



Building Affordable Light-Based Hardware Security Tooling

Sam. Beaumont & Larry Trowell

aka. PANTH13R & PATCH





Samantha Isabelle Beaumont (Sam. Beaumont)

a.k.a. "PANTH13R"

- Perpetually Tired
- Terrible with Nouns
- Specialist in Robotics & Cyber-Physical Systems
- Hacks "anything that flies, sails or drives"



Larry Q. Trowell

a.k.a. "PATCH"

- Horrible with acronyms
- Navigates same way as Dirk Gently
- Specialist in Embedded Systems
- Hacks "anything with a chip"

WIZARD

ANDROID

SCIENTIST







Chas Becht

Casey Repp

Kurtis Shelton



CHAS BECHT "The WISARD"

- Instrumental to this research and should be here on stage with us
- Electrical Engineering wisard
- Circuit Father
- Aliases:
 - Chaz
 - Chase
 - Chasssseeeee
 - Chas

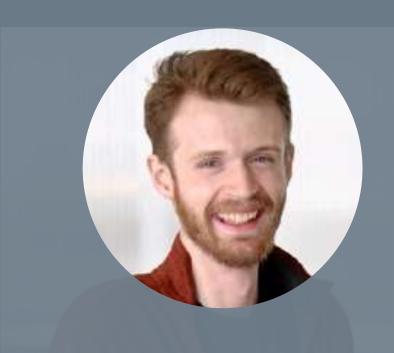
CASEY REPP "The ANDROID"

- The detailer
- "Silent Third Party" android
- Our third musketeer
- Aliases:
 - Sam
 - KC
 - Who?
 - Story Teller
 - Puppeteer



KURTIS SHELTON "The actual SCIENTIST"

- Machine Learning Madman
- "Mathematics First"
- Modelling Father of all
- Research Scientist
- Aliases:
 - Juice Daddy
 - Mr. Smiles
 - Giggle Meister
 - Birdie
 - SHELDER











Director,
Transportation,
Mobility & CyberPhysical Systems

Director, Hardware & Embedded Systems

Principal Consultant

Al Practice Lead

Principal Al Researcher

Hardware & Integrated Systems



Artificial Intelligence & Machine Learning



NetSPI: The Proactive Security Solution











APPLICATION PENTESTING

Web & API Application Mobile Application Thick Application

HARDWARE & INTEGRATED SYSTEMS

Hardware & Embedded **Systems** Cyber-Physical Systems

NETWORK PENTESTING

Internal Network **External Networks**

MAINFRAME PENTESTING

BLOCKCHAIN PENTESTING

CLOUD PENTESTING

AWS Azure Google Cloud

SAAS SECURITY ASSESSMENT

SECURE CODE REVIEW

ATTACK SURFACE **MANAGEMENT (ASM)**

BREACH AND ATTACK SIMULATION (BAS)

CYBERSECURITY MATURITY ASSESSMENT

Security Program Advisory Incident Response Benchmarking

AI/ML PENTESTING

Large Language Models

RED TEAM

THREAT MODELING

Very Special Thanks

EMERGENCY ACID

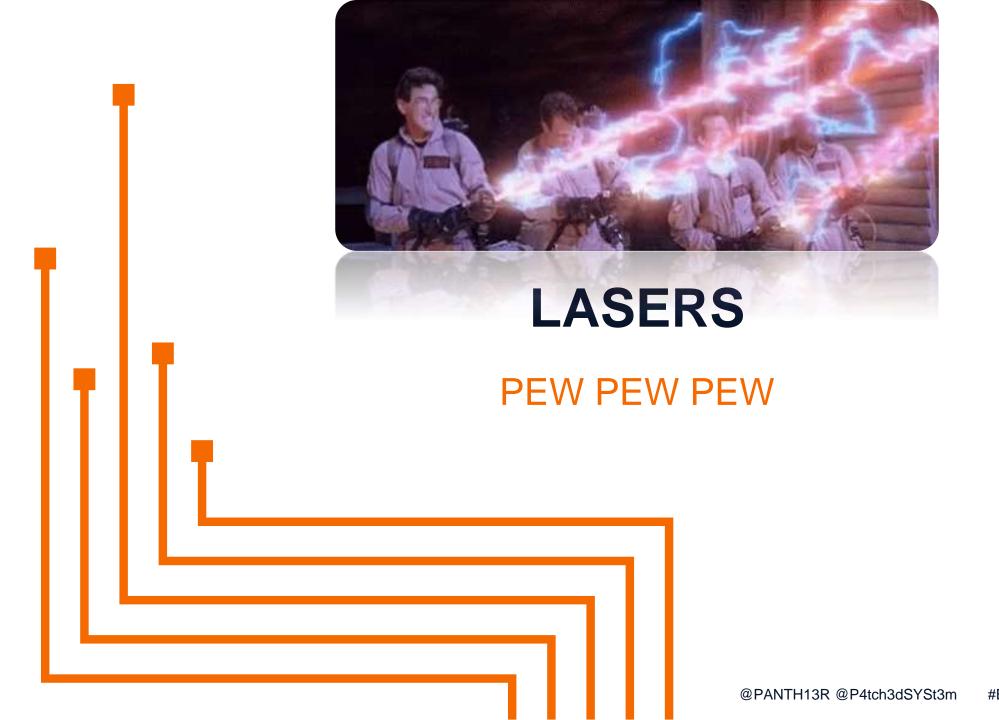


John McMaster

EMERGENCY LASERS



Dr. Matt Lindley



DISCLAIMER & LEGALESE

Lasers used in this device and this presentation are Class 4 lasers based on American National Standards Institute Z136.1, Safe Use of Lasers. Please review this standard and applicable OSHA standards (e.g., https://www.osha.gov/laser-hazards/standards and associated standards) prior to using any laser and comply with the appropriate OSHA standards and protective measures. In addition, if accessing computer hardware please follow all manufacturer's guidelines for such hardware.

The device being demonstrated, and the presentation of its use at this seminar, are intended for educational purposes only (i.e., to demonstrate a specific use in a seminar setting) and not for purposes of instructing any person or entity in how to build or use the demonstrated device, even for the purpose described in this presentation. Any person attempting to develop the demonstrated device, or its use, or any similar device or use thereof, or to duplicate any element of this presentation assumes all risks of harm to themselves, other persons and property associated with such use, and the demonstrators and NetSPI, LLC are not responsible for any of the foregoing.

Without limiting the foregoing, please be aware that lasers can cause injury or death to persons and damage to property, including without limitation:

Eye injury (including corneal or retinal burns, opacities, i.e., cataracts), from having a laser shone at the eye, reflected from a surface into the eye, or from looking at the laser source or its impact point. Do not view a laser beam through the use of an optical instrument (such as binoculars, microscope, etc.).

Skin injury (including without limitation burns and carcinogenesis) from having a laser shone at the skin, reflected from a surface onto the skin, or from touching the laser source or any surface heated by the laser (even after the laser has been turned off).

Heating, inflammation and damage to objects, and potential toxic exposure hazards to persons, from combustion and smoke from heating of objects by exposure to lasers (which may involve release of toxic gas, smoke or particles in a laser plume), due to a laser shone at the object, reflected from a reflective surface onto the object, or from the object touching the laser source or any object heated by the laser (even after the laser has been turned off). Without limiting the foregoing, personal injuries may include inhalation hazards, inflammation, irritation or exposure to cancer causing substances.

Exposure to toxins from hazardous substances used in or released by lasers (such as chemical dye, some of which is flammable), or improper handling of high voltage equipment used in laser equipment (which may also result in shock and be potentially lethal). Exposure to hazardous substances and electric shock (which may be potentially lethal) may also arise when accessing and using computer hardware of any kind.

Without limiting any of the foregoing, use appropriate protective gear and take appropriate protective measures (all as advised by OSHA, see above) when using lasers, such as (but not limited to) the correct eye protection (which varies for the Class and wavelength of laser being used).

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Vestibulum tempor libero at odio convallis, a hendrerit nunc sollicitudin. Vivamus gravida enim sed magna dictum, non ultrices tortor pharetra. Nam vehicula libero eu dolor suscipit, sit amet dignissim eros venenatis. Phasellus rutrum, justo at condimentum dignissim, erat ex efficitur risus, ut dictum elit metus in ex. Sed auctor interdum tellus sit amet blandit. In feugiat, ex non dignissim ullamcorper, metus magna dapibus leo, id scelerisque purus arcu vel dui. Quisque imperdiet erat sit amet nisi dictum, nec aliquam lectus ultrices. Integer nec lacinia nisl. Curabitur tincidunt, ipsum ut convallis ultricies, turpis sapien aliquam quam, at vulputate nisi nulla vel libero. Curabitur et ante sit amet mauris posuere mollis non et lacus. Vestibulum dapibus send help orci non orci lacinia, ac facilisis odio fermentum. Nam id sagittis dolor, vel consequat mauris. Cras auctor ligula quis augue volutpat cursus.

DISCLAIMER & LEGALESE

 YOU CAN BE BLINDED, OR WORSE

• INVISIBLE LIGHT, IS STILL LIGHT



 Remember, you only get two chances to protect your eyes











What is a L.A.S.E.R.?

• L.A.S.E.R.

Light

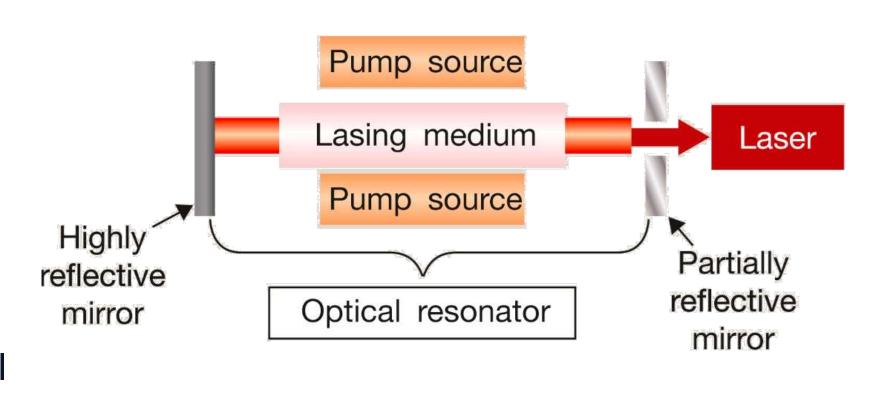
Amplification by

Stimulated

Emission of

Radiation

 Bouncing photons inside a medium until they all march in lockstep



Why LASERS?

Light is easy to source

Transistors have an inherent weakness to light

Contactless

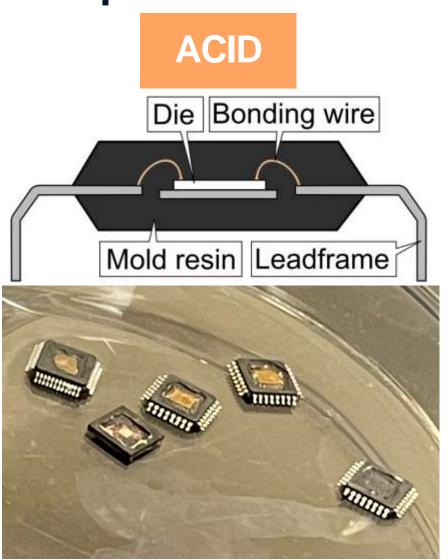
Non-Damaging (physically to the target)

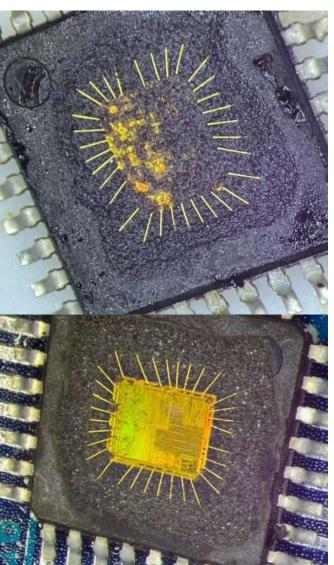
Typically considered a "Semi-invasive" technique

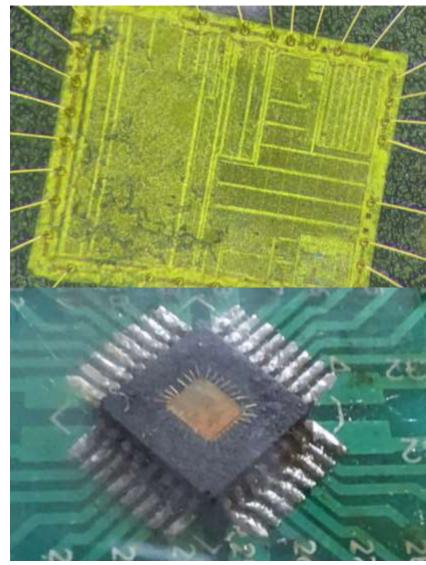




Method 1: Chemical Decapsulation







Method 2: "Creative" Destruction







"On one hand, I'm sad to see the standard bigger-hammer method go.. in the other though.. belt sanders and lasers!!!" – Casey Repp

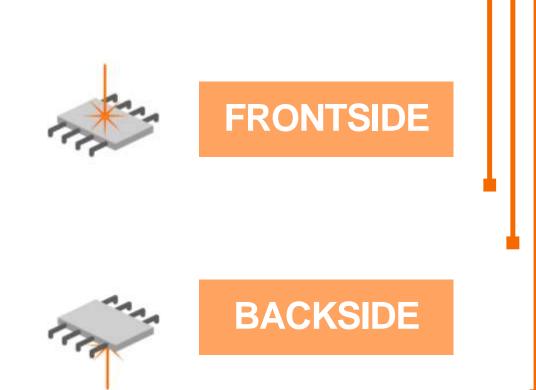


What, Why, and How?

 Fault injection is traditionally used to cause a processor to skip instructions



 Very useful when achieving bypasses of security mechanisms





Let's Axolotl Questions...





Drinks are on that ...person!



New (lowball):

- \$150,000 USD
- €200,000 EUR
- £180,000 GBP

Used, or Decrepit:

• \$5,000 - \$20,000 USD

Return on investment

• ????????????????????

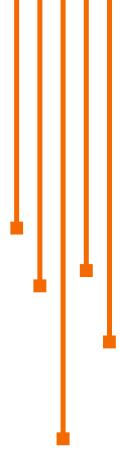


LFI: The Essentials

An imaging system ➤ To focus the laser

A positioning system > To position the laser, target, or both

A laser (obviously) ➤ To fire, because they're coolTM



Traditional Imaging Systems



- Typically, these are microscopes
- Used for targeting for the laser, and identification for the target
- Reference researchers used the "Trinocular Leitz SM-LUX HL"

Refurb Price: \$4,000 USD

Traditional Positioning Systems



 Typically, these tables are specialised, purpose-built units with steppers and dials

 Used for nano-positioning of the target, or the laser

Refurb Price: \$3,000 USD

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You must have a calibrated eye @PANTH13R @P4tch3dSYSt3m #BHUSA #BlackHatEvents

The OpenFlexure Project: 2-in-1



 3D printable, high precision mechanical positioning housing

- Contains a microscope body....and positioning stage
- Total Cost: ~\$280 USD
 - Approximate Savings:~\$6,720 USD

Traditional Laser Systems

- Traditionally LFI stations work by firing a highly powerful laser for a very short amount of time
- How much energy is actually needed to cause a glitch?

- For example: a YAG laser can provide tens of millijoules (mJ) in less than 10 nanoseconds (ns)
- Do we really need that much energy in a short amount of time?

 How much "time" can we get away with?

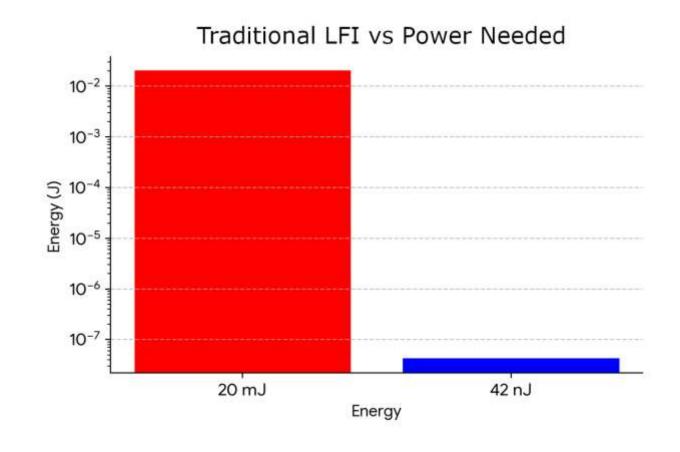
Where some can cost over
 \$30,000 USD, just for the laser

We have the Power

 Traditional practices believe you need energy in the scope of millijoules (mJ)

 Research shows you can do it in nanojoules (nJ)

• That is an energy reduction of $1e^{-6}$



Photoelectric Effect

Further research discovered that full glitching can happen between
 42.5 nJ and 80 nJ

 The trick is to use low power over time instead of instantly

 Thus a 2.5W laser over 25ns will hit accumulate to 40nJ

Winner, winner,

chicken dinner

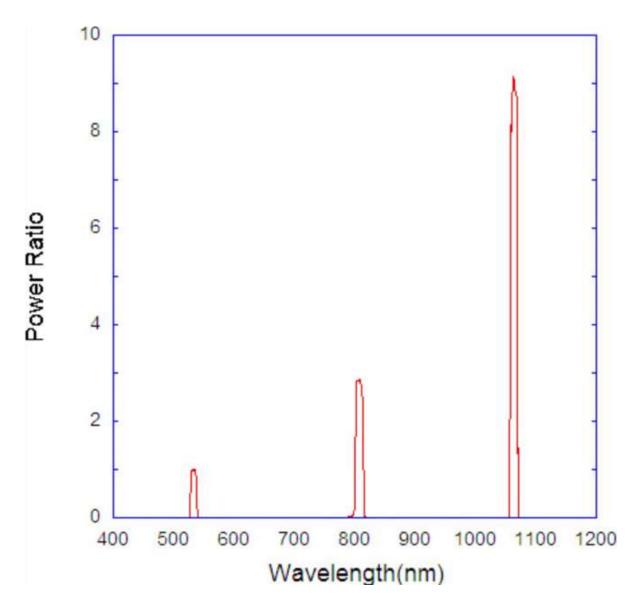
That's a lot easier to source

More Possibilities than those that "meet the eye"

• Remember all those news stories about green laser pointers...

 These "green" lasers are "supposed" to be 5mW

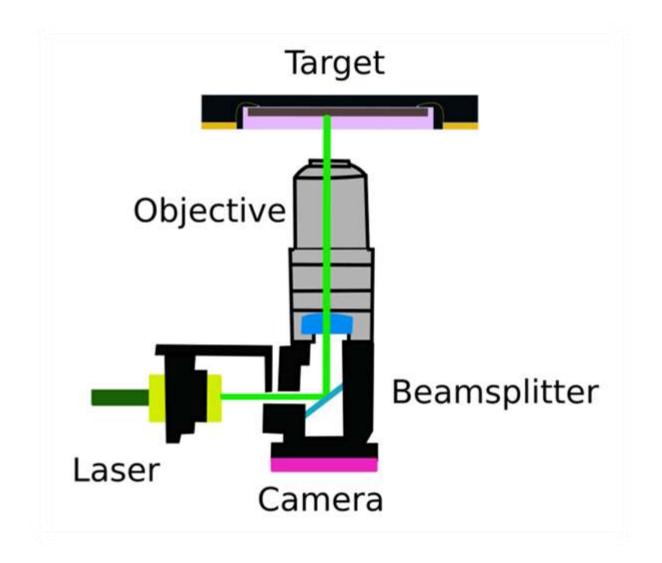
 There are other wavelengths it emits, among them, a lot more than 5mW in the 1064nm range

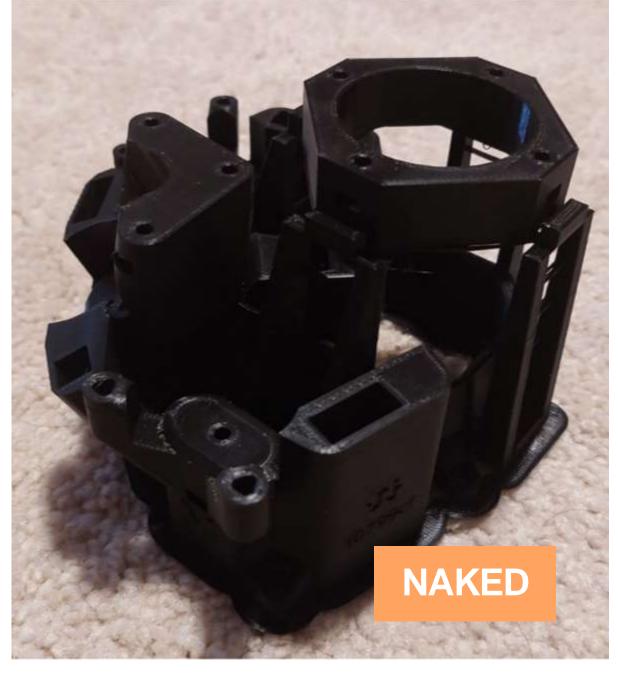




Putting it all together

- An FPGA to slow target clock
- An LED to see the target (1050nm, more on this later)
- "Green" Laser pointer to fire, and glitch
- Objective to focus the laser

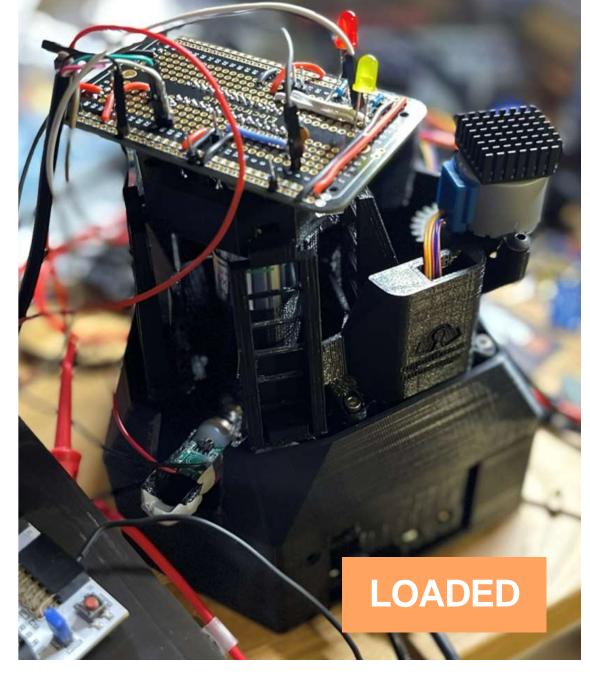


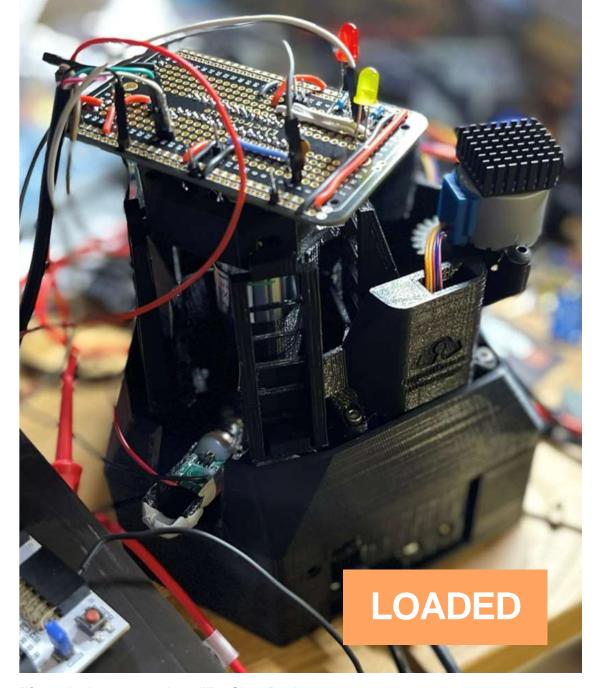


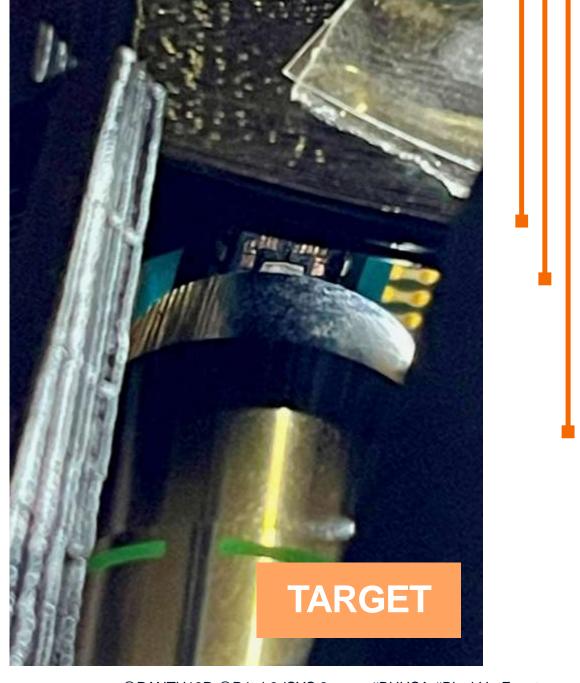


"One must first connect the probe, before taking a measurement" – Team L.O.R.E.M



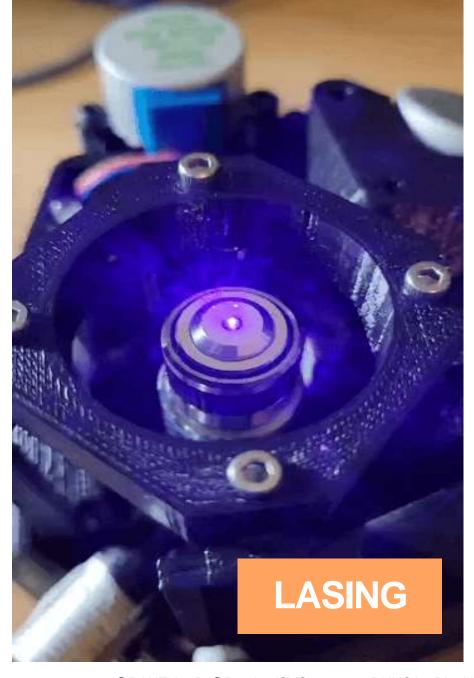






"If you don't move, you're still" - Chas Becht



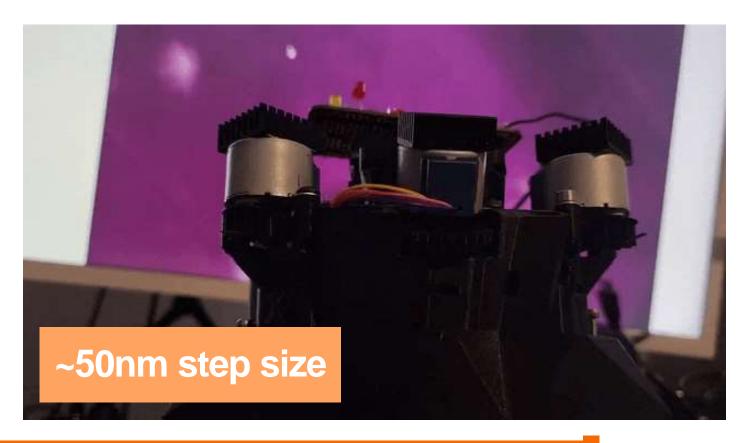


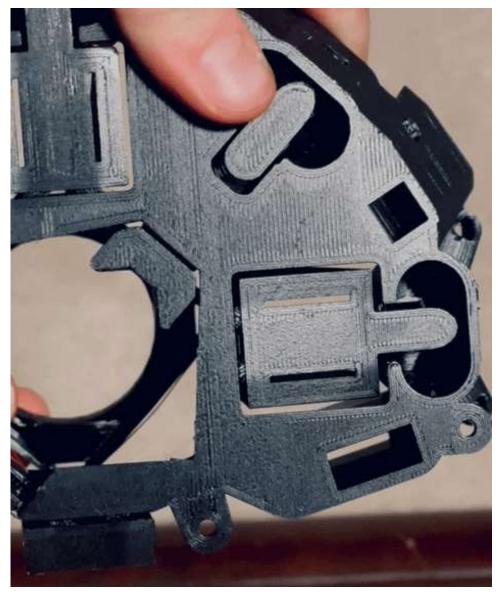
"If you don't move, you're still" - Chas Becht

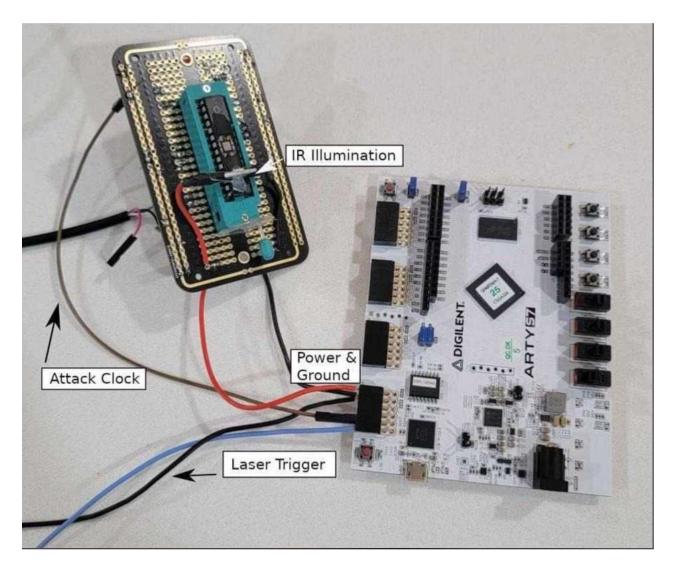
Poetry in Motion

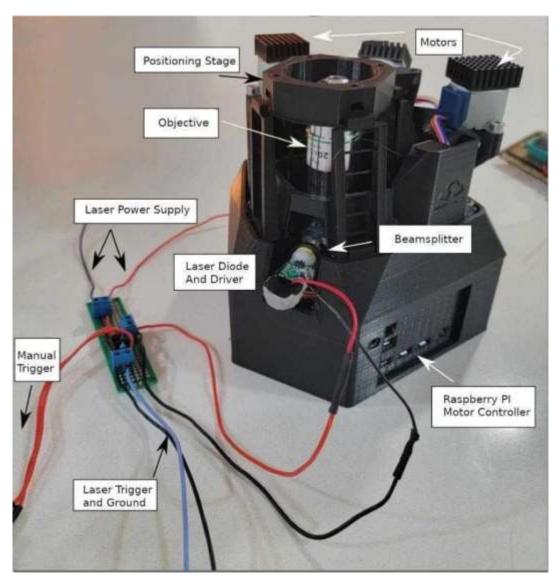
The beauty of plastic....

....is that it bends





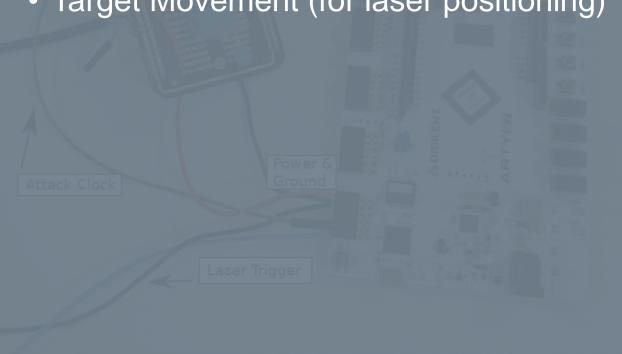


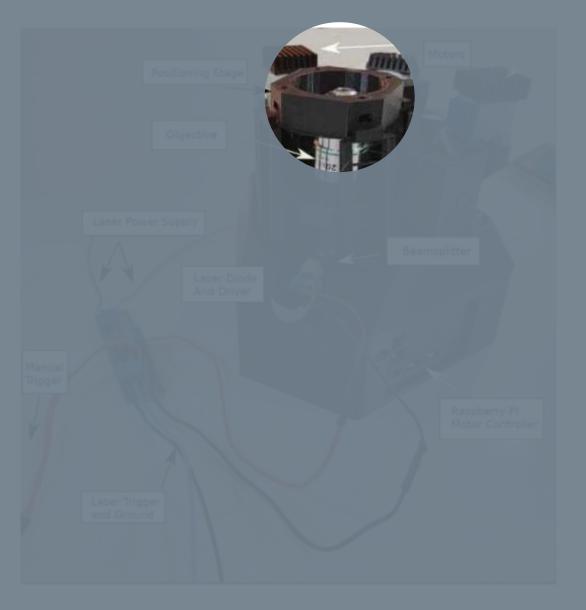


"You spend 3 months chewing glass...just to arrive at how to use hot glue, to solve the problem" – Chas Becht

Positioning Stage

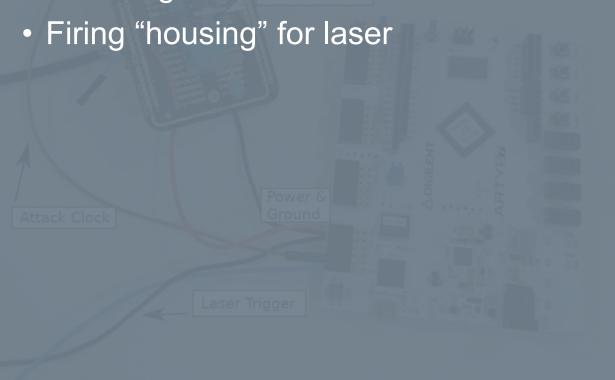
- Target Affixation Location
- Target Movement (for laser positioning)

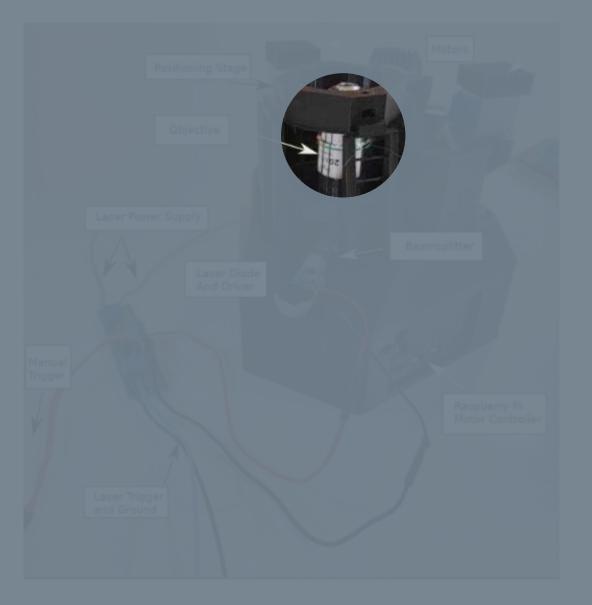




Objective

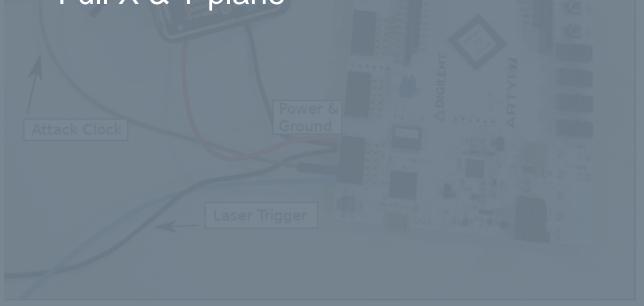
Focusing element for laser

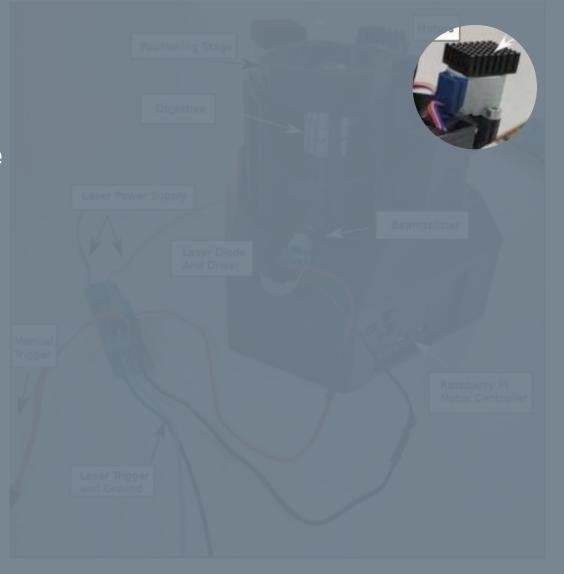




Motors

- Mechanical movement of positioning stage
- Gear/stepper driver
- Full X & Y plane

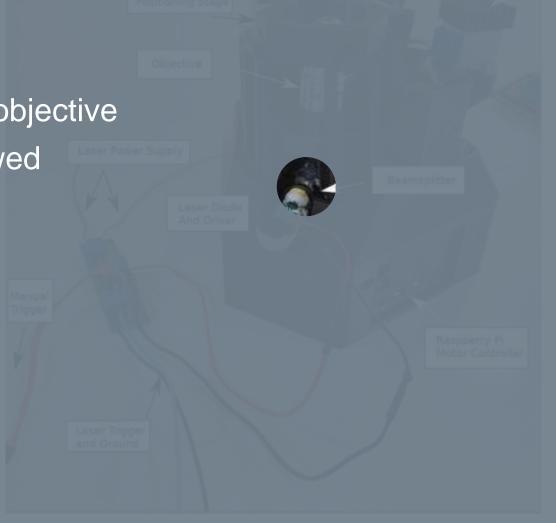




Beamsplitter

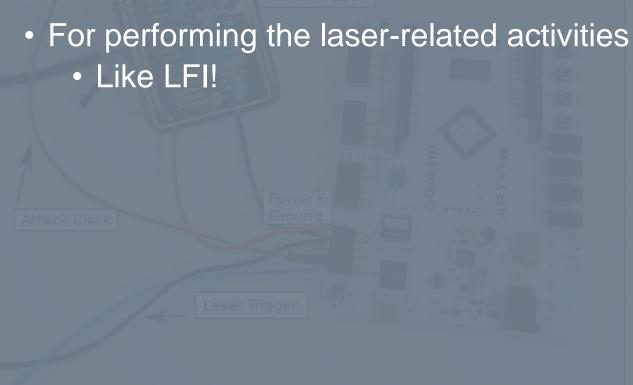
- Laser beam splitter between camera, and objective
- Allows the target to be fired upon, and viewed

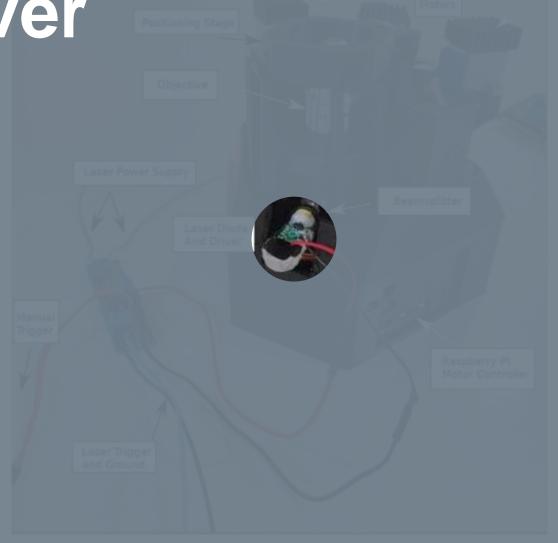




Laser Diode & Driver

- L.A.S.E.R.





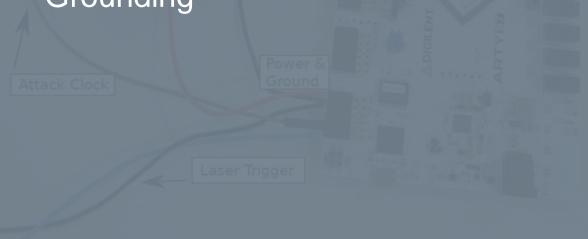
Motor Controller

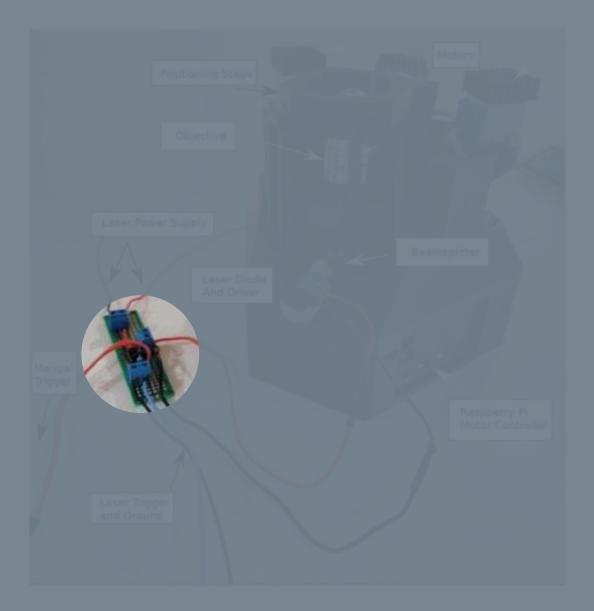
- The controller for the stepper motors
- Currently a Raspberry Pi 4 and a Sangaboard
- Connects to OpenFlexure software for motor movement
- Let's an end user control the RayV targeting system

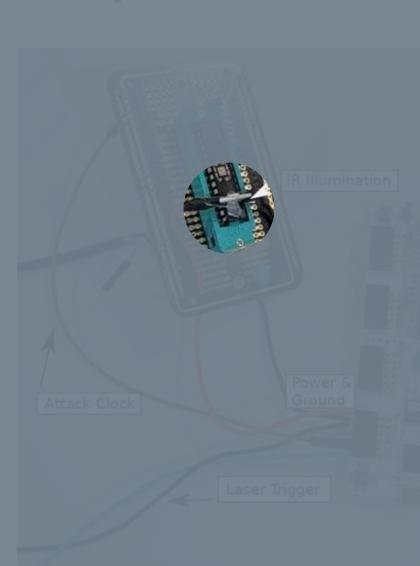


Laser Controller

- Provides Laser power
- Processes Laser trigger
- Provides Manual Laser trigger
- Grounding

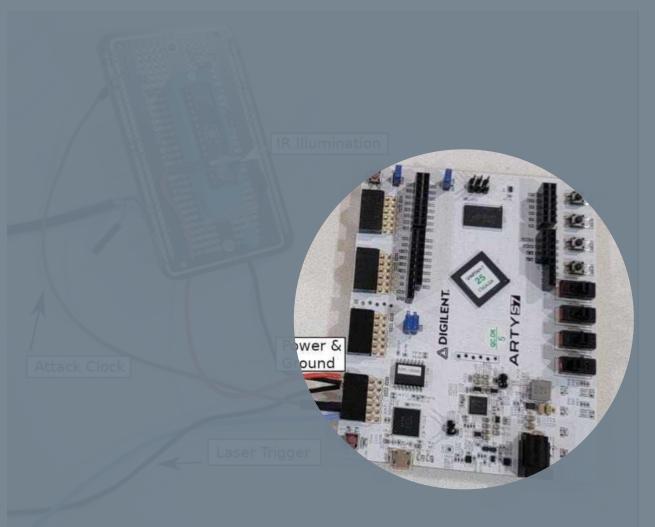






IR LED (affixed to target)

- Infrared LED to enable users to see the target (optional)
- Enable users to be more accurate
- Enables imaging of wider target zone

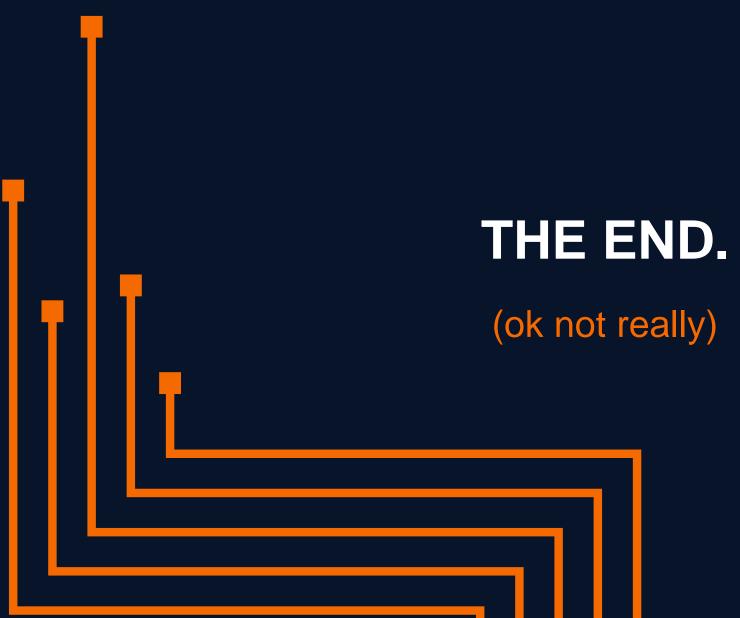


FPGA Board

- Used to trigger and measure when to trigger the laser
- Slows the target clock down to enable the lase to cover its time requirement
- Determines if the laser lased successfully



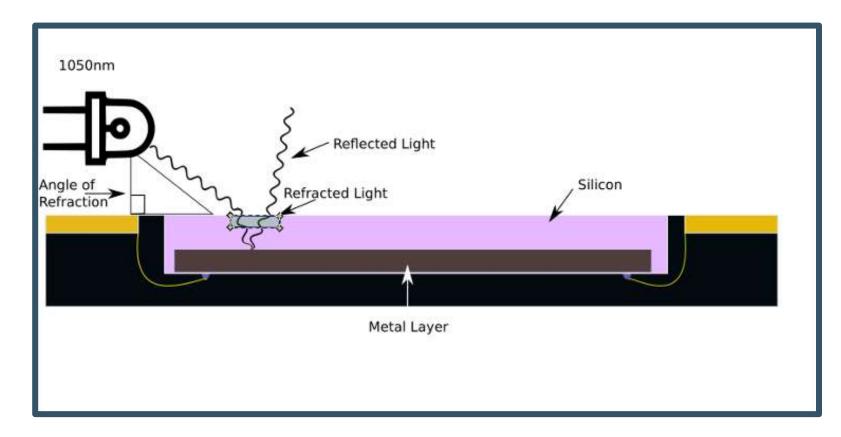




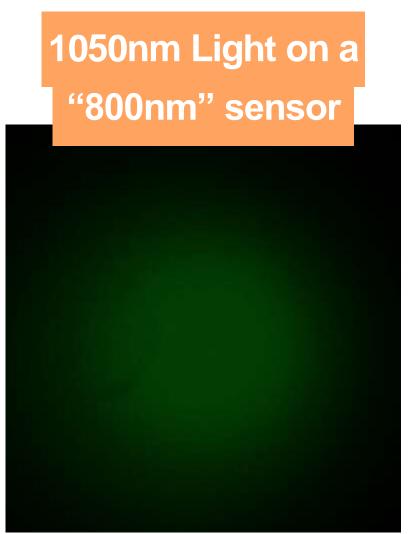




Visual Laser Targeting



RayV + I.R.I.S.

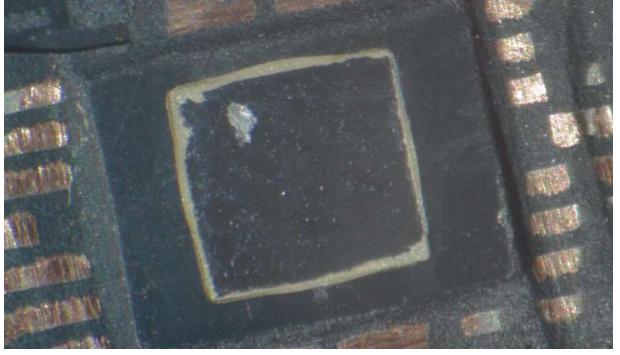


"Visible Light Camera"

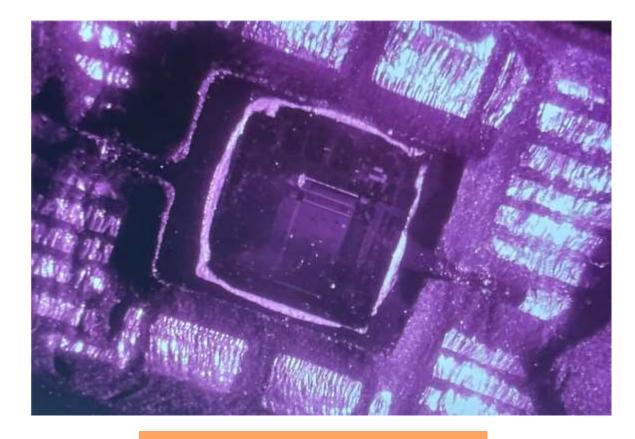


RayV + I.R.I.S.

Visible Spectrum



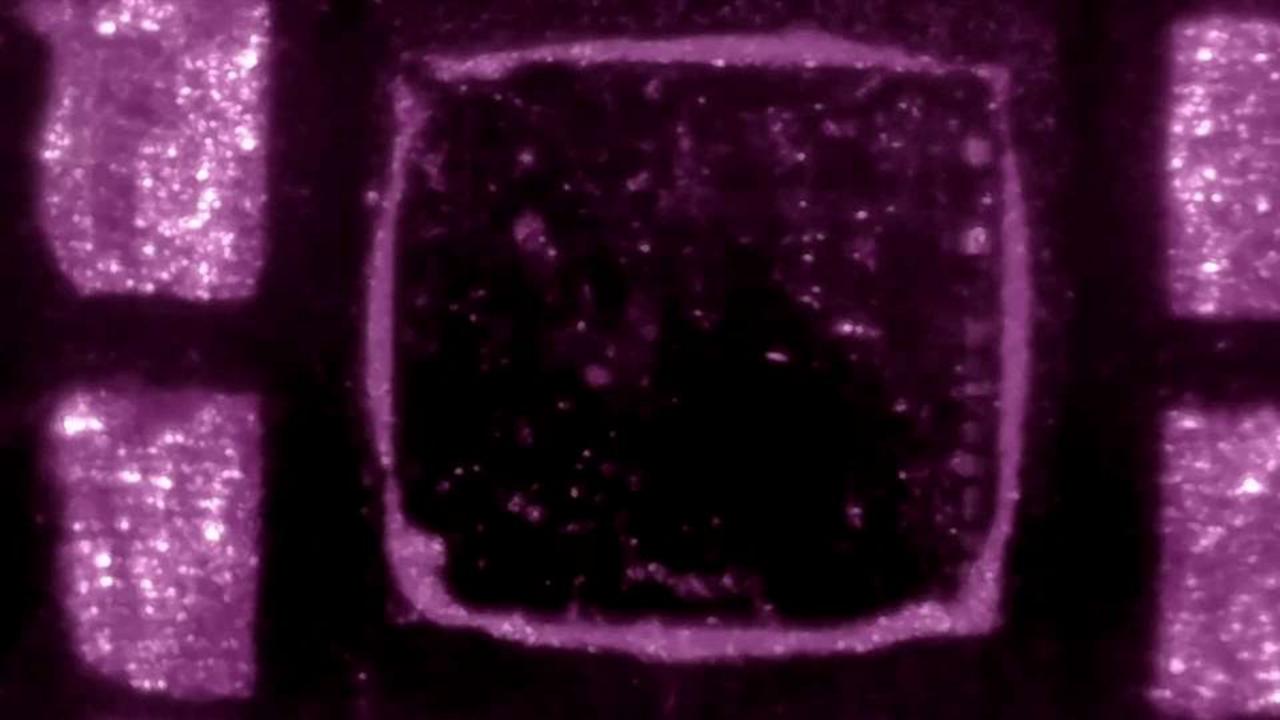
"Invisible Light Camera"

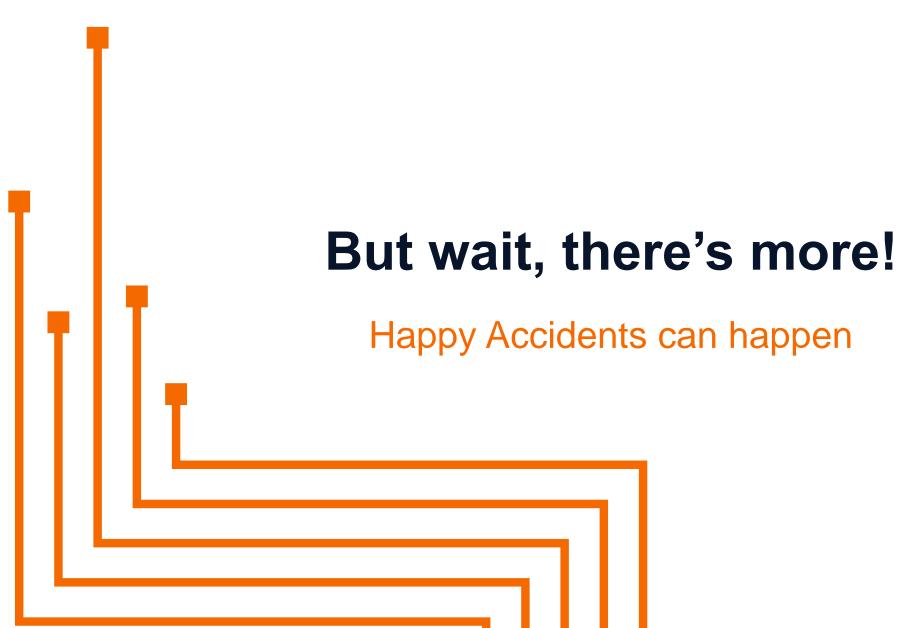


Infared Spectrum

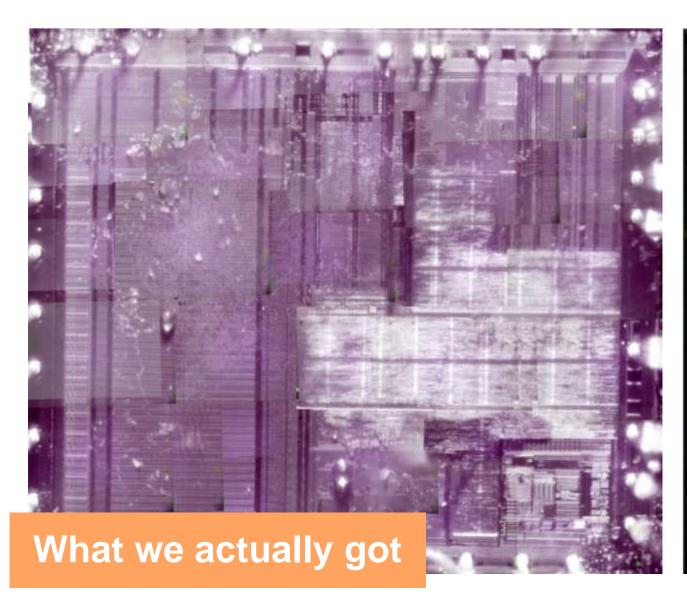
Zoomed In



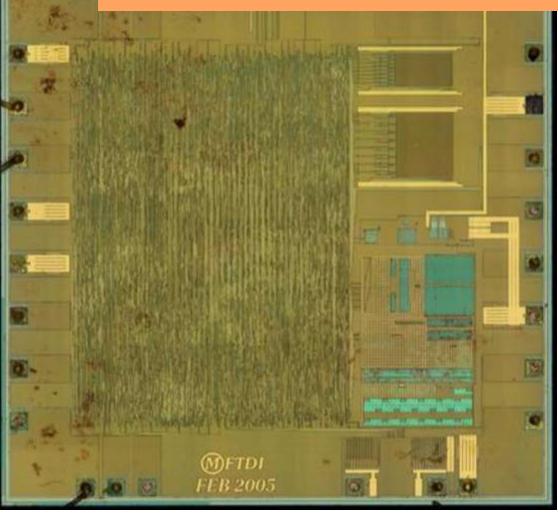


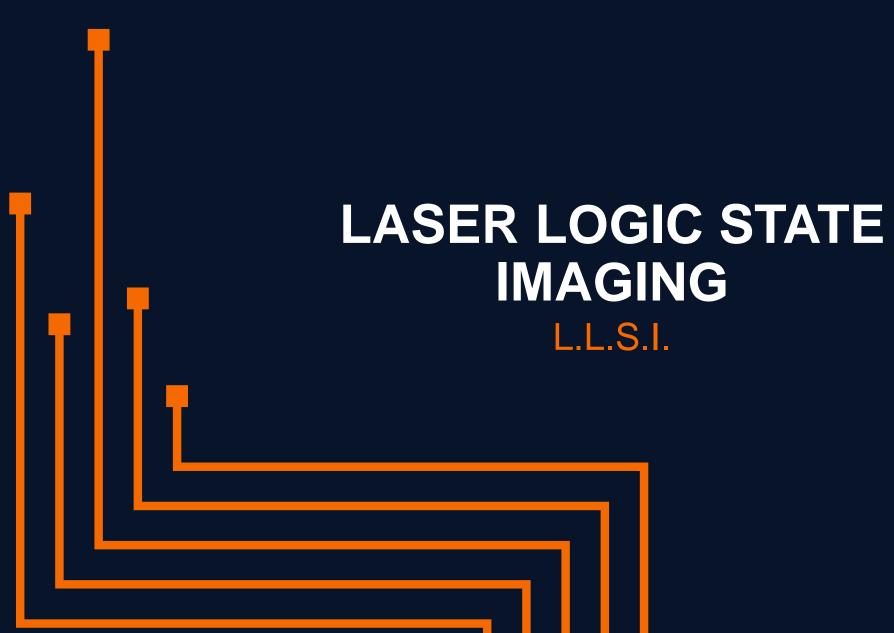


FT232r "Alternative"



What we thought we got





What, and Why?

- Imaging dynamic data
- Transistors are arranged in gates
- Gate states determine as a cluster what is a "1" and what is a "0"

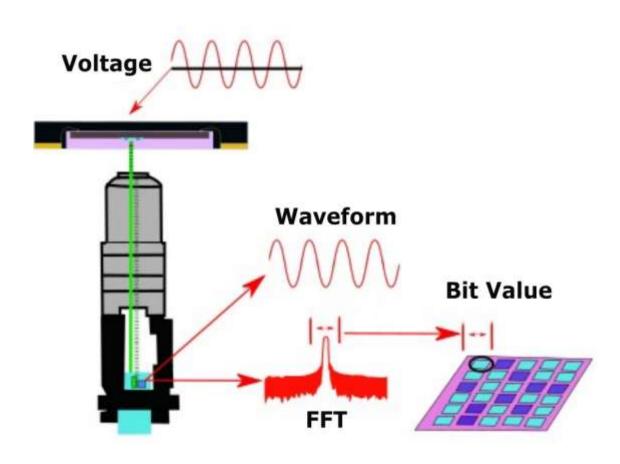
 Each chip is different, so you need to map a victim before Side Channel Analysis (SCA)

RAW Transistors

How?

 Changes in voltage, changes the absorption (and reflection) rate of silicon

- Electro-Optical Frequency
 Mapping (EoFM) can be used to
 detect these fluctuations in
 absorption via state changes
- In LLSI, causing a voltage ripple on the target's active transistors acts as a readable modulated signal





LLSI: The Essentials







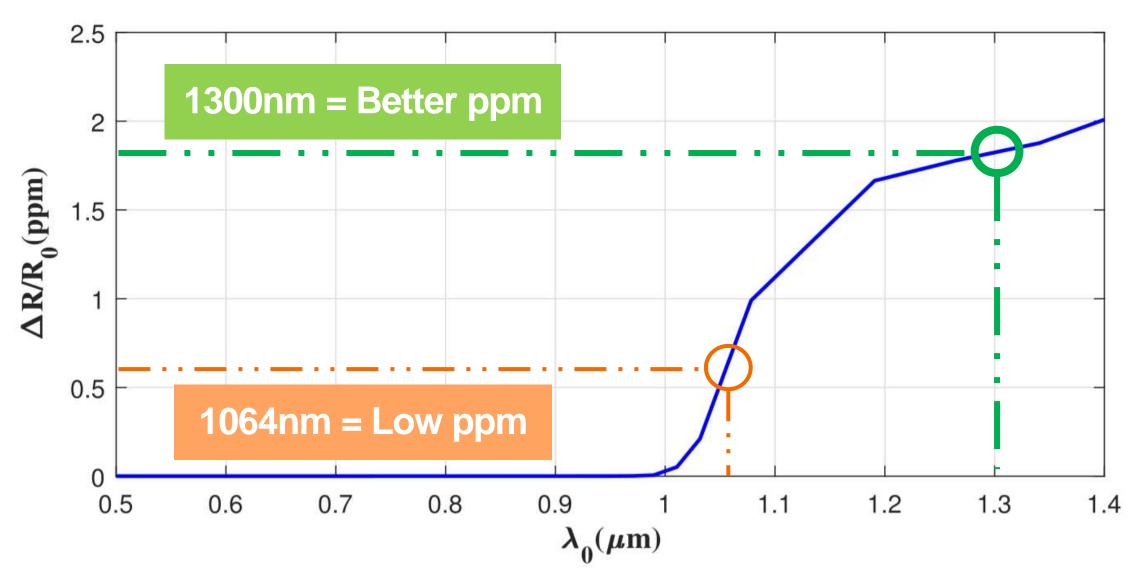
- Target chip modulation
- A laser that can achieve penetration and reflection
- A laser sensor
- Smooth laser panning
- Signal & noise parsing
- Human Readability







Which Laser?

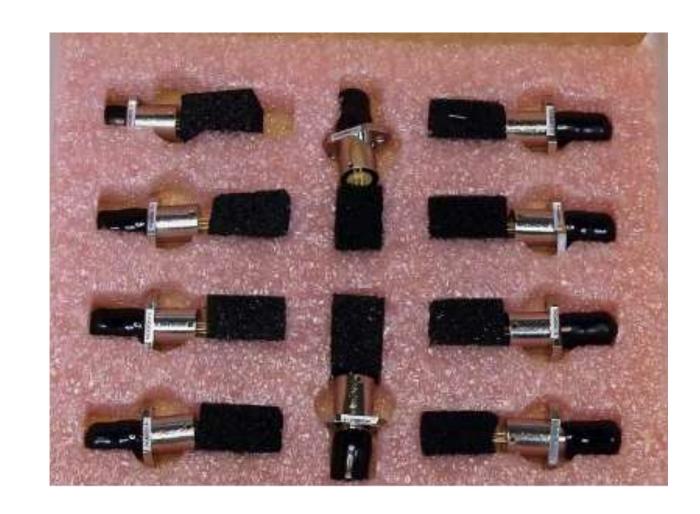


Why 1300nm, Specifically?

 Incredibly high in supply, and very inexpensive (\$6.00 USD)

- Lasers come with their own sensor for self-regulation
- For \$6 USD we can get a 1300nm laser WITH a photodiode

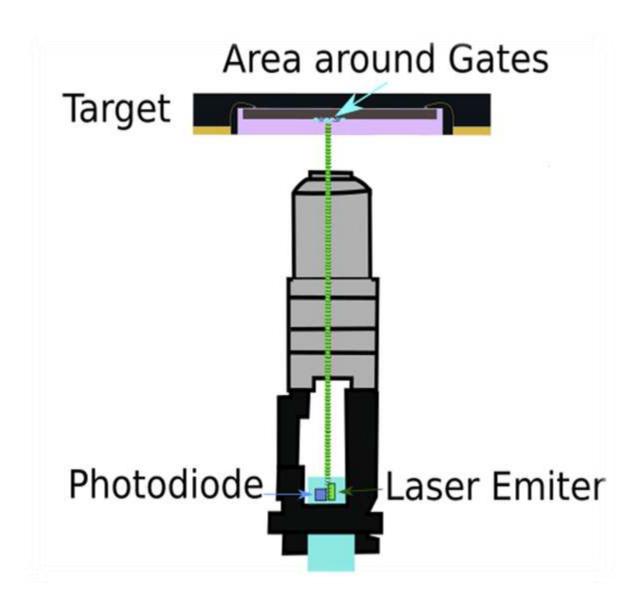
Two birds, one stone



Self-Mixing Interferometer

 We can use the photodiode in the laser to record how much was reflected

• If it can measure changes equal to the size of its wavelength, it can also measure variations in silicon absorption



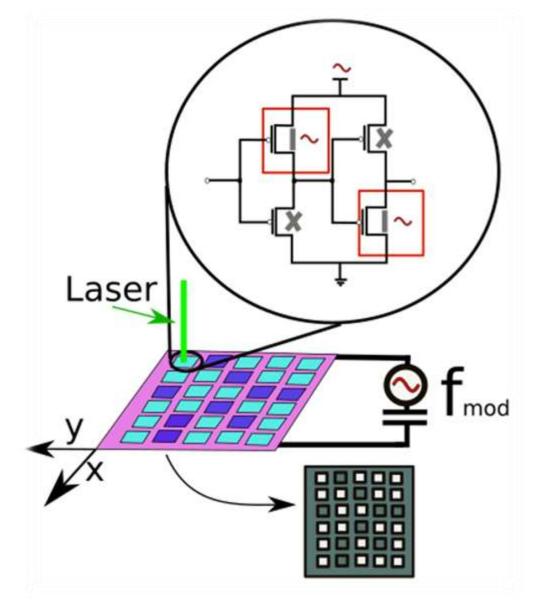
Putting it all together

Pause instructions and memory in the transistors

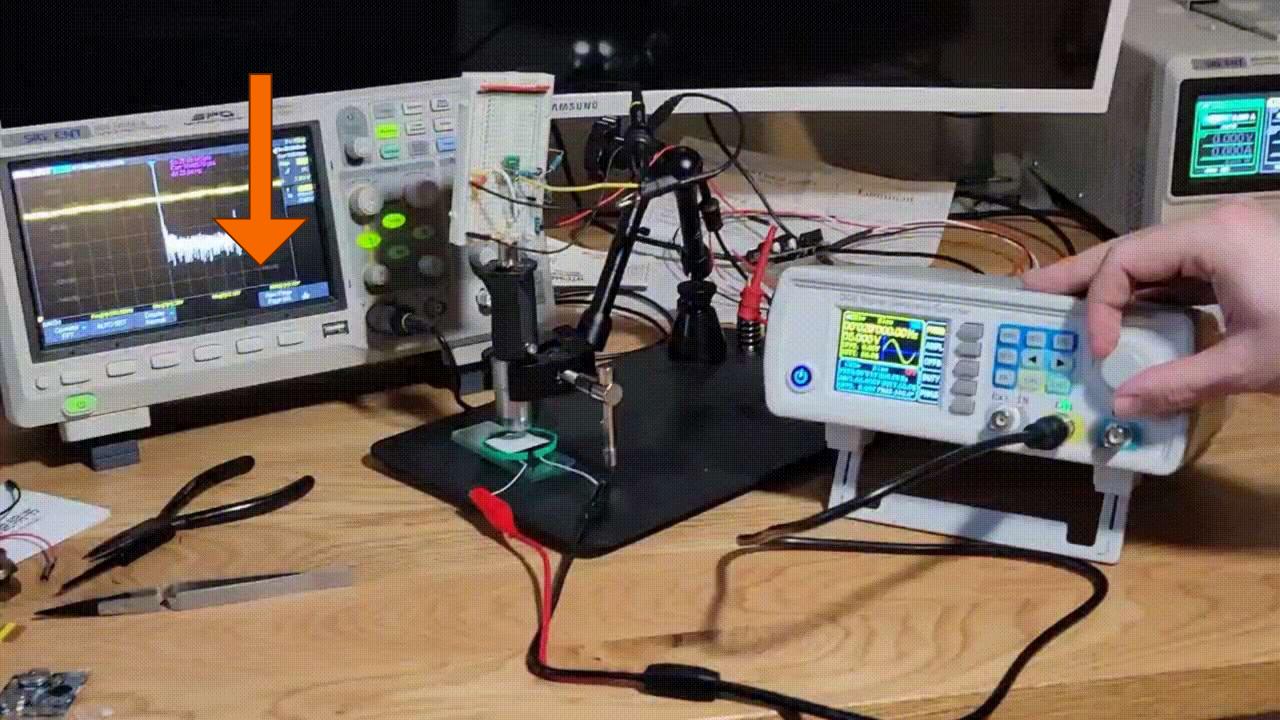
 Send a signal through the active transistors (via modulation of voltage)

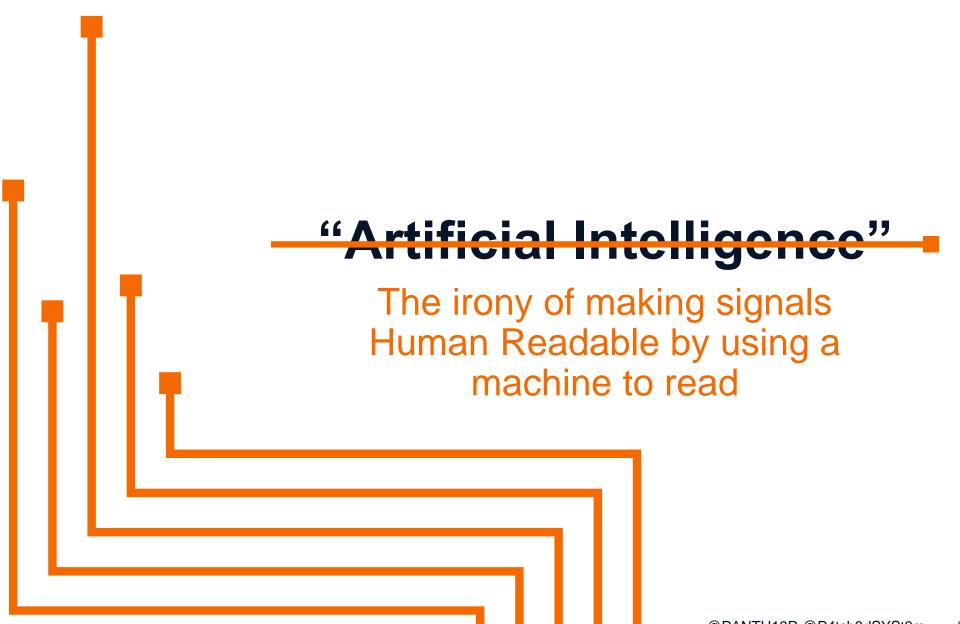
 Activate laser beam and scan beam over target

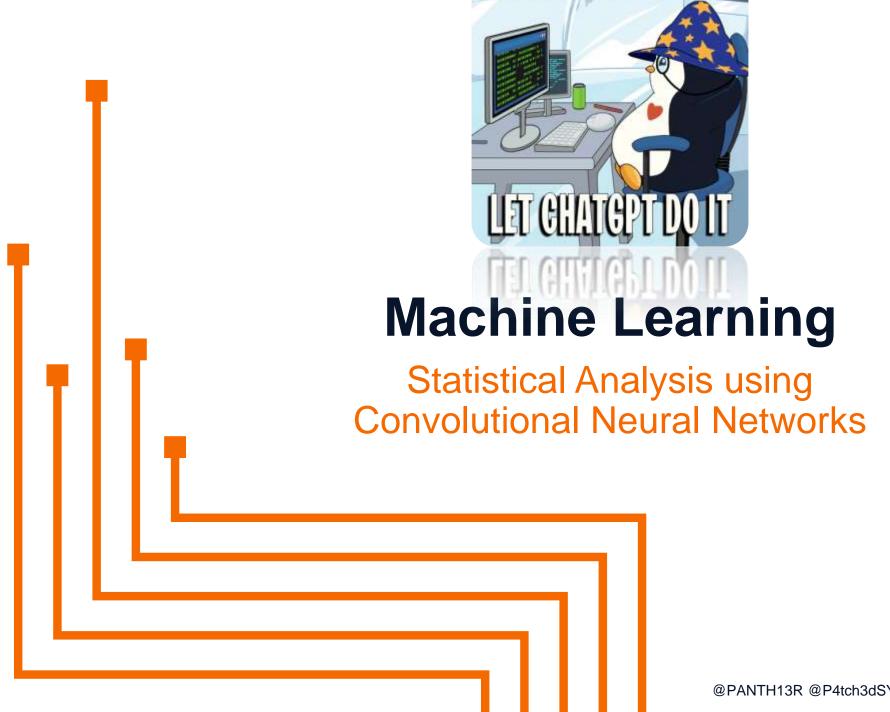
 Read the sent signal through the beam's reflection









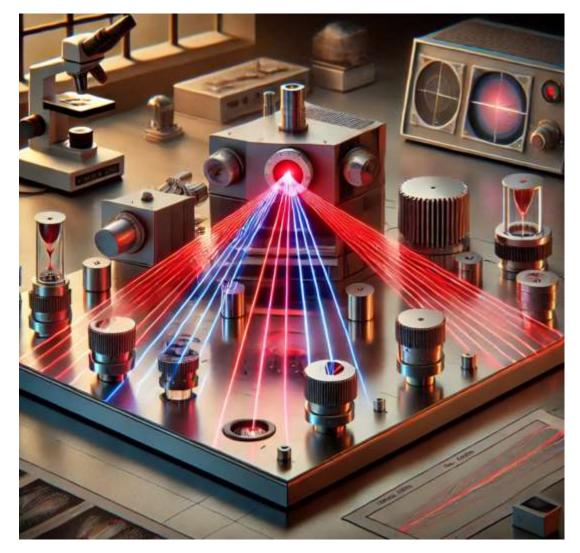


Statistical Matrices & Math

 The signals received from an LLSI need to be mapped to the chip

 Every chips memory is unique specific to itself: not all transistor gates are created the same

 We need a model that is trained to perform the analysis, so we don't jump off a cliff



ChatGPT Prompt: Draw me a picture of a laser interferometer

Black Hat has deadlines

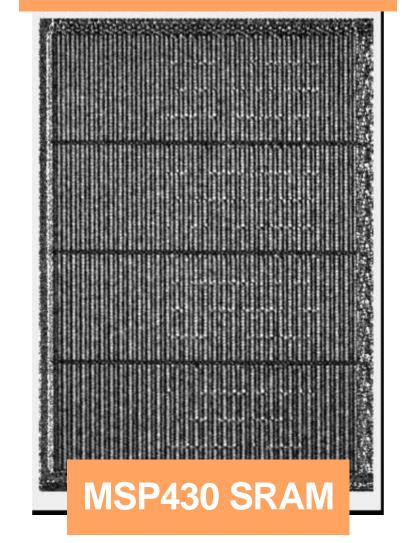
- Scanning a chip with Laser Scanning Microscope (LSM) is slow
- The process to design a low noise, band pass filter and demodulator to isolate signals around 1ppm is <u>slow</u>
- Combining an active LLSI and LSM to train a model, is <u>really</u>, <u>really</u>, <u>slow</u>



Training with Published Data Sets

- Each instance of training data has a known, programmed, 512 bits of data stored in memory
- Working with known data points that are user programmed, allow the model to later identify in unknown data sets (once trained)
- Collection contains randomized and zeroed data sets, outside of the 512 bits
- This is a faster method to train for a POC

Captured LLSI Image

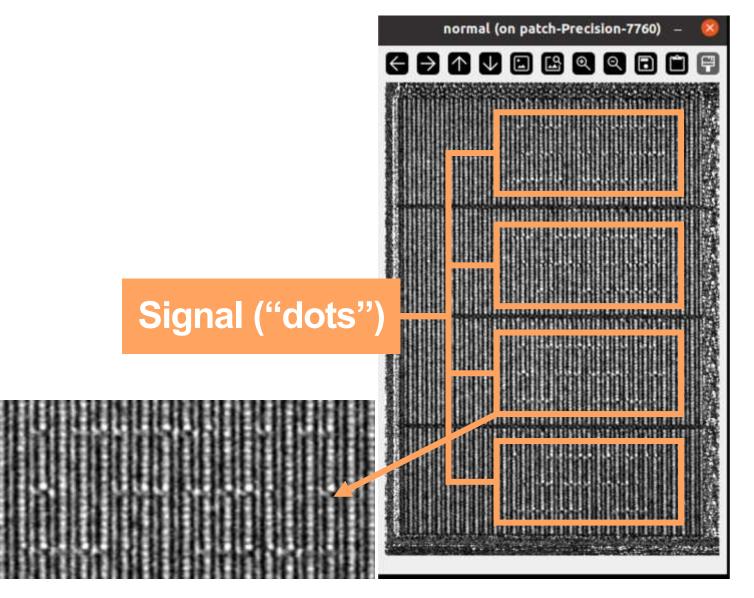


Identifying Data in LLSI

 This is an LLSI capture of a MSP430 SRAM block

The SRAM block contains
 512 bits of known
 programmed memory

 The "dots" are the modulated signal representing the 512 bits

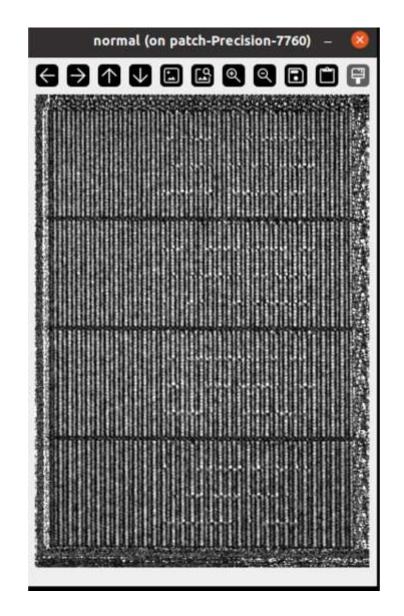


The data needs to be seen

We need to make the data more readable

 Subtract a random LLSI image from it (to isolate the 512 bits)

Put the results in the blue channel...



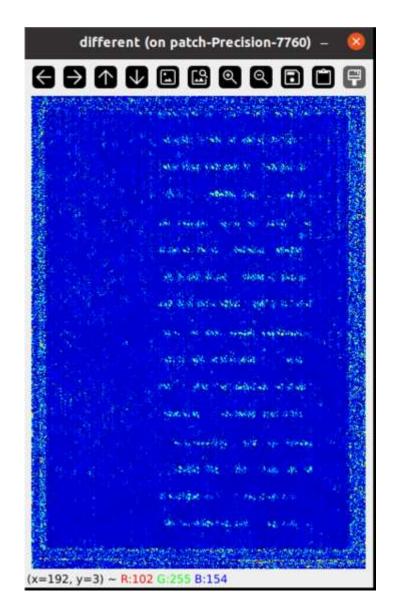
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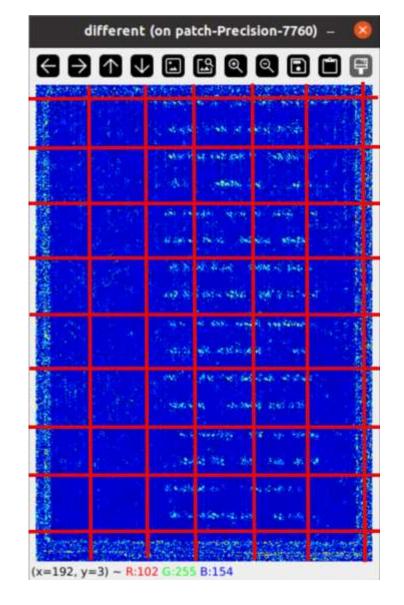
....and Voila!



I can see, but I don't understand

- Next is to help the model identify where the user programmed 512 bits are stored
- Divide the SRAM into a search grid so that we can minimize the chance of bit collisions

 The red squares are areas that we can search that should aid in isolation of bit similarities

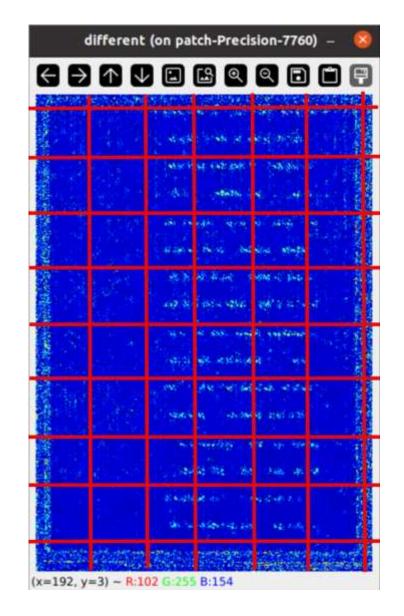


Finding the Right Segment

• Each segment will have a number of bits.

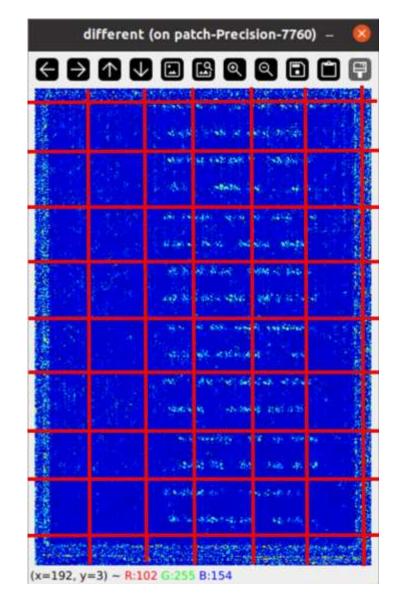
 We need to know which segment has the bits we are looking for.

Here is how we search the segments



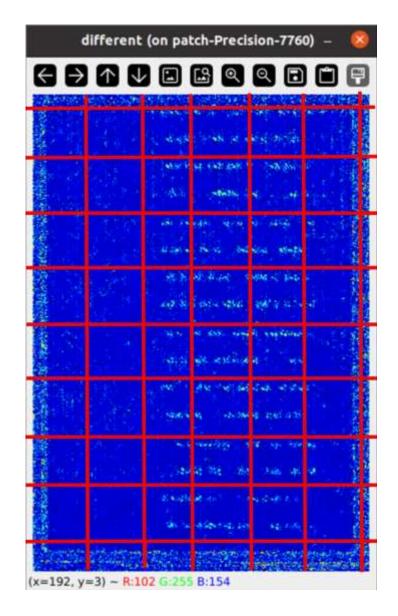
Segment Searching

- The model can isolate bit locations by identifying segments with similar binary values, except for 1 bit
- Example: the 512 bits contains a segment that contains 1101011 and 1110111
- By using an absolute diff, 001000 would cause an observable change, representing 1 or 0
- Change represents location of where a 1 or 0 is in SRAM

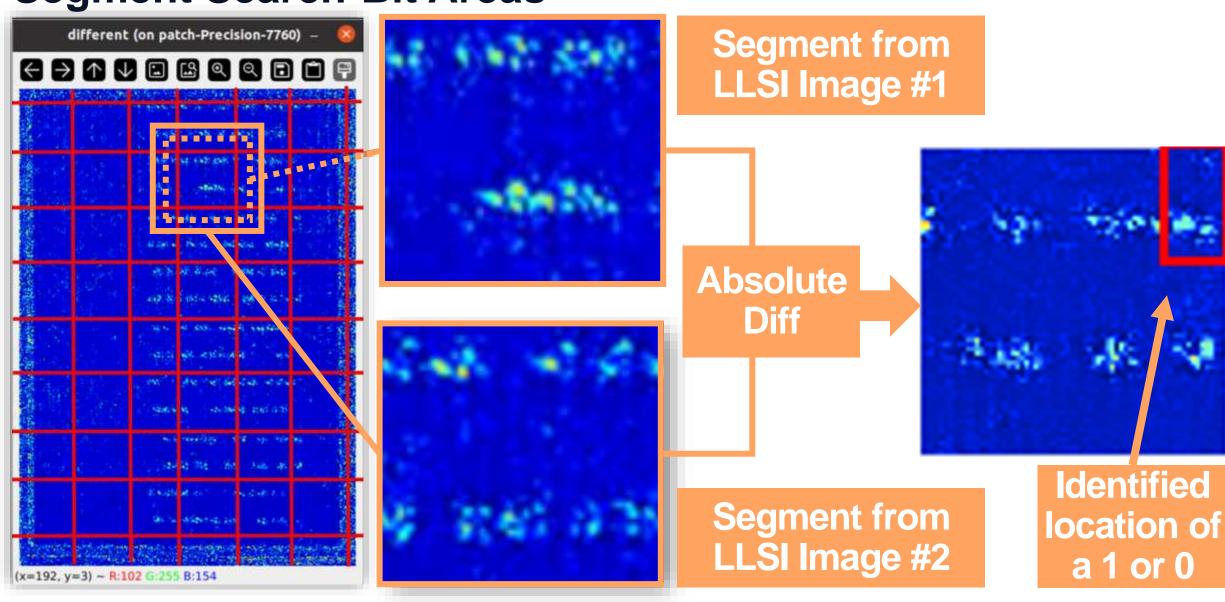


Segment Searching

- If time is not an issue, there are other ways to identify bit placements
- By using an absolute diff, only a specific segment pair would cause an observable change, representing the location of that 1 or 0
- Repeat 512 times to cover all areas (or use maths to make this more efficient)



Segment Search-Bit Areas



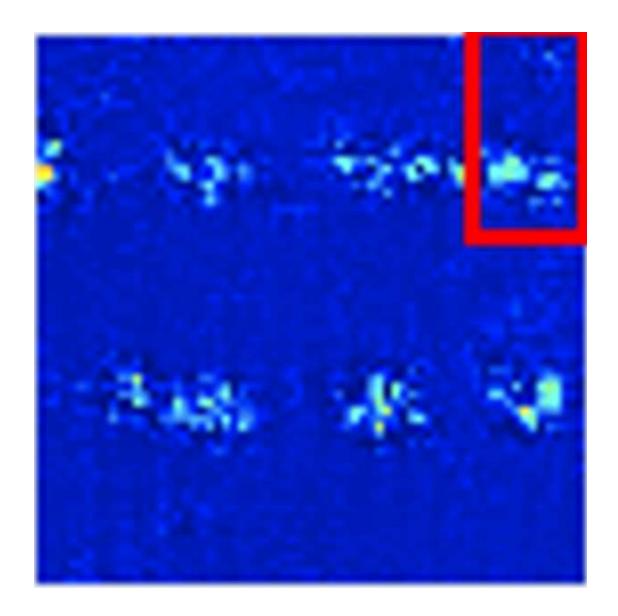
"I may not have gone where I intended to go, but I think I have ended up where I needed to be." – Douglas Adams

Segment Search-Dataset

 With many iterations, and a proper dataset an understanding of where bits are stored can be formulated

 Next step is to identify WHICH bits are "1" and "0"

 To do this, the model can use supervised learning

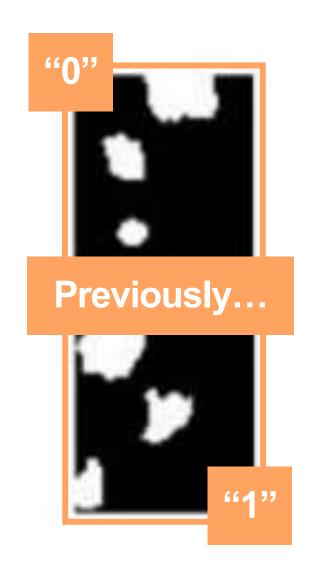


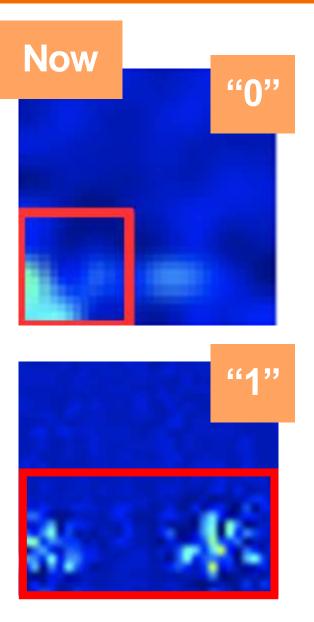
Success!

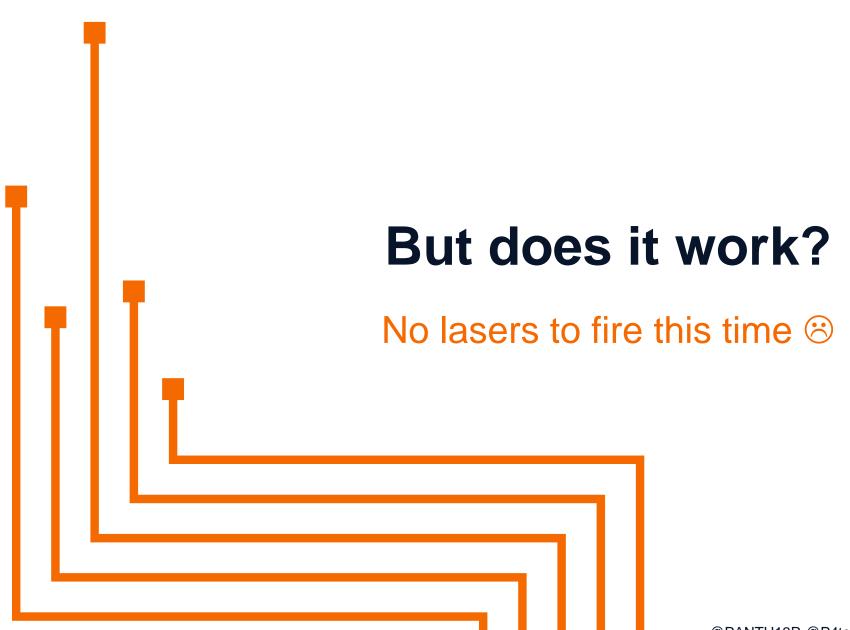
 In time, the model is able to correlate what is the gate representation of "1" and what is "0"

 Previously, we showed this with another data set using a different IC and memory

 Now, we have created a new mapping, tailored for this specific SRAM and IC

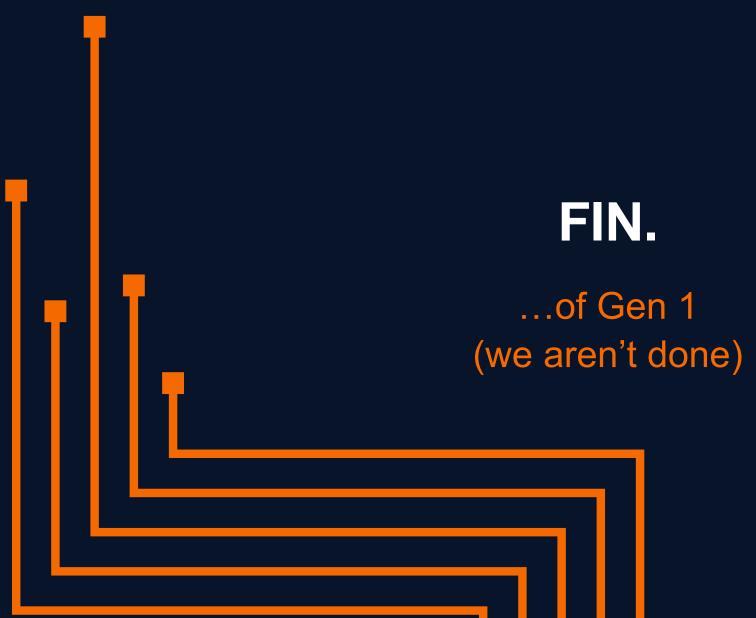






Mapping the values





Ray V Recap & Use Cases

- Proved building an LFI using materials less than \$500 USD was possible
- Proved building an LLSI using affordable materials, is plausible

 Proved a CNN can be used to extract data from a live system

- Learn chip layout through imaging
- Used to introduce faults in Embedded Controllers

 Portable, movable and affordable at-home entry-level LFI (& LLSI) tooling

We stand on the shoulders of so many giants

- The OpenFlexure Project
 - Joel T. Collins, Joe Knapper, Julian Stirling, Joram Mduda, Catherine Mkindi, Valeriana Mayagaya, Grace A. Mwakajinga, Paul T. Nyakyi, Valerian L. Sanga, Dave Carbery, Leah White, Sara Dale, Zhen Jieh Lim, Jeremy J. Baumberg, Pietro Cicuta, Samuel McDermott, Boyko Vodenicharski, and Richard Bowmanm 2020
- High Precision Laser Fault Injection using Low-cost Components
 - Martin S. Kelly, Keith Mayes 2022
- Fault Attack Resilience on Errorprone Devices
 - Martin S. Kelly 2022
- Laser-Based Logic State Analysis in Hardware Security: Threats and Opportunities
 - Thilo Krachenfels 2023

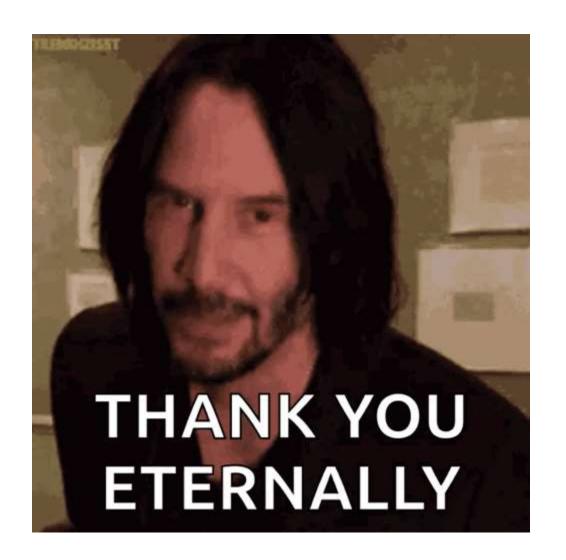
We stand on the shoulders of so many giants

- How Practical Are Fault Injection Attacks, Really?
 - Jakub Breier, Xiaolu Hou 2022
- Trojan Awakener: Detecting Dormant Malicious Hardware Using Laser Logic State Imaging (Extended Version)
 - Thilo Krachenfels, Jean-Pierre Seifert, Shahin Tajik 2023

- Infra-Red, In-Situ (IRIS) Inspection of Silicon
 - Andrew 'bunnie' Huang 2023
- Super-resolution laser probing of integrated circuits using algorithmic methods
 - V. K. Ravikumar, Jiann Min Chin, Winson Lua, Nathan Linarto, Gopinath Ranganathan, Jonathan Trisno, K. L. Pey & Joel K. W. Yang 2022

We stand on the shoulders of so many giants

- Preliminary Study on Detecting the Internal Voltage Values of Integrated Circuits Based on Electro-Optical Frequency Mapping
 - Pengcheng Liu, Yingqi Ma, Jianwei Han 2022



Things that surprised (some of) us

That "laser" was an acronym

- Hoarding, finally, paid off
- I can do this from my house
- Not all datasheets are real

 That one of us didn't kill, blind, or maim ourselves Open Sourcing and democratizing tooling is powerful

- As suspected, others are doing similar work. Just 24 hours ago, due to the coverage of this research a Janne Taponen from Fraktal shared with us the details of their rig
- We've coordinated our tools to opensource and release at 12:00 GMT-7, today (August 8th, 2024)

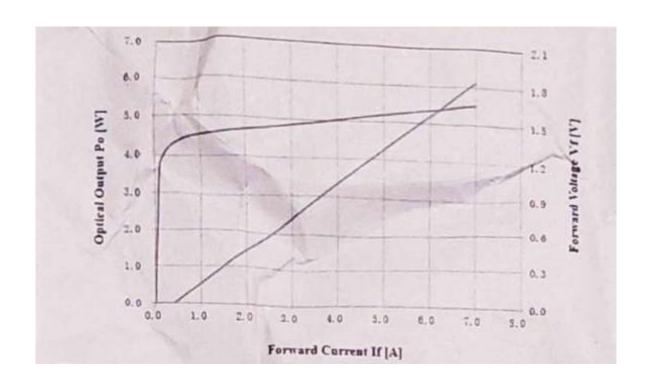
Things that went horribly wrong

 Supply chains & distributors are hard

Product Descriptors are a lie

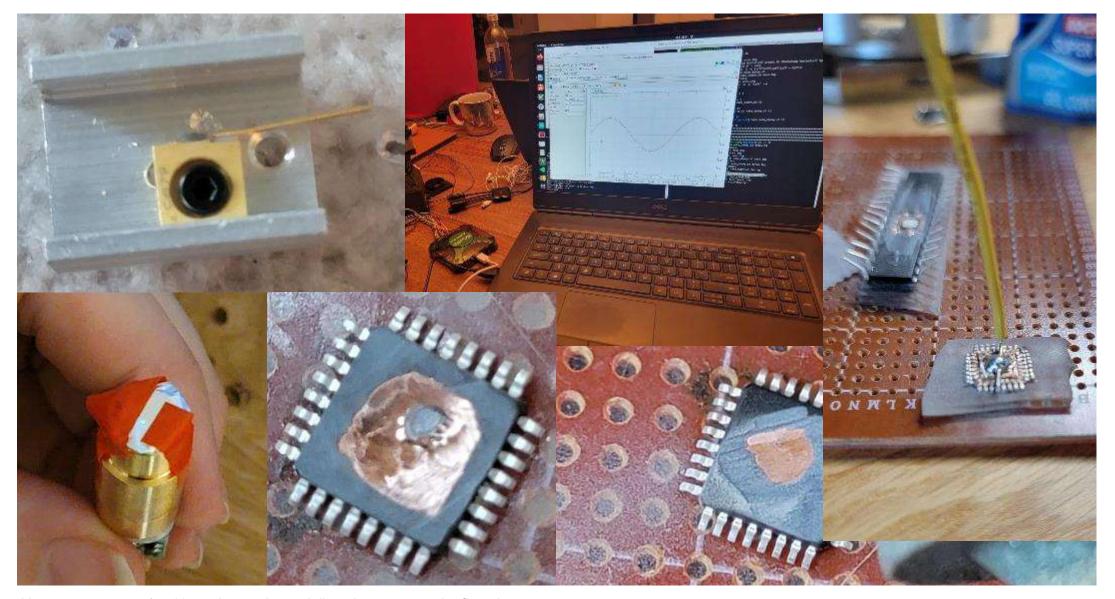
 Practical implementation will always trump theoretical principles (the cake is a lie)

Deadlines are real



- Graphs that make no sense
- Some parts were very hard to find

The Cost of RnD (thank you NetSPI)



Next time you see us RayV'n

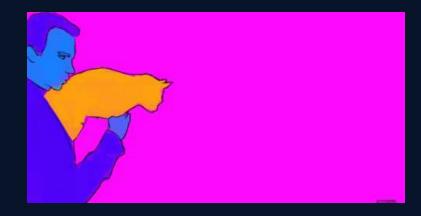
 Increase control & precision of the laser Lower the noise floor for LLSI

- Further challenge the cost floor
- Improve 3D Print to optimize speed and panning

 Combine LFI and LLSI to one housing and stage



Key Take Aways?



Lasers are Fun

Wear Protection!



Money is no obstacle

Maker + Hacker mentality = profit



Open Source is King

https://github.com/Project LOREM/RayVLite



™ Thank you!

Welcome to the real-life version of "Where's Wally"

...(or "Where's Waldo")

Catch us at our Booth!

...or in HallwayCon

...or at Hacker Summer Camp

241 N 5th Ave Suite 1200

Minneapolis, MN 55401

netspi.com

