

# Quantum information: What is it and why you should care

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A. JAMES CLARK  
SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING



JOINT QUANTUM  
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# What is quantum mechanics?

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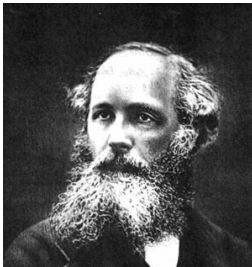
## Classical Physic: Macroscopic objects

Isaac Newton



$$\mathbf{F} = m\mathbf{a}$$

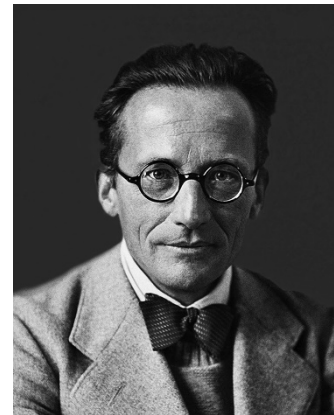
James Clerk Maxwell



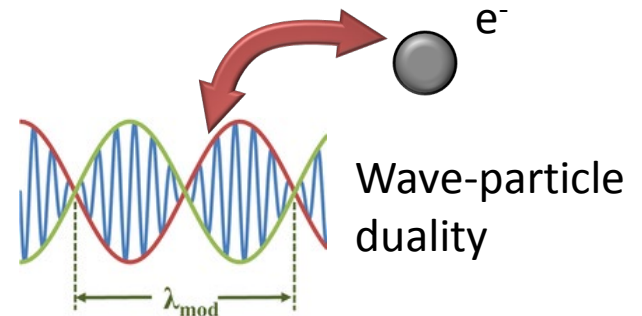
$$\nabla \times \mathbf{B} = \mu_0 \epsilon_0 \frac{\partial \mathbf{E}}{\partial t}$$

## Quantum Physics: Microscopic objects

Erwin Schrodinger



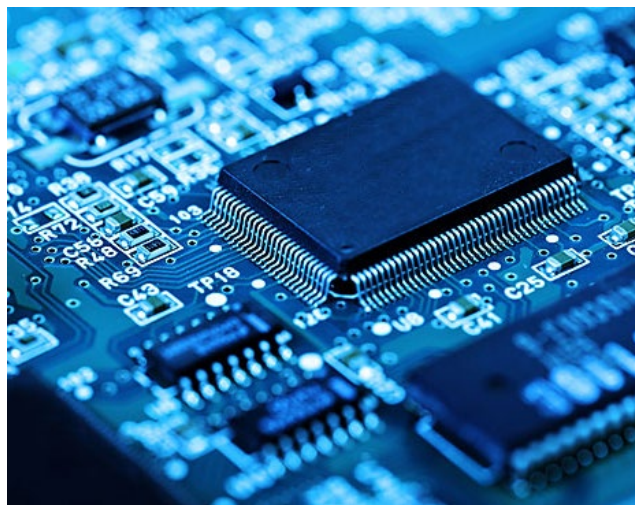
$$i\hbar \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial t} = -\hbar^2 \frac{\nabla^2 \psi}{2m}$$



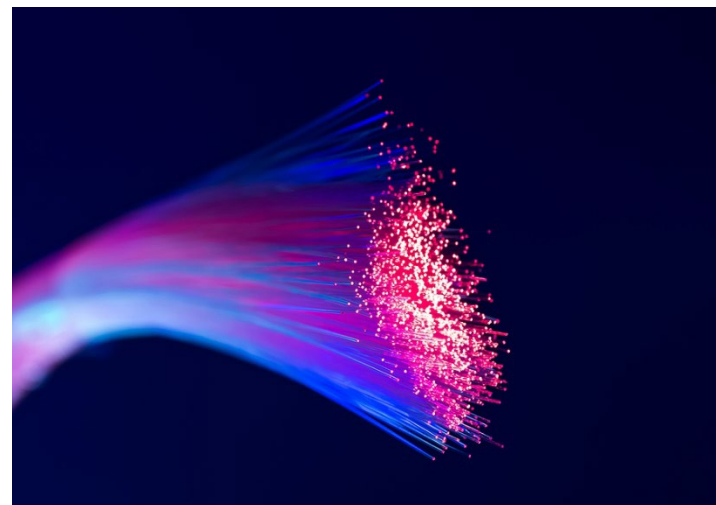
# Today's information technology is classical

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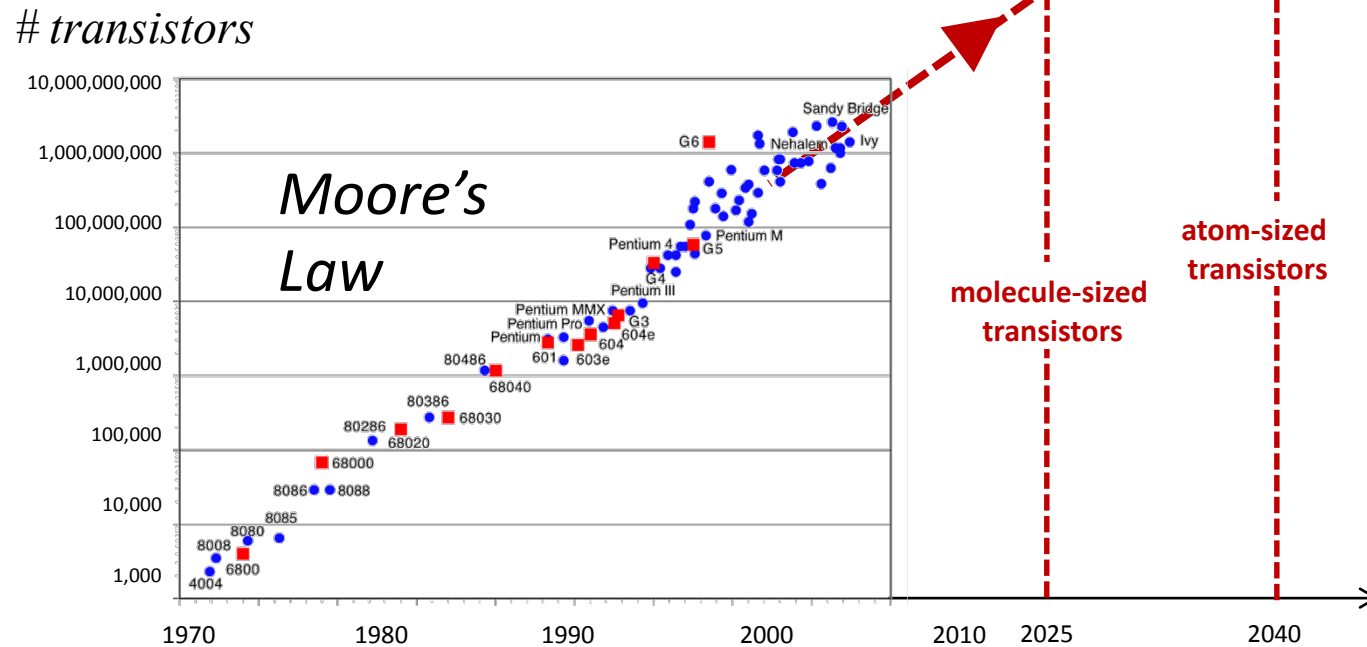
**Many atoms/electrons**



**Many photons**



# Electronics is shrinking



Richard Feynman



*"Atoms on a small scale behave like nothing on a large scale, for they satisfy the laws of quantum mechanics..."*

# Bits are the fundamental units of information

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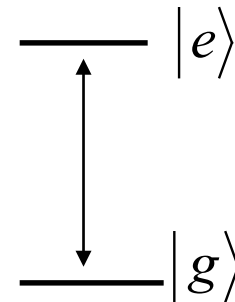
## Classical Bit



**0 – Switch up**  
**1 – Switch down**



## Quantum Bit (qubit)



0 – atom is in  
ground state  $|g\rangle$   
1 – atom is in  
excited state  $|e\rangle$

Ground state =  $|0\rangle$

Excited state =  $|1\rangle$

# Qubits can do things that classical bits can't

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Superposition states:

Qubits can exist in two states at once

$$|\psi\rangle = \alpha|0\rangle + \beta|1\rangle$$

Measurement back-action:



By looking you destroy

$$|\psi\rangle = \alpha|0\rangle + \beta|1\rangle$$

$$|\alpha|^2 = P(0)$$

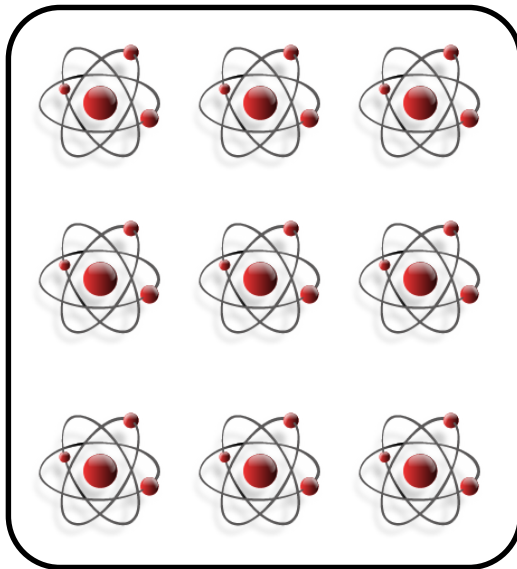
$$|\beta|^2 = P(1)$$

$|0\rangle$

$|1\rangle$

# Quantum computers exhibit massive quantum parallelism...

## Quantum Computer

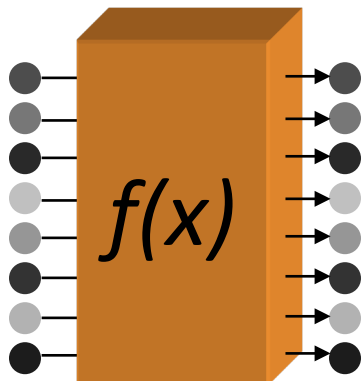


$$\underbrace{|x_1\rangle |x_2\rangle \dots |x_n\rangle}_{\text{Inputs}} \underbrace{|y_1\rangle |y_2\rangle \dots |y_n\rangle}_{\text{Outputs}} = |i\rangle |j\rangle$$

$$|k\rangle |0\rangle \rightarrow |k\rangle |f(k)\rangle$$

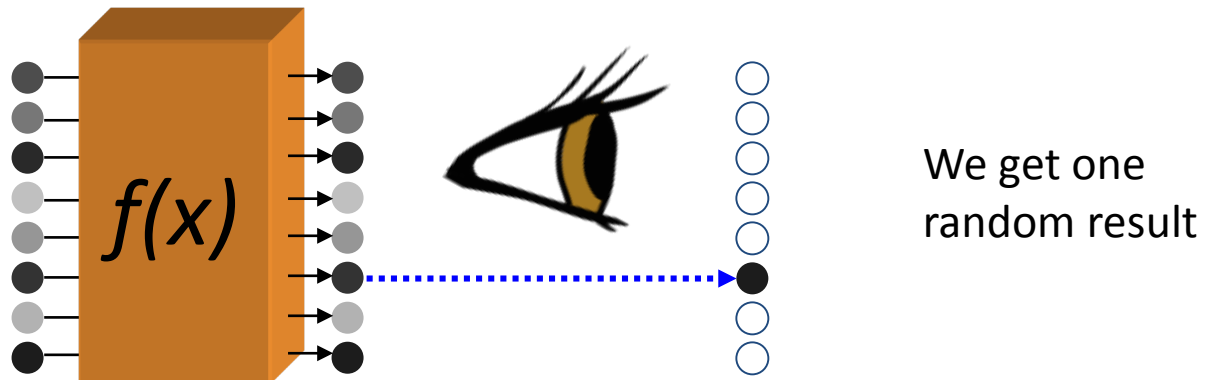
## Quantum algorithms:

$$|\psi_i\rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2^n}} \sum_k |k\rangle |0\rangle \rightarrow \frac{1}{\sqrt{2^n}} \sum_k |k\rangle |f(k)\rangle$$



...but only if you don't look at the result!

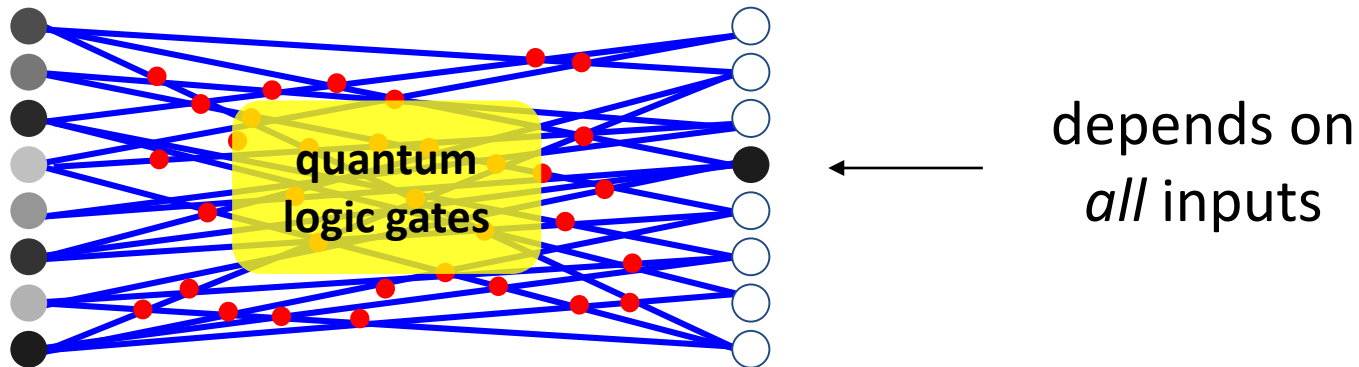
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# Quantum algorithms extract global properties using quantum interference

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# Example: Quantum algorithms factor prime numbers exponentially faster

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**Peter Shor**

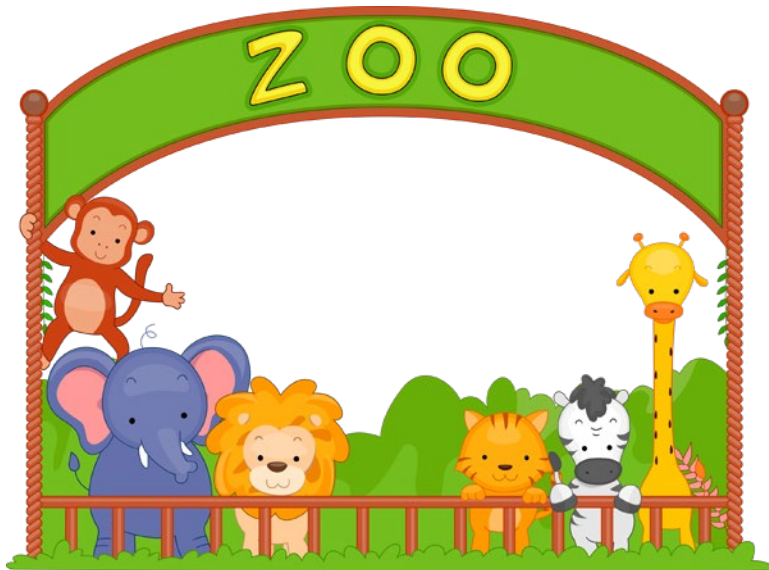
- Best classical algorithm:  $O(2^{n^{1/3}})$  – Exponential time

**Public Key Cryptography (RSA) relies on this!**

- Shor's algorithm:  $O(n^3)$  – Polynomial time

# A zoo of quantum algorithms

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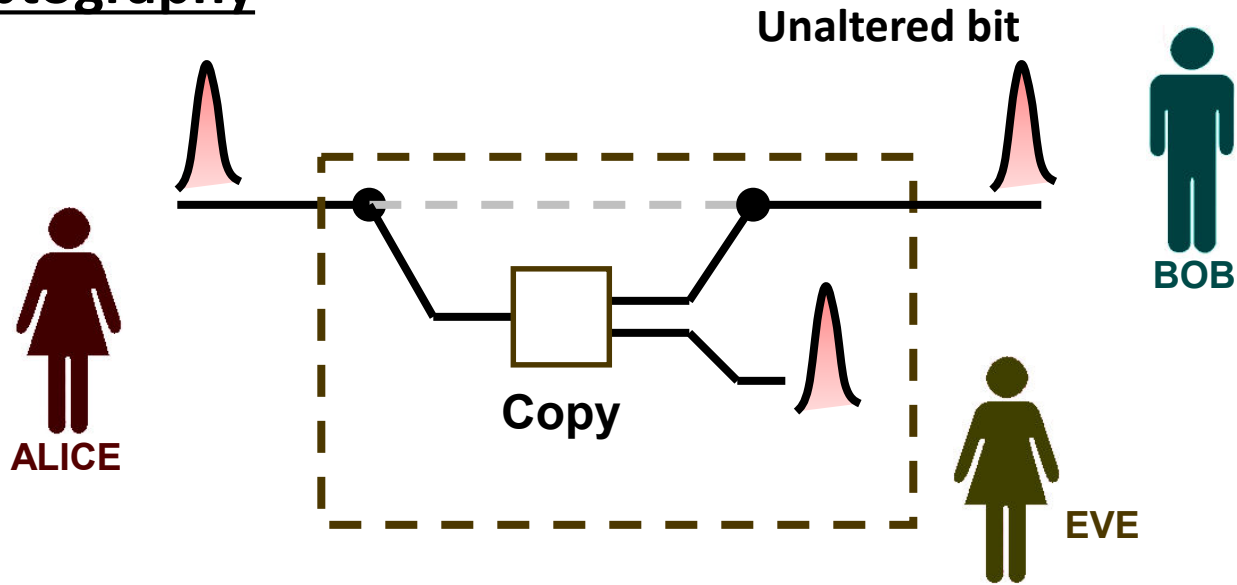
- Quantum search
- Pattern matching
- Quantum Chemistry
- Optimization
- Machine learning

<https://math.nist.gov/quantum/zoo/>

# Measurement back-action can be a good thing

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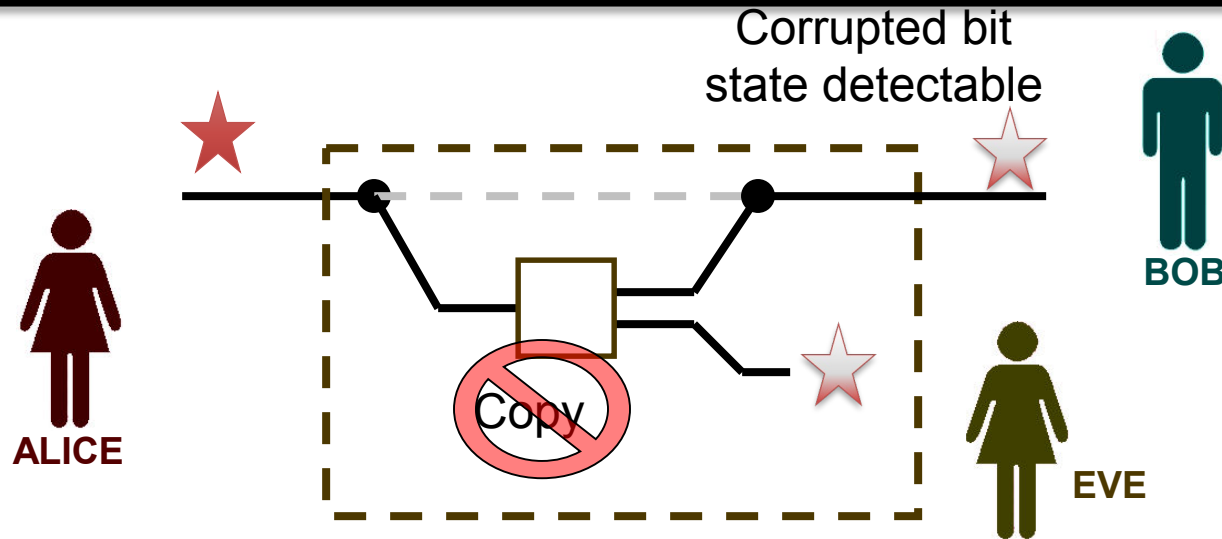
## Cryptography



- We need to introduce additional assumptions
- Assumptions invalid →  
all past and present communication insecure

# Quantum cryptography delivers unconditional physics-based security

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- Security guaranteed by laws of quantum physics.
  - Uncertainty principle
  - Bell's Theorem
- Security is guaranteed for all time; Eve cannot copy a quantum signal.

# Available at a store near you

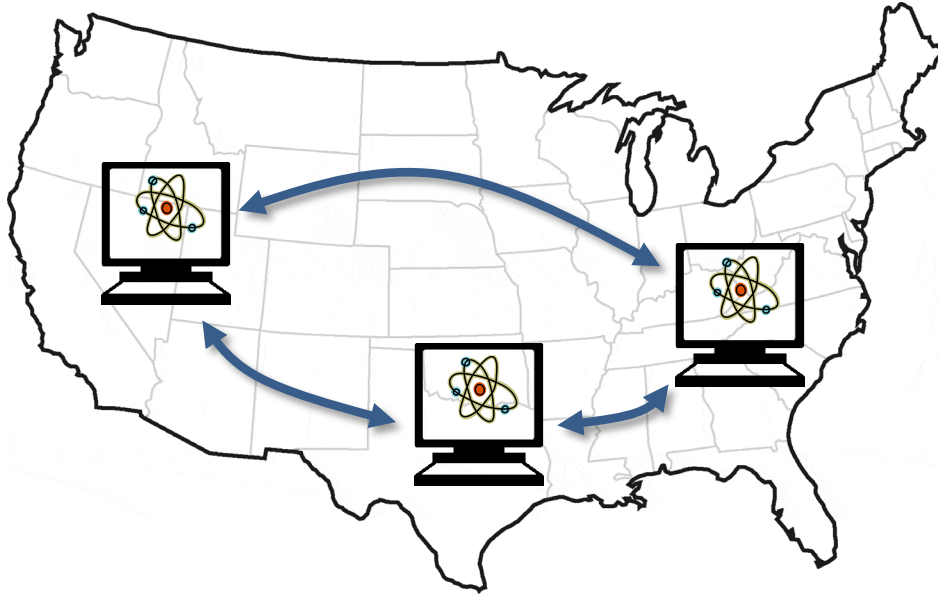
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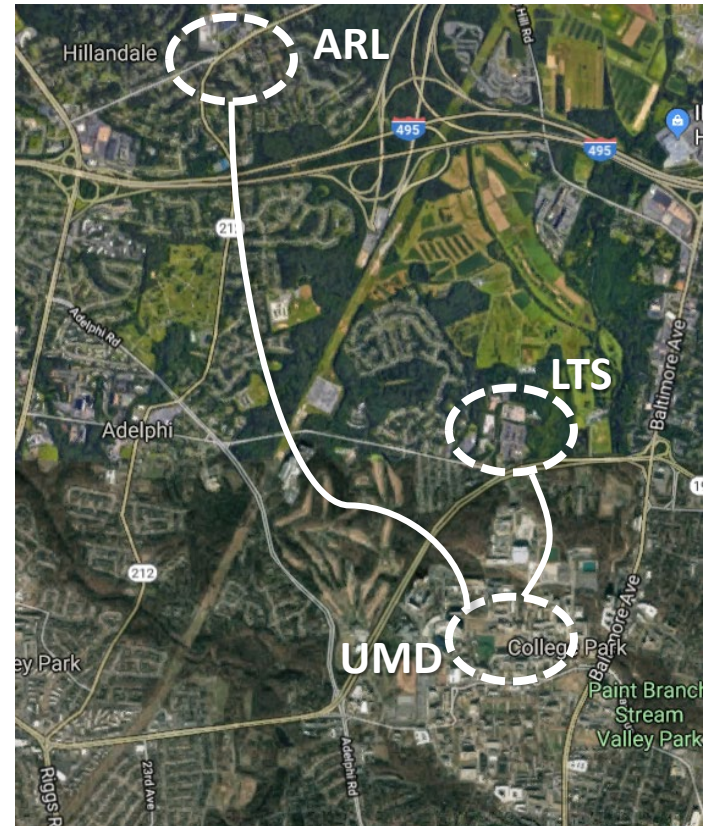
 **id Quantique**  
A Quantum Leap for Cryptography

# A quantum internet connects quantum computers with photons

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## A local quantum network

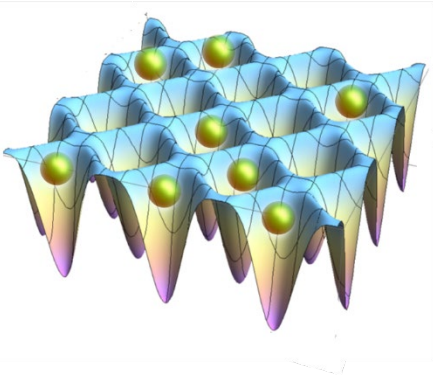


# Quantum systems are sensitive to the environment

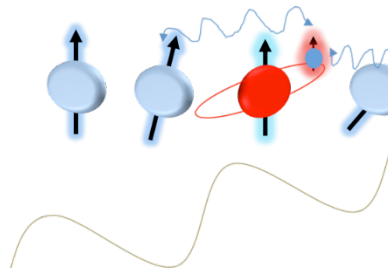
- Bad for quantum computing (decoherence)
- Good for sensors

## Quantum sensors

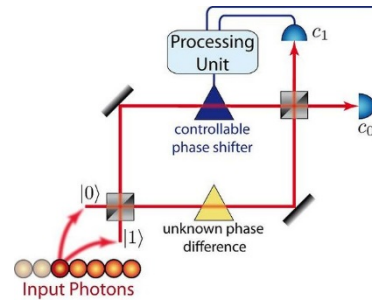
Quantum gyroscope



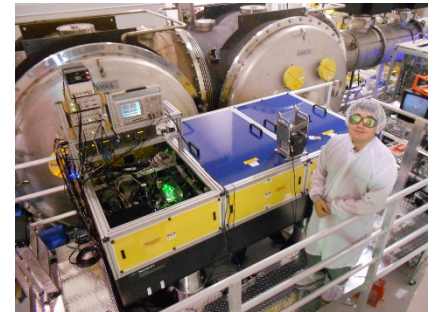
Magnetometer



Precision phase sensor



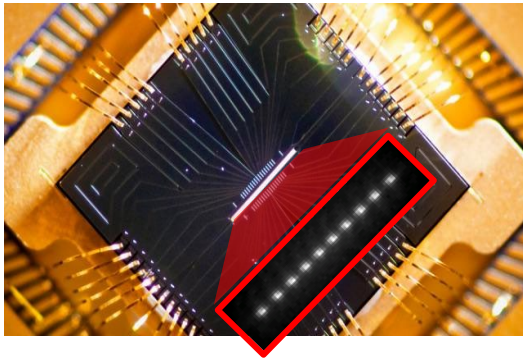
Gravitational waves



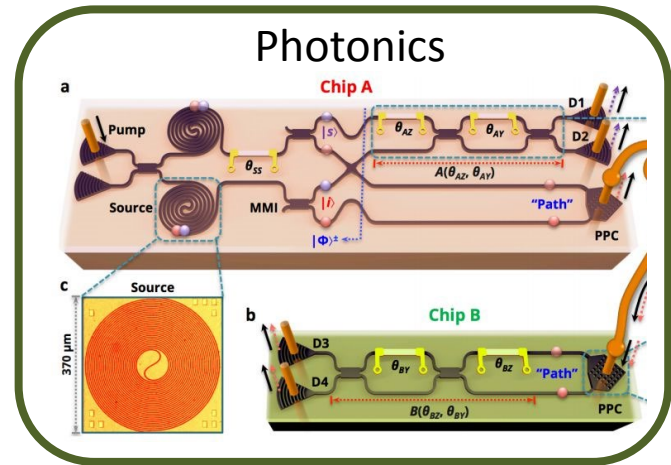


# The best hardware remains anyone's guess

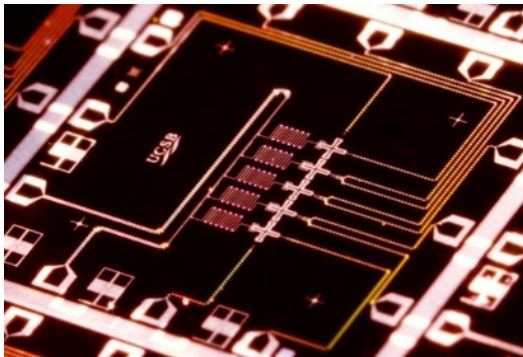
Atoms



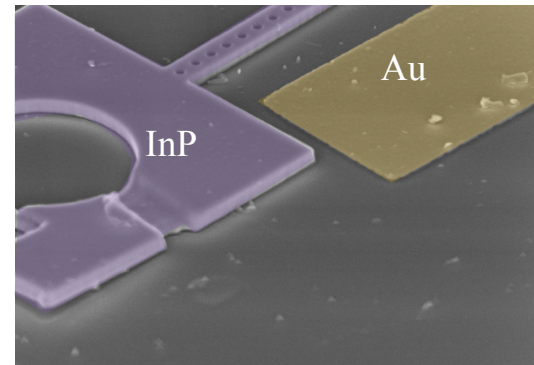
Photonics



Superconductors



Semiconductors





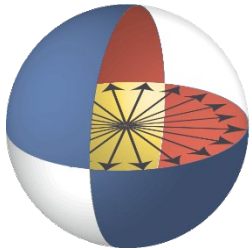
# UMD is the premier institute for quantum science

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JOINT QUANTUM  
INSTITUTE

- 30 Principal Investigators
- 150 postdoctoral & graduate researchers



JOINT CENTER FOR  
QUANTUM INFORMATION  
AND COMPUTER SCIENCE

- 10-12 Principal Investigators
- 20-30 postdoctoral & graduate researchers

**QTC**

Quantum technology  
Center

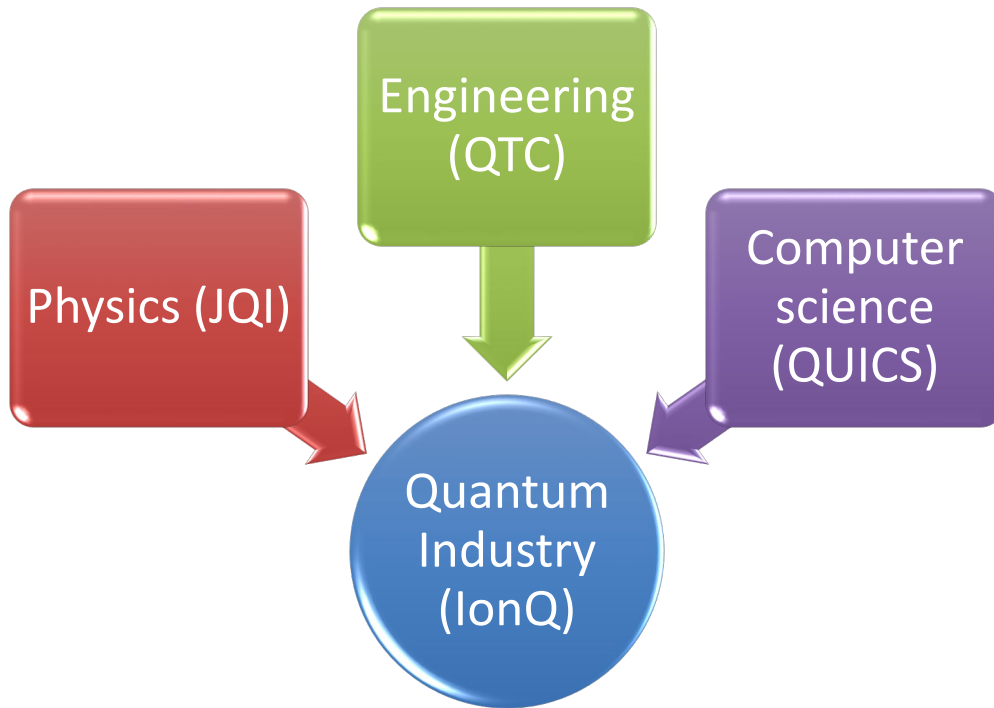
- 8 Faculty
- Hiring 2 more

**NIST**



# Maryland is in a position to lead this new industry

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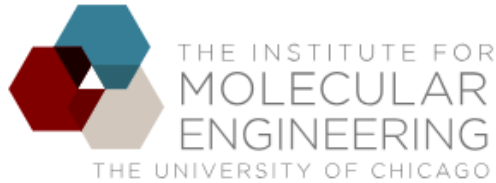
## Effort across many departments

Physics  
Electrical Engineering  
Computer Science  
Material Science  
Chemistry  
Mechanical Engineering

# The competition is fierce

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## Universities



HARVARD  
UNIVERSITY



UNIVERSITY OF  
WATERLOO



THE UNIVERSITY OF  
TEXAS  
AT AUSTIN



Massachusetts  
Institute of  
Technology

Caltech

## Industry

Google

rigetti

Honeywell

NORTHROP  
GRUMMAN

IONQ

intel

IBM

Raytheon  
BBN Technologies



# A Quantum Arms Race?



UK : \$400 M

NATURE | NEWS

## Europe's billion-euro quantum project takes shape

Scientists offer more detail on flagship programme to harness quantum effects in devices.

Elizabeth Gibney

03 May 2017

EU : \$1.3 B



NATIONAL LABORATORY FOR QUANTUM INFORMATION SCIENCES

The billion National Laboratory for Quantum Information Sciences in Hefei will be the centerpiece of China's attempt to take the global lead in quantum computing and sensing.

China : \$10 B

Current US : ~ \$200 M per year?

# National Quantum Initiative

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- Grew out of a National Photonics Initiative (OSA SPIE)
- Support from previous efforts at OSTP
- Very likely to be announced soon
- *5 NQI Centers, funded at \$25M per year for five years?*
  - *and we hope to have one at UMD!*
  - *Each center would include University, Fed Lab, Industry*

# Outlook

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- Quantum could revolutionize computation, communication, and sensing
- Quantum technology is becoming a reality

**Maryland could be the  
center of a new industry**



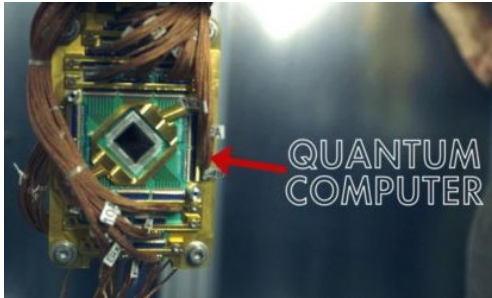
**Thank You!**

# Backups

# A new industry is emerging

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## Superconducting



Google



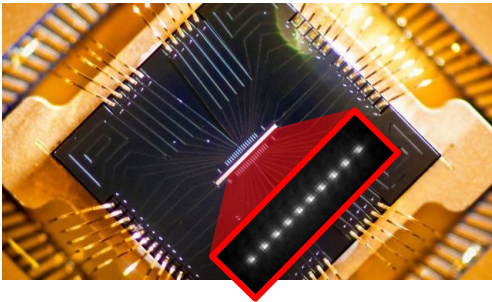
rigetti

NORTHROP  
GRUMMAN



Raytheon  
BBN Technologies

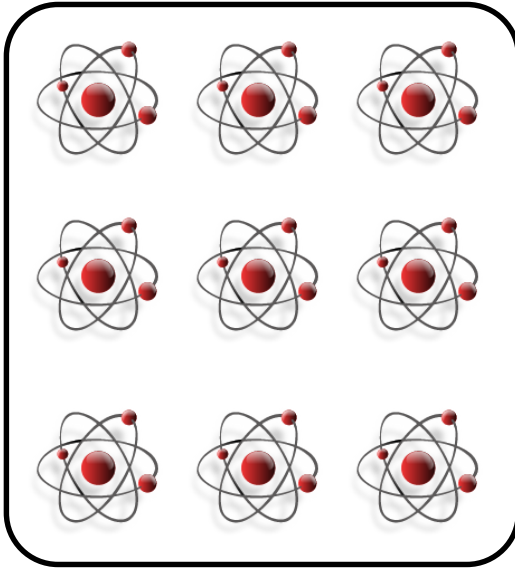
## Atoms



Honeywell

# Quantum computers exhibit massive quantum parallelism...

## Quantum Computer



$$|x_1\rangle|x_2\rangle\mathbf{L}|x_n\rangle|y_1\rangle|y_2\rangle\mathbf{L}|y_n\rangle = |i\rangle|j\rangle$$

Inputs

Outputs

$$x_i, y_i - [0,1]$$

$$i, j - [0, 2^n - 1]$$

$$|k\rangle|0\rangle \rightarrow |i\rangle|f(i)\rangle$$

Quantum algorithms:

$$|\psi_i\rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2^n}} \sum_k |k\rangle|0\rangle \rightarrow \frac{1}{\sqrt{2^n}} \sum_k |k\rangle|f(k)\rangle$$

