

# Quantum Computers: What, How, When?

Christopher  
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Duke  
Quantum  
Center



Duke  
UNIVERSITY

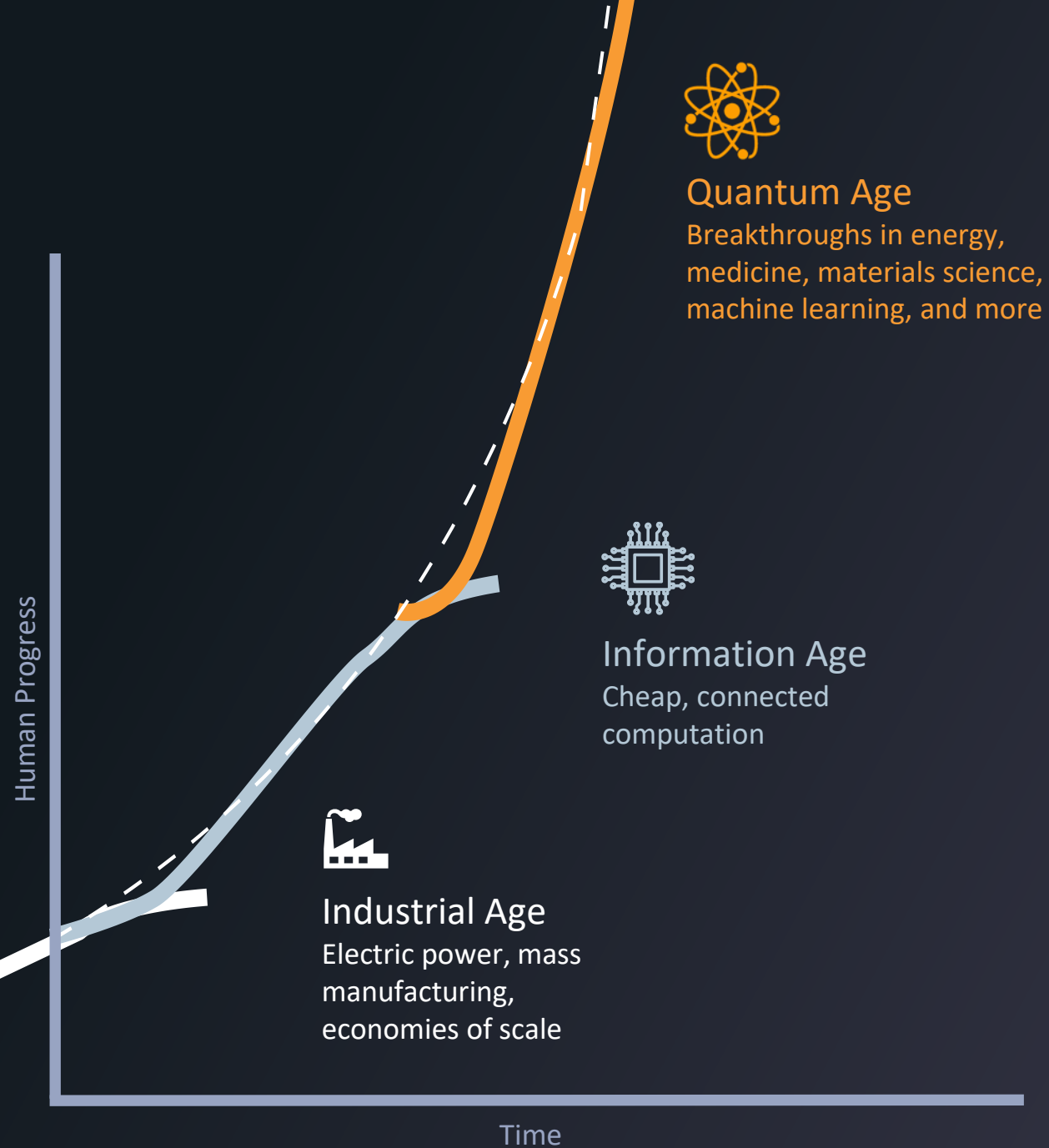
Department of Elec. and Comp. Engineering  
Department of Physics



IONQ

# The Next Technological Revolution Is Quantum

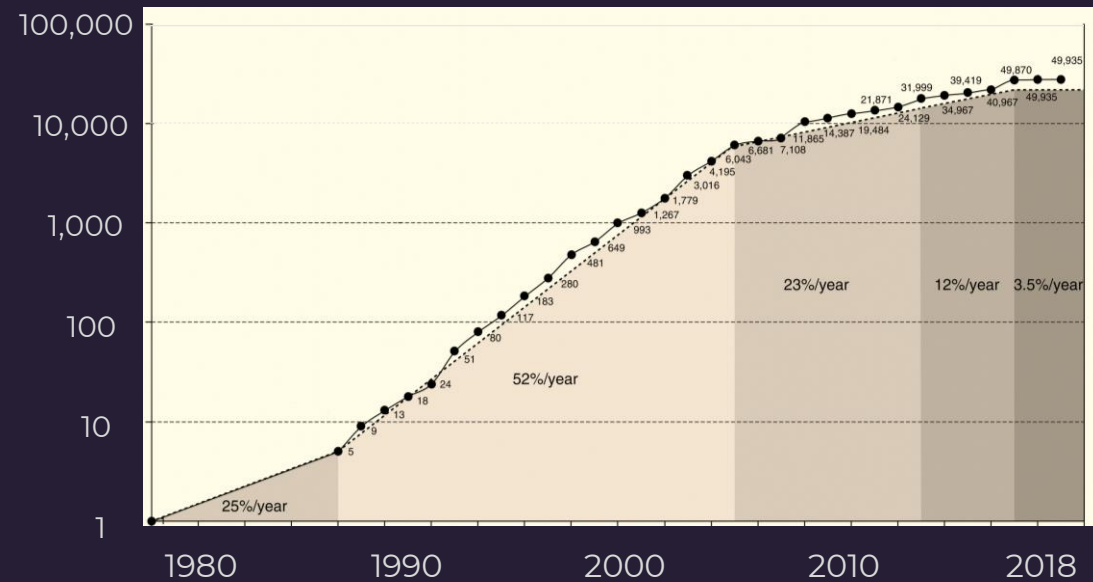
Quantum Computers are poised to take over where conventional computers and Moore's Law leave off. This quantum revolution will touch every sector of the economy.



# Moore's Law

## exponential growth in computing

Transistor density relative to 1978



Richard Feynman

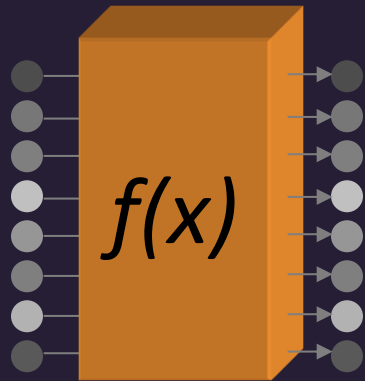
### *There's Plenty of Room at the Bottom (1959)*

“When we get to the very, very small world – say circuits of seven atoms – we have a lot of new things that would happen that represent **completely new opportunities for design**. Atoms on a small scale behave like nothing on a large scale, for they satisfy the **laws of quantum mechanics**...”

## Good News...

parallel processing  
on  $2^N$  inputs

e.g.,  $N=3$  qubits

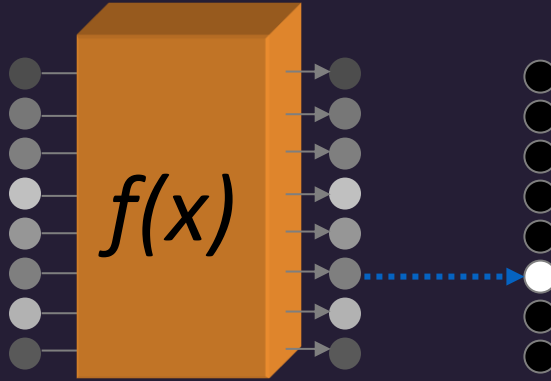


$$a_0|000\rangle + a_1|001\rangle + a_2|010\rangle + a_3|011\rangle \\ a_4|100\rangle + a_5|101\rangle + a_6|110\rangle + a_7|111\rangle$$

$N = 300$  qubits have more  
configurations than there are  
particles in the universe!

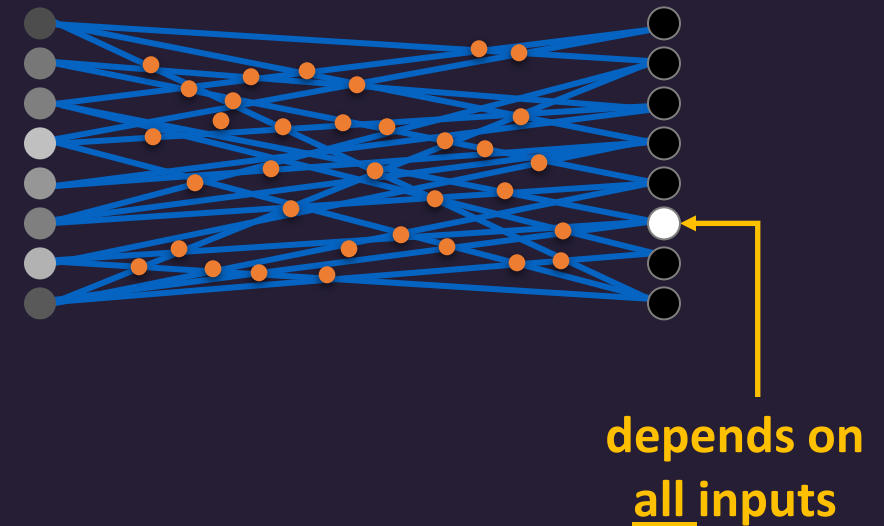
## ...Bad News...

measurement gives  
random result



## ...Good News!

quantum interference



# Application: Factoring Numbers

A quantum computer can factor numbers **exponentially faster** than classical computers

$39 = 3 \times 13$  (...easy)

$38647884621009387621432325631 = ? \times ?$

P. Shor (1994)

Factor  $N$  ( $n$  bits)

Best classical algorithm:

$$time \sim e^{n^{1/3}(\log n)^{2/3}}$$

Shor's quantum algorithm:

$$time \sim (\log \log n)(\log n)n^2$$

use case: code-breaking



Key  
generation

$$n = P * Q$$
$$d * e = 1 \bmod \Phi(n)$$

Encryption

$$c = m^e \bmod n$$

Public Key( $n, e$ )

Decryption

$$m = c^d \bmod n$$

private key ( $d$ )

# Application: Optimization



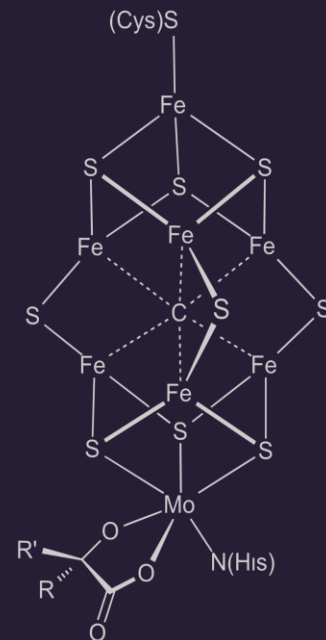
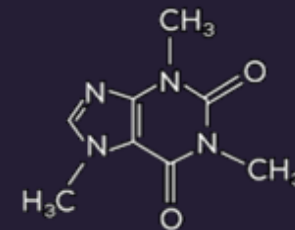
## Traveling Salesman problem

what is the  
shortest path  
through  $N$  cities?



## Molecular Simulations

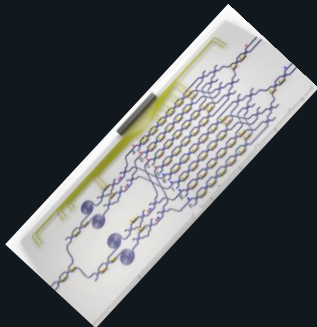
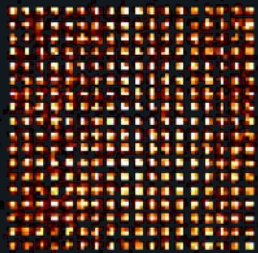
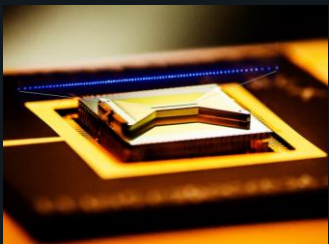
designer materials  
new catalysts





# Quantum Technologies

## Natural Qubits



### Trapped Ions

Electrically charged atoms, or ions, are held in place with electric fields. Qubits are stored in electronic states. Ions are pushed with laser beams to allow the qubits to interact.

### Neutral Atoms

Neutral atoms, like ions, store qubits within electronic states. Laser activates the electrons to create interaction between qubits.

### Photonics

Photonic qubits are sent through a maze of optical channels on a chip to interact. At the end of the maze, the distribution of photons is measured as output.

### Qubit Coherence Time (sec)

>1000	1	--
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### Fidelity

99.9%	99.5%	--
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### Qubits Connected

High	Very high; low individual control	--
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### Companies

IonQ, Quantinuum, AQT Oxford Ionics, Universal Qu.,...	Atom Computing, ColdQuanta, QuEra, Pasqal, Planqc, M <sup>2</sup>	PsiQuantum, Xanadu
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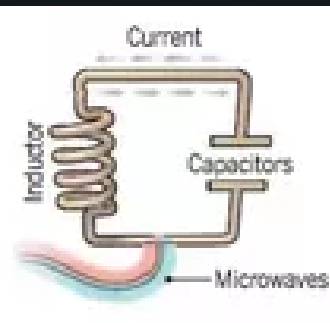
### Pros

Very stable. Highest achieved gate fidelities.	Many qubits, 2D and maybe 3D.	Linear optical gates, integrated on-chip.
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### Cons

Slow operation. Many lasers are needed.	Hard to program and control individual qubits; prone to noise.	Each program requires its own chip with unique optical channels. No memory.
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## Synthetic Qubits



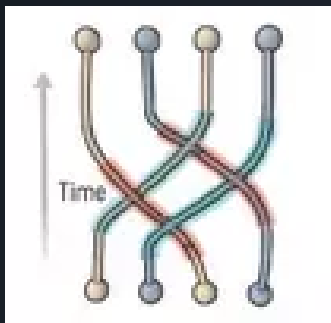
### Superconducting Loops

A resistance-free current oscillates back and forth around a circuit loop. An injected microwave signal excites the current into super-position states.



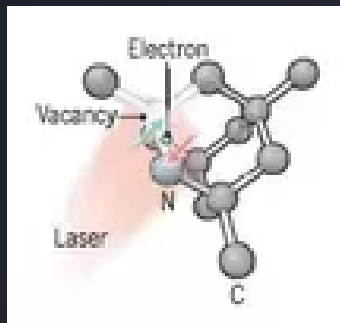
### Silicon Quantum Dots

These “artificial atoms” are made by adding an electron to a small piece of pure silicon. Microwaves control the electron’s quantum state.



### Topological Qubits

Quasiparticles can be seen in the behavior of electrons channeled through semi-conductor structures. Their braided paths can encode quantum information.



### Diamond Vacancies

A nitrogen atom and a vacancy add an electron to a diamond lattice. Its quantum spin state, along with those of nearby carbon nuclei, can be controlled with light.

0.00005	0.03	N/A	10
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99.4%	~99%	N/A	99.2%
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High	Very Low	N/A	Low
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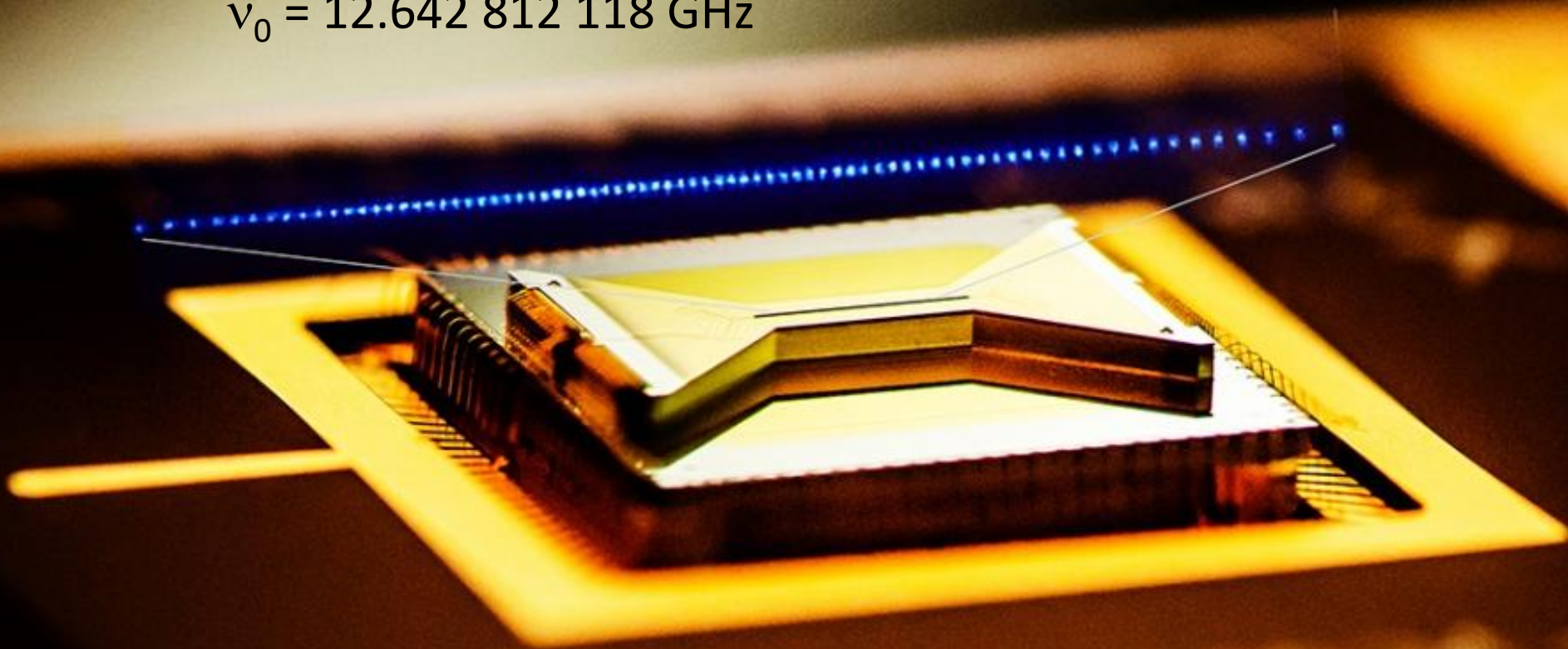
Google, IBM, QCI, Rigetti	HRL, Intel, SQC	Microsoft	Quantum Diamond Technologies
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Can lay out physical circuits on chip.	Borrows from existing semiconductor industry.	Greatly reduce errors.	Can operate at room temperature.
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Must be cooled to near absolute zero. High variability in fabrication. Lots of noise.	Only a few connected. Must be cooled to near absolute zero. High variability in fabrication.	Existence not yet confirmed.	Difficult to create high numbers of qubits, limiting compute capacity.
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# Ion Traps

$^{171}\text{Yb}^+$  atoms (80 ion string)  
4  $\mu\text{m}$  spacing, 100  $\mu\text{m}$  altitude  
 $\nu_0 = 12.642\,812\,118\text{ GHz}$





# “Standard” Gates between Trapped Ions



dipole-dipole coupling  $\Delta E = \frac{e^2}{\sqrt{r^2 + \delta^2}} - \frac{e^2}{r} \approx -\frac{(e\delta)^2}{2r^3}$   $\delta \sim 10 \text{ nm}$   
 $e\delta \sim 500 \text{ Debye}$

$$\begin{aligned} |\downarrow\downarrow\rangle &\rightarrow |\downarrow\downarrow\rangle \\ |\downarrow\uparrow\rangle &\rightarrow e^{-i\varphi} |\downarrow\uparrow\rangle \\ |\uparrow\downarrow\rangle &\rightarrow e^{-i\varphi} |\uparrow\downarrow\rangle \\ |\uparrow\uparrow\rangle &\rightarrow |\uparrow\uparrow\rangle \end{aligned} \longrightarrow \varphi = \frac{\Delta E t}{\hbar} = \frac{e^2 \delta^2 t}{2\hbar r^3} = \frac{\pi}{2} \quad \text{for full entanglement}$$

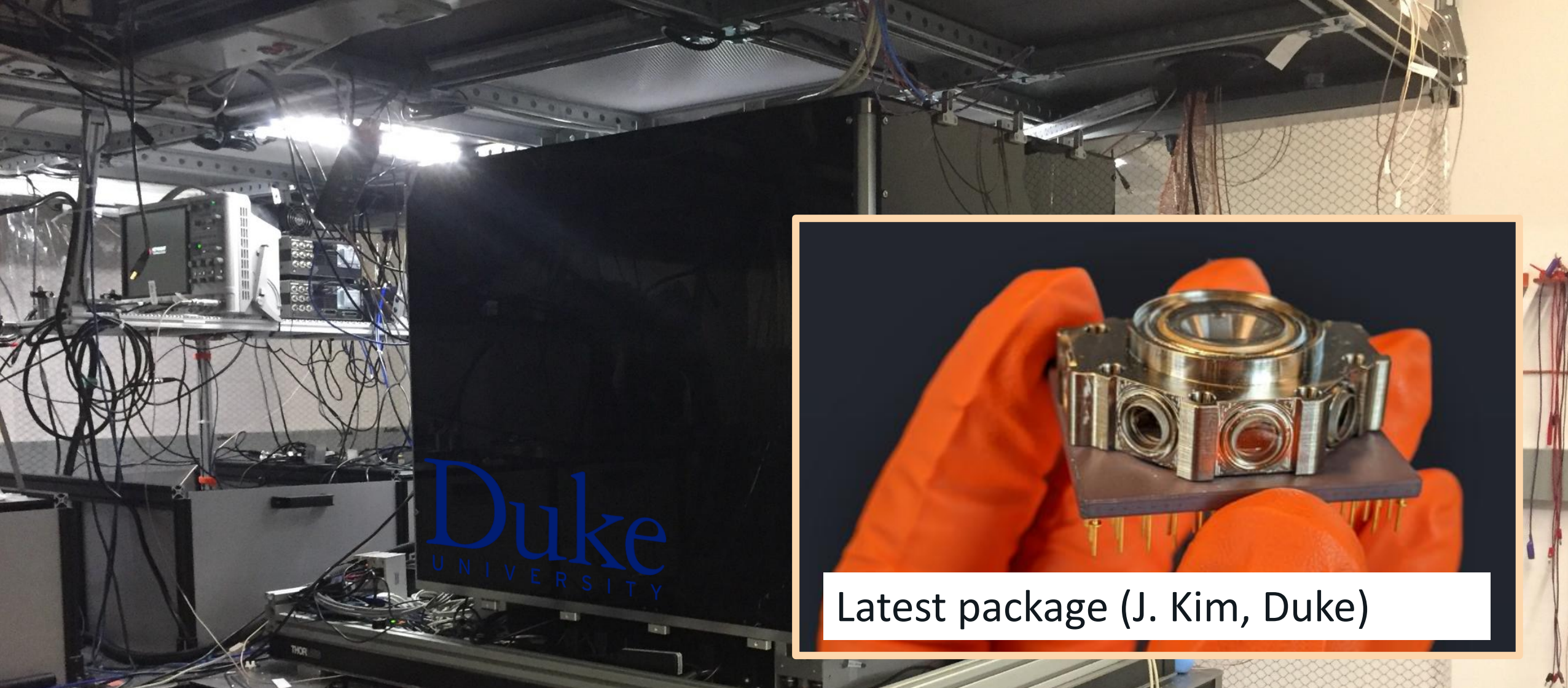
Native Ion Trap Operation: “Ising” gate

$$XX[\varphi] = e^{-i\sigma_x^{(1)} \sigma_x^{(2)} \varphi}$$

$$\tau_{\text{gate}} \sim 10\text{--}400 \mu\text{s}$$

$$F \sim 98\% - 99.9\%$$

Cirac and Zoller (1995)  
 Mølmer & Sørensen (1999)  
 Solano, de Matos Filho, Zagury (1999)  
 Milburn, Schneider, James (2000)



Latest package (J. Kim, Duke)



# Quantum Computer/Simulator “Stack”



**User**

PHYSICS, CHEMISTRY, BIOLOGY,  
AI/ML, ECONOMICS, etc...

**Compiler**

COMPUTER SCIENCE

**Controller**

ENGINEERING

**Qubit Hardware**

PHYSICS (AMO, CM, etc.)

# Classical *Interactive* Certification of a Quantum Computation

Examples of cryptographic functions with a “trap door”

## 1. Learning with Errors (LWE)

Compute  $f(b; x) = Ax + b \cdot (As + e)$   
given matrix  $A$ , and  $As + e$  ( $e$ : error vector)

→ Find hidden vector  $s$

## 2. “Rabin” cryptographic encoding

Compute  $f(x) = x^2 \pmod{N}$  with  $N = pq$

$f(x)$  is 2:1, but if you know only one input,  
hard to find the other, unless you know  $p$  and  $q$ .

→ Determine if two colliding inputs have the  
same or opposite parity



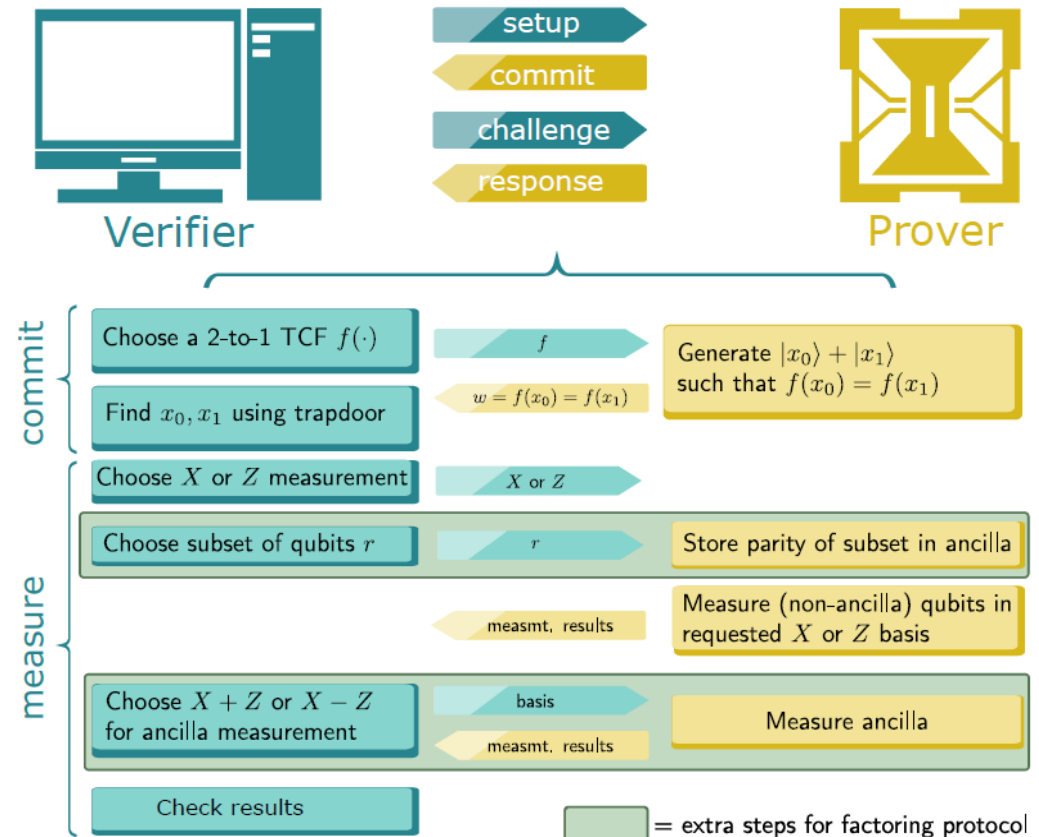
Norman Yao  
(Harvard)



Umesh Vazirani  
(Berkeley)



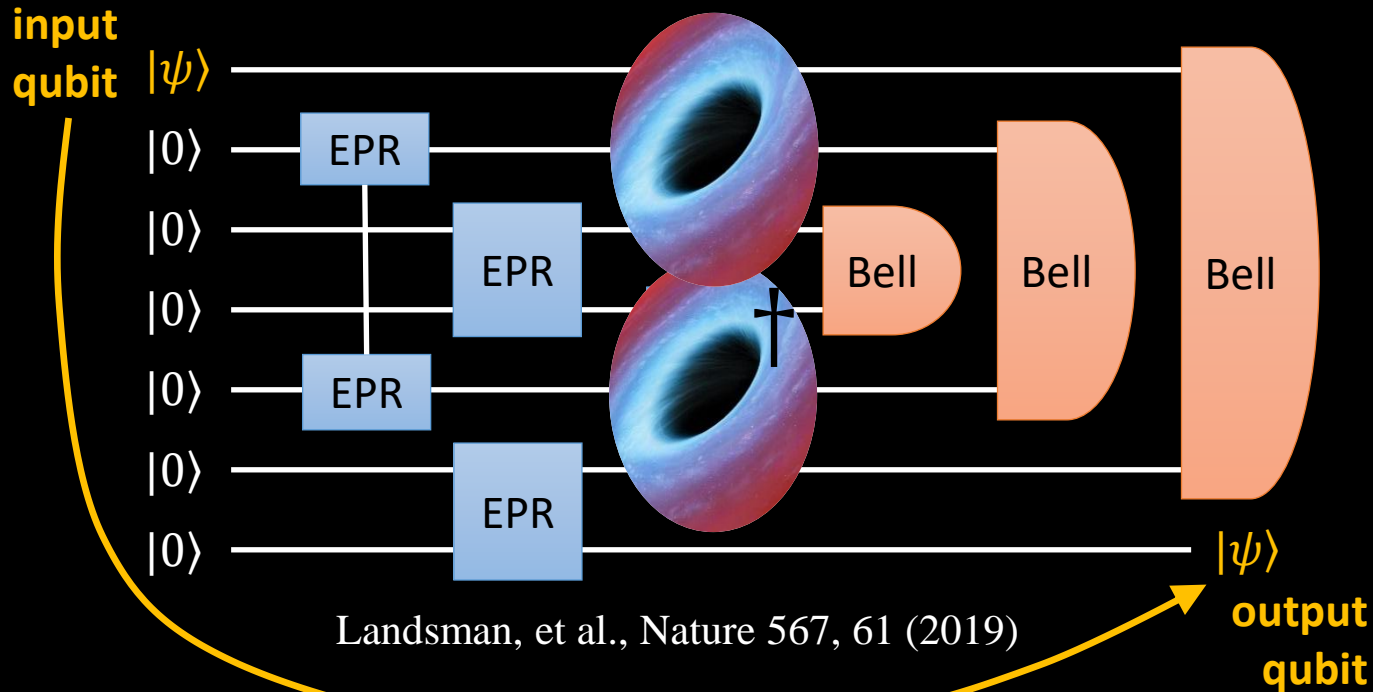
Thomas Vidick  
(CalTech)



# Cosmology + Quantum Gravity

## Quantum Scrambling

**Scrambling:** “complete diffusion” of quantum information, relevant to information evolution in black holes



*Successful teleportation if  $U$  scrambles*



Beni Yoshida  
(Waterloo/CalTech)

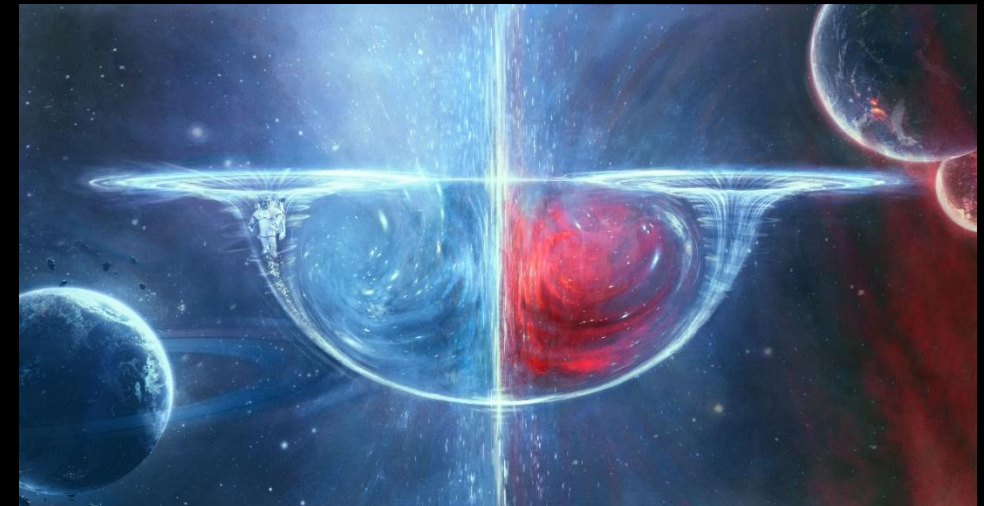


Leonard Susskind  
(Stanford)



Norman Yao  
(Berkeley)

*In 1935, Einstein and Rosen showed that widely-separated black holes can be connected by a tunnel through space-time, now known as a **wormhole***



*Physicists suspect that the connection in a wormhole and the connection in quantum entanglement **are the same thing, just on a vastly different scale!***

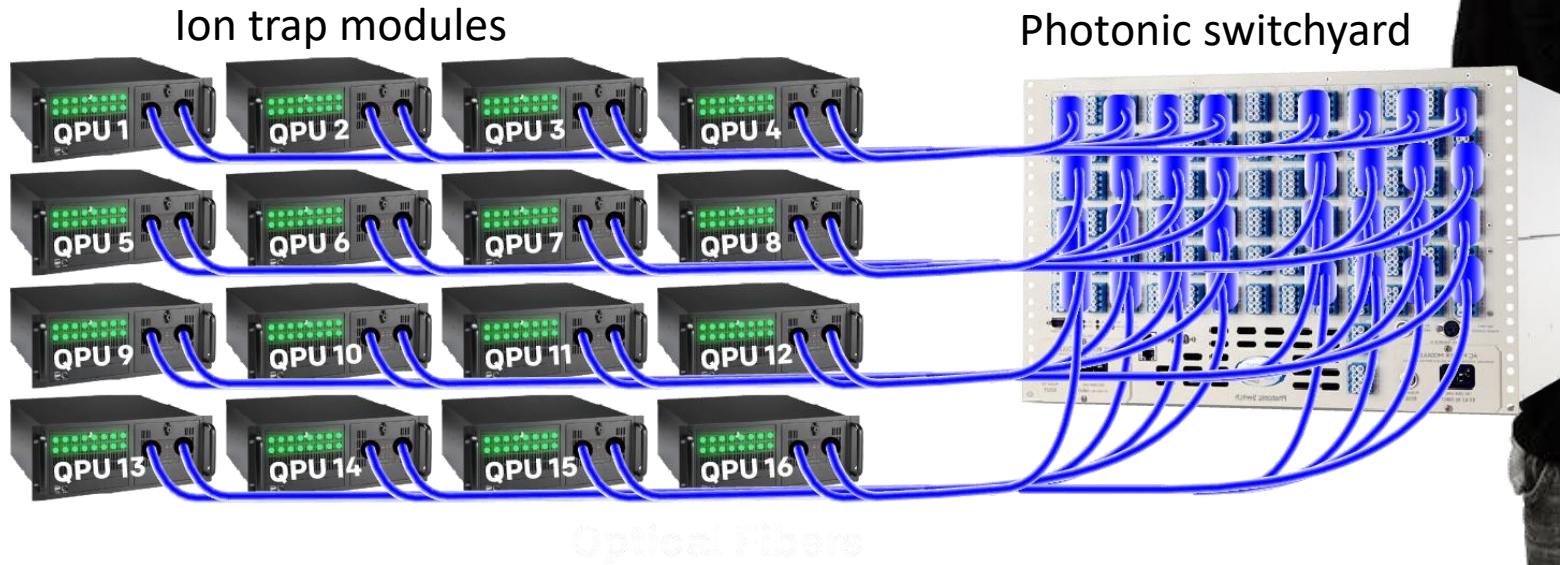


PHYSICAL REVIEW A **89**, 022317 (2014)

## Large-scale modular quantum-computer architecture with atomic memory and photonic interconnects

C. Monroe,<sup>1</sup> R. Raussendorf,<sup>2</sup> A. Ruthven,<sup>2</sup> K. R. Brown,<sup>3</sup> P. Maunz,<sup>4,\*</sup> L.-M. Duan,<sup>5</sup> and J. Kim<sup>4</sup>

**This reads like a business plan!**



**IONQ**

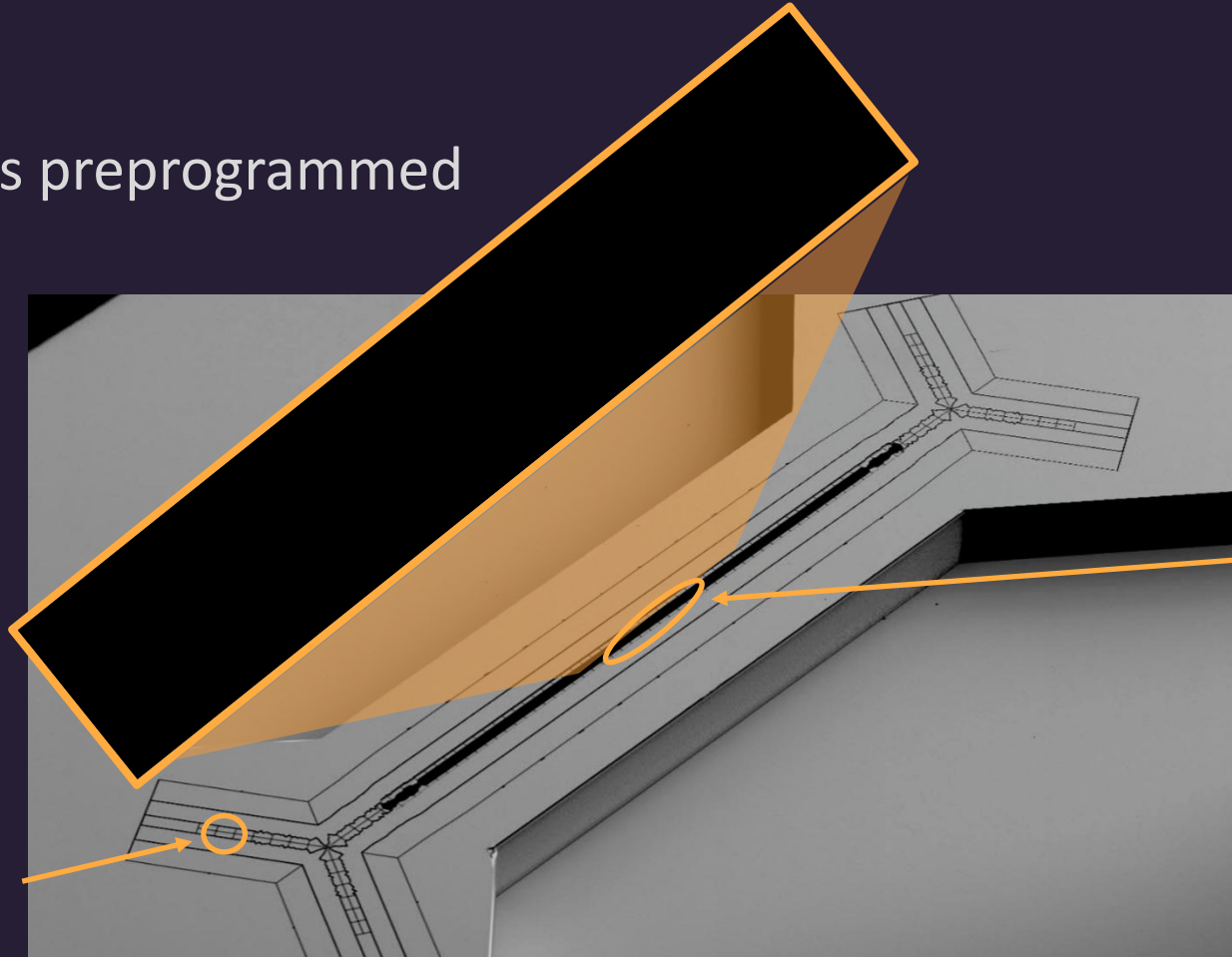
**Harry Weller (1969-2016)**  
**Venture Capitalist & Partner**  
**New Enterprise Associates**



# IONQ autoloading register

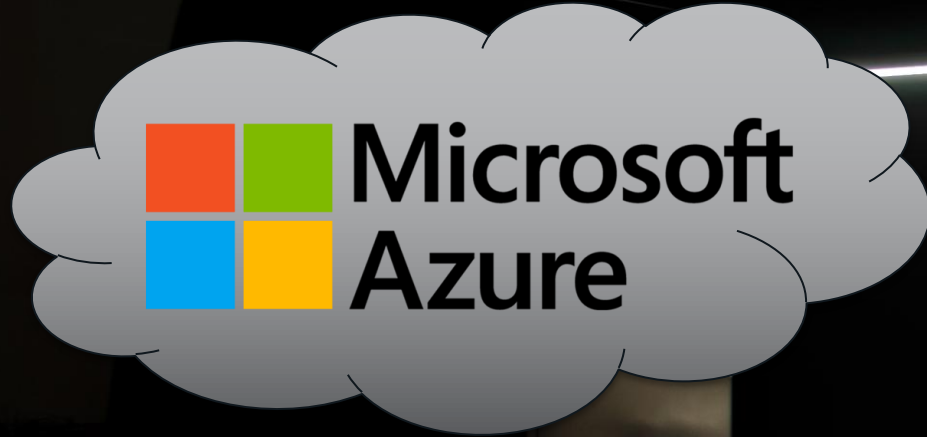
N=24 qubits preprogrammed

Loading  
zone

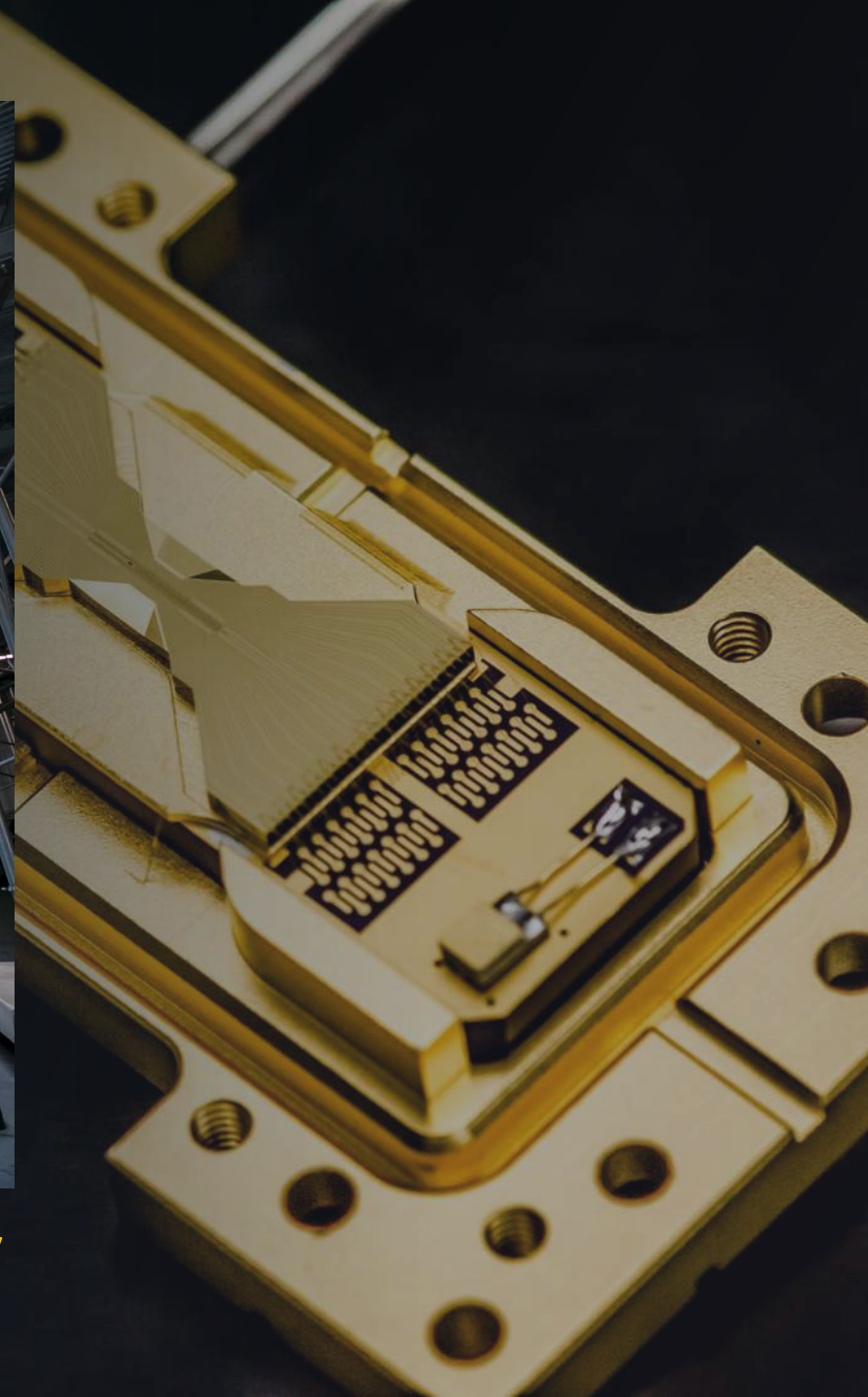


Quantum  
Computing  
zone

# IonQ Systems on the cloud



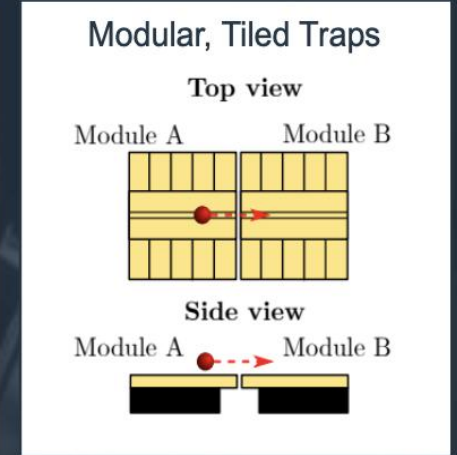
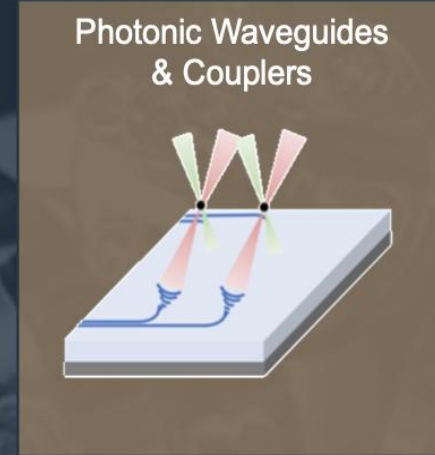
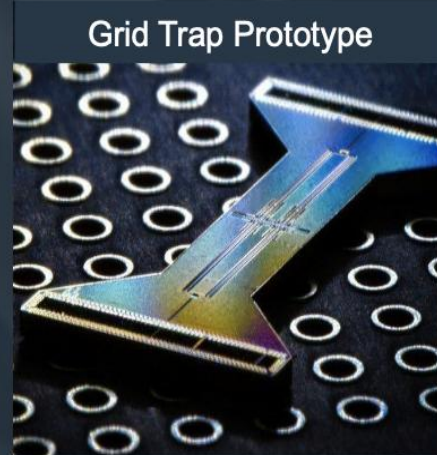
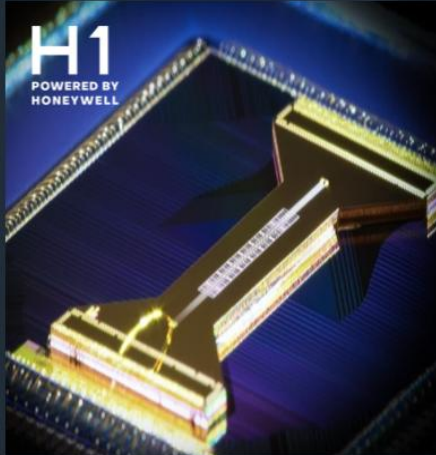




On Oct 1, 2021 IonQ was listed on the NYSE as the first public pure-play quantum computing company, with a current market cap of **\$7 billion**



# Scaling I: atom shuttling between zones



Akhtar et al, (Sussex/Universal Quantum)  
[arxiv.org/pdf/2203.14062.pdf](https://arxiv.org/pdf/2203.14062.pdf)

Kielpinski, Monroe, Wineland, Nature 417, 709 (2002)

Lekitsch, et al., Science Advances 3, 1601540 (2017)

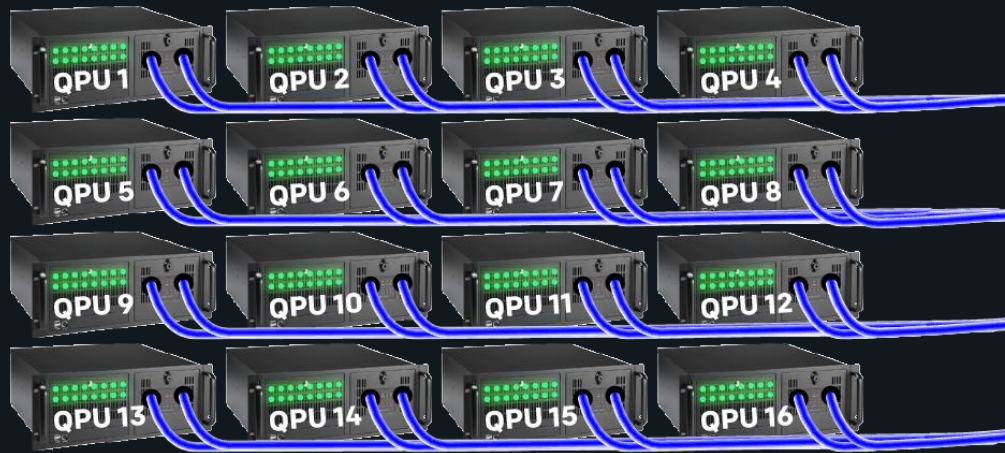
Kaushal, et al., AVS Quantum Sci. 2, 014101 (2020)

Pino, et al., Nature 592 209-213 (2021)



# Scaling II: Modular (Photonic) Interconnects

## Ion Trap Modules

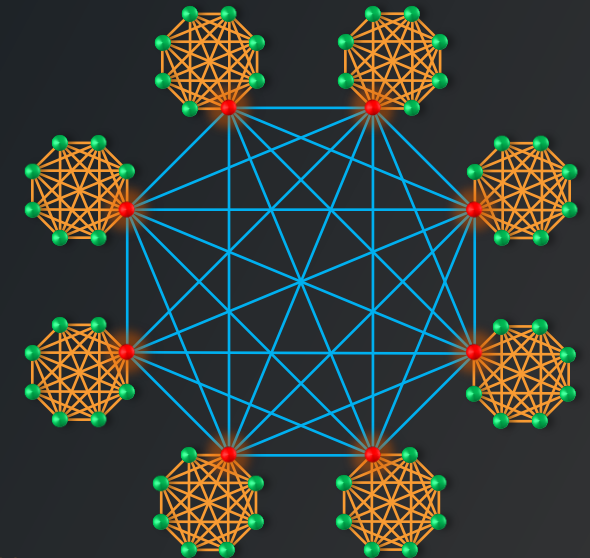


## Optical Fibers



1,100-port photonic switch  
*Jungsang Kim*  
*Bell Labs (2002)*

Full modular connectivity  
between all qubits



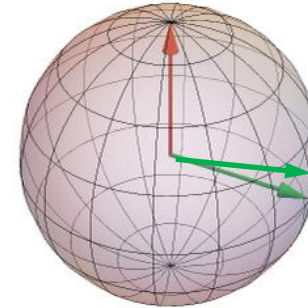
8 × 8 QPU network:  
2,016 random access  
connections

- Moehring, et al., *Nature* 449, 68 (2007)  
D. Hucul, et al., *Nature Phys.* **11**, 37 (2015)  
C. Balance, et al, *PRL* **124**, 110501 (2020)  
Duan and Monroe, *Rev. Mod. Phys.* **82**, 1209 (2010)  
Li and Benjamin, *New J. Phys.* **14**, 093008 (2012)  
Monroe, et al., *Phys. Rev. A* **89**, 022317 (2014)

# Error Correction vs. Error Mitigation<sup>[1]</sup>

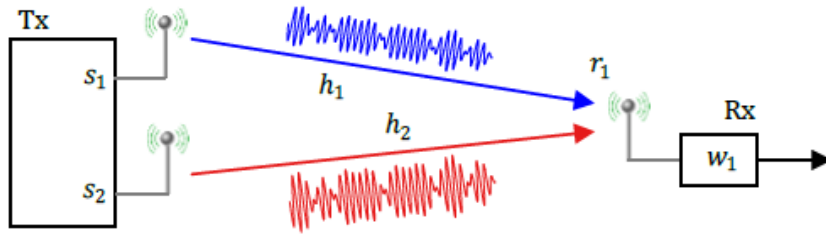
The ability to correct arbitrary errors is a triumph in theory. *But it may never be relevant in real systems.*

Instead: exploit what is known about the error channel (see classical wireless codes [2]).



Errors in ion trap quantum computers dominated by control errors that don't necessarily spoil quantum coherence.

... Adapt EC codes to treat coherent errors [3] or deploy error mitigation techniques such as circuit diversification [4-6].

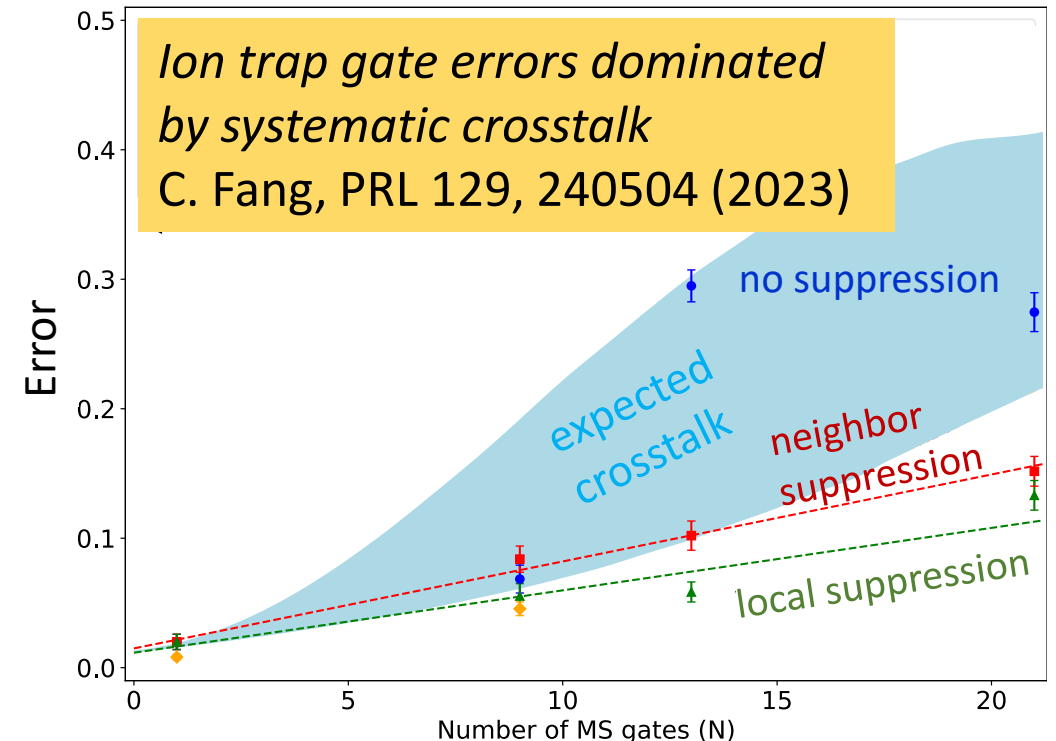


Space-Time codes



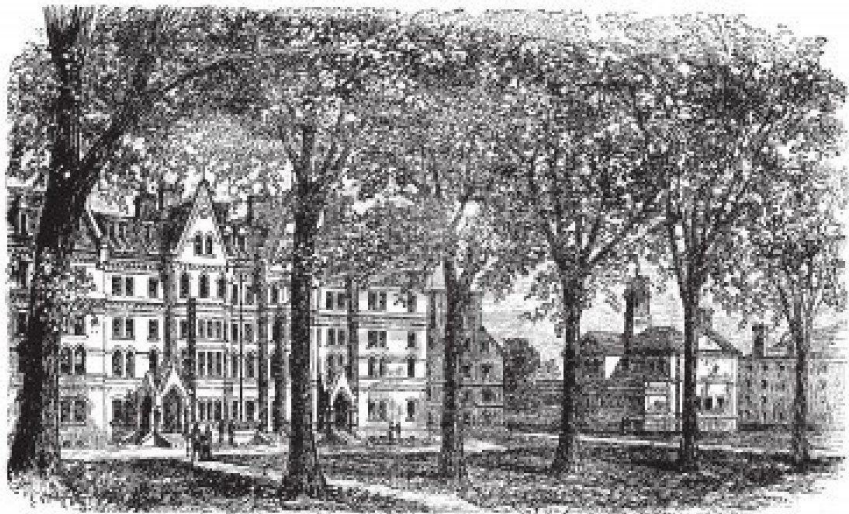
Robert Calderbank  
(Duke Univ)

- [1] Z. Cai, et al., Rev. Mod. Phys. 95, 045005 (2023)
- [2] Tarokh, Seshadri, and Calderbank, IEEE Trans. Inf. Thy. **44**, 744 (1998)
- [3] Hu, Liang, Rengaswamy, Calderbank, IEEE Trans. Inf. Thy., **68**, 1795 (2022)
- [4] Tannu and Qureshi, IEEE/ACM MICRO-52 (2019)
- [5] T. Patel and D. Tiwari, SC20 (2020)
- [6] A. Maksymkov, et al., arXiv:2301.07233 (2023)





# Conventional University



- ✓ No problem with quantum physics
- ✓ Take research “where it goes”
- ✗ Don’t “build” things here
- ✗ \$

## National Lab/ Univ. Center



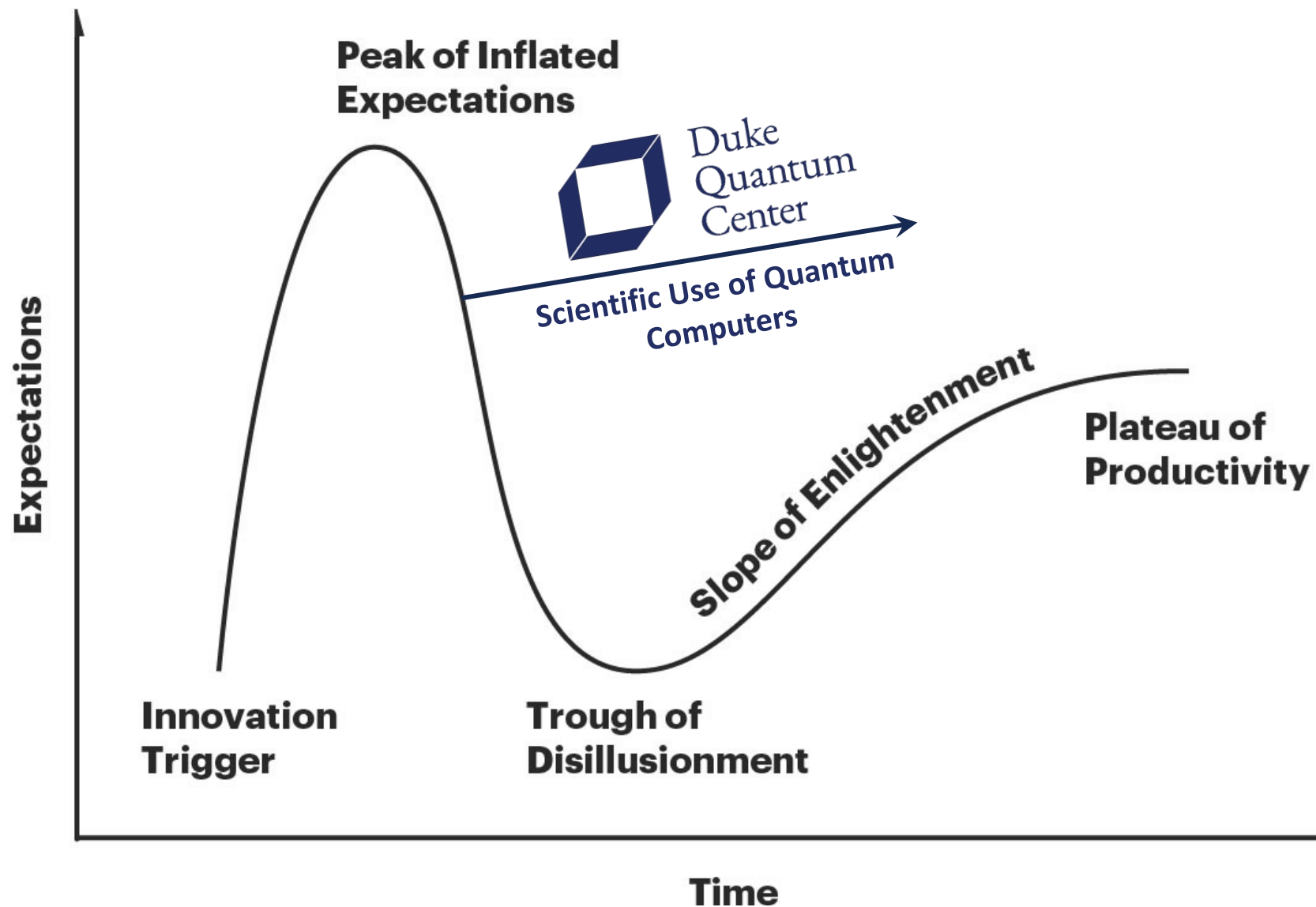
# Industry



- ✗ Not so familiar with quantum physics
- ✗ Favor conventional approaches (eg, solid state)
- ✗ May not build things for science
- ✓ Engineering, manufacturing, reliability
- ✓ \$\$\$\$\$\$\$

- ✓ No problem with quantum physics
- ✓ Research for science and applications
- ✓ Engineering, manufacturing, reliability

# “Hype Cycle” of Quantum Computers







Duke  
Quantum  
Center

PRATT SCHOOL of  
ENGINEERING  
TRINITY COLLEGE of  
ARTS & SCIENCES



Barthel



Brown



Calderbank



Cetina



Edwards

## The world's only Quantum Computer User Facility that is

**BUILDING** quantum computers from the  
highest performance components: *individual  
atoms controlled with light*

**USING** quantum computers for science

**CO-DESIGNING** next-generation quantum  
computers based on scientific use cases

**EDUCATING** the future quantum workforce

**TRANSLATING** quantum technology to  
national and commercial societal needs  
(e.g., Duke startup IonQ is the first public  
pure-play quantum computing company)

Physics

Elec & Computer Eng

Chemistry

Biology & Life Sciences

Mathematics

Computer Science



Feng



Kim



Klco



Kozhanov



Linke



Loh



Marvian



Monroe



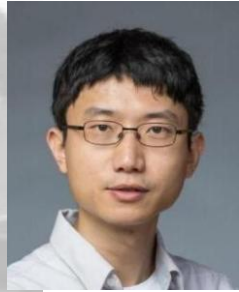
Nicholson



Noel



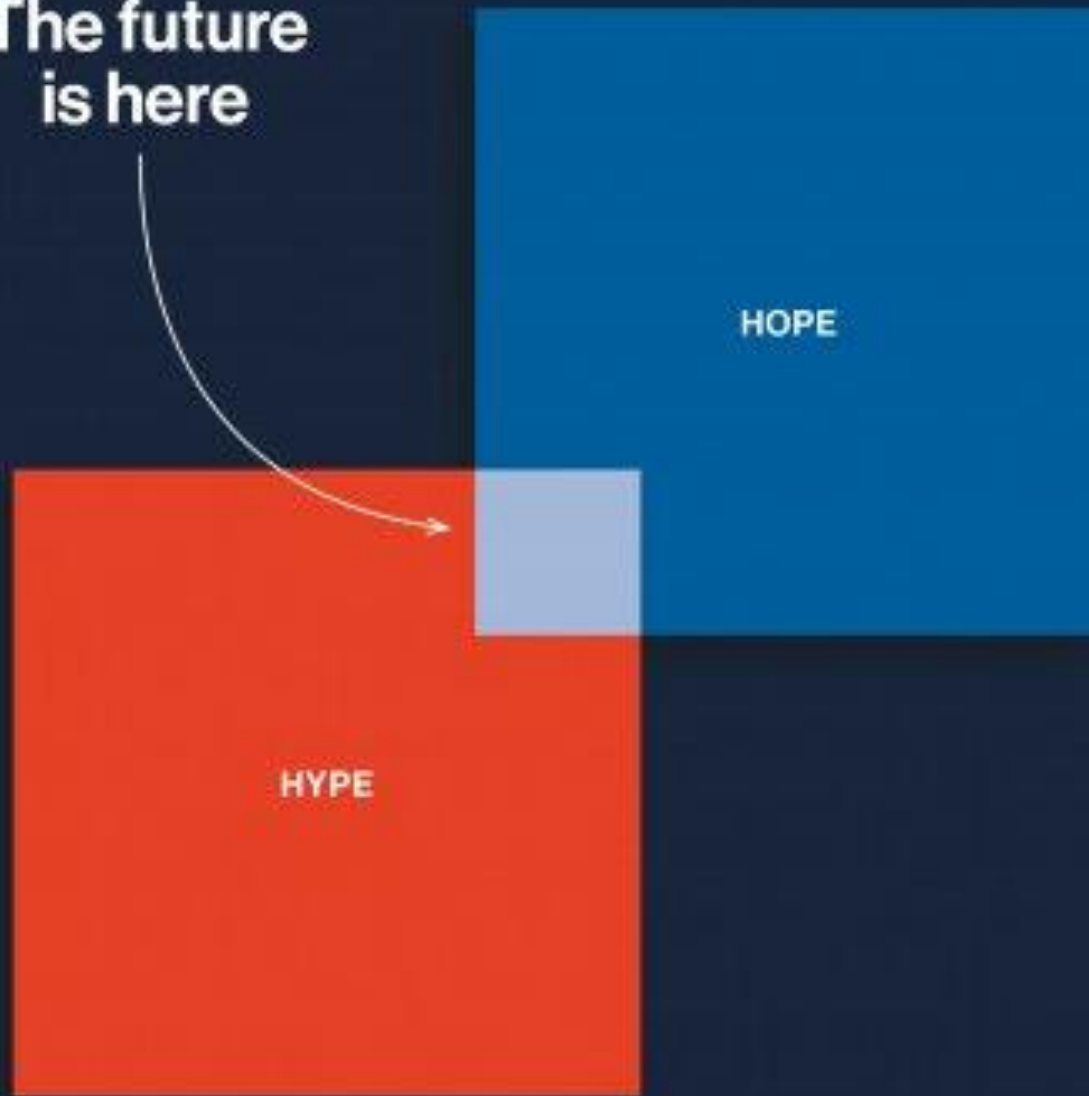
Pfister



Tong



The future  
is here



Aux Slides

# Time-to-solution more important than clock speed

Time  $T_{app}$  for solution to application:  
**depends on architecture (and application)**

$$\begin{aligned} T_{app} &= \tau_{gate} N_g && (N_g \text{ gates}) \\ &\sim \tau_{gate} N^2 && (N \text{ "logical" qubits}) \\ &\sim \tau_{gate} (NM)^2 && (M \text{ overhead factor for error} \\ &&& \text{correction: } NM \text{ total qubits}) \\ &\sim \tau_{gate} (NM\sqrt{N})^2 && (\text{connectivity limited in a 2D layout}) \end{aligned}$$

$$T_{app} \sim \tau_{gate} N^3 M^2 (1 + \epsilon)^{NM}$$

(necessary repetitions with  $\epsilon$  measurement error per qubit)

assumes application is useful  
(not sampling from a random distribution)

e.g.:  $NM = 10^6$  qubits and  $\epsilon = 1\%$ :  
 $1.01^{1000000} \sim 10^{4000}$  repetitions

