

CS269: Quantum Computer Programming

Dan Boneh & Will Zeng + Guests

"THE TALK"

BY SCOTT AARONSON & ZACH WEINERSMITH

HONEY, I THINK YOU'RE OLD ENOUGH TO KNOW THE TRUTH ABOUT QUANTUM MECHANICS. QUANTUM SUPERPOSITION.. IT DOESN'T MEAN 0 AND 1 AT THE SAME TIME. AT LEAST, NOT THE WAY YOU THINK.



THE IMPORTANT THING FOR YOU TO UNDERSTAND IS THAT QUANTUM COMPUTING ISN'T JUST A MATTER OF TRYING ALL THE ANSWERS IN PARALLEL.



IF YOU DON'T TALK TO YOUR KIDS
ABOUT QUANTUM COMPUTING...

SOMEONE ELSE WILL.

Quantum computing and
consciousness are both weird
and therefore equivalent.

This course is:

At the leading edge of a new technology, discipline, and industry

A programming-first approach

A great way to challenge yourself to think about computation in a totally new way

A way to learn “just enough” quantum physics

An **experiment!**

Course details

Online at: <http://cs269q.stanford.edu>

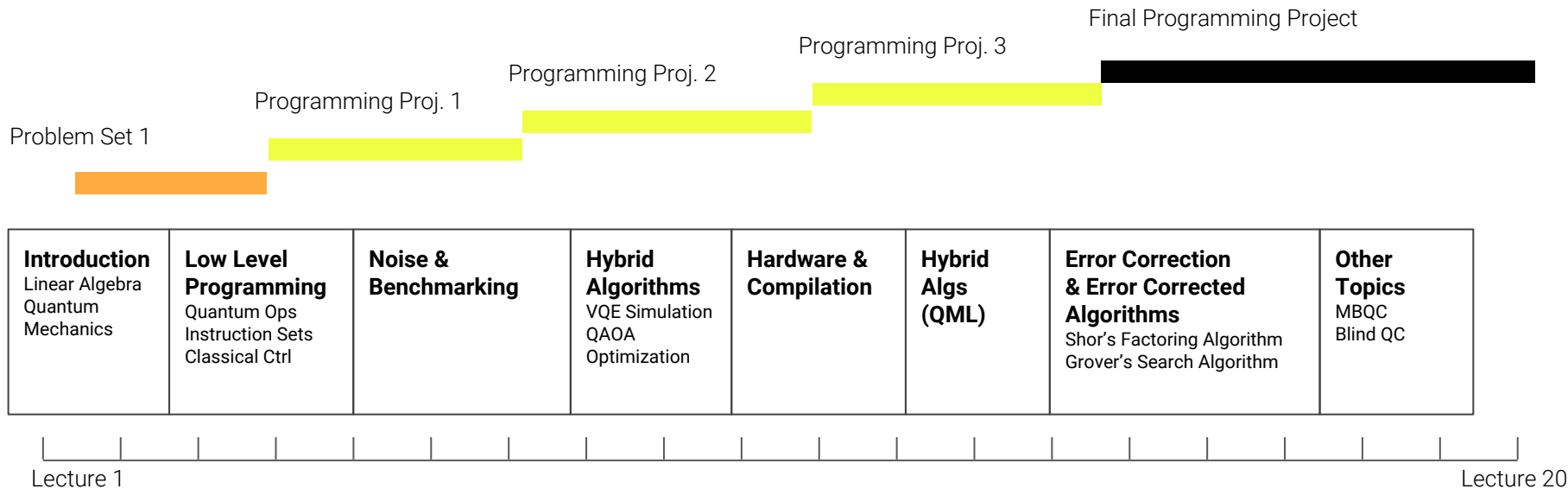
Two lectures per week. Tuesday, Thursday 10:30-11:50, McCullough 115

There will be **one** written problem sets, **three** programming projects, and **one** final programming project.

Textbook: Quantum Computation and Quantum Information: 10th Anniversary Edition by Michael A. Nielsen and Isaac L. Chuang

Readings: posted online with the syllabus for each lecture. These are critical.

Course Topics & Timeline



Quantum Computing isn't the answer to everything.

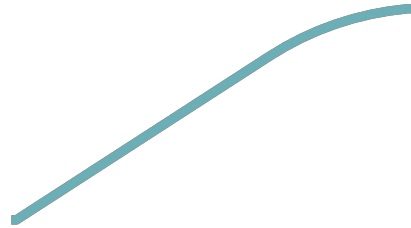
But it will almost certainly free us to **solve more problems.**

Today's lecture:

Q1. Why program a quantum computer?

Q2. How do I program a quantum computer?

Classical computers have fundamental limits



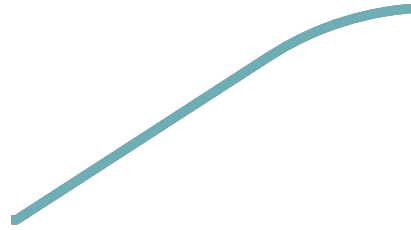
Transistor scaling

Economic limits with 10bn for next node fab

Ultimate single-atom limits

	Intel First Production
1999	180 nm
2001	130 nm
2003	90 nm
2005	65 nm
2007	45 nm
2009	32 nm
2011	22 nm
2014	14 nm
2016	10 nm
2017	10 nm
2018	10 nm?
2019	10 nm!

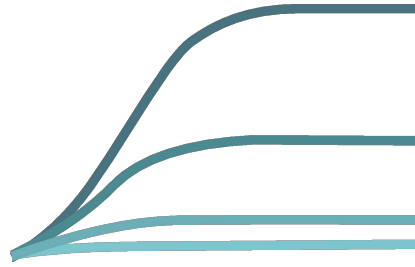
Classical computers have fundamental limits



Transistor scaling

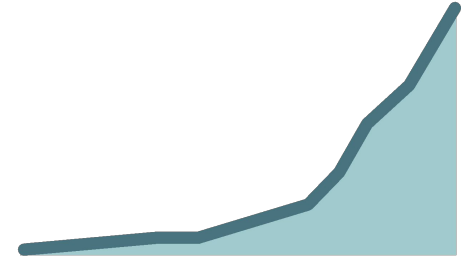
Economic limits with 10bn for next node fab

Ultimate single-atom limits



Returns to parallelization

Amdahl's law

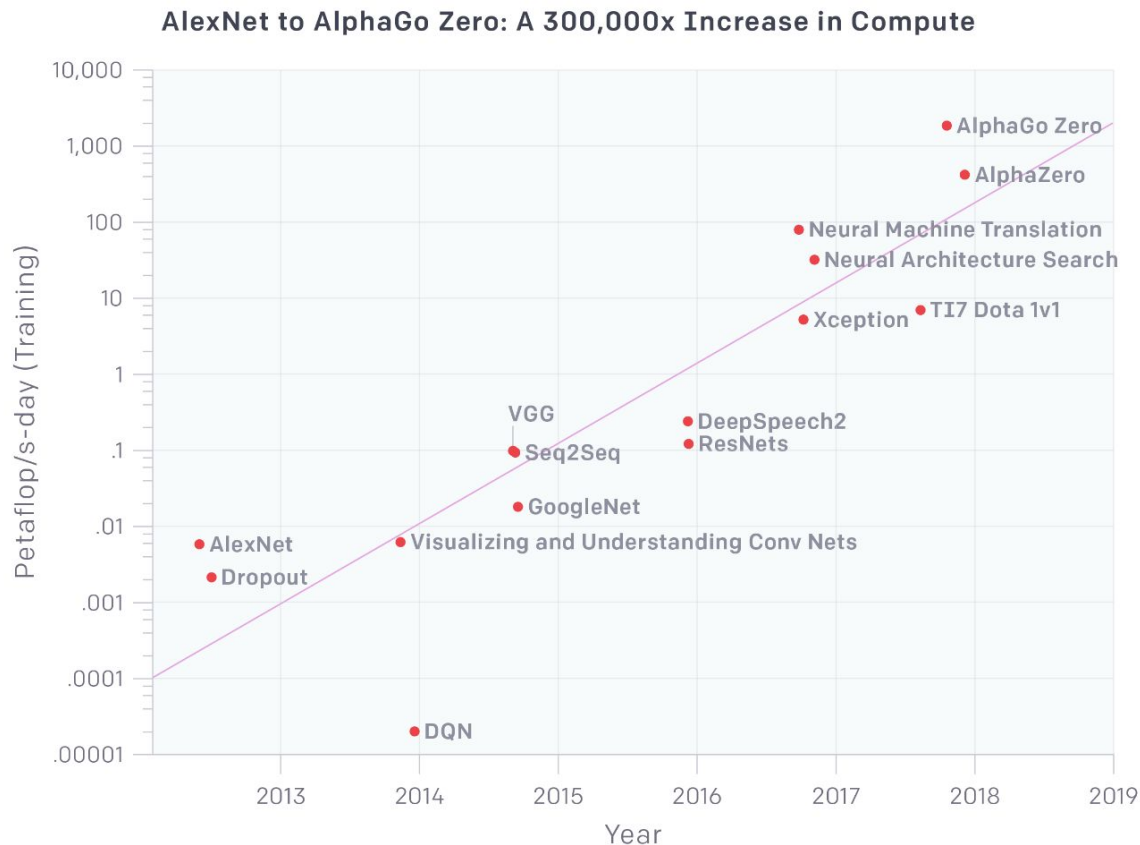


Energy consumption

Exascale computing project has its own power plant

Power density can melt chips

But Requirements for Compute Continue to Grow



And there's more we want to do

Simulation Driven
Drug Design

Organic Batteries &
Solar Cells

Artificial General
Intelligence

Why build a quantum computer?

New power | New opportunity | Fundamental curiosity

Quantum computing power* scales exponentially with qubits

N bits can exactly simulate **log N qubits**

This compute unit....



Commodore 64



AWS M4 Instance

1 Million x Commodore 64



Entire Global Cloud

1 Billion x
(1 Million x Commodore 64)

can exactly simulate:

10 Qubits

30 Qubits

60 Qubits



Size of today's systems.
Note these are *imperfect qubits*.

* We will be more precise later in the lecture

Why build a quantum computer?

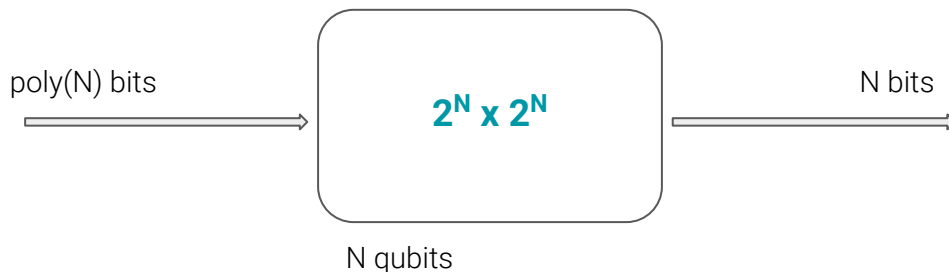
New power | New opportunity | Fundamental curiosity

For **N qubits** every time step ($\sim 100\text{ns}^*$) is an exponentially large $2^N \times 2^N$ complex **matrix multiplication**

Crucial details:

- limited number of multiplications (hundreds to thousands) due to noise
- not arbitrary matrices (need to be easily constructed on a QC)
- small I/O, **N-bits in and N-bits out**

The “big-memory small pipe” mental model for quantum computing



* for superconducting qubit systems

Why build a quantum computer?

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Machine Learning

- > Development of new training sets and algorithms
- > Classification and sampling of large data sets



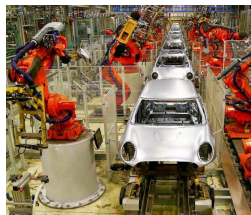
Supply Chain Optimization

- > Forecast and optimize for future inventory demand
- > NP-hard scheduling and logistics map into quantum applications



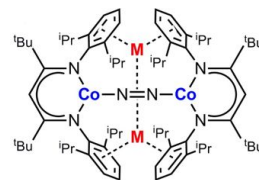
Robotic Manufacturing

- > Reduce manufacturing time and cost
- > Maps to a Traveling Salesman Problem addressable by quantum constrained optimization



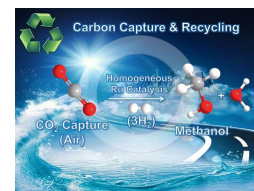
Computational Materials Science

- > Design of better catalysts for batteries
- > Quantum algorithms for calculating electronic structure



Alternative Energy Research

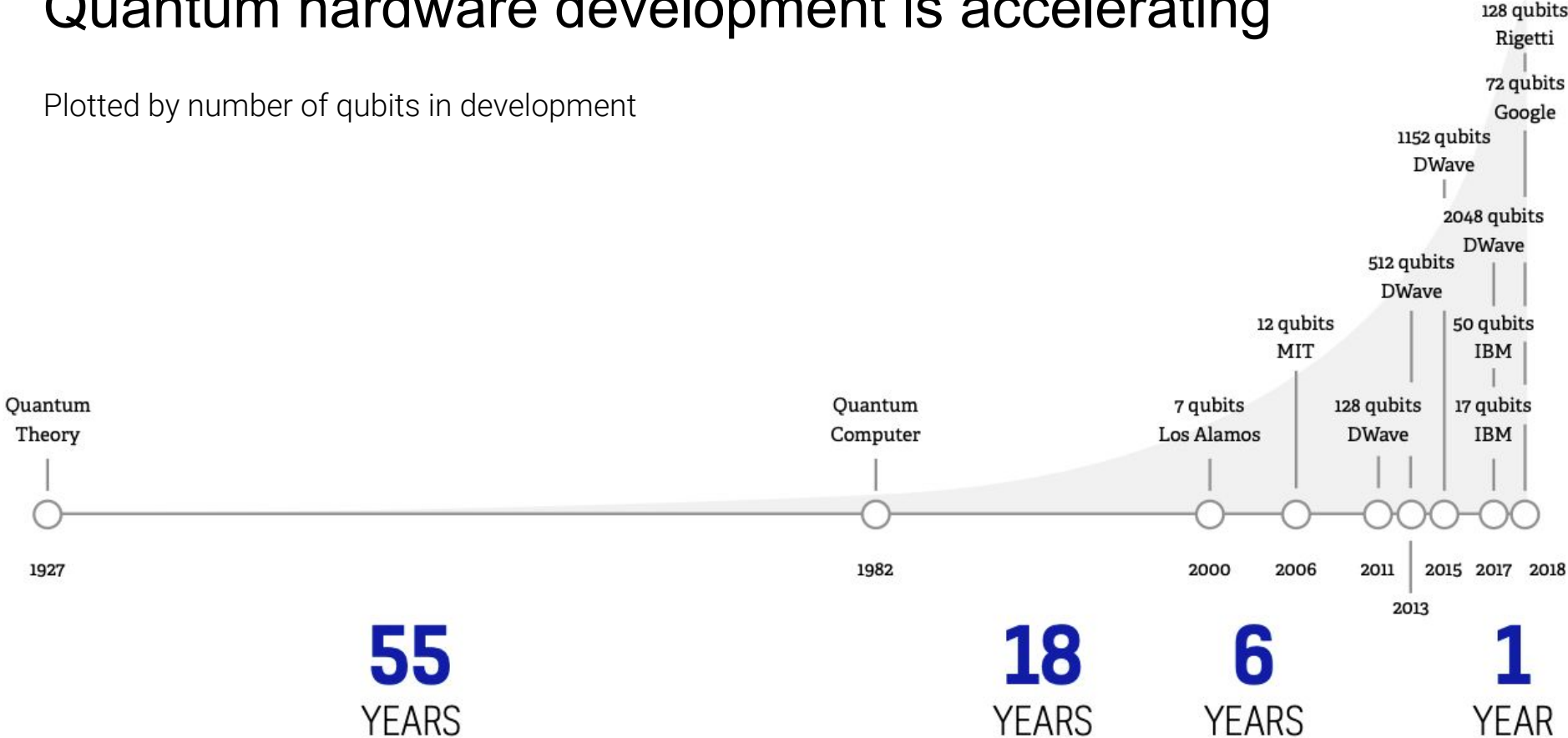
- > Efficiently convert atmospheric CO₂ to methanol
- > Powered by existing hybrid quantum-classical algorithms + machine learning



What isn't on here: breaking RSA with Shor's algorithm

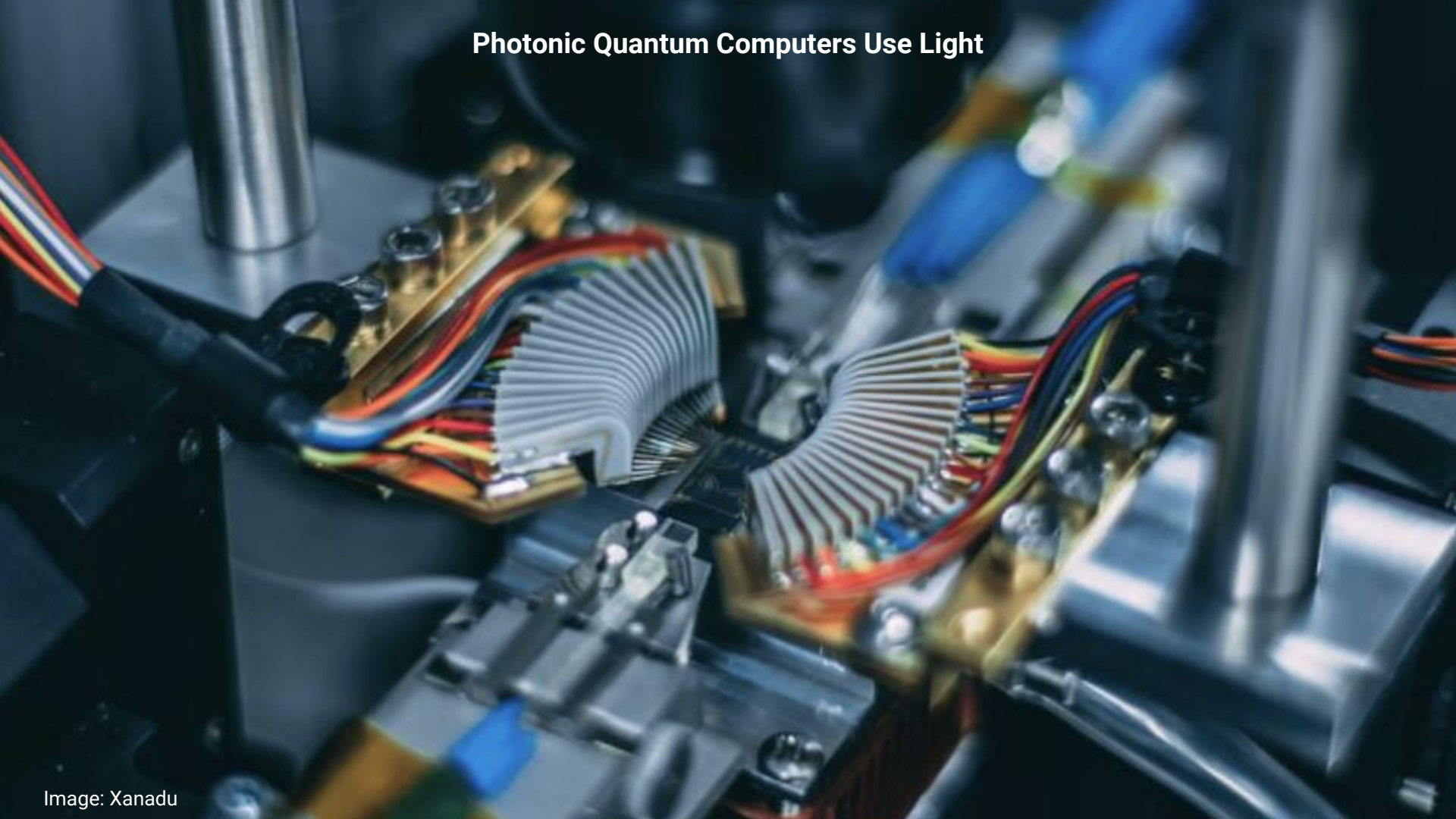
Quantum hardware development is accelerating

Plotted by number of qubits in development



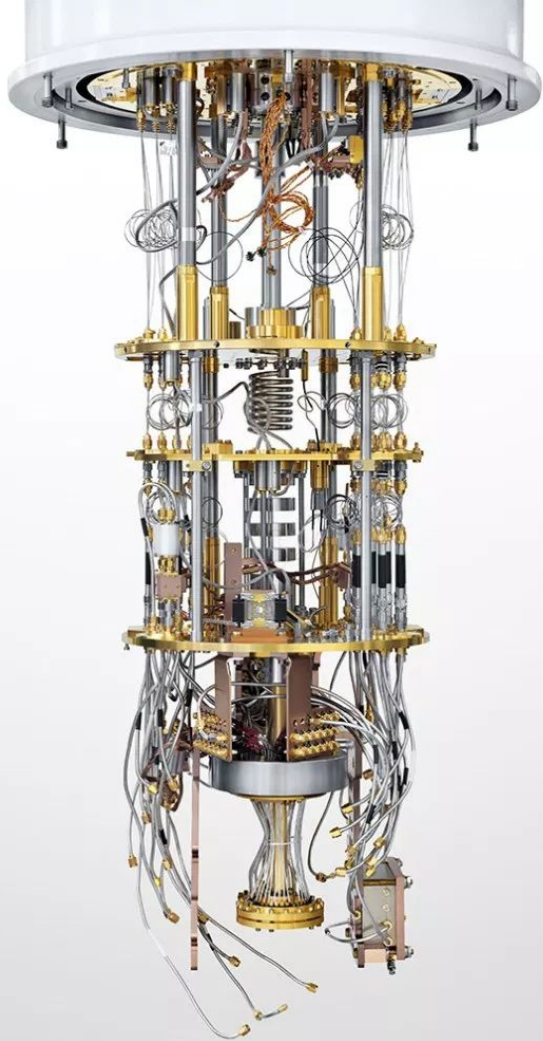
Quantum Hardware comes
in many forms

Photonic Quantum Computers Use Light

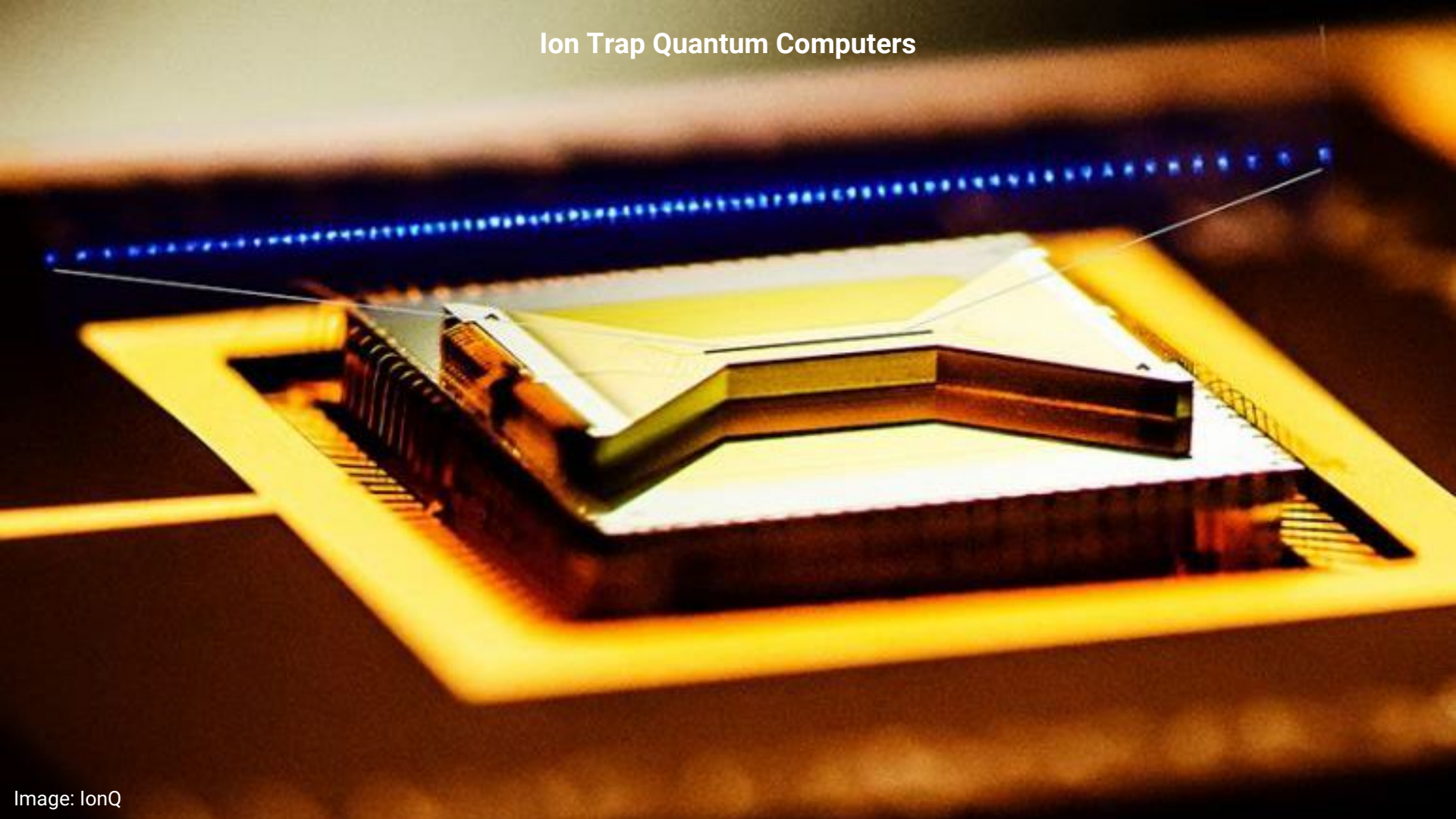


Superconducting Qubits are Supercooled RF Circuits





Ion Trap Quantum Computers



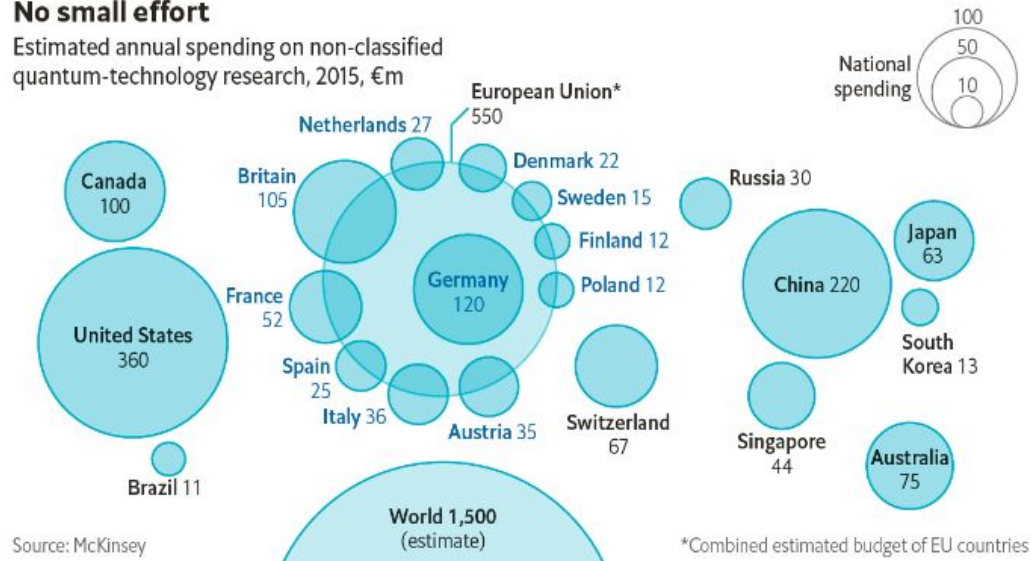
Why build a quantum computer?

New power | **New opportunity** | Fundamental curiosity

Investments across academia, government, and industry are global and growing

No small effort

Estimated annual spending on non-classified quantum-technology research, 2015, €m



Plus approximately \$400M in global VC investment

Large Companies are involved



JPMORGAN CHASE & Co.



DAIMLER



NOKIA



SAMSUNG

HONDA



In a growing ecosystem of startups and incumbents

Software & Consultants

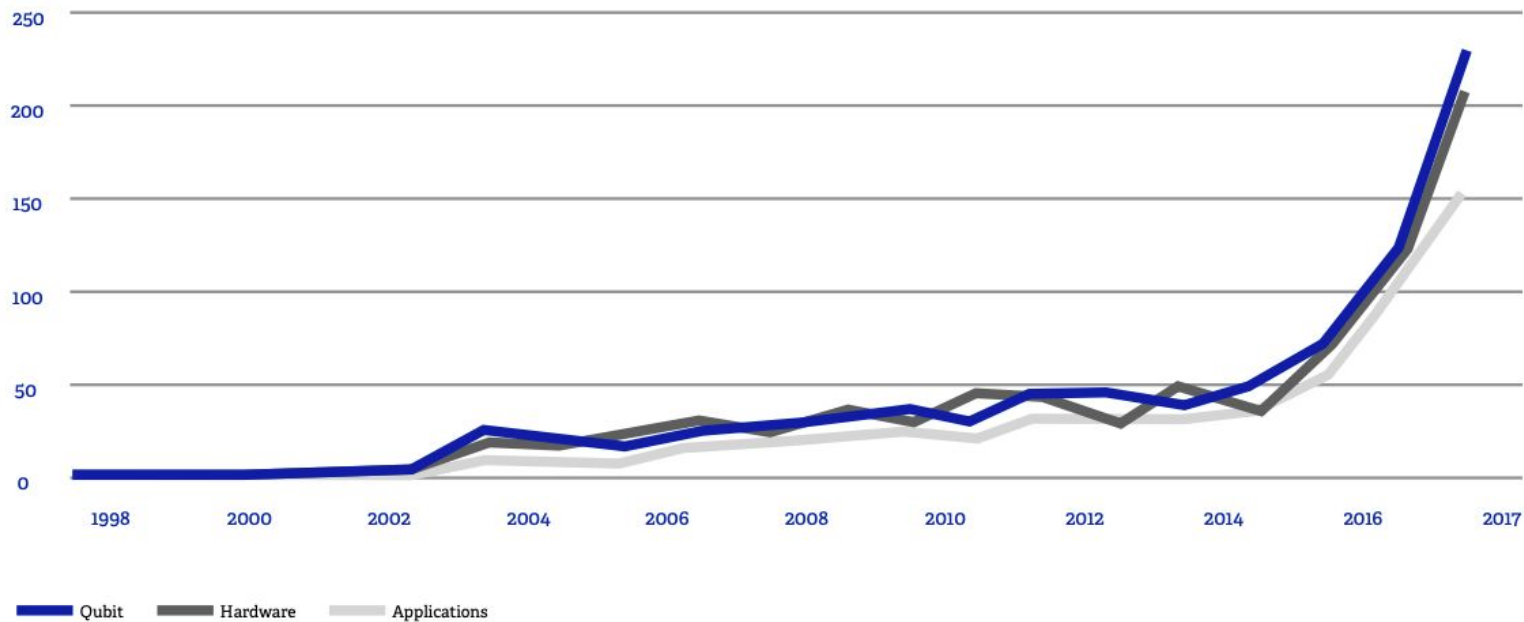
Quantum Computers

Enabling Technologies

New Funding Strategies

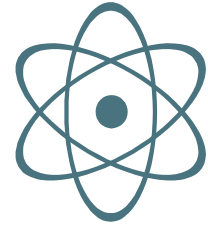
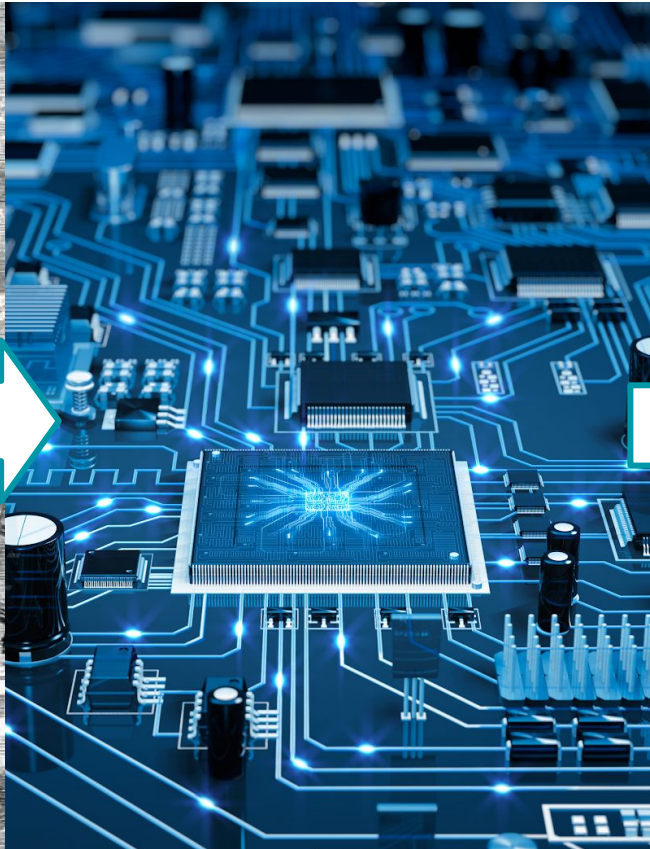
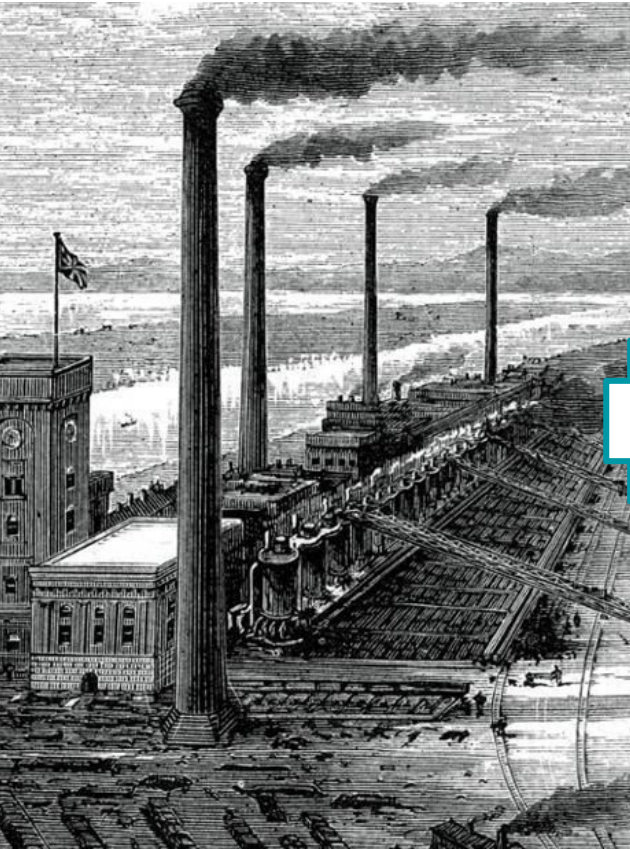
Representative list of players. A very active ecosystem!

QUANTUM COMPUTING PATENT FAMILIES BY CATEGORY AND PUBLICATION YEAR



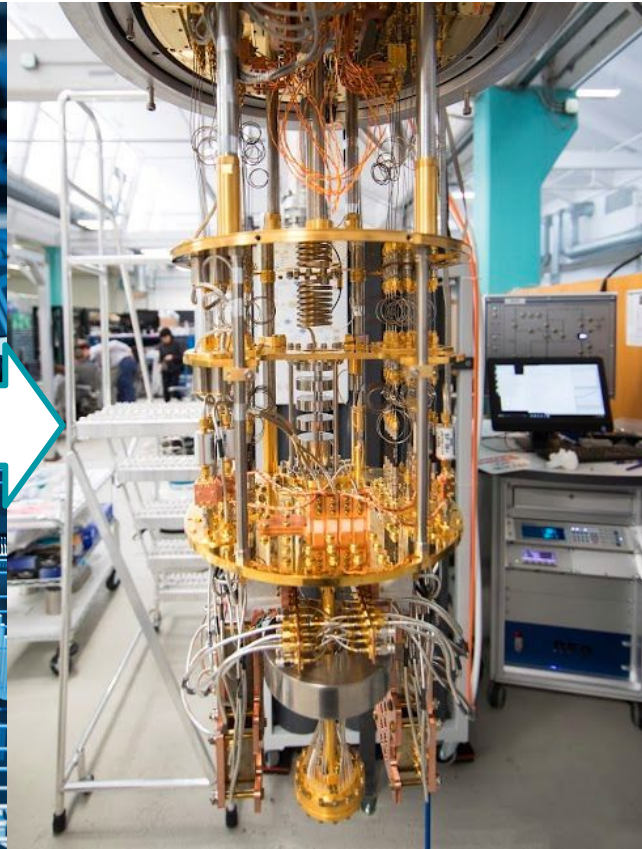
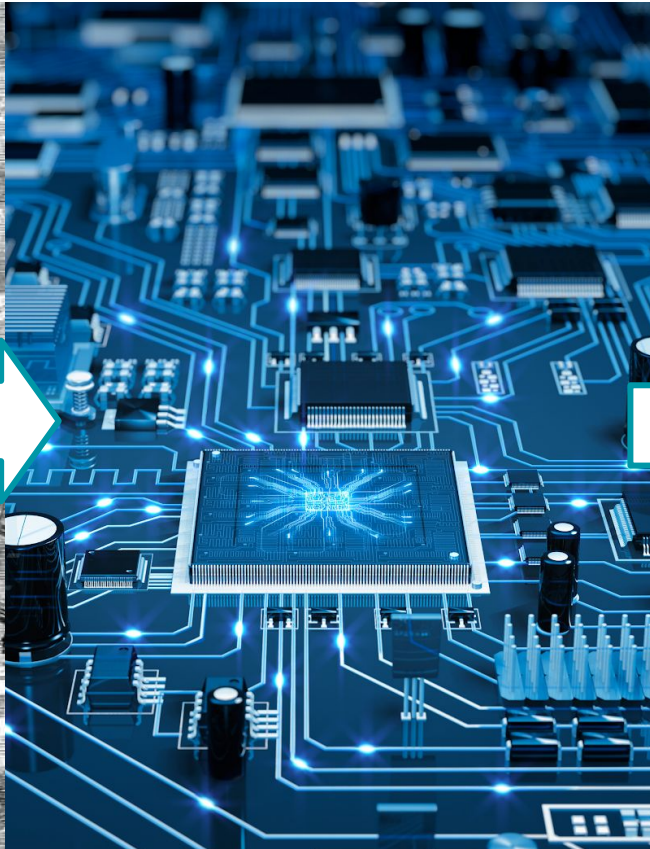
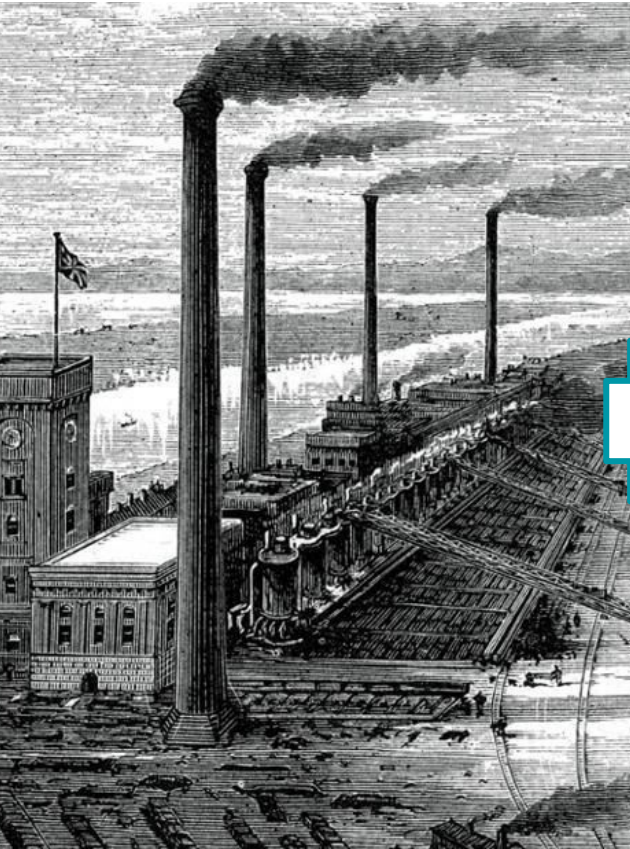
Why program a quantum computer?

New power | New opportunity | **Fundamental curiosity**



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Quantum computing reorients the relationship between physics and computer science.

*Every “function which would **naturally** be regarded as computable” can be computed by the universal Turing machine. - Turing*

*“... **nature** isn't classical, dammit...” - Feynman*

Why program a quantum computer?

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Physical phenomenon apply to information and computation as well.

> Superposition

> No-cloning

> Teleportation

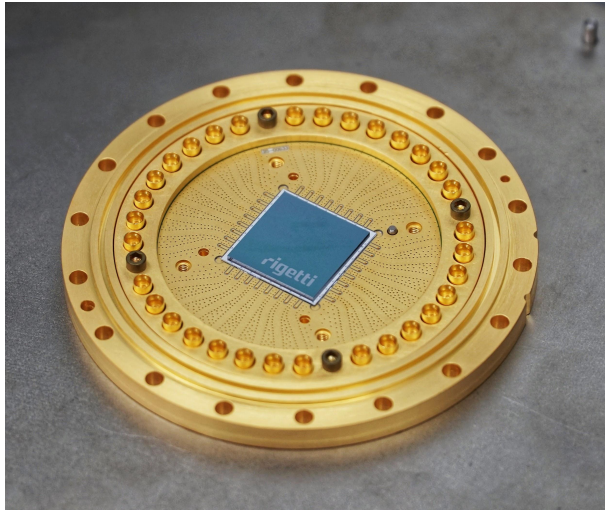
How do I program a quantum computer?

Hybrid Quantum Computers | Quantum Programming | Hybrid Programming | Hybrid Algorithms

How do I program a quantum computer?

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Quantum computers have quantum processor(s) and classical processors



Quantum processor

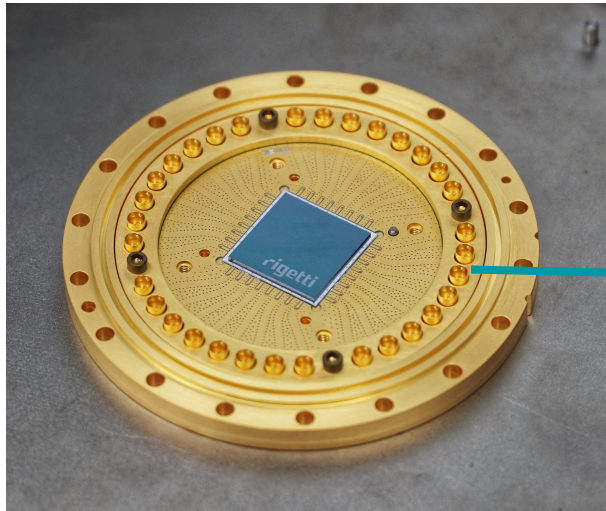


Full quantum computing system

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Quantum processor

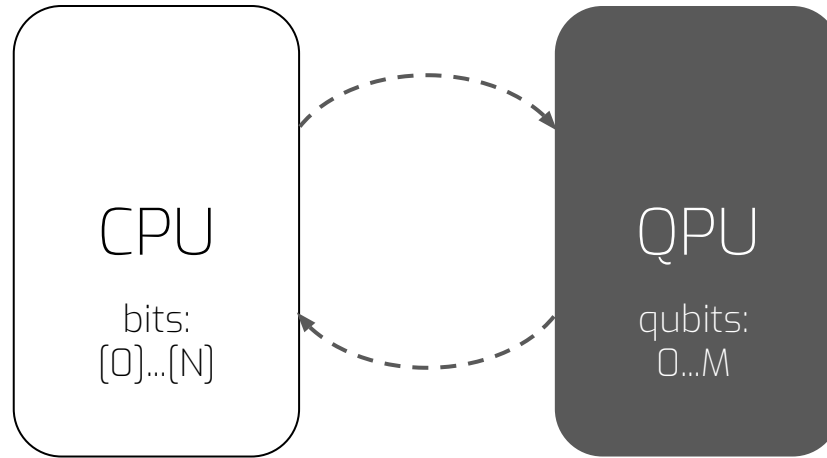


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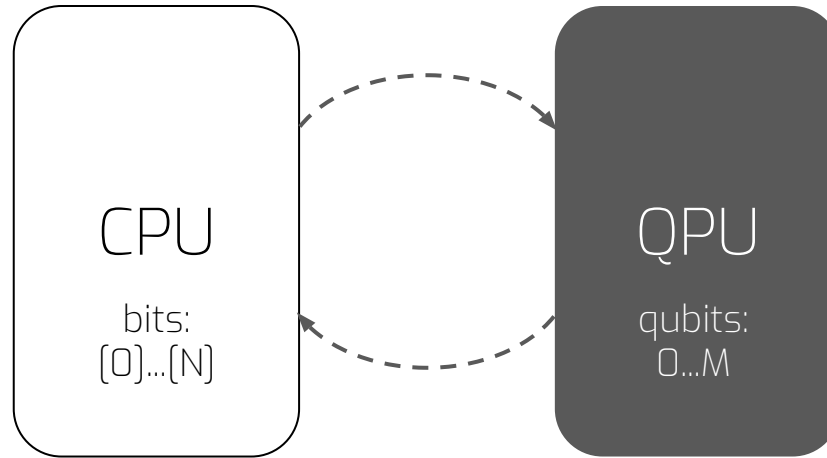
Practical, valuable quantum computing is **Hybrid** Quantum/Classical Computing



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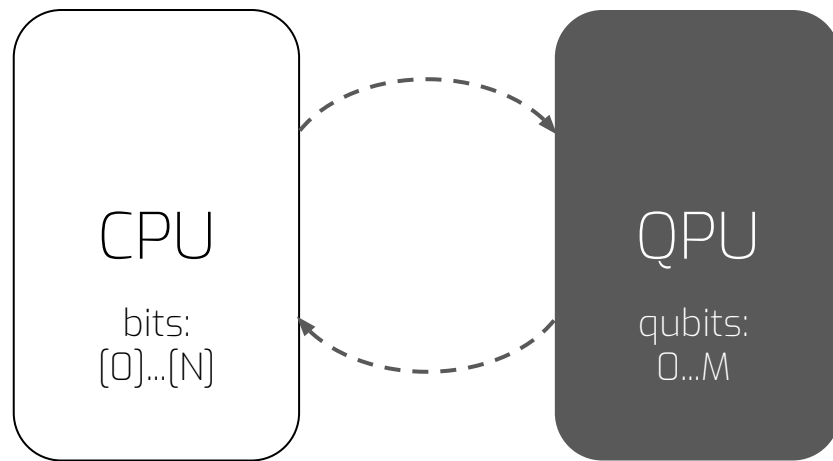
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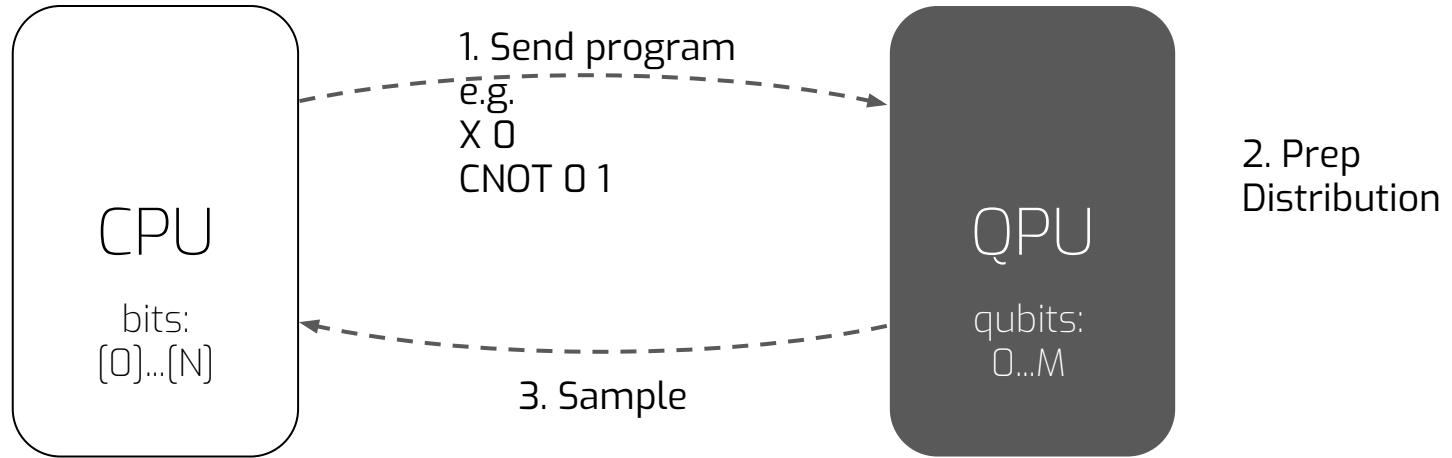


The Quil **[01]** instruction set is optimized for this.

How do I program a quantum computer?

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Quantum programming is preparing and sampling from complicated distributions



How do I program a quantum computer?

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Bits

Probabilistic Bits

Qubits

State (single unit)	Bit $\in \{0, 1\}$	Real vector	$a + b \in \mathbb{R}_+$
		$\vec{b} = a\vec{0} + b\vec{1}$	$a + b = 1$

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Probability of 0

Probability of 1

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CLASSICAL BIT

0



1

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CLASSICAL BIT

0



1

How do I program a quantum computer?

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CLASSICAL BIT

0



1

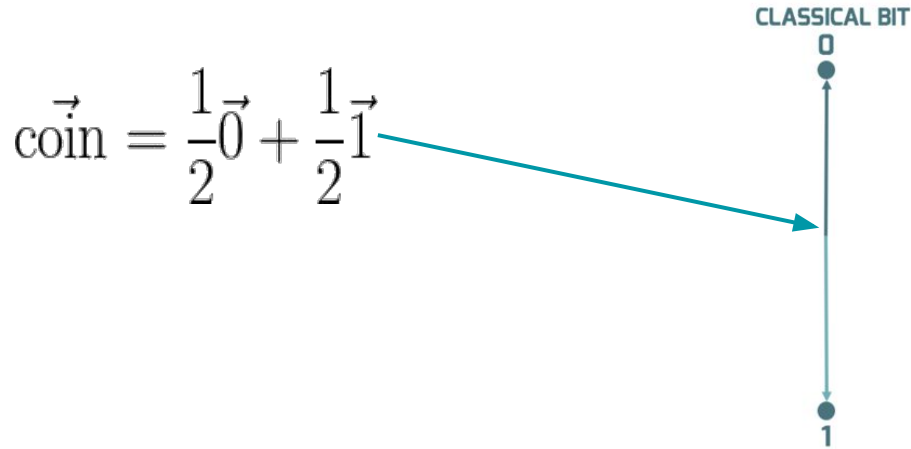
$|\alpha|^2 = \text{Probability of 0}$

$|\beta|^2 = \text{Probability of 1}$

How do I program a quantum computer?

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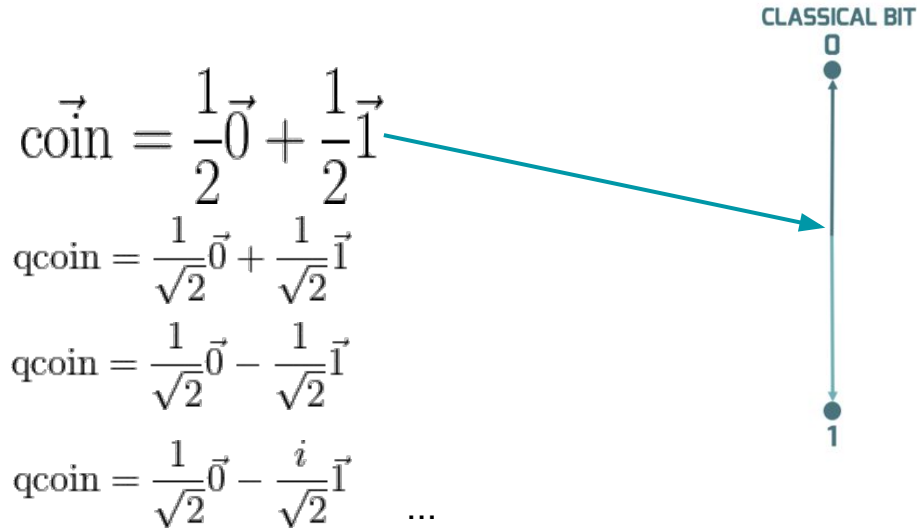
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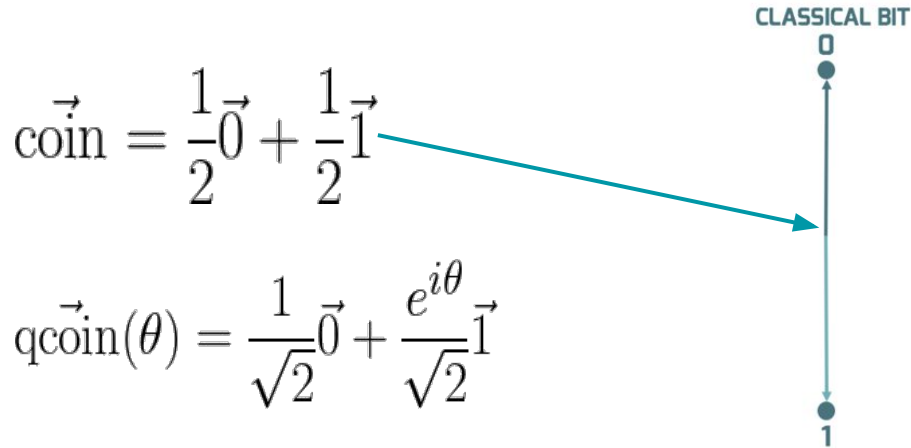
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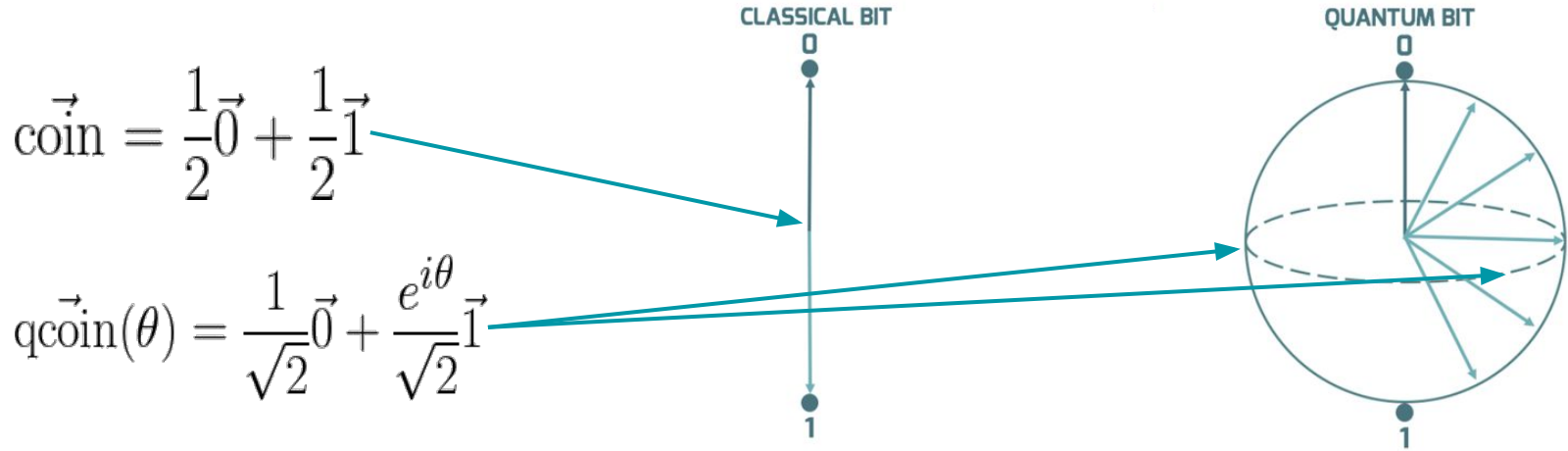
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State (multi-unit)	Bitstring $x \in \{0, 1\}^n$	Prob. Distribution (stochastic vector) $\vec{s} = \{p_x\}_{x \in \{0, 1\}^n}$	

$$\vec{s} = \bigotimes_i^n b_i$$

Probability of bitstring x

How do I program a quantum computer?

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$$\vec{\psi} = \bigotimes_i^n \psi_i$$

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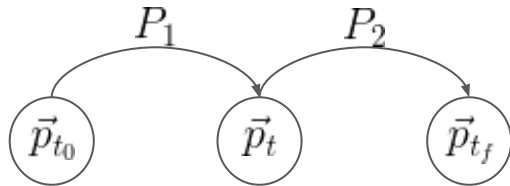
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$|\alpha_x|^2 = \text{Probability of bitstring } x$

How do I program a quantum computer?

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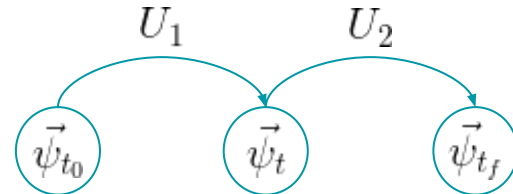
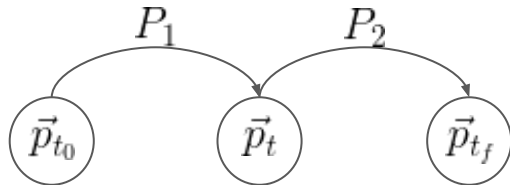
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Component Ops	Boolean Gates	Tensor products of matrices	Tensor products of matrices

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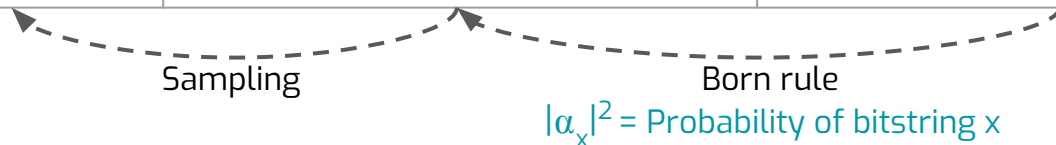
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Component Ops	Boolean Gates	Tensor products of matrices	Tensor products of matrices



How do I program a quantum computer?

Hybrid Quantum Computers | **Quantum Programming** | Hybrid Programming | Hybrid Algorithms

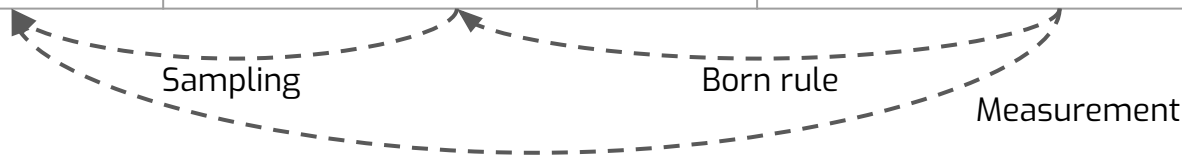
	Bits	Probabilistic Bits	Qubits
State (single unit)	Bit $\in \{0, 1\}$	Real vector $\vec{b} = a\vec{0} + b\vec{1}$ $a + b \in \mathbb{R}_+$ $a + b = 1$	Complex vector $\vec{\psi} = \alpha\vec{0} + \beta\vec{1}$ $\alpha, \beta \in \mathbb{C}$ $ \alpha ^2 + \beta ^2 = 1$
State (multi-unit)	Bitstring $x \in \{0, 1\}^n$	Prob. Distribution (stochastic vector) $\vec{s} = \{p_x\}_{x \in \{0, 1\}^n}$	Wavefunction (complex vector) $\vec{\psi} = \{\alpha_x\}_{x \in \{0, 1\}^n}$
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Quil (Quantum Instruction Language) gives each quantum operation an instruction

`<instruction> <qubit targets>`

Start in 0 \longrightarrow $\Psi = [1, 0, 0, 0]$

00 01 10 11

How do I program a quantum computer?

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`X 0 # “quantum NOT”`

$$\Psi = [1, 0, 0, 0]$$

00 01 10 11

$$X = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

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Apply X instr to 0th qubit → $\Psi = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 00 & 01 & 10 & 11 \end{bmatrix}$

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`X 0`
`H 0 # Hadamard gate`

$$\Psi = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 00 & 01 & 10 & 11 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$H = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 1 & -1 \end{bmatrix}$$

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00 01 10 11

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00 01 10 11

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Apply H instr to 0th qubit →

$$\psi = [1/\sqrt{2}, 1/\sqrt{2}, 0, 0]$$

00 01 10 11

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00 01 10 11

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$$\psi = [0, 1, 0, 0]$$

00 01 10 11

$$H = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 1 & -1 \end{bmatrix}$$

`CNOT 0 1`

$$\psi = [1/\sqrt{2}, 1/\sqrt{2}, 0, 0]$$

00 01 10 11

$$\text{CNOT} = cX = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

How do I program a quantum computer?

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$$H = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 1 & -1 \end{bmatrix}$$

`CNOT 0 1`

Apply CNOT instr to 0 and 1 qubits

$$\psi = \begin{bmatrix} 1/\sqrt{2} & 1/\sqrt{2} & 0 & 0 \\ 00 & 01 & 10 & 11 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\psi = \begin{bmatrix} 1/\sqrt{2} & 0 & 0 & 1/\sqrt{2} \\ 00 & 01 & 10 & 11 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\text{CNOT} = cX = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

How do I program a quantum computer?

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$$\Psi = [1, 0, 0, 0]$$

00 01 10 11

$$X = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

`X 0`
`H 0 # Hadamard gate`

$$\Psi = [0, 1, 0, 0]$$

00 01 10 11

$$H = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 1 & -1 \end{bmatrix}$$

`CNOT 0 1`

$$\Psi = [1/\sqrt{2}, 1/\sqrt{2}, 0, 0]$$

00 01 10 11

$$\text{CNOT} = cX = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\Psi = [1/\sqrt{2}, 0, 0, 1/\sqrt{2}]$$

00 01 10 11

Qubits 0 and 1 are ENTANGLED

How do I program a quantum computer?

Hybrid Quantum Computers | **Quantum Programming** | Hybrid Programming | Hybrid Algorithms

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X 0
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```

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CNOT 0 1
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```
# Move quantum data to classical data
```

```
# MEASURE <qubit register> [<bit register>]
```

```
MEASURE 0 [2]
```


How do I program a quantum computer?

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H 0 # Hadamard gate
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```
CNOT 0 1
```

$$\psi = [1/\sqrt{2}, 0, 0, 1/\sqrt{2}]$$

00 01 10 11

```
# Move quantum data to classical data
```

```
# MEASURE <qubit register> [<bit register>]
```

```
MEASURE 0 [2]
```

50-50 branch

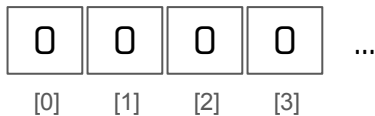
$$\psi = [1, 0, 0, 0]$$

00 01 10 11

$$\psi = [0, 0, 0, 1]$$

00 01 10 11

Classical Bit Register



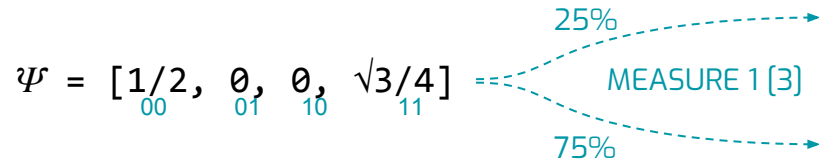
How do I program a quantum computer?

Hybrid Quantum Computers | **Quantum Programming** | Hybrid Programming | Hybrid Algorithms

Some more examples of MEASUREMENT

Quantum Memory

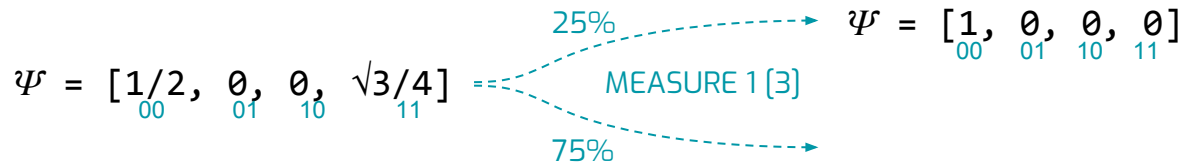
Classical Memory



How do I program a quantum computer?

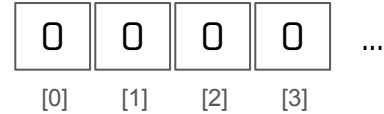
Hybrid Quantum Computers | **Quantum Programming** | Hybrid Programming | Hybrid Algorithms

Some more examples of MEASUREMENT



Quantum Memory

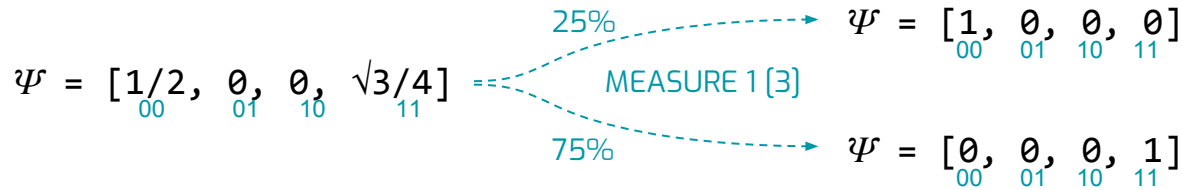
Classical Memory



How do I program a quantum computer?

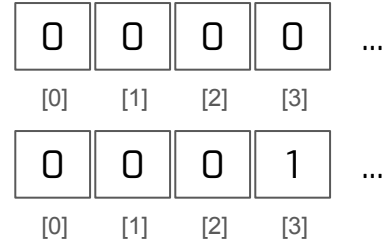
Hybrid Quantum Computers | **Quantum Programming** | Hybrid Programming | Hybrid Algorithms

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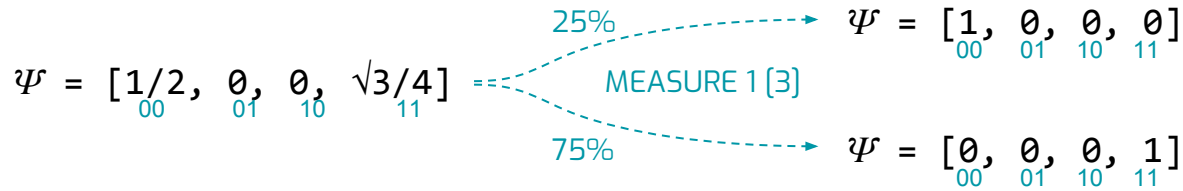
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How do I program a quantum computer?

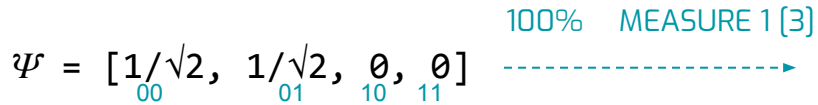
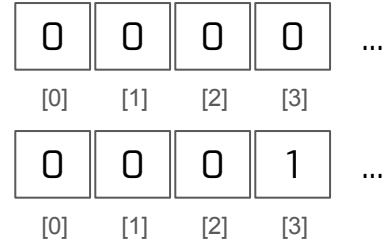
Hybrid Quantum Computers | **Quantum Programming** | Hybrid Programming | Hybrid Algorithms

Some more examples of MEASUREMENT



Quantum Memory

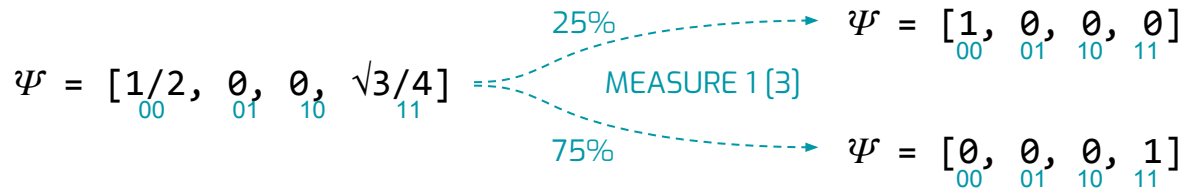
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How do I program a quantum computer?

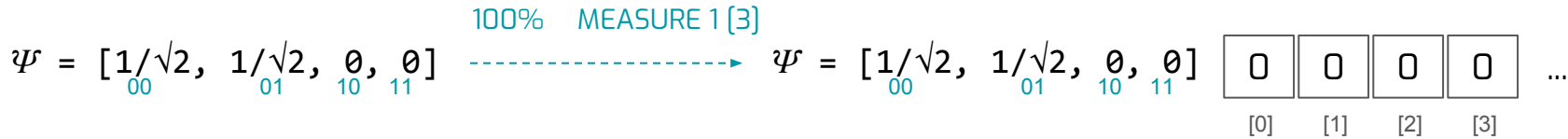
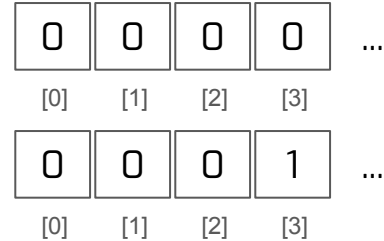
Hybrid Quantum Computers | **Quantum Programming** | Hybrid Programming | Hybrid Algorithms

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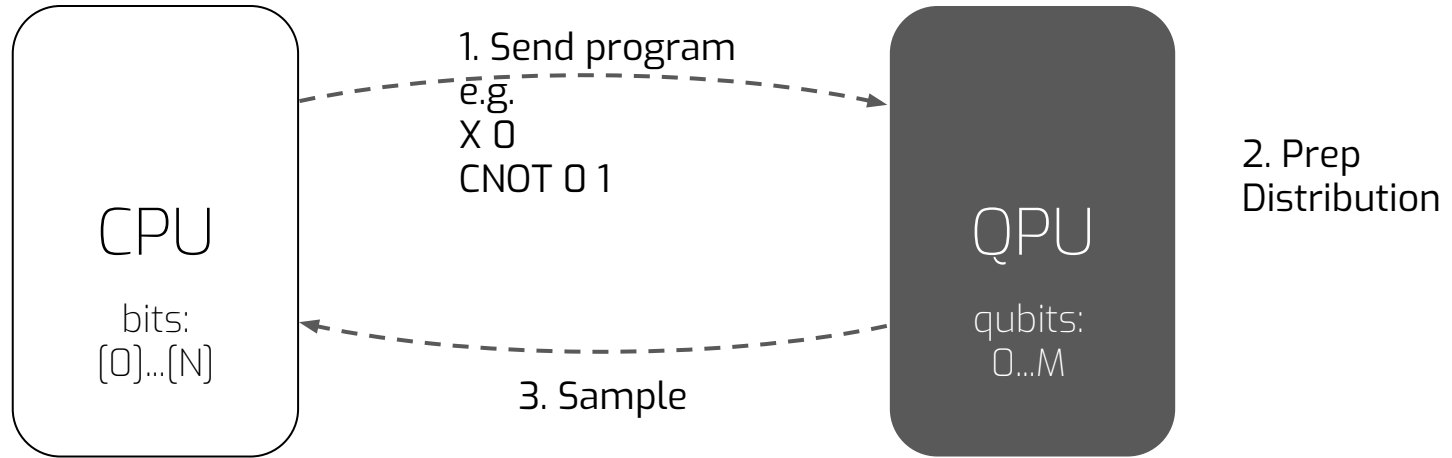
Classical Memory



How do I program a quantum computer?

Hybrid Quantum Computers | **Quantum Programming** | Hybrid Programming | Hybrid Algorithms

Quantum programming is preparing and sampling from complicated distributions



The Quil Programming Model

Targets a **Quantum Abstract Machine (QAM)** with a syntax for representing state transitions

Ψ : Quantum state (qubits) → quantum instructions

C : Classical state (bits) → classical and measurement instructions

κ : Execution state (program) → control instructions (e.g., jumps)

Quil Example

H 3

MEASURE 3 [4]

JUMP-WHEN @END [5]

•
•
•

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0. Initialize into zero states

QAM: Ψ_0, C_0, κ_0

1. Hadamard on
qubit 3

Ψ_1, C_0, κ_1

```
# Quil Example
```

```
H 3
```

```
MEASURE 3 [4]
```

```
JUMP-WHEN @END [5]
```

```
.  
. .  
. .
```

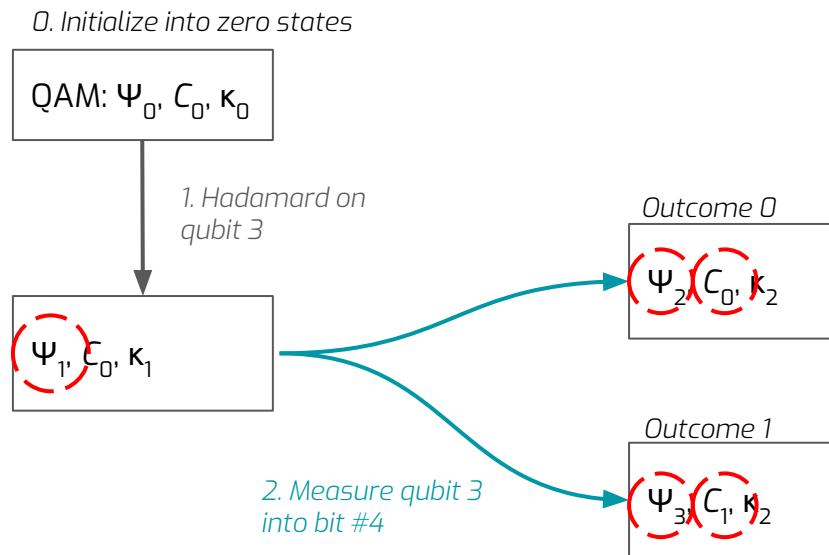
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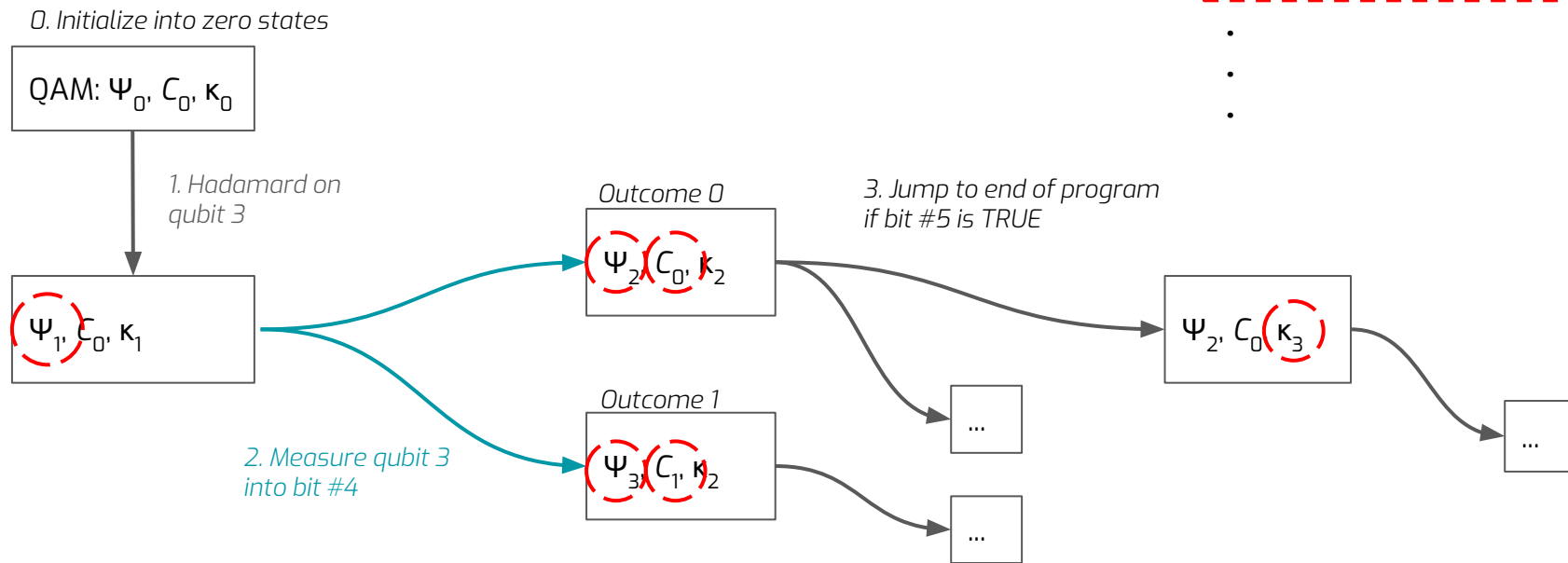
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JUMP-WHEN @END [5]

·
·
·



Quantum Computing Programming Languages



Quantum Universal Languages

PennyLane

XACC

ProjectQ

CirqProjectQ

Full-stack libraries

Quantum algorithms

Quantum circuits

Assembly language

Hardware

IBM	Rigetti	DWave	Xanadu	Google	Microsoft*	Qilimanjaro*
QISKit	Forest		Strawberry Fields	Cirq	Quantum Development Kit	
QISKit Aqua	Grove	QSage ToQ		OpenFermion -Cirq	Q#	
QISKit Terra	pyquil	qbsolv		Cirq		Qibo
Open QASM	Quil	QMASM	Blackbird	Other Quantum Machine Instruction Languages		
Quantum device						

* Hardware under development. Quantum programs are run on their own simulators.

"Quantum Language" is referred with no distinction both as a quantum equivalence of a programming language and as a library to write quantum programs supported by some well-known classical programming language.

Main tools in this course. All OSS Apache v2

Quantum Computing Programming Languages



Quantum Universal Languages

Full-stack libraries

Quantum algorithms

Quantum circuits

Assembly language

Hardware

PennyLane

XACC

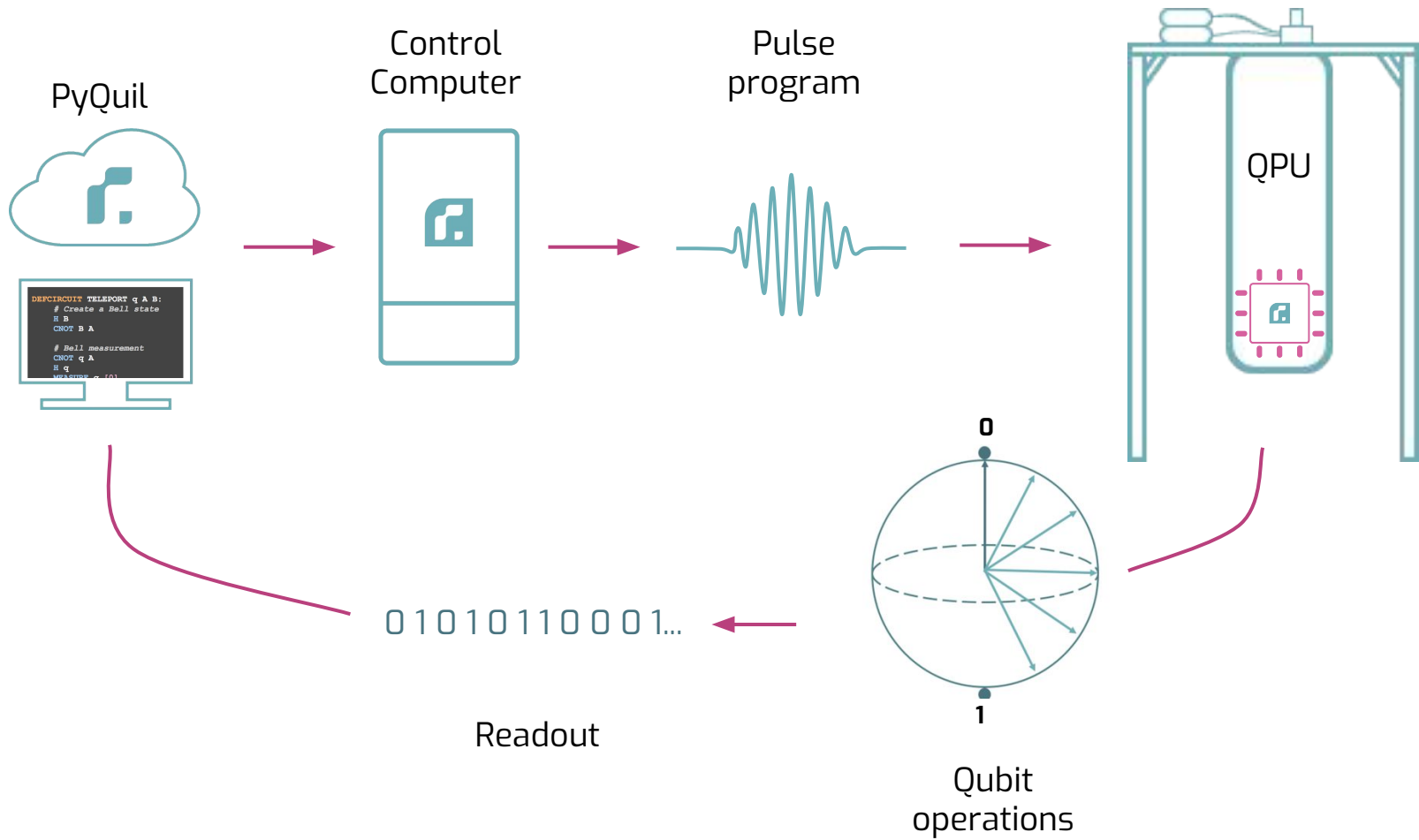
ProjectQ

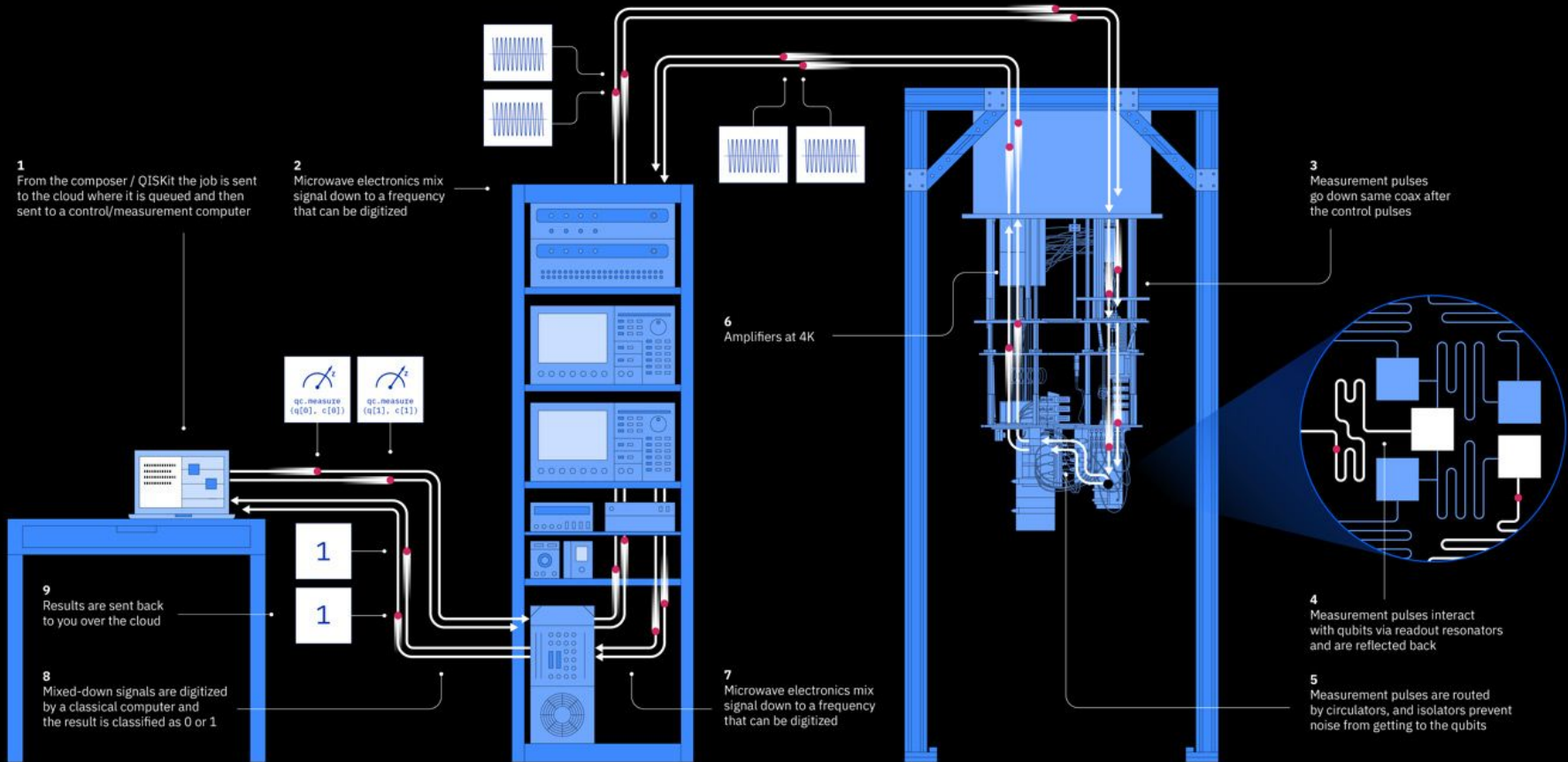
CirqProjectQ

IBM	Rigetti	DWave	Xanadu	Google	Microsoft*	Qilimanjaro*
QISKit	Forest		Strawberry Fields	Cirq	Quantum Development Kit	
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How do I program a quantum computer?

Hybrid Quantum Computers | Quantum Programming | Hybrid Programming | **Hybrid Algorithms**

We need hybrid programming because of errors

Chance of hardware error in a classical computer:

0.000,000,000,000,000,000,000,1 %

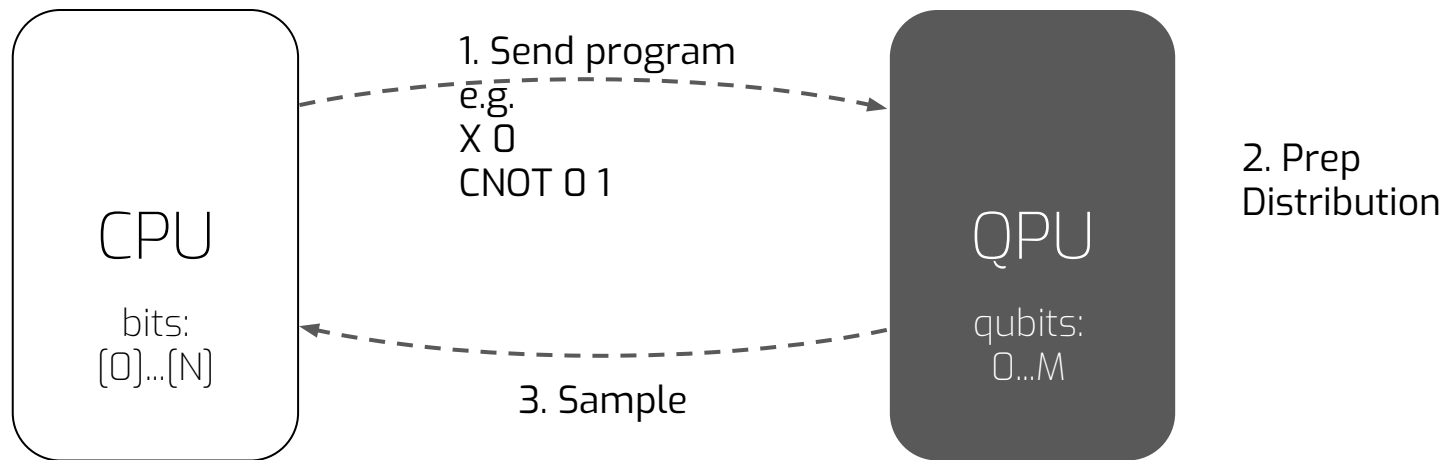
Chance of hardware error in a [quantum computer](#):

0.1%

How do I program a quantum computer?

Hybrid Quantum Computers | Quantum Programming | Hybrid Programming | **Hybrid Algorithms**

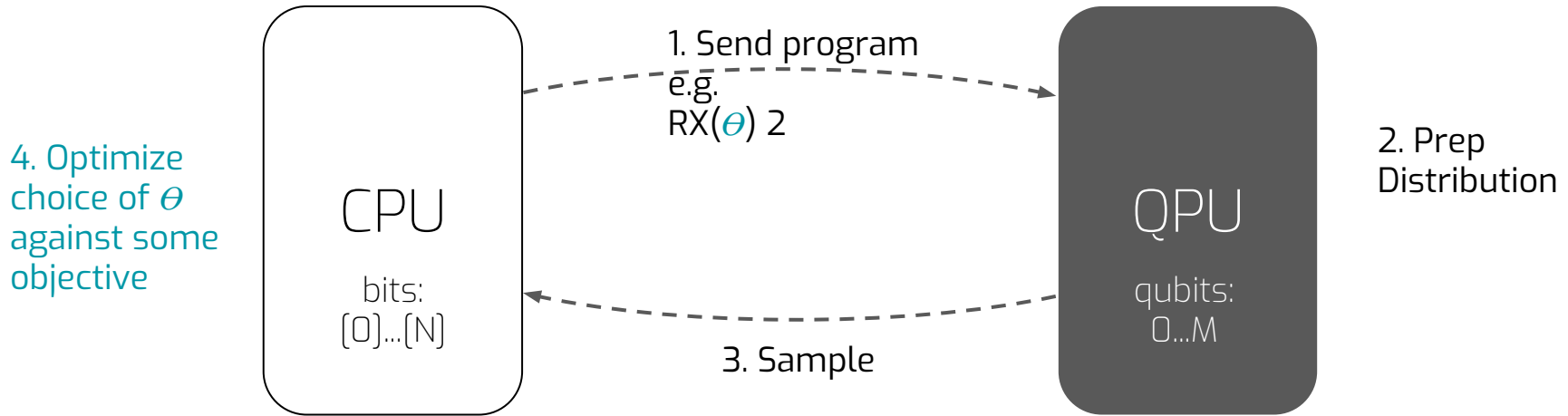
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How do I program a quantum computer?

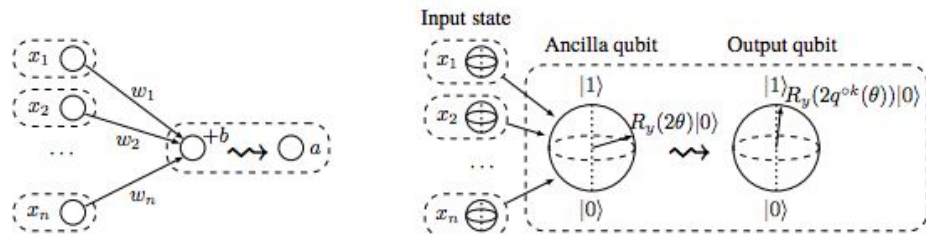
Hybrid Quantum Computers | Quantum Programming | Hybrid Programming | **Hybrid Algorithms**

By parameterizing quantum programs we can train them to be robust to noise



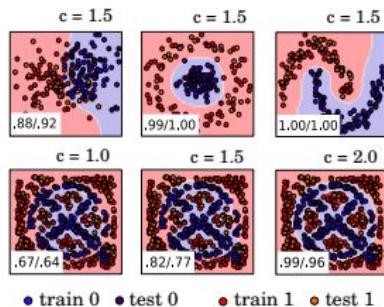
Quantum Machine Learning

> Quantum neuron: an elementary building block for machine learning on quantum computers. (Cao et al. 2017)

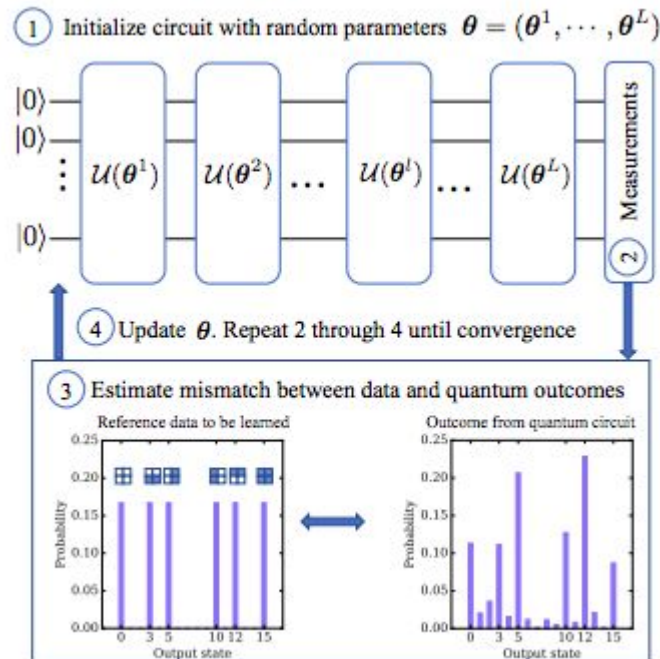


> Quantum circuit learning. (Mitarai et al. 2018)

> Quantum machine learning in feature Hilbert spaces. (Schuld and Killoran 2018)



A generative modeling approach for benchmarking and training shallow quantum circuits. (Benedetti et al. 2018)



The Variational Quantum Eigensolver

Used for the electronic structure problem in quantum chemistry

1. MOLECULAR DESCRIPTION

e.g. Electronic Structure Hamiltonian

$$H = \sum_{i,j < i}^{N_n} \frac{Z_i Z_j}{|R_i - R_j|} + \sum_{i=1}^{N_e} \frac{-\nabla_{r_i}^2}{2} - \sum_{ij}^{N_n, N_e} \frac{Z_i}{|R_i - r_j|} + \sum_{i,j < i}^{N_e} \frac{1}{|r_i - r_j|}$$

2. MAP TO QUBIT REPRESENTATION

e.g. Bravyi-Kitaev or Jordan-Wigner Transform

e.g. DI-HYDROGEN

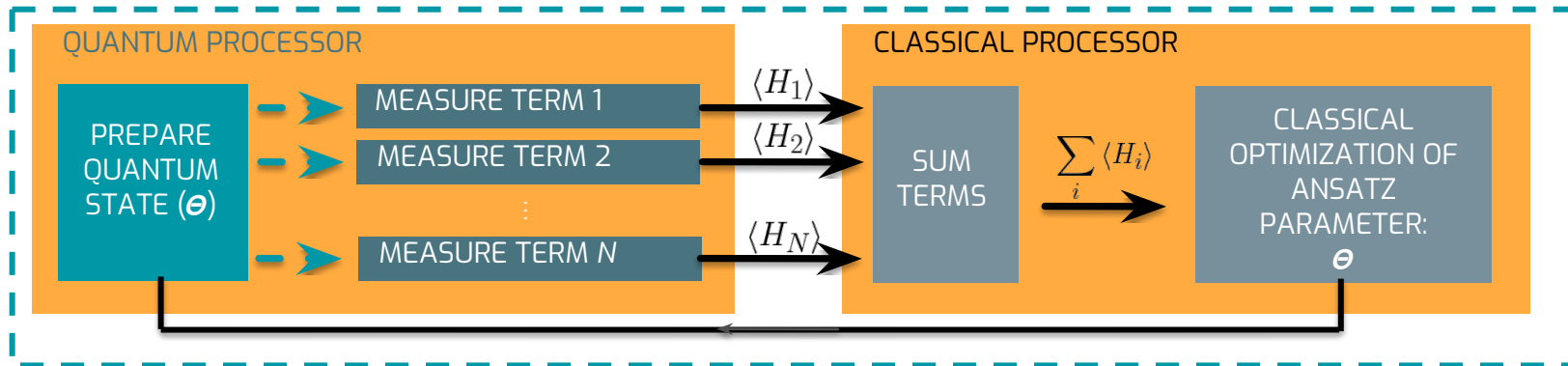
$$\begin{aligned} H = & f_0 \mathbb{1} + f_1 Z_0 + f_2 Z_1 + f_3 Z_2 + f_1 Z_0 Z_1 \\ & + f_4 Z_0 Z_2 + f_5 Z_1 Z_3 + f_6 X_0 Z_1 X_2 + f_6 Y_0 Z_1 Y_2 \\ & + f_7 Z_0 Z_1 Z_2 + f_4 Z_0 Z_2 Z_3 + f_3 Z_1 Z_2 Z_3 \\ & + f_6 X_0 Z_1 X_2 Z_3 + f_6 Y_0 Z_1 Y_2 Z_3 + f_7 Z_0 Z_1 Z_2 Z_3 \end{aligned}$$

3. PARAMETERIZED ANSATZ

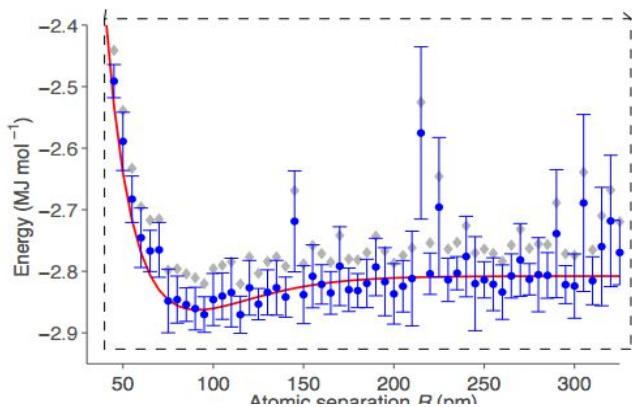
e.g. Unitary Coupled Cluster Variational Adiabatic Ansatz

$$\frac{\langle \varphi(\vec{\theta}) | H | \varphi(\vec{\theta}) \rangle}{\langle \varphi(\vec{\theta}) | \varphi(\vec{\theta}) \rangle} \geq E_0$$

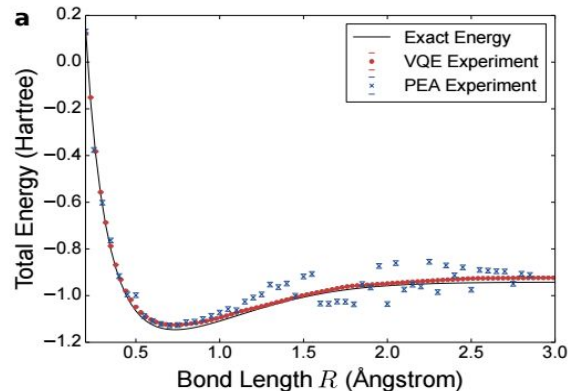
4. RUN Q.V.E. QUANTUM-CLASSICAL HYBRID ALGORITHM



VQE Simulations on Quantum Hardware

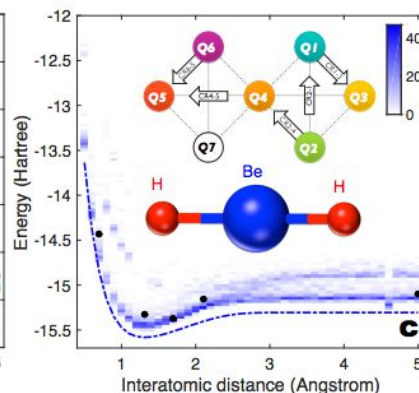
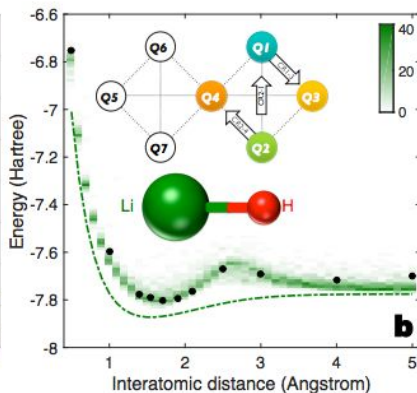
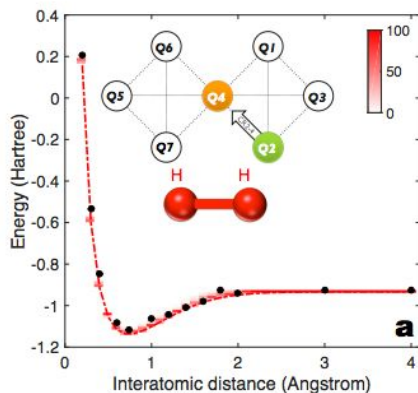


Peruzzo et al. 1304.3061



O'Malley et al. 1512.06860

Kandala et al.
1704.05018



Quantum Approximate Optimization Algorithm

[QAOA] Hybrid algorithm used for constraint satisfaction problems

Given binary constraints:

$$z \in \{0, 1\}^n$$

$$C_a(z) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } z \text{ satisfies the constraint } a \\ 0 & \text{if } z \text{ does not} \end{cases}$$

MAXIMIZE

$$C(z) = \sum_{a=1}^m C_a(z)$$

Traveling Salesperson Scheduling

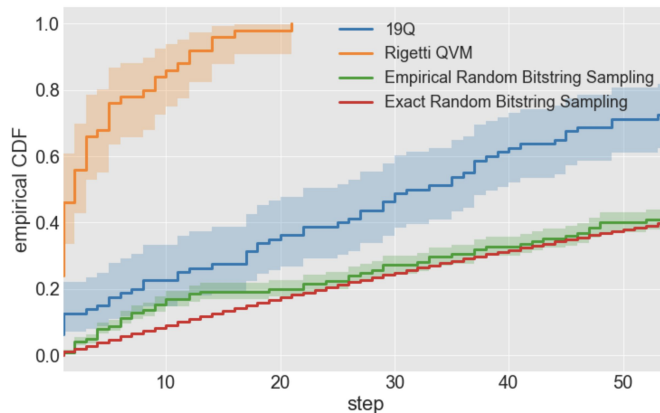
K-means clustering

Boltzmann Machine Training

Hadfield et al. 2017 [1709.03489]

Otterbach et al. 2017 [1712.05771]

Verdon et al. 2017 [1712.05304]



QAOA in Forest

In **19** lines of code

```
from pyquil import Program
from pyquil.api import WavefunctionSimulator
from pyquil.gates import H
from pyquil.paulis import sZ, sX, sI, exponentiate_commuting_pauli_sum

graph = [(0, 1), (1, 2), (2, 3), (3, 0)]
nodes = range(4)

init_state_prog = sum([H(i) for i in nodes], Program())
h_cost = -0.5 * sum(sI(nodes[0]) - sZ(i) * sZ(j) for i, j in graph)
h_driver = -1. * sum(sX(i) for i in nodes)

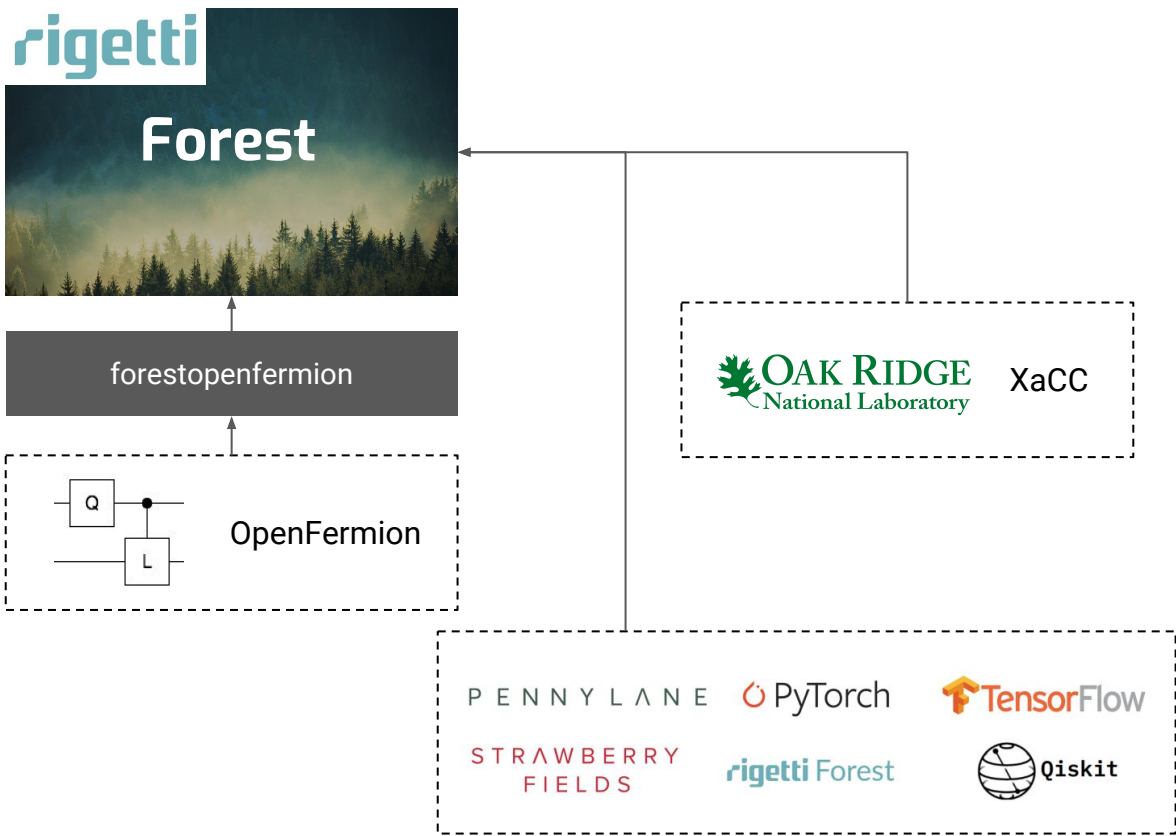
def qaoa_ansatz(betas, gammas):
    return sum([exponentiate_commuting_pauli_sum(h_cost)(g) + \
                exponentiate_commuting_pauli_sum(h_driver)(b) \
                for g, b in zip(gammas, betas)], Program())

def qaoa_cost(params):
    half = int(len(params)/2)
    betas, gammas = params[:half], params[half:]
    program = init_state_prog + qaoa_ansatz(betas, gammas)
    return WavefunctionSimulator().expectation(prepare_program=program, pauli_terms=h_cost)

minimize(qaoa_cost, x0=[0., 0.5, 0.75, 1.], method='Nelder-Mead', options={'disp': True})
```

Open areas in quantum programming

- > Debuggers
- > Optimizing compilers
- > Application specific packages
- > **Adoption and implementations**



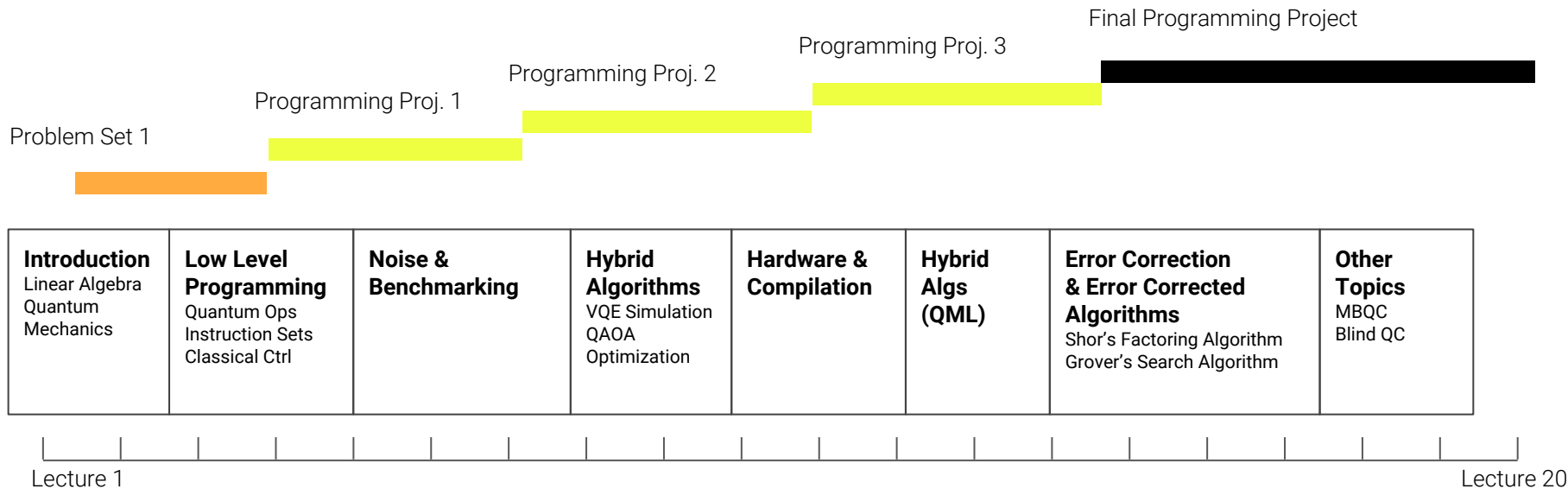
Q1. Why program a quantum computer?

New power | New opportunity | Fundamental curiosity

Q2. How do I program a quantum computer?

Hybrid quantum programming (usually) **in Python!**

Course Topics & Timeline



Actions for between now and the next lecture:

1. Read the syllabus.
2. Read Mike & Ike Chapters 1 & 2. Especially review Sections 2.2, 2.3 & 2.6.
3. Review Linear Algebra. You will need:
 - Vectors and linear maps
 - Bases and linear independence
 - Pauli Matrices
 - Inner Products
 - Eigenvalues & Eigenvectors
 - Adjoins
 - Hermitian Operators
 - Unitary Matrices
 - Tensor Products
 - Matrix Exponentials
 - Traces
 - Commutators and Anti-commutators
4. Download and install pyQuil: <https://pyquil.readthedocs.io>