



# An Introduction to Quantum Computing

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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 Formatting Citations

Citations can be handled in one of three ways. The most straightforward (albeit labor-intensive) would be to hardwire your citations into your  $\text{\LaTeX}$  source, as you would if you were using an ordinary word processor. Thus, your code might look something like this:

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 (*1, 2, 5--7*).

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...thermal metamorphism, and aqueous alteration (*1, 2, 5--7*).

Under the same logic, the author could set up his or her reference list as a simple enumeration,

```
{\bf References and Notes}

\begin{enumerate}
\item G. Gamow, {\it The Constitution of Atomic Nuclei
and Radioactivity\} (Oxford Univ. Press, New York, 1931).
\item W. Heisenberg and W. Pauli, {\it Zeitschr.\ f.\
Physik\} {\bf 56}, 1 (1929).
\end{enumerate}
```

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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style file and the `scicite.sty` package, both of which we are downloadable from our author help site ([http://www.sciencemag.org/about/authors/prep/TeX\\_help/](http://www.sciencemag.org/about/authors/prep/TeX_help/)). You can also generate your reference lists by using the list environment `{thebibliography}` at the end of your source document; here again, you may find the `scicite.sty` file useful.

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3. Please separate multiple citations within a single `\cite` command using commas only; there should be *no space* between reference keynames. That is, if you are citing two papers whose bibliography keys are `keyname1` and `keyname2`, the in-text cite should read `\cite{keyname1,keyname2}`, *not* `\cite{keyname1, keyname2}`.

Failure to follow these guidelines could lead to the omission of the references in an accepted paper when the source file is translated to Word via HTML.

## Handling Math, Tables, and Figures

Following are a few things to keep in mind in coding equations, tables, and figures for submission to *Science*.

**In-line math.** The utility that we use for converting from  $\text{\LaTeX}$  to HTML handles in-line math relatively well. It is best to avoid using built-up fractions in in-line equations, and going for the more boring “slash” presentation whenever possible — that is, for  $\$a/b\$$  (which comes out as

$a/b$ ) rather than  $\frac{a}{b}$  (which compiles as  $\frac{a}{b}$ ). Likewise, HTML isn't tooled to handle certain overaccented special characters in-line; for  $\hat{\alpha}$  (coded  $\hat{\alpha}$ ), for example, the HTML translation code will return  $^{\wedge}(\alpha)$ . Don't drive yourself crazy — but if it's possible to avoid such constructs, please do so. Please do not code arrays or matrices as in-line math; display them instead. And please keep your coding as  $\text{\TeX}$ -y as possible — avoid using specialized math macro packages like `amstex.sty`.

**Displayed math.** Our HTML converter sets up  $\text{\TeX}$  displayed equations using nested HTML tables. That works well for an HTML presentation, but Word chokes when it comes across a nested table in an HTML file. We surmount that problem by simply cutting the displayed equations out of the HTML before it's imported into Word, and then replacing them in the Word document using either images or equations generated by a Word equation editor. Strictly speaking, this procedure doesn't bear on how you should prepare your manuscript — although, for reasons best consigned to a note (?), we'd prefer that you use native  $\text{\TeX}$  commands within displayed-math environments, rather than  $\text{\LaTeX}$  sub-environments.

**Tables.** The HTML converter that we use seems to handle reasonably well simple tables generated using the  $\text{\LaTeX}$  `{tabular}` environment. For very complicated tables, you may want to consider generating them in a word processing program and including them as a separate file.

**Figures.** Figure callouts within the text should not be in the form of  $\text{\LaTeX}$  references, but should simply be typed in — that is, (Fig. 1) rather than  $\text{\ref{fig1}}$ . For the figures themselves, treatment can differ depending on whether the manuscript is an initial submission or a final revision for acceptance and publication. For an initial submission and review copy, you can use the  $\text{\LaTeX}$  `{figure}` environment and the `\includegraphics` command to include your PostScript figures at the end of the compiled PostScript file. For the final revision, however, the `{figure}` environment should *not* be used; instead, the figure captions themselves should be typed in as regular text at the end of the source file (an example is included here), and the figures should be

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- When the time comes for you to send in your revised final manuscript (i.e., after peer review), we require that you include all source files and generated files in your upload. Thus, if the name of your main source document is `ltxfile.tex`, you need to include:
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  - `ltxfile.aux`, the auxilliary file generated by the compilation.
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vironment can be used to generate a final numbered reference containing acknowledgments, sources of funding, and the like, per *Science* style.

## 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. 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.
4. 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.

**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  $\LaTeX$  `\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.