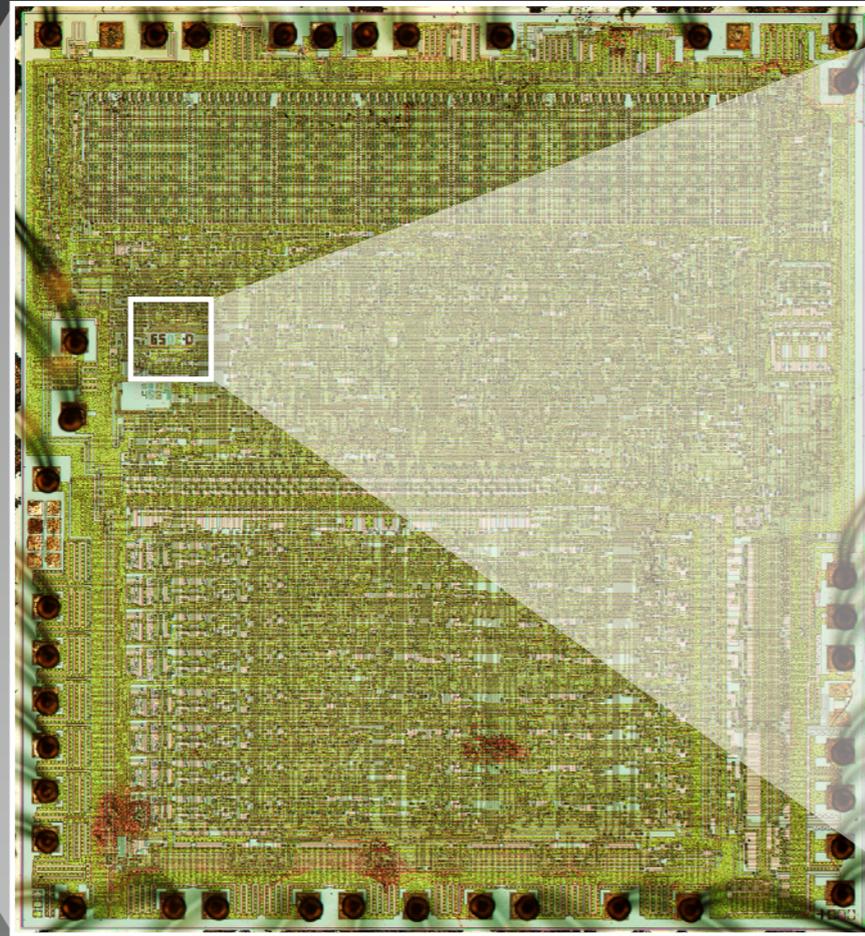
Source: Authors



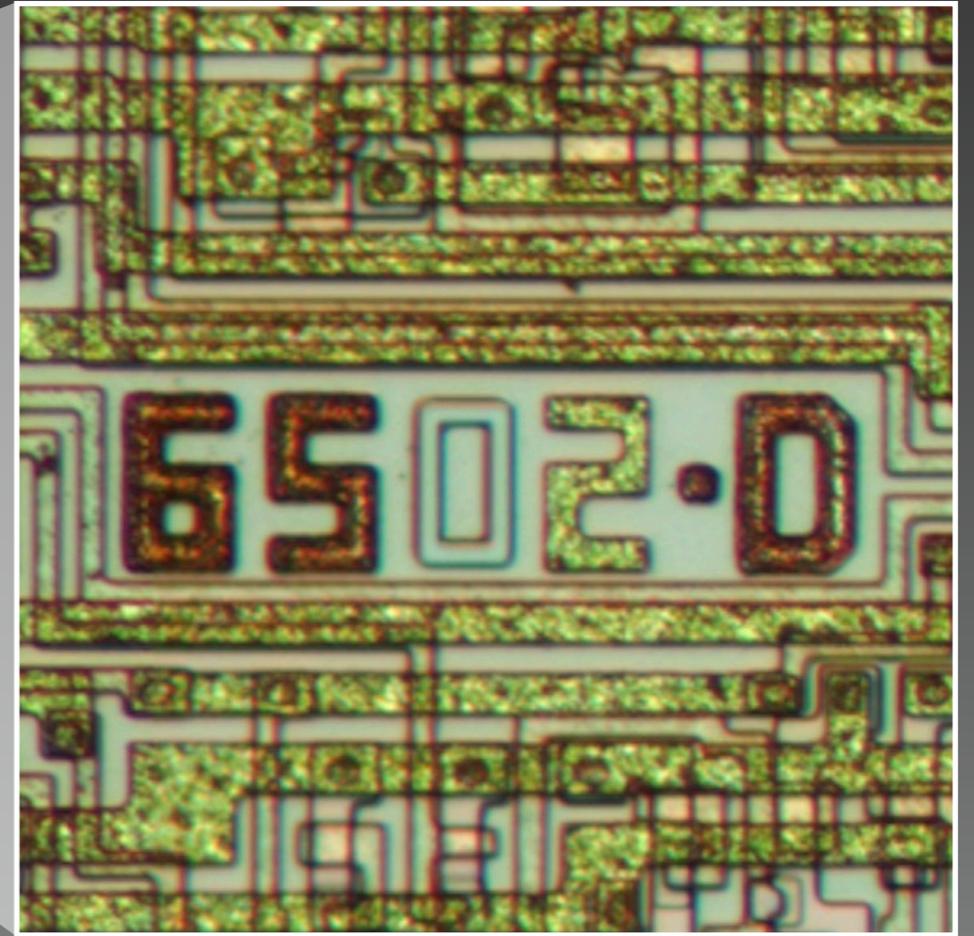
“IMAGING THE DIE”



X-ray by Jeung Hun Park



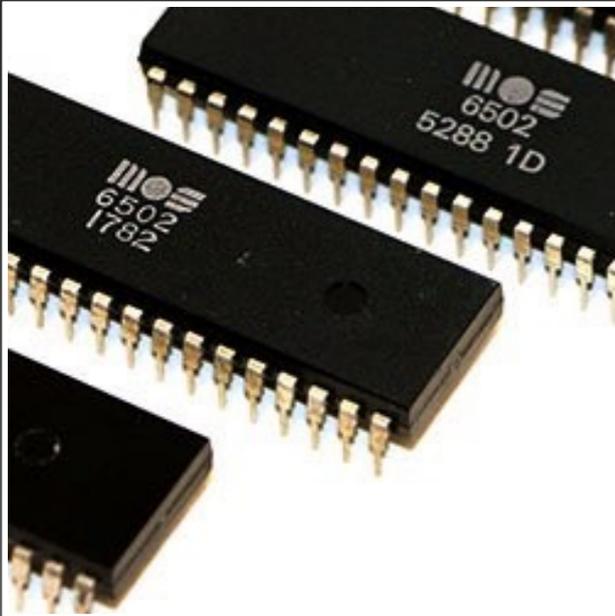
Optical microscopy images by visual6502.org



Can one get similar results with (non-destructive) high-resolution x-ray microscopy?

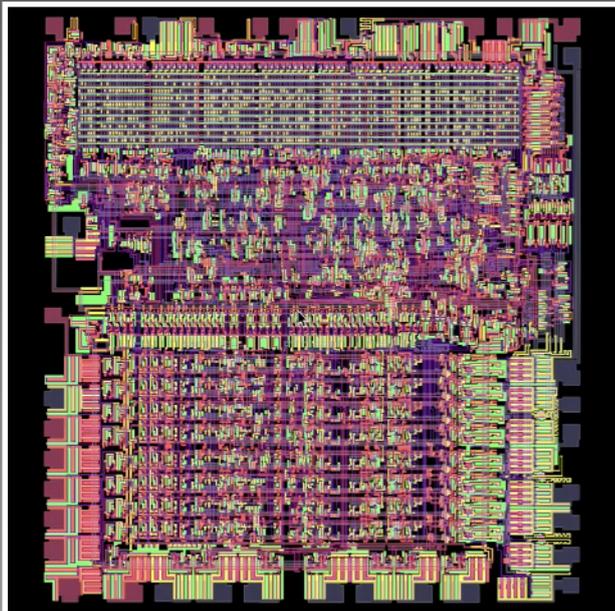
8 μm technology (8000 nm versus 14 nm), about 600-times larger than modern manufacturing processes
3500 transistors in 6502 versus up to a billion transistors in modern chips

HOW DO WE KNOW THAT A PARTICULAR 6502 IS GENUINE?



SEVERAL POSSIBLE OPTIONS ... NEED ONLY ONE TO WORK

- Non-destructive imaging of die (high-resolution x-ray microscopy)?
- Age-dating of chip or package using forensic techniques?
- Proof of provenance?
- Logic testing of circuit to confirm original 6502 architecture?



LEVERAGING THE DEEP UNDERSTANDING OF THE 6502?

Visual6502.org: Transistor-level simulation of the 6502

Monster6502.com: Transistor-scale replica of the 6502

Can these and other resources be used to develop a test?

www.visual6502.org/JSSim/index.html

Source: Authors (top) and Visual6502.org (bottom)

Nuclear Weapons

We built them.

We can take them apart.

@NuclearAnthro

vintageverification.org

github.com/nuclearfutureslab