



# An Introduction to Quantum Computing

Robert Olsthoorn

University of Florida

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# Abstract

Quantum computing is a potentially revolutionary principle which will be continued to be researched and studied for the foreseeable future as the importance of efficiency and the limit of binary computing is approached. This paper aims to provide an overview of the field of quantum computing for individuals with a minor understanding of physics, computer science, and mathematics. An introduction to quantum computing will leave the reader with a comfortable overview of the field and insight into which topic in particular they find most interesting. This paper will talk briefly about the recent history of quantum computing as well as a small subset of quantum mechanics as it relates to quantum computations and the cornerstones which currently make quantum computing possible. It aims to establish the differences between conventional and quantum computing with a goal to speak about how certain algorithms will run more efficiently and what applications in the field this can be used for. Near the end, we will look at the current issues within the field and its future importance.

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# 1 History

Quantum computing is a relatively new field in relation to computer science as a discipline with the informal start originating in the late 1970's and early 1980's as Richard Feynman speculated that quantum mechanics could not be effectively modeled through a classical computer. In accordance with Moore's law, the size of a silicon chip would continue to shrink until the individual elements were no larger than several atoms and would be subject to quantum effects at that scale. Feynman published an abstract model in 1982 in which he analyzed the outcome of using a quantum simulator in order to avoid the exponential slowdown which is common with classical computers.

In 1985, David Deutsch published a paper proving that any physical process could be, in theory, effectively rendered on a quantum computer. As a result, a quantum computer, which is able to operate in an exponential time, could provide a wide array of values for heavy data crunching, modelling of complex systems, or in the general solving NP-Complete problems in polynomial time. (INSERT FOOTNOTE) Deutsch proved a basic algorithm which will be worked through later in the paper.

Until 1994, the quantum computing field remained relatively unchanged until Shor was able to prove and set a method for a common NP-Complete factorization problem which could call on the benefits allowed through quantum computers, which would run in a time much shorter than what will be ever possible on classical computers. As a field, this momentous finding was able to push the field of research for quantum computing out of the view of the select who were performing research on the project to the public eye. Shor's algorithm will be explored later in the paper as well.

## 2 Quantum Mechanis

As a quick note, the material that will only be covered consists of a very small section of quantum mechanics encompassing finite dimensional quantum mechanic where the vector spaces which

represent the states of the dimension are finite in size.

```
However, this record of the solar nebula may have been
partly erased by the complex history of the meteorite
parent bodies, which includes collision-induced shock,
thermal metamorphism, and aqueous alteration
({\it 1, 2, 5--7\}).
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...thermal metamorphism, and aqueous alteration (1, 2, 5--7).
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\begin{enumerate}
\item G. Gamow, {\it The Constitution of Atomic Nuclei
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\item W. Heisenberg and W. Pauli, {\it Zeitschr.\ f.\
Physik\} {\bf 56}, 1 (1929).
\end{enumerate}
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yielding

### **References and Notes**

1. G. Gamow, *The Constitution of Atomic Nuclei and Radioactivity* (Oxford Univ. Press, New York, 1931).
2. W. Heisenberg and W. Pauli, *Zeitschr. f. Physik* **56**, 1 (1929).

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## References and Notes

1. Preskill, John. "Quantum Computing: Pro and Con." Diss. California Institute of Technology, 1996. Print. Covers the applications in which it will be used as well as the technical difficulties that are encountered with creating a quantum computer. Also encompasses the future of quantum computing
2. Rieffel, Eleanor, and Wolfgang Polak. "An Introduction to Quantum Computing for Non-Physicists." Diss. FX Palo Alto Laboratory, 2000. Print. Covers some algorithm efficiencies for conventional vs quantum computing and also covers basic applications of quantum computing in the field including cryptography.
3. West, Jacob. "The Quantum Computer." An Introduction to Quantum Computing. Rice University, 28 Apr. 2000. Web. 25 Oct. 2015. Provides a general purpose overview of the field of quantum computing. Includes a brief history of the field as well as current obstacles and research being done in the field.
4. Yanofsky, Noson S. "An Introduction to Quantum Computing." Diss. Department of Computer and Information Science, Brooklyn College, CUNY, 2007. Print. Presents an introduction to the mathematics behind quantum computing as well as an overview of the architecture necessary for quantum computing. This paper also presents Deutsch's Algorithm which will be spoken about and overviewed.

**Fig. 1.** Please do not use figure environments to set up your figures in the final (post-peer-review) draft, do not include graphics in your source code, and do not cite figures in the text using  $\text{\LaTeX}$  `\ref` commands. Instead, simply refer to the figure numbers in the text per *Science* style, and include the list of captions at the end of the document, coded as ordinary paragraphs as shown in the `scifile.tex` template file. Your actual figure files should be submitted separately.