

# **“Better watch out, Crypto”, says quantum computing**

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**Fang Song**  
Computer Science  
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a.k.a.

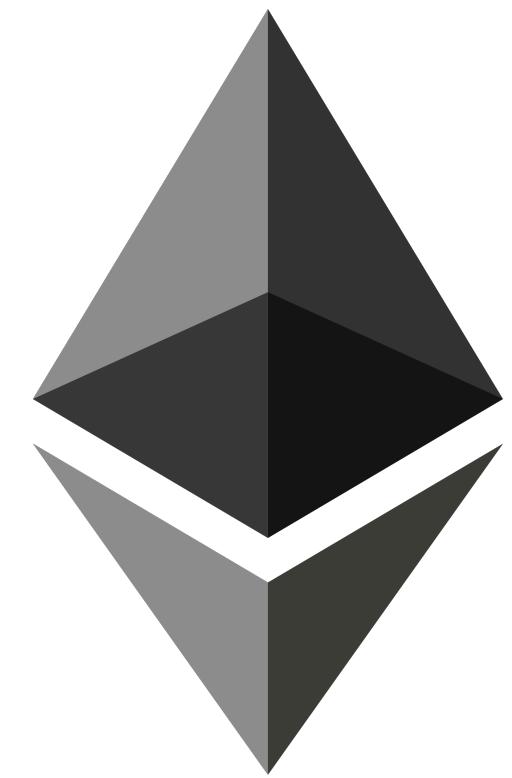
# Quantum computing, its impact on cybersecurity, and more

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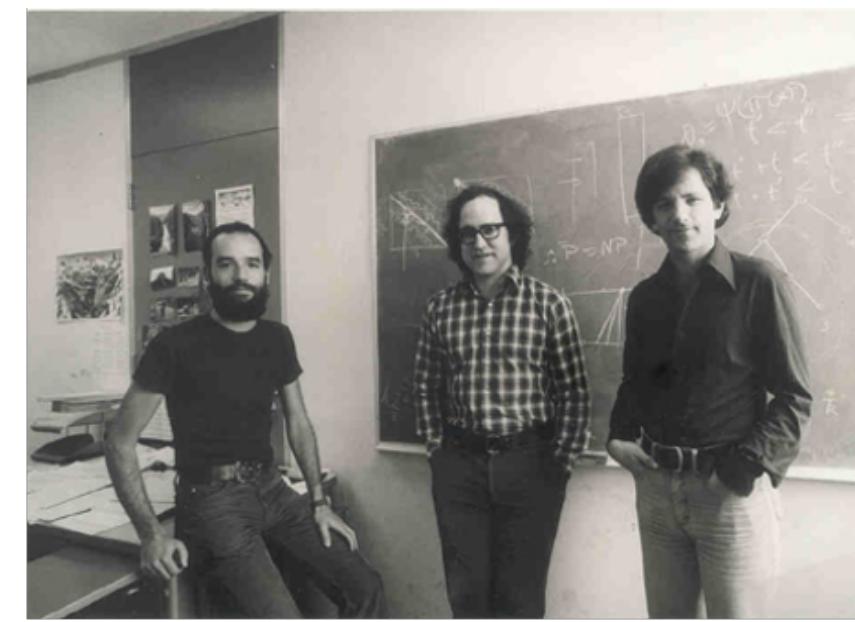
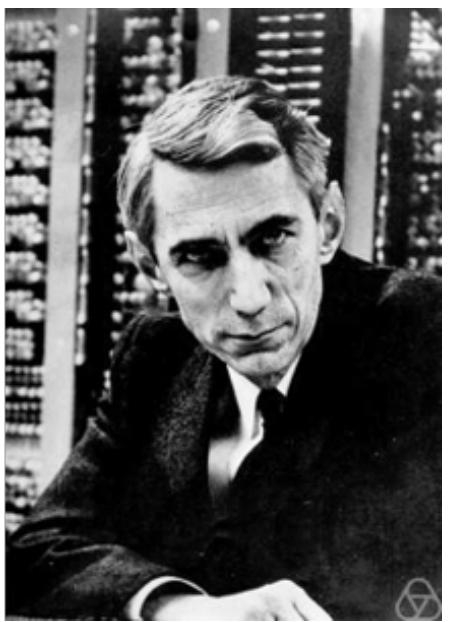
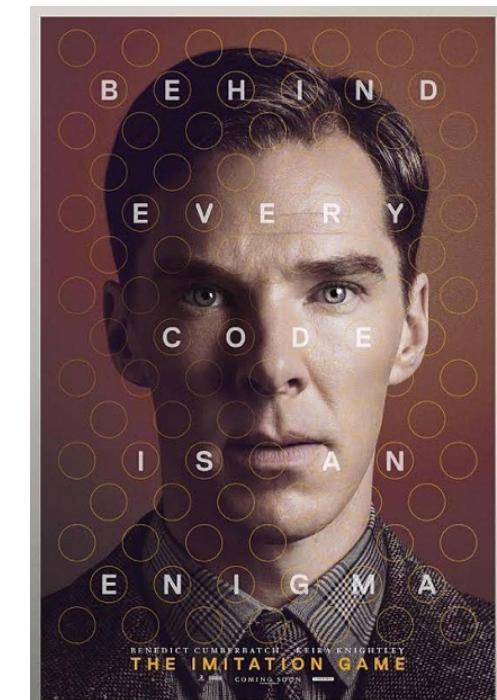
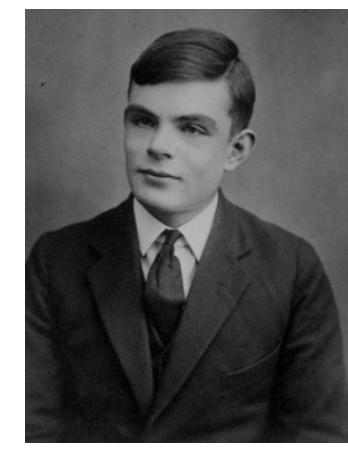
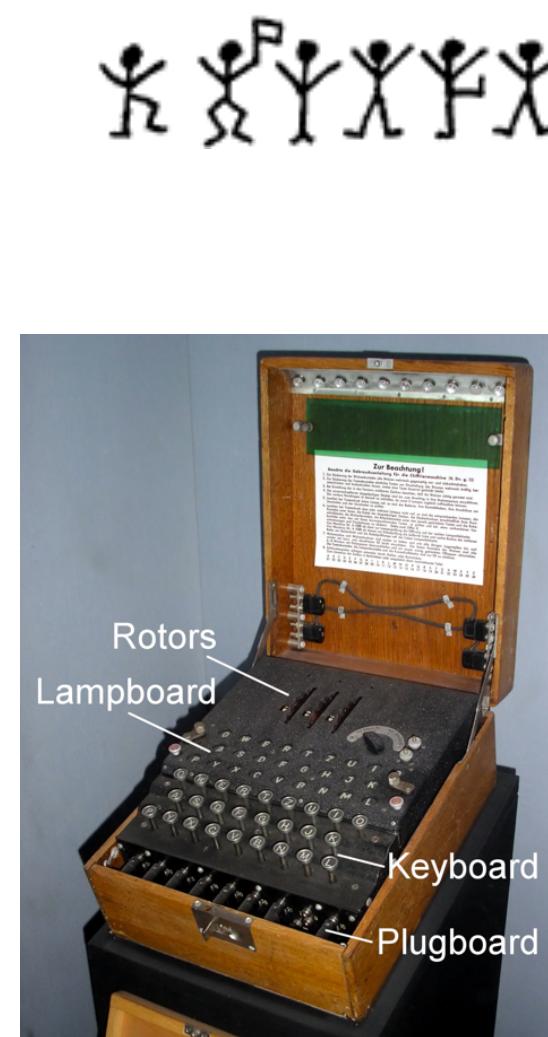


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# Everyone loves crypto



# ...but, not my crypto



Modern Cryptography involves the study of **mathematical** techniques for securing {digital information, systems and computations} against adversarial attacks



## Top stories



**yahoo!finance**

The Crypto Daily – Movers and Shakers – April 11th, 2021

1 day ago



**INSIDER**

Bitcoin eyes re \$61,000 as the market's focus Coinbase IPO

48 mins ago

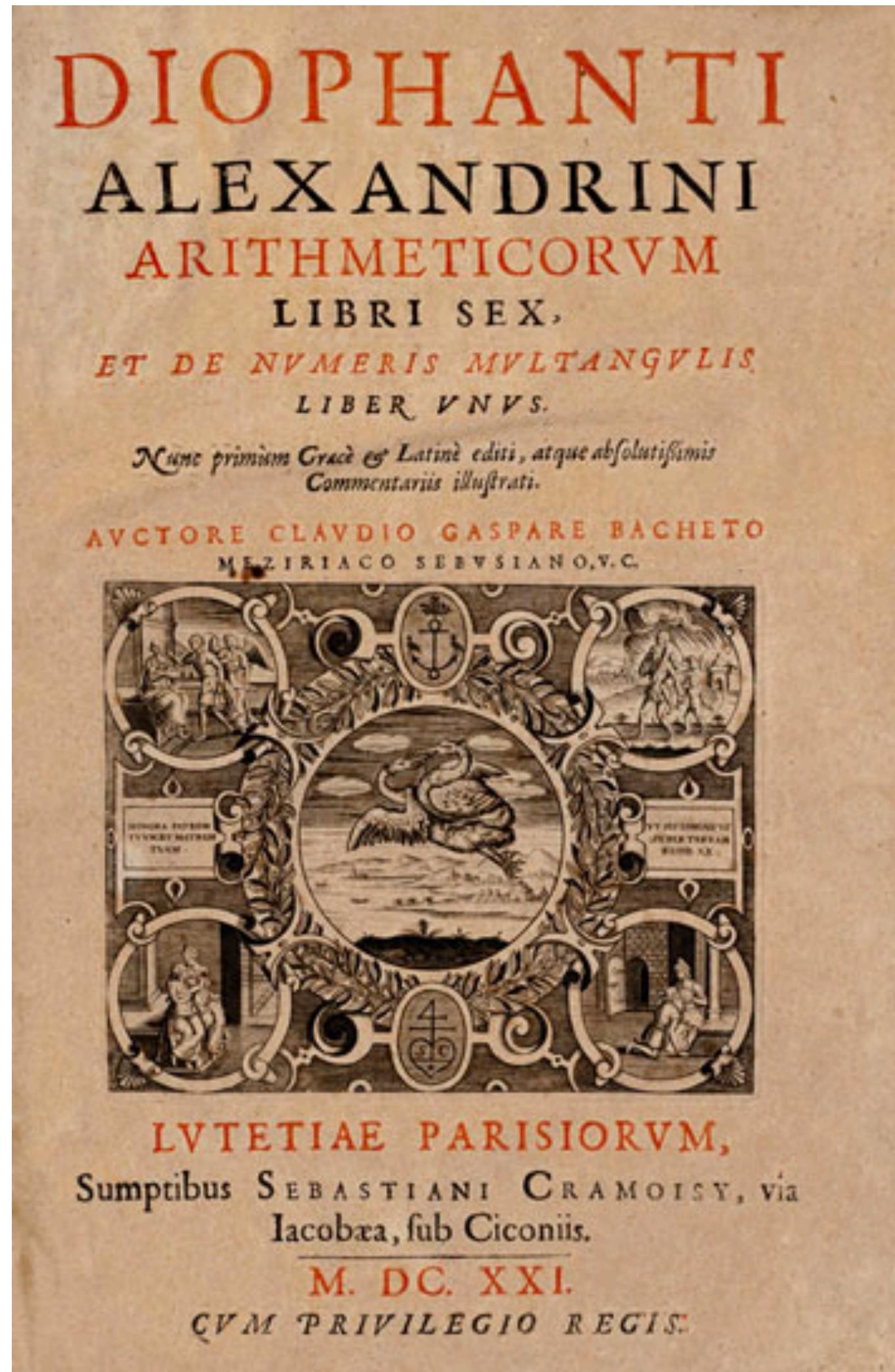
[More news](#)

## People also ask

What is the best crypto to invest in 2021?

Which crypto to mine in 2021?

# An ancient problem, but still matters ...



Diophantine equation

$$ax^2 + by^2 = k$$

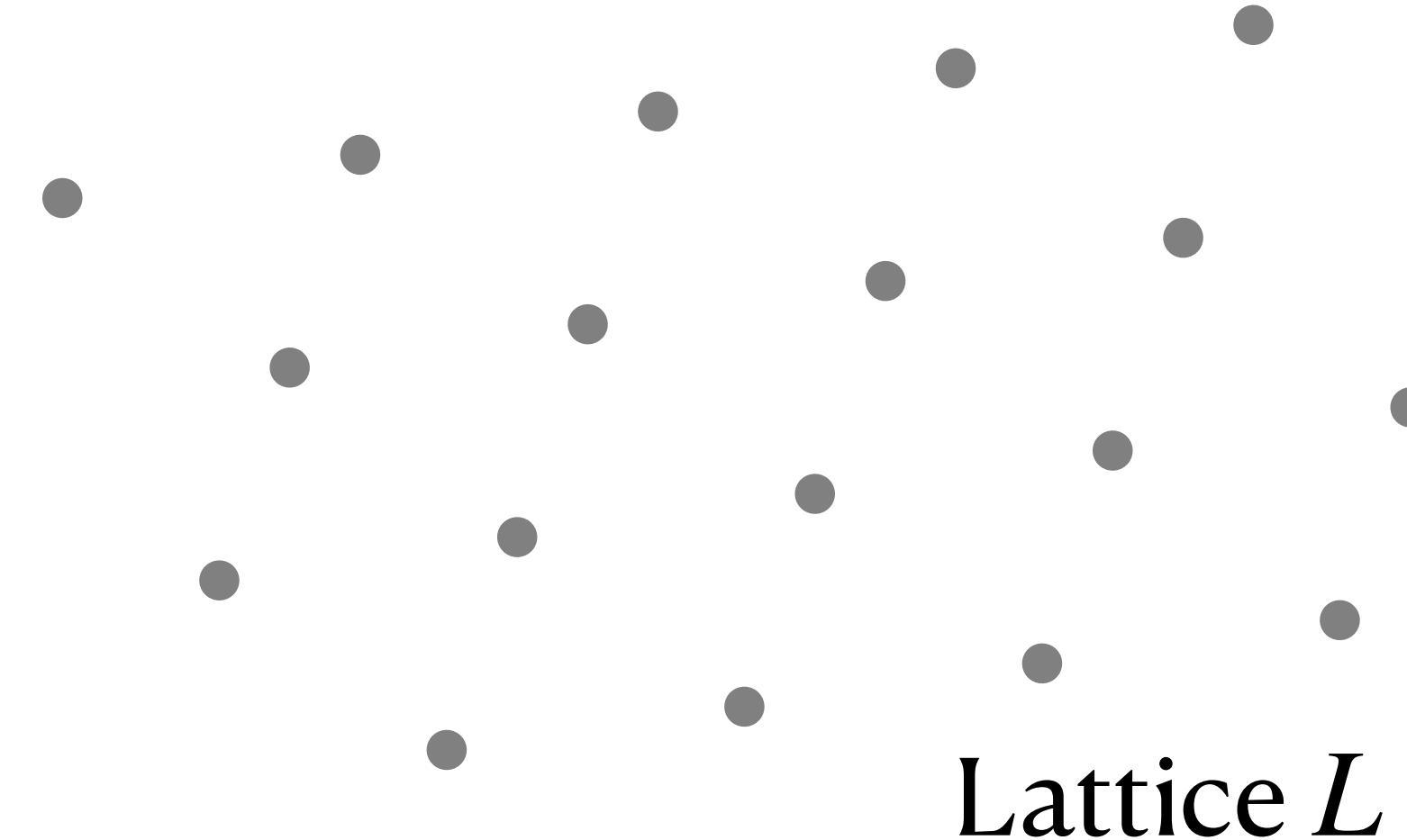
$$a, b, k, x, y \in \mathbb{Z}$$

Pell's equation

$$x^2 - dy^2 = 1$$

# Lattices

- ◎ Solutions to Pell's equation form a **lattice**



# Factorization

◎ Multiplication  $3 \times 5 = 15$        $244176193 \times 176944583 = 43205654648912519$

◎ Prime factorization  $N = p \times q$

$$15 = 3 \times 5 \quad 55514685797288803 = 247252597 \times 224526199$$

$$\begin{aligned} & 84300247564951184219361227976299705061650606295657377974585975552268038597007 \\ & \times 77695234034159843671863970081834783536249702240785784387301962145248158326289 \end{aligned}$$

- Best known algorithm (Number field sieve):  $\sim 2^{c(\log N)^{\frac{1}{3}}(\log \log N)^{\frac{2}{3}}}$  exponential time.
- [Feb 28, 2020](#): RSA-250 (250 decimal digits = 829 bits) factored!

Total computation time  $\sim 2700$  core-years (Intel Xeon Gold 6130)

**Fact.** Solving Pell's eqn. helps with factorization. (Factoring\*  $\leq$  Pell's equation)

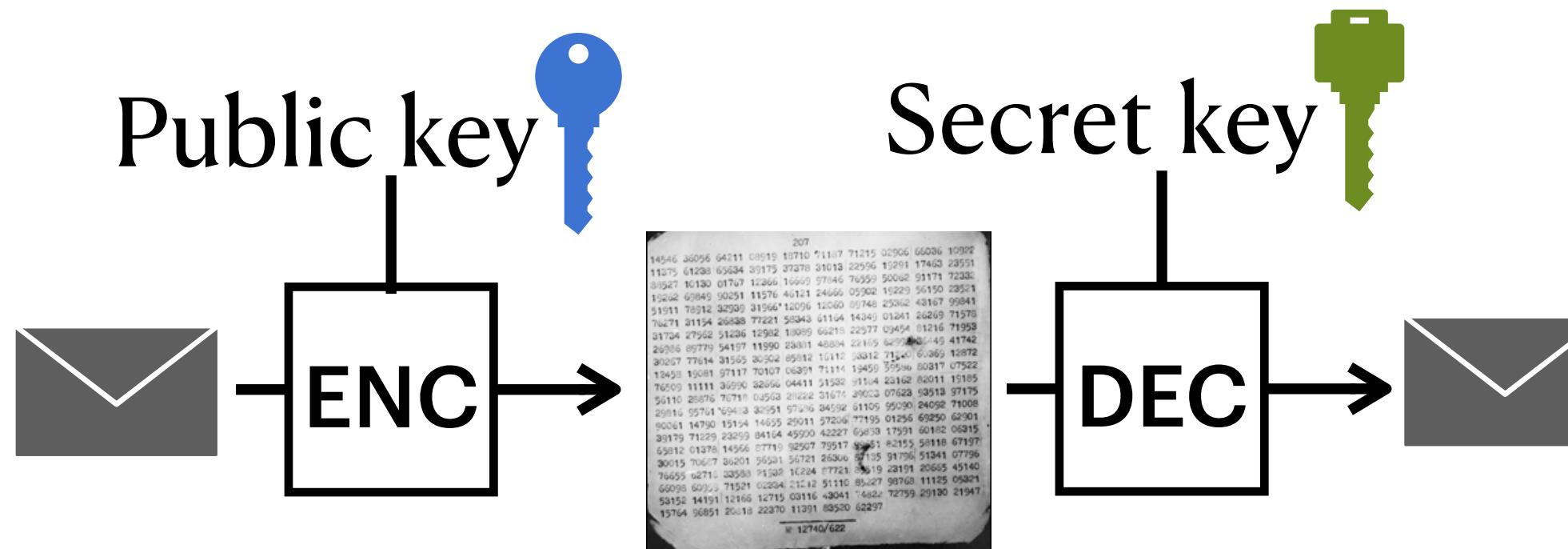
\* almost all

# Public-key cryptography based on factoring

RSA

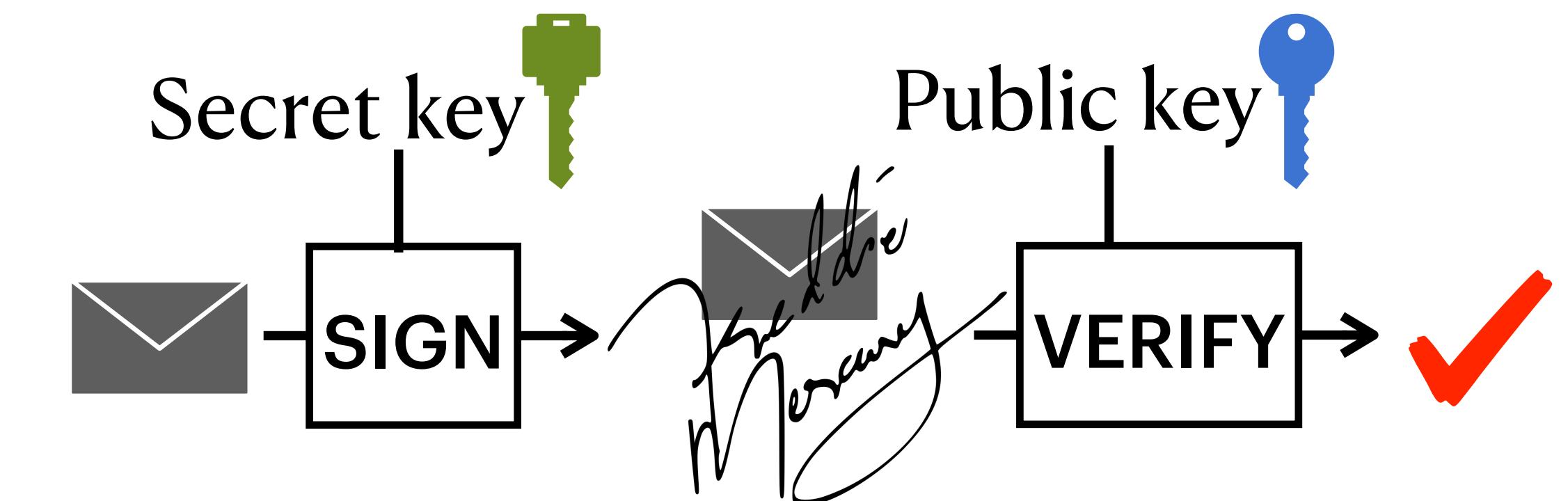


Public-key encryption



Secrecy: no one else can read

Digital signature



Authentication: no one else can modify/forge

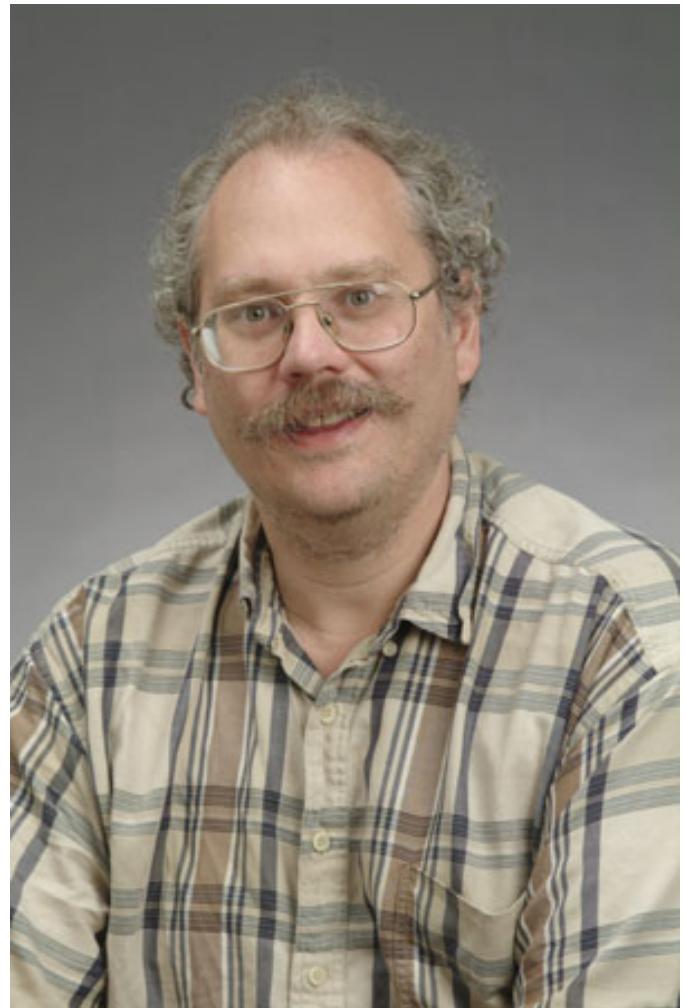
# Foundation of a secure cyberspace



# Broken in a quantum world



Quantum computer can solve  
factoring etc. efficiently! '1994



Peter Shor



Alexei Kitaev



[Cryptographic algorithms]  
RSA, ECDSA, ...

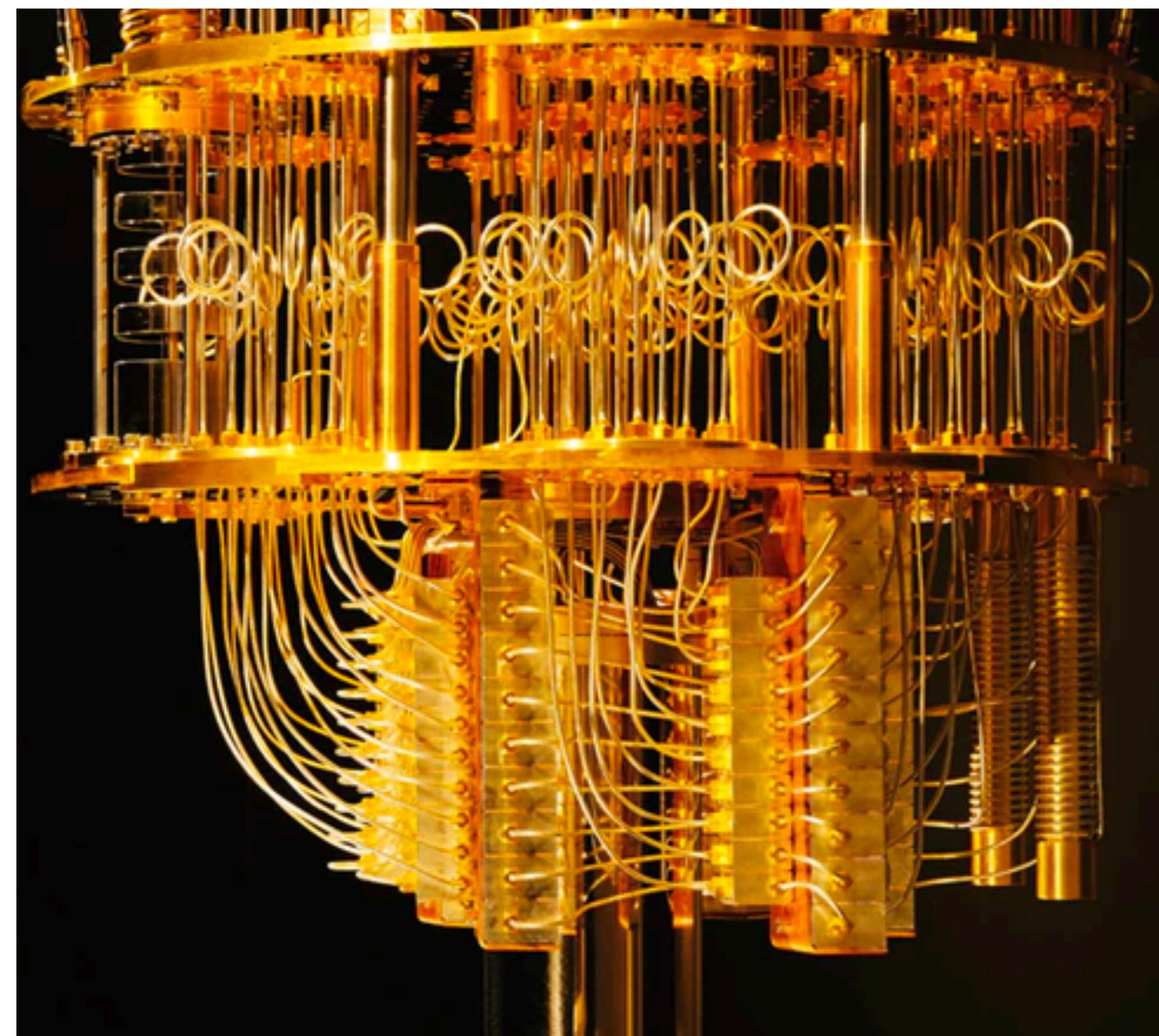
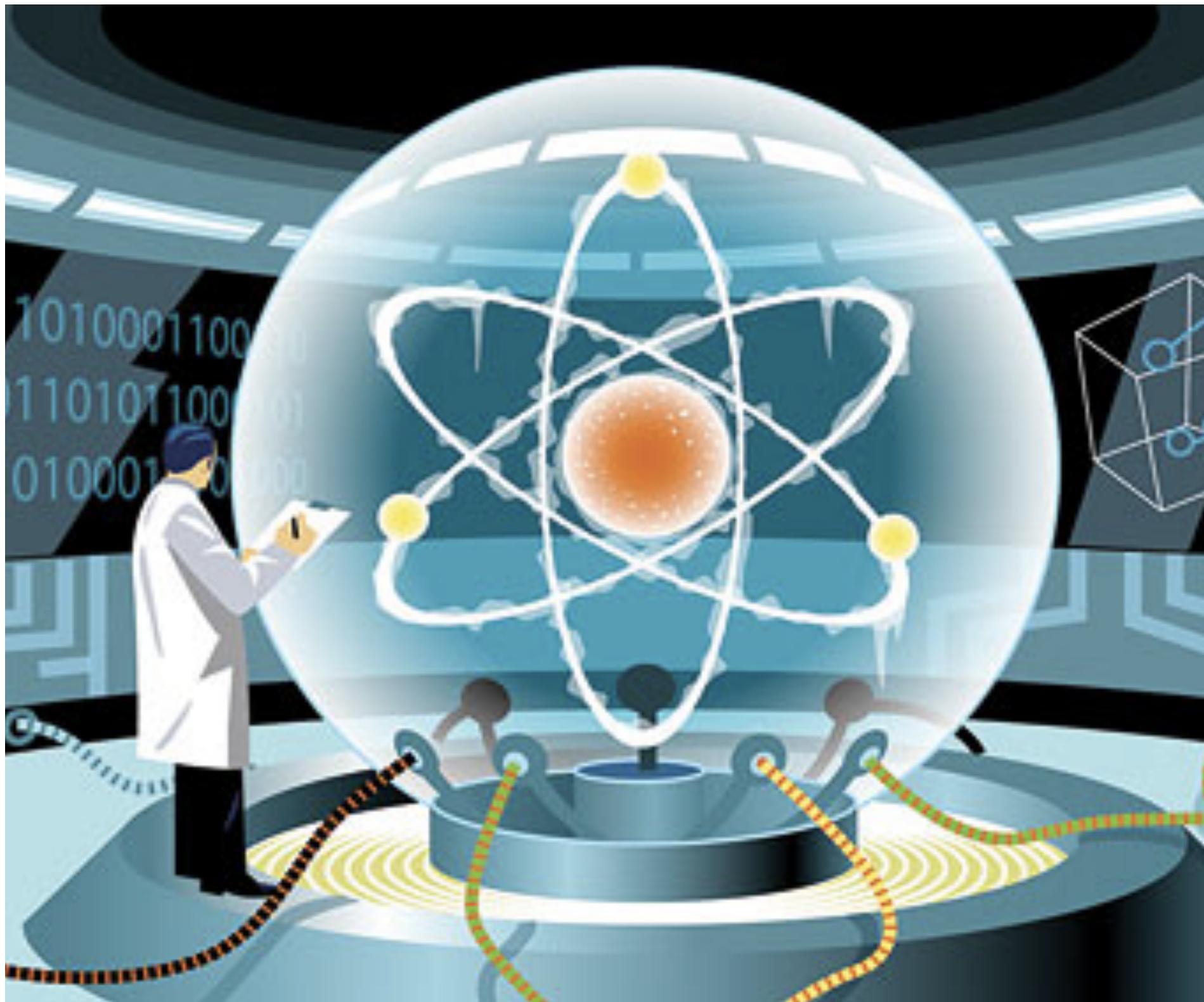
# This talk

1 Quantum threat to cryptography

2 Quantum computing 101

3 Migrating to post-quantum cryptography

# What is a quantum computer



# Quantum bits

## ◎ Probability theory

- $0 \leq p_0, p_1 \leq 1$
- $p_0 + p_1 = 1$  ( $\ell_1$ -normalized)



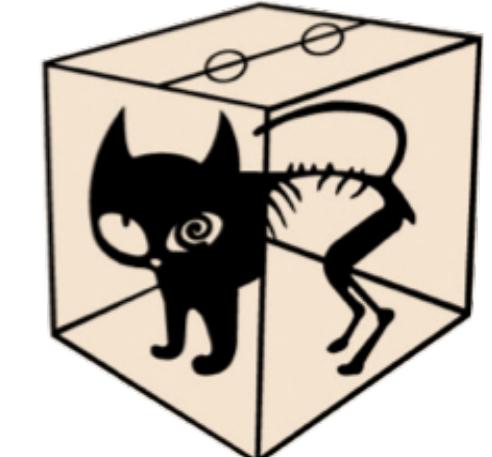
## ◎ Quantum = Prob. theory ++

- Amplitudes  $p_0, p_1 \in \mathbb{C}$  (negative OK)
- $|p_0|^2 + |p_1|^2 = 1$  ( $\ell_2$ -normalized)

**Qubit**  
(Quantum superposition)

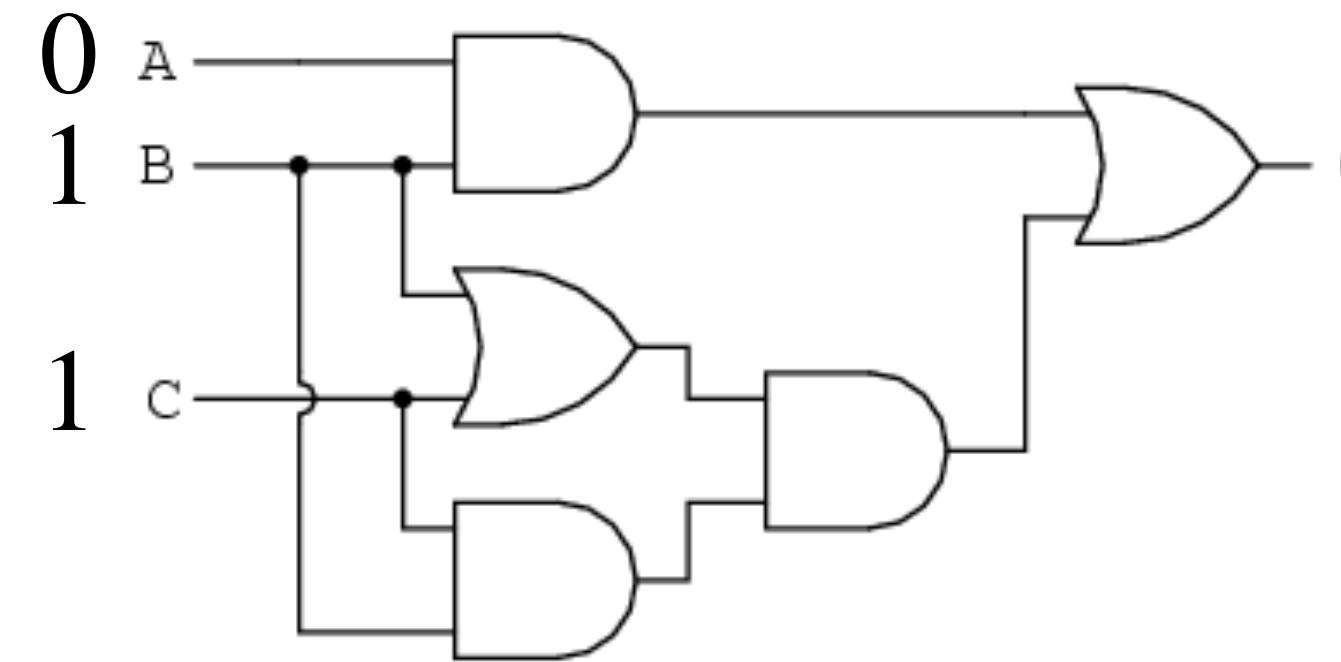
$$= \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \left| \begin{array}{c} \text{HEADS} \\ \text{QUARTER DOLLAR} \end{array} \right\rangle + \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \left| \begin{array}{c} \text{TAILS} \\ \text{CRATER LAKE} \end{array} \right\rangle$$

SCHRÖDINGER'S CAT IS  
ALIVE



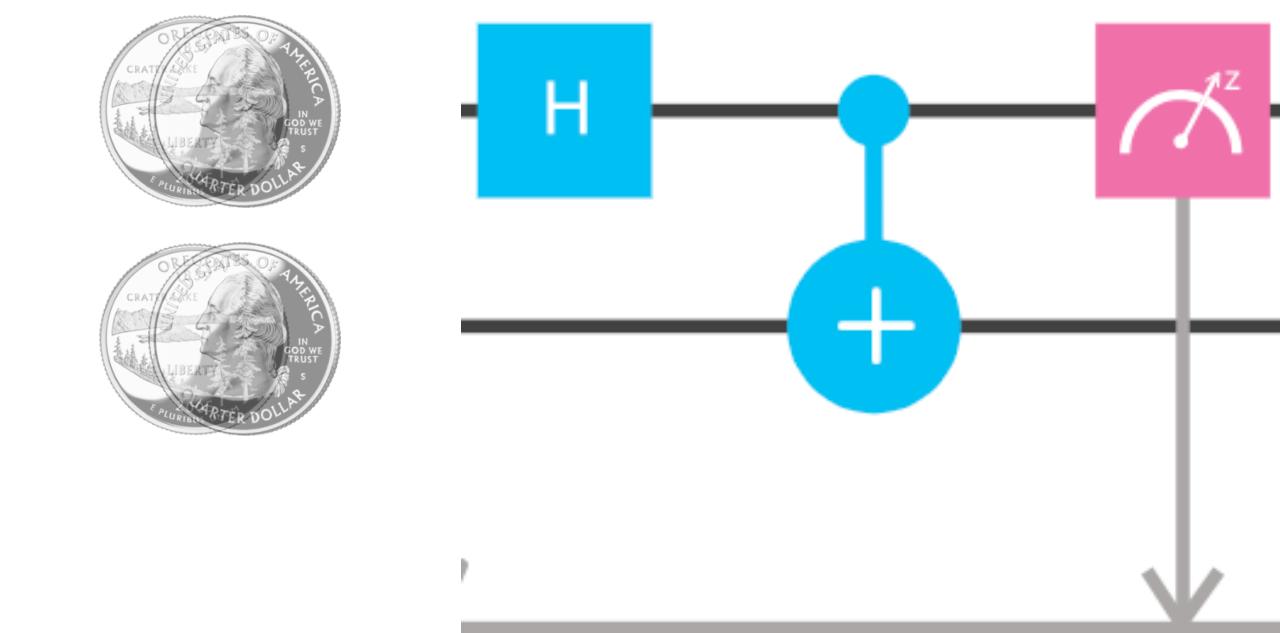
# Quantum circuits

## ○ Classical computer



Boolean gates and circuits

## ○ Quantum computer



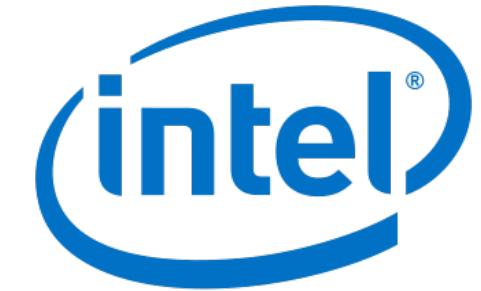
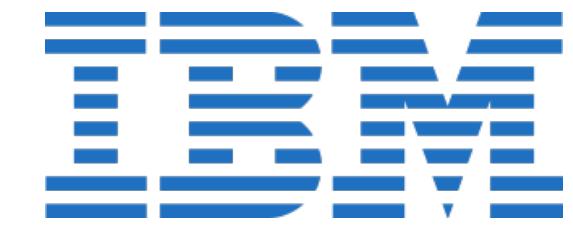
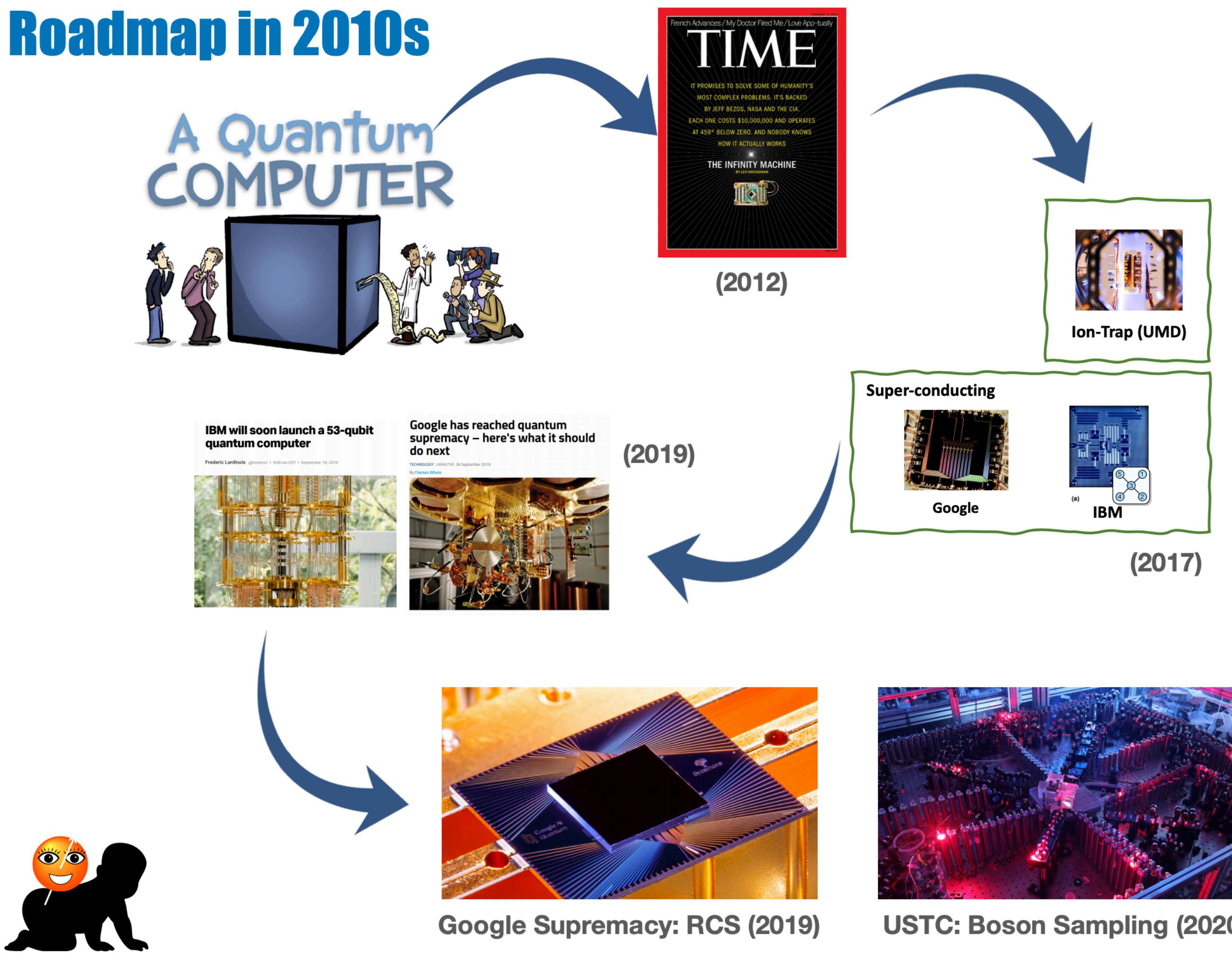
Quantum gates and circuits

What do we gain?

- Infeasible to simulate by a classical computer  
(300 qubits  $\sim 2^{300}$  bits to describe )
- Solve hard problems faster by constructive inference ( $\neq$  mass parallelism)

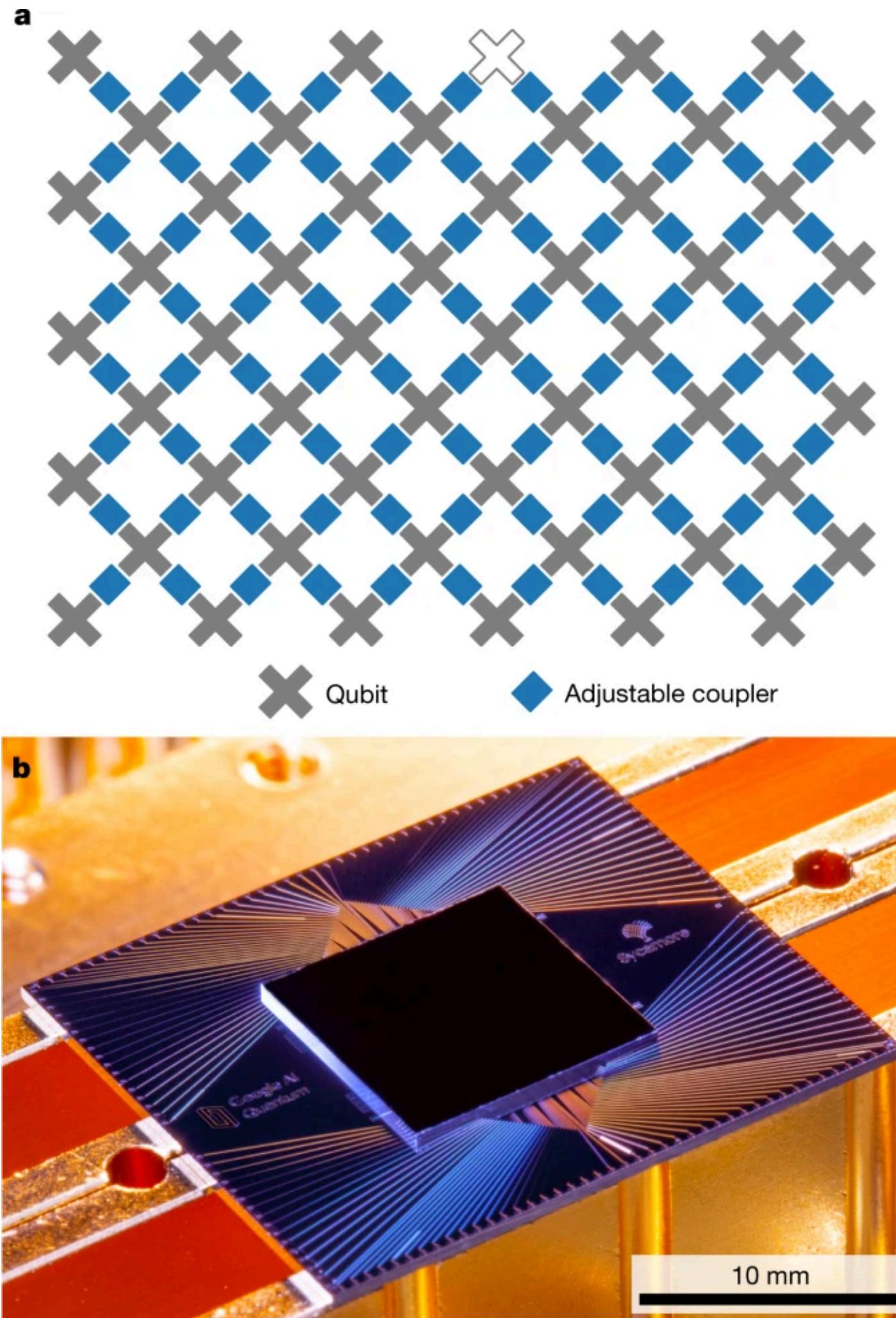
# What's in the news?

## Roadmap in 2010s



Courtesy of X. Wu

# Quantum computational supremacy



Google's Sycamore chip, 2019

- ◎ **Goal:** use a quantum computer to solve some **well-defined** problems that would take **orders of magnitude longer** to solve with any currently known algorithms running on existing classical computers.
- ◎ **Google's experiment: Random circuit sampling**
  - 53-qubit super conducting chip
  - **200 seconds** to sample a million times
  - **10,000 years** on state-of-the-art classical supercomputer (IBM claims a few days suffice)

Scott Aaronson's FAQ: <https://www.scottaaronson.com/blog/?p=4317>

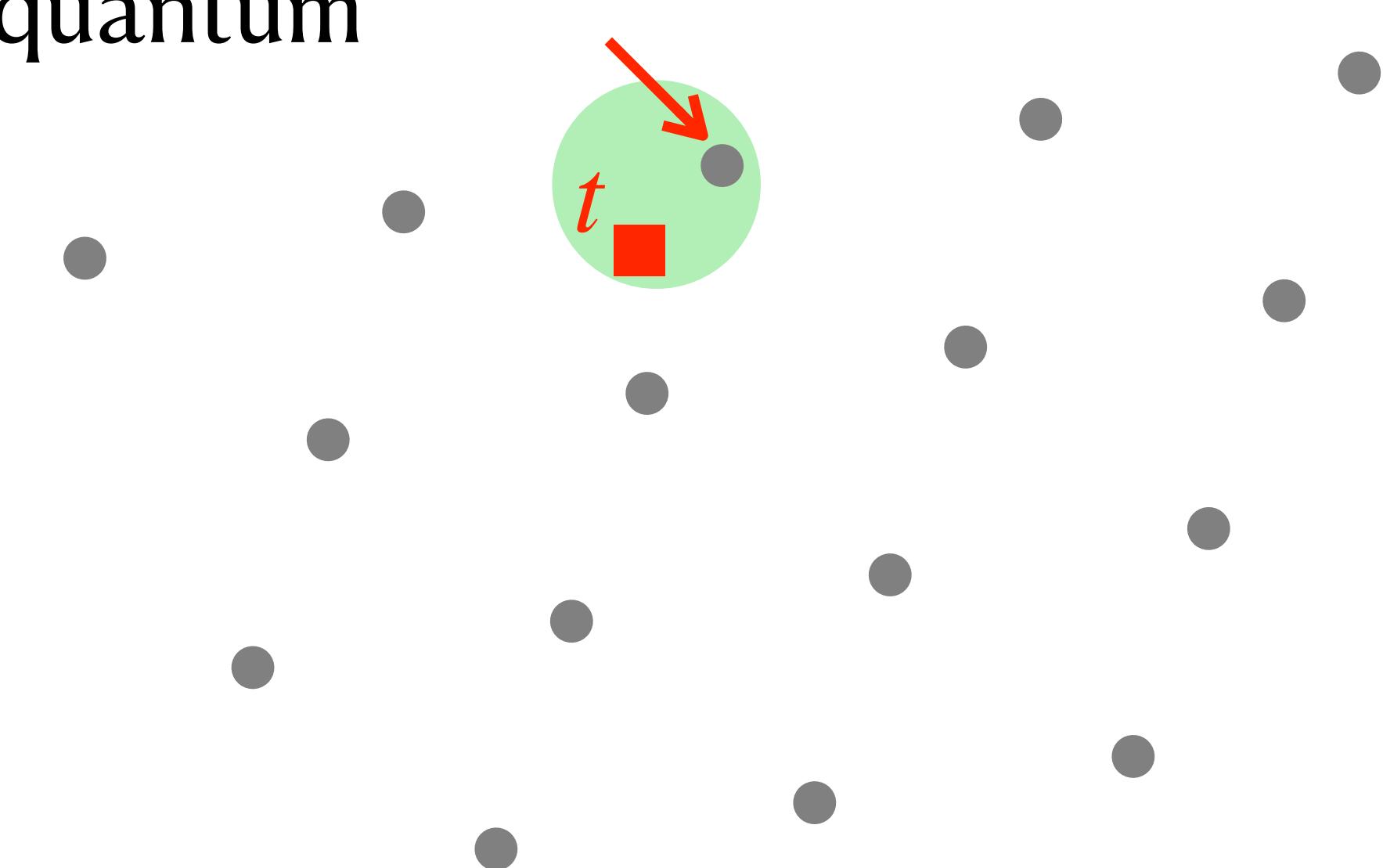
# This talk

- 1 Quantum threat to cryptography
- 2 Quantum computing 101 &
- 3 Migrating to post-quantum cryptography

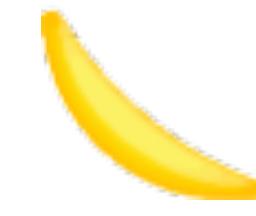
# We've got lattices!

- Intractable problems (as dimension grows)

- CVP (closest vector problem)
- SVP (shortest vector problem) = closest lattice point to origin
- Best algorithms take time  $2^{cn}$ , classical or quantum



# Lattice-based cryptography



Hash functions, digital signatures



Public-key encryption, ID-based encryption



Fully homomorphic encryption, functional encryption,  
Program obfuscation ...

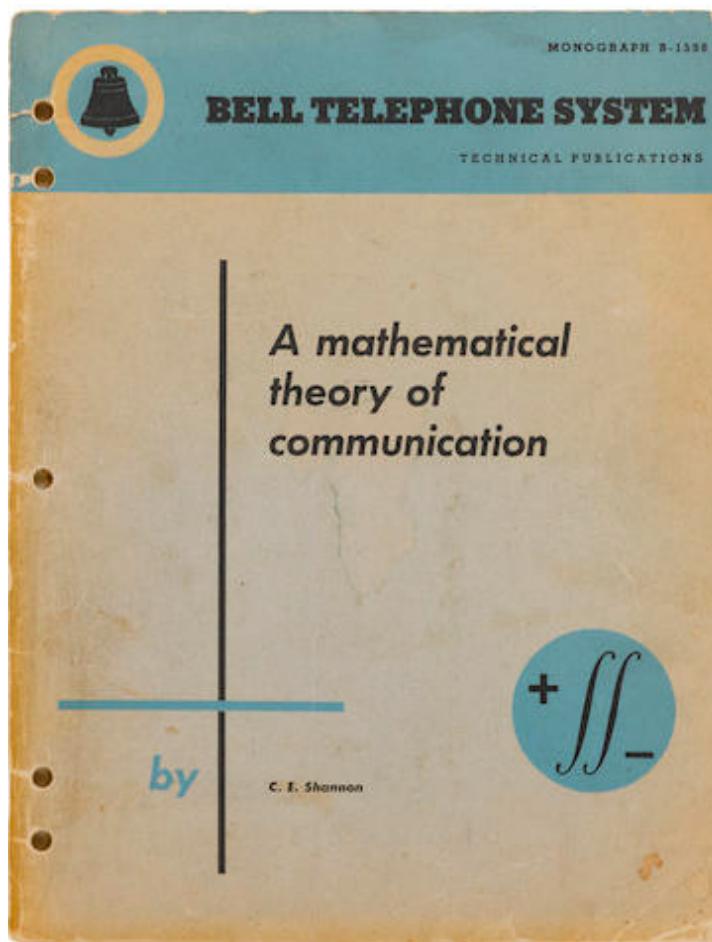


Lattice  
problems

# More post-quantum candidates

## ◎ Coding theory

- [McEliece](#) PKE



## ◎ Multivariate equations

- [Rainbow](#) signature

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} y_1 = x_1x_2 + x_1x_3 + x_1x_5 + x_2x_5 + x_2x_6 + x_3x_5 + x_5x_6 \pmod{p} \\ y_2 = x_1x_3 + x_2x_4 + x_3x_5 \pmod{p} \\ y_3 = x_1x_3 + x_1x_5 + x_2x_3 + x_3x_4 + x_3x_6 + x_5x_6 \pmod{p} \\ y_4 = x_1x_2 + x_3x_5 \pmod{p} \\ y_5 = x_1x_3 + x_1x_4 + x_1x_5 + x_2x_4 + x_3x_4 + x_3x_6 \pmod{p} \\ y_6 = x_1x_3 + x_1x_4 + x_2x_3 + x_2x_5 + x_3x_4 + x_4x_5 + x_4x_6 \pmod{p} \end{array} \right.$$

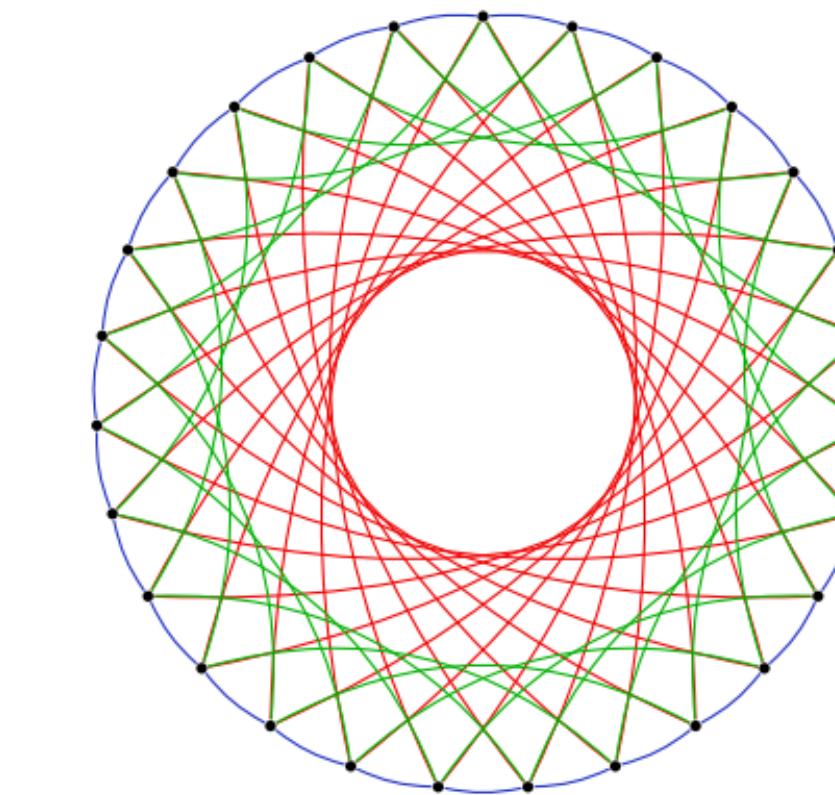
## ○ Hash-based signature.

- [XMSS \(RFC8391\)](#), [LMS \(RFC8554\)](#)



## ◎ (Elliptic-curve) Isogeny

- Supersingular-Isogeny-Key-Exchange ([SIKE](#))



# Yes, this is serious business



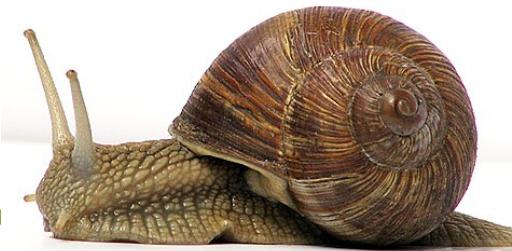
“... we announce preliminary plans for transitioning to quantum resistant algorithms.”

**Aug 19, 2015**

[www.nsa.gov/ia/programs/suiteb\\_cryptography/](http://www.nsa.gov/ia/programs/suiteb_cryptography/)

## ◎ How soon do we need to worry?

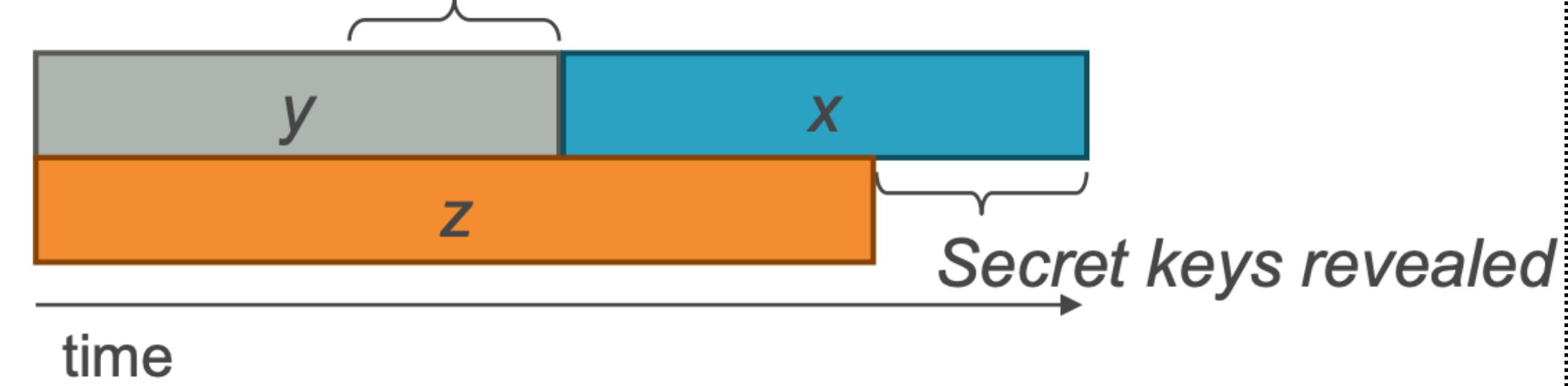
- $x$ : time your data needs to be safe
- $y$ : time to **transit** to quantum-safe infrastructure
- $z$ : time to build a full-scale quantum computer



## Mosca's theorem

Theorem 1: If  $x + y > z$ , then worry.

What do we do here??



# NIST post-quantum crypto standardization



[https://csrc.nist.gov/  
projects/post-quantum-  
cryptography](https://csrc.nist.gov/projects/post-quantum-cryptography)

## ◎ Scope

- Digital **signatures**
- Public-key encryption / **Key-encapsulation Mechanism**

## ◎ Expected outcome

- A **few** algorithms rather than a single winner (unlike AES, SHA-3)

## ◎ Evaluation criteria

- Security, performance, other features (e.g., drop-in replacement)

# NIST PQC standardization - Timeline

## ● It takes time, for sure

- 2006 – 1<sup>st</sup> PQCrypto conference in Leuven, Belgium
- 2009 – NIST PQC survey [Quantum Resistant Public Key Cryptography: A Survey](#) [Perlner, Cooper]
- 2012 – NIST begins PQC project
- Apr 2015 – NIST Workshop on Cybersecurity in a Post-Quantum World
- Aug 2015 – NSA announcement
- Feb 2016 – NIST Report on PQC ([NISTIR 8105](#))
- Feb 2016 – NIST announcement of “competition-like process” at PQCrypto in Japan
- Dec 2016 – Final requirements and evaluation criteria published
- Nov 2017 – Deadline for Submissions
- Dec 2017 – Round 1 begins – 69 candidates accepted as “complete and proper”
- Apr 2018 – 1<sup>st</sup> NIST PQC Standardization Workshop
- Jan 2019 – Round 2 candidates announced
- Aug 2019 – 2<sup>nd</sup> NIST PQC Standardization Workshop

|                 |
|-----------------|
| July 22, 2020   |
| October 1, 2020 |
| 2022/2024       |

[Third Round Candidates announced](#) (7 Finalists and 8 Alternates)

Deadline for updated submission packages for the Third Round

Draft Standards Available

# NIST PQC standardization - 3rd round contenders

## ◎ Public-key Encryption and Key-establishment Algorithms

- Classic McEliece (**Code**-based)
- CRYSTALS-KYBER (**Lattice**-based)
- NTRU (**Lattice**-based)
- SABER (**Lattice**-based)

## ◎ Digital Signature Algorithms

- CRYSTALS-DILITHIUM (**Lattice**-based)
- FALCON (**Lattice**-based)
- Rainbow (**Multivariate-equation**-based)



July 22, 2020

# NIST PQC standardization, stay tuned

- Mailing list: [pqc-forum@list.nist.gov](mailto:pqc-forum@list.nist.gov)

## Email List

NIST has set up a [pqc-forum@list.nist.gov](mailto:pqc-forum@list.nist.gov) mailing list. The mailing list will be used to discuss the standardization and adoption of secure, interoperable and efficient post-quantum algorithms.

You must be subscribed to send email to the mailing list. Please use the instructions below to subscribe.

### To join:

<mailto:pqc-forum+subscribe@list.nist.gov>

You will receive a response message from jupyter+subconfirm@list.nist.gov. Please click the "Join" link inside that email to confirm your subscription request.

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# A cautionary tale

- An unexpected **quantum** break of some lattice crypto

- These systems assume a high-dimension generalization of Pell's equation is hard to solve.
- My work gives an efficient **quantum** algorithm for this generalized problem. [EHKS<sub>14</sub>,BS<sub>16</sub>]

- Hardness of the PQC candidates needs more scrutiny by more people



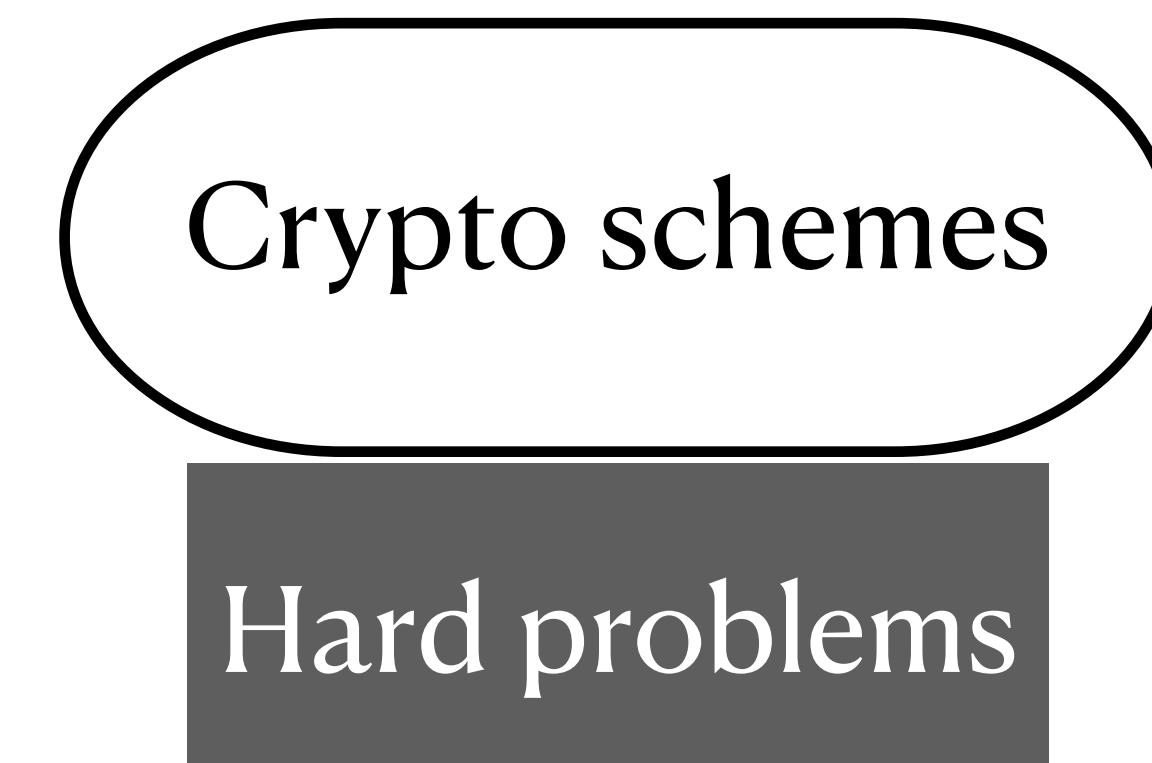
# Another “invisible” issue



The **formal framework** of modern cryptography needs “retrofitting”



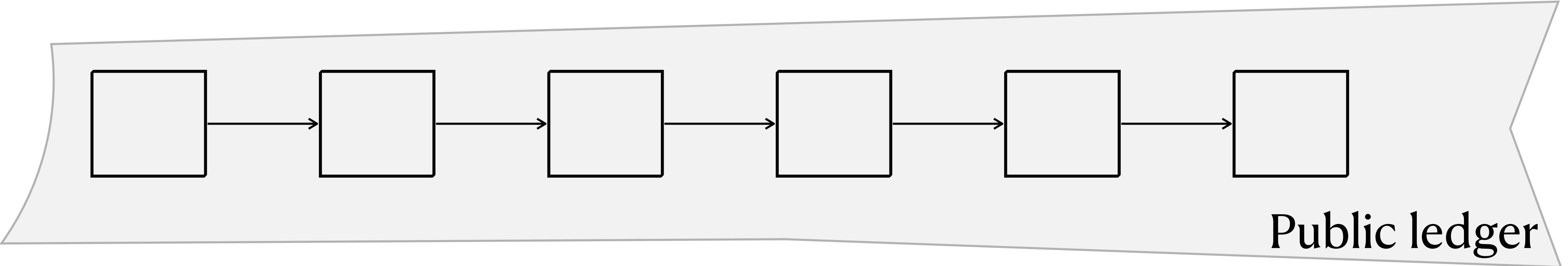
“... created mathematical structures  
that turned cryptography from an  
**art** into a **science**”



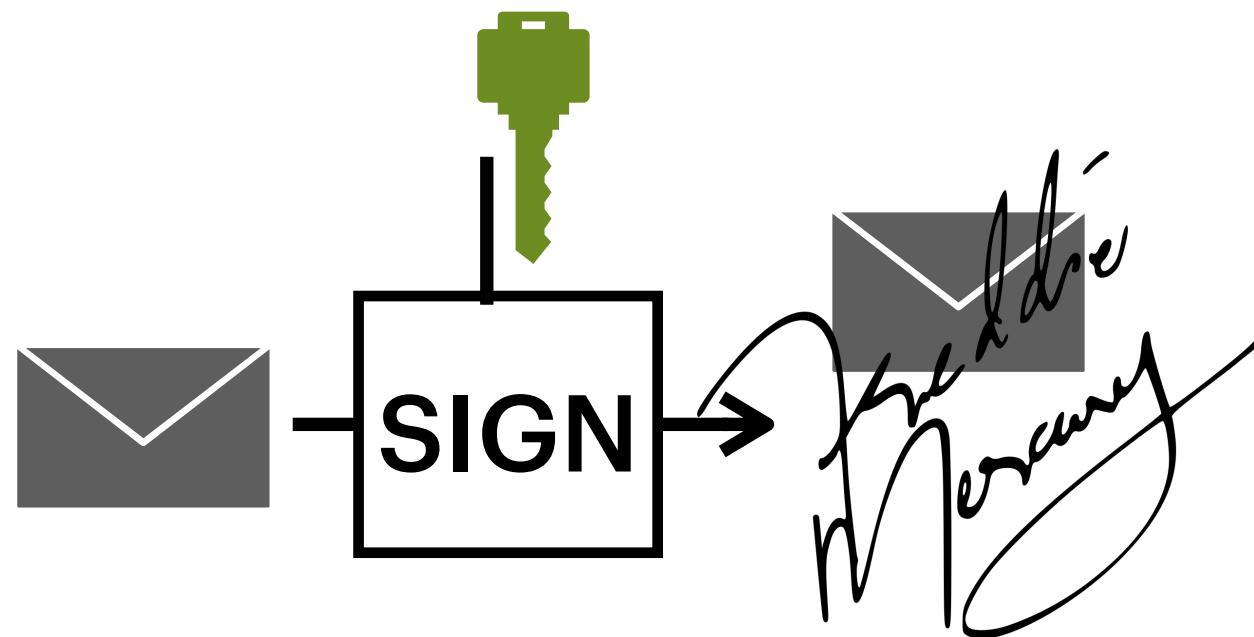
Can't claim **quantum**  
security of a crypto scheme,  
solely because it builds on a  
quantum hard problem

Find out more in my talk at PQCAsia forum 2016 [YouTube](#)

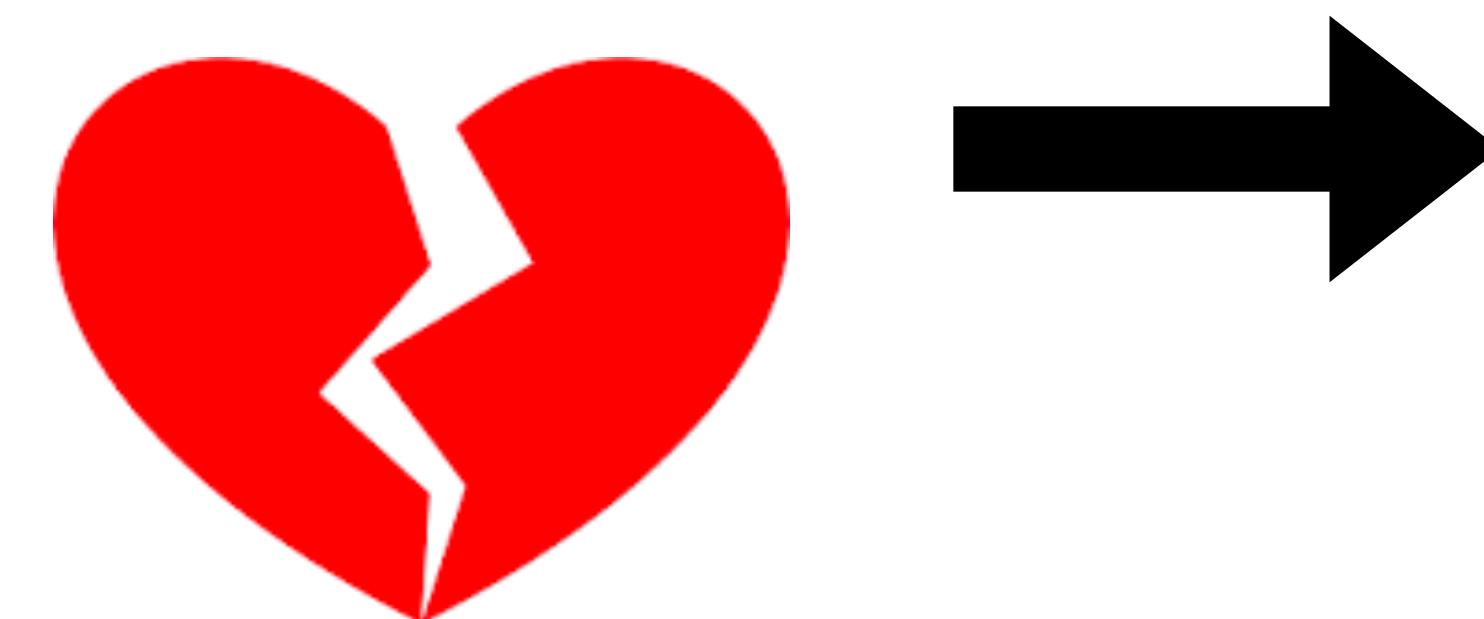
# Enough, should I sell my crypto(currency)?



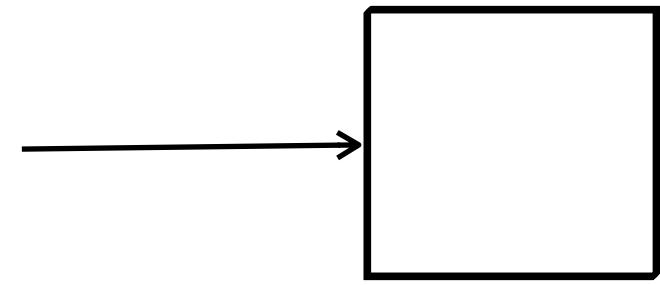
**Broken** by quantum  
computers



Elliptic-Curve Digital  
Signature Algorithm  
(ECDSA), Schnorr  
signature



**Recommendation:**  
Upgrade to post-  
quantum signatures  
(hash-based, ...)

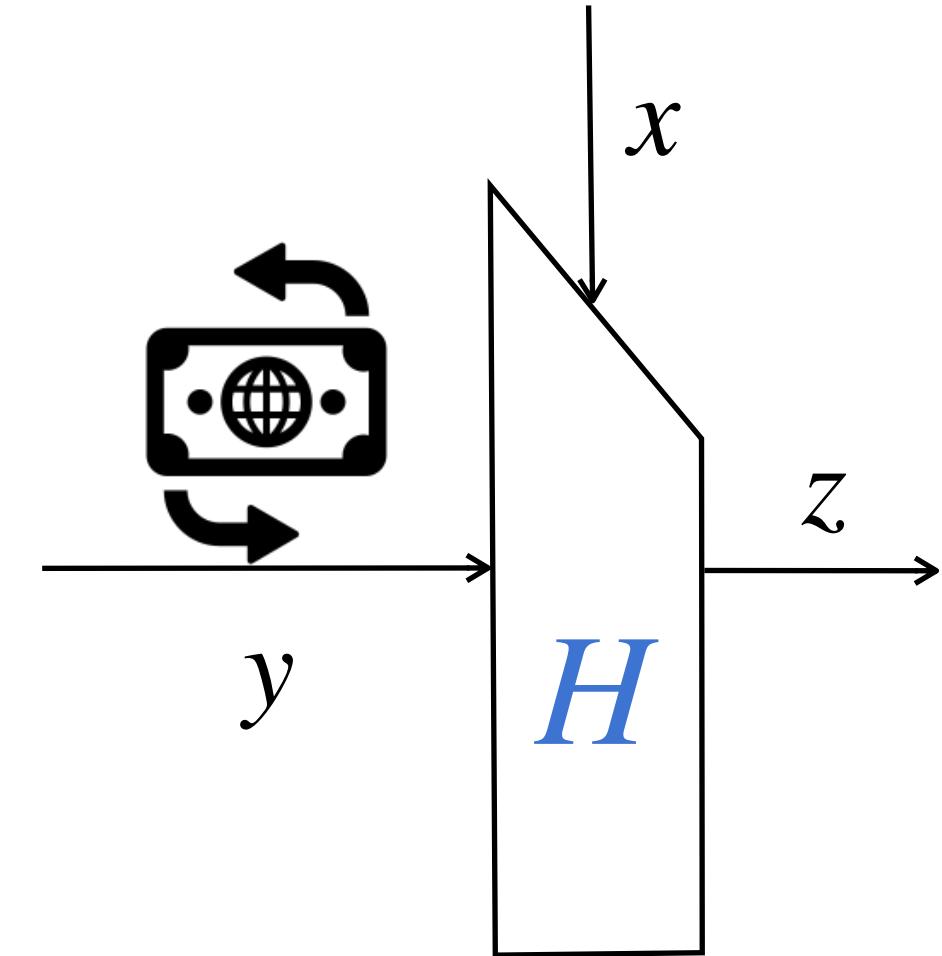


# How about the blockchain?

- How to generate a block: **Proof-of-Work (PoW)**

- $H$ : cryptographic hash function (SHA-256)

Compress a long input to a **random** short digest ( $\leq N$ ).

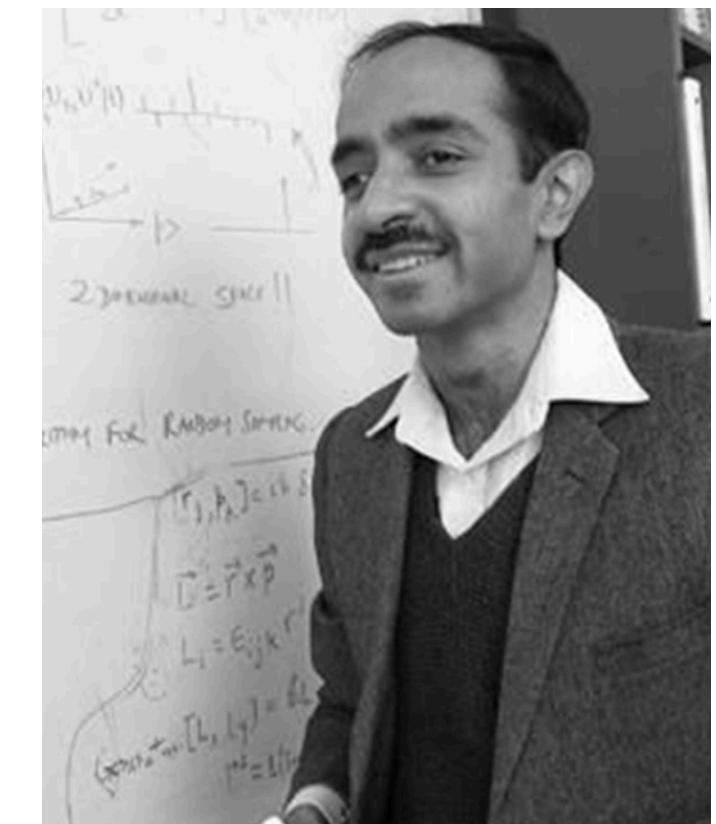


- PoW: find  $x$ , such that  $H(x; y) = z \leq T$  (hardness threshold)
  - Cost:  $\sim N/T$  evaluations of  $H$ .

- A good chain: need **honest majority hashing power**

- Malicious miners with **quantum** computers?

- Grover's quantum search algorithm solves PoW faster  $\sim \sqrt{N/T}$
  - Further investigation is challenging and undergoing [arXiv:2012.15254](https://arxiv.org/abs/2012.15254)



# QC: prospects & broader impacts?

# Quantum cryptography

Honest users can harness quantum capability too

- Quantum-Key-Distribution (QKD) [BB84,E91]
  - Secure against computationally unbounded eavesdroppers
  - Impossible by classical communication alone
- Protect quantum information
  - Encrypt and authenticate quantum data ...
- Technology is maturer than full QC

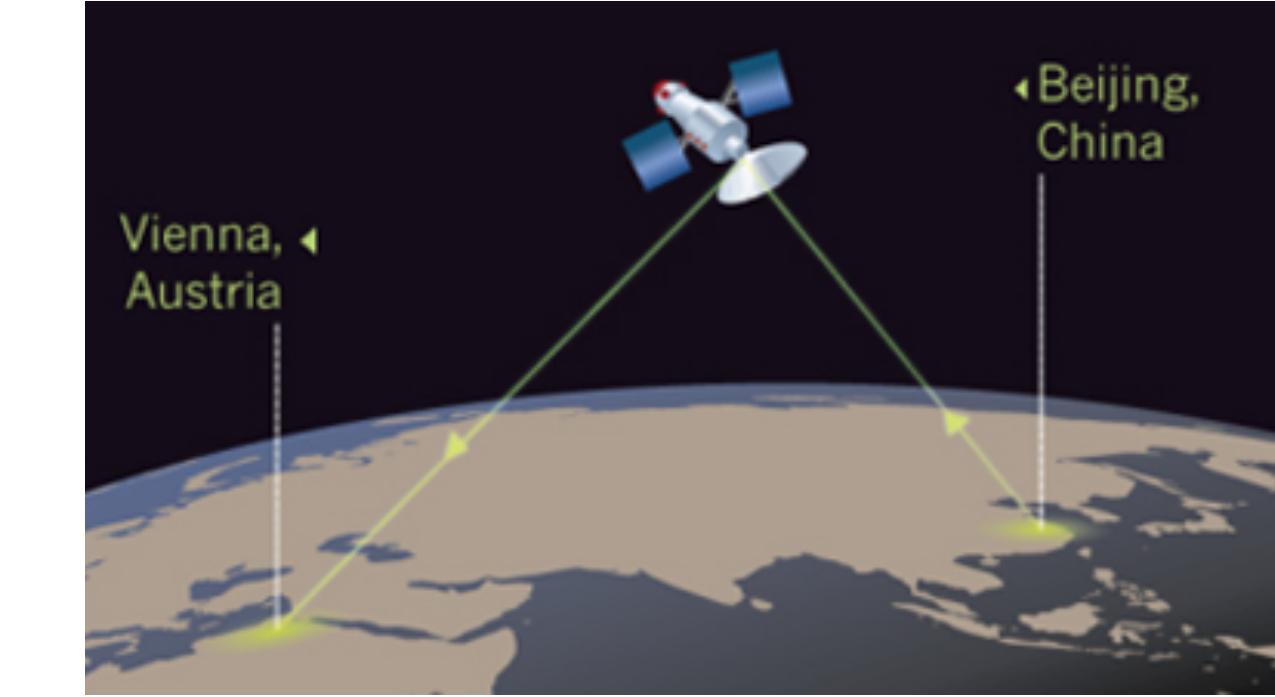


[idquantique.com](http://idquantique.com)

# Quantum Internet



... a pan-European Quantum Internet by ground-breaking technological advances. **1b€, 10 years.**



**Micius quantum satellite. QUSS project  
(QuantumExperiments at SpaceScale)**



A STRATEGIC VISION FOR  
AMERICA'S QUANTUM  
NETWORKS

The President's Budget includes \$25 million for the Department of Energy Office of Science to support early stage research for a quantum internet. ... improving the security of our communications ... **FY21.**

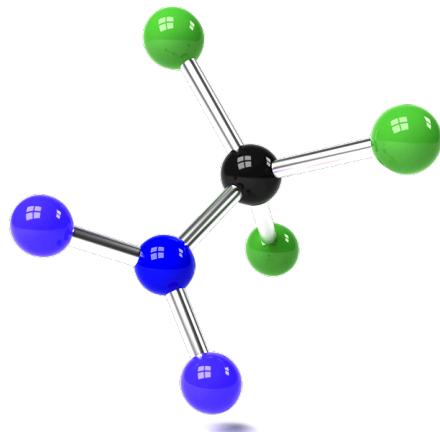
# (noisy intermediate-scale quantum) NISQ era and beyond



## Quantum simulation

Origin of a “quantum computer”,  
proposed by Richard Feynman in 80's

- Energy efficient fertilizer: 1.2% of the world's total energy
- Drug discovery
- ...



c|net

COVID-19 BEST REVIEWS NEWS HOW TO HOME CARS

**IBM's first 'retail' quantum computer in the US headed to Cleveland Clinic**

## Quantum optimization

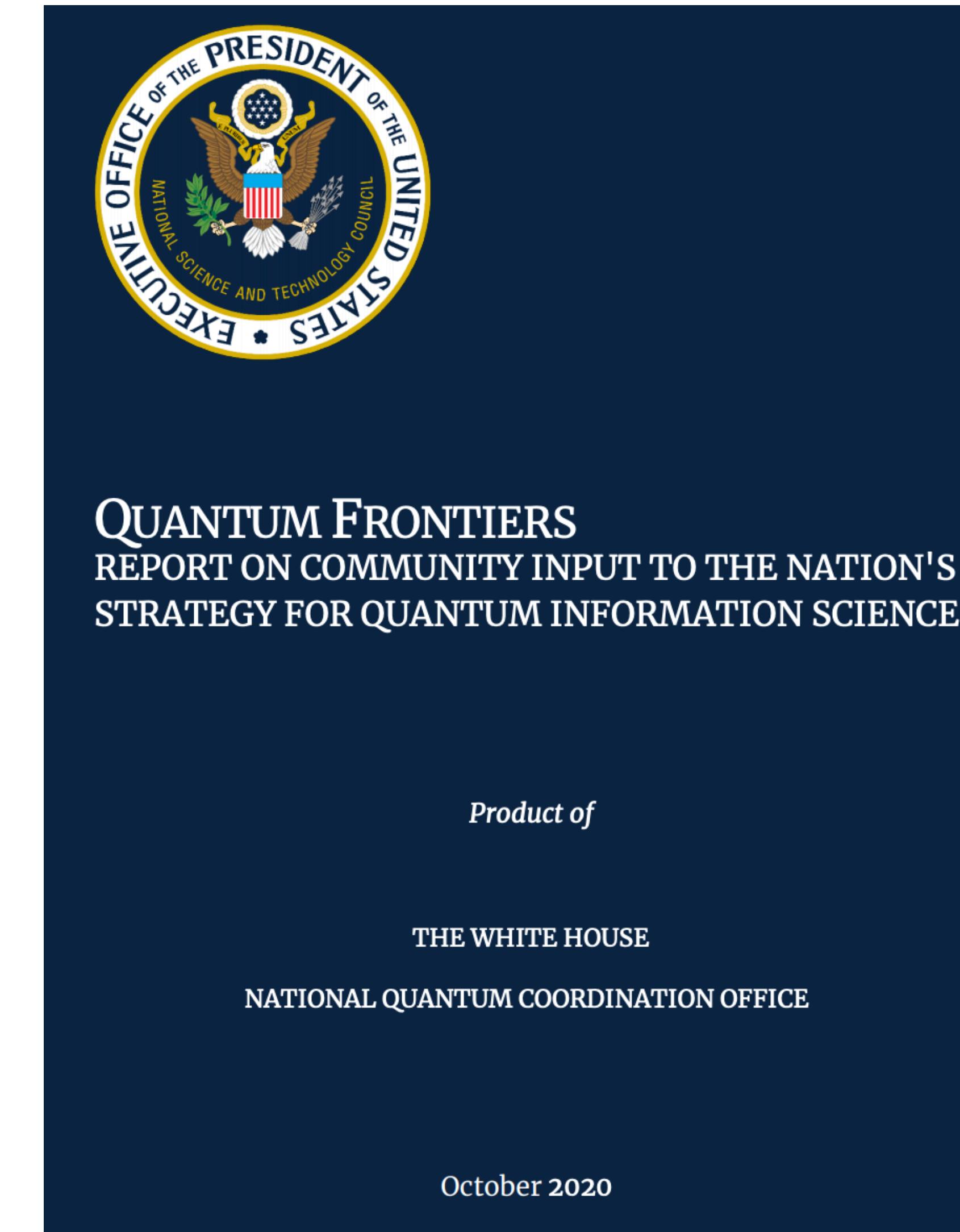
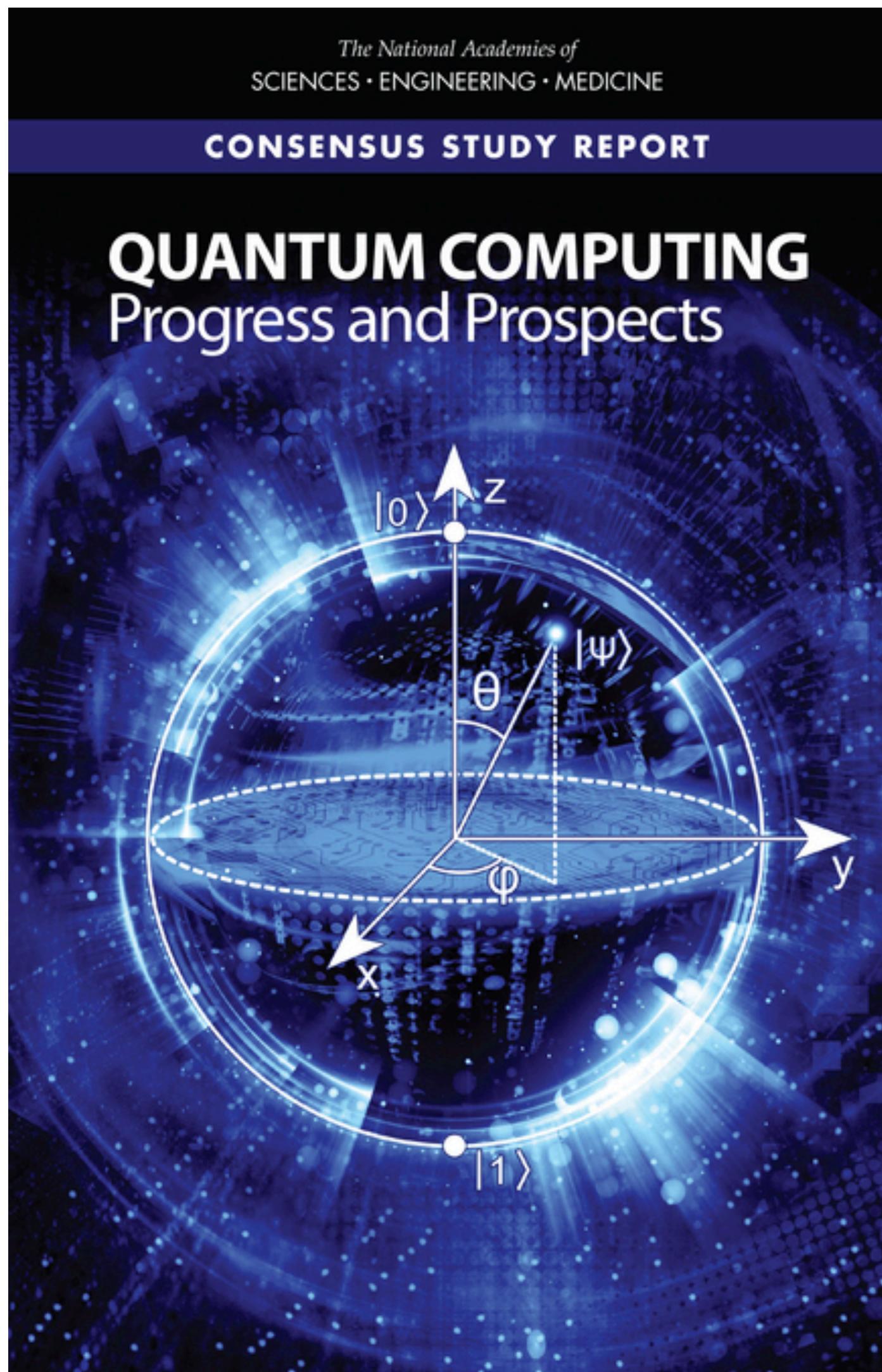
e.g., variational quantum methods



## Quantum sensing



# Read more ...



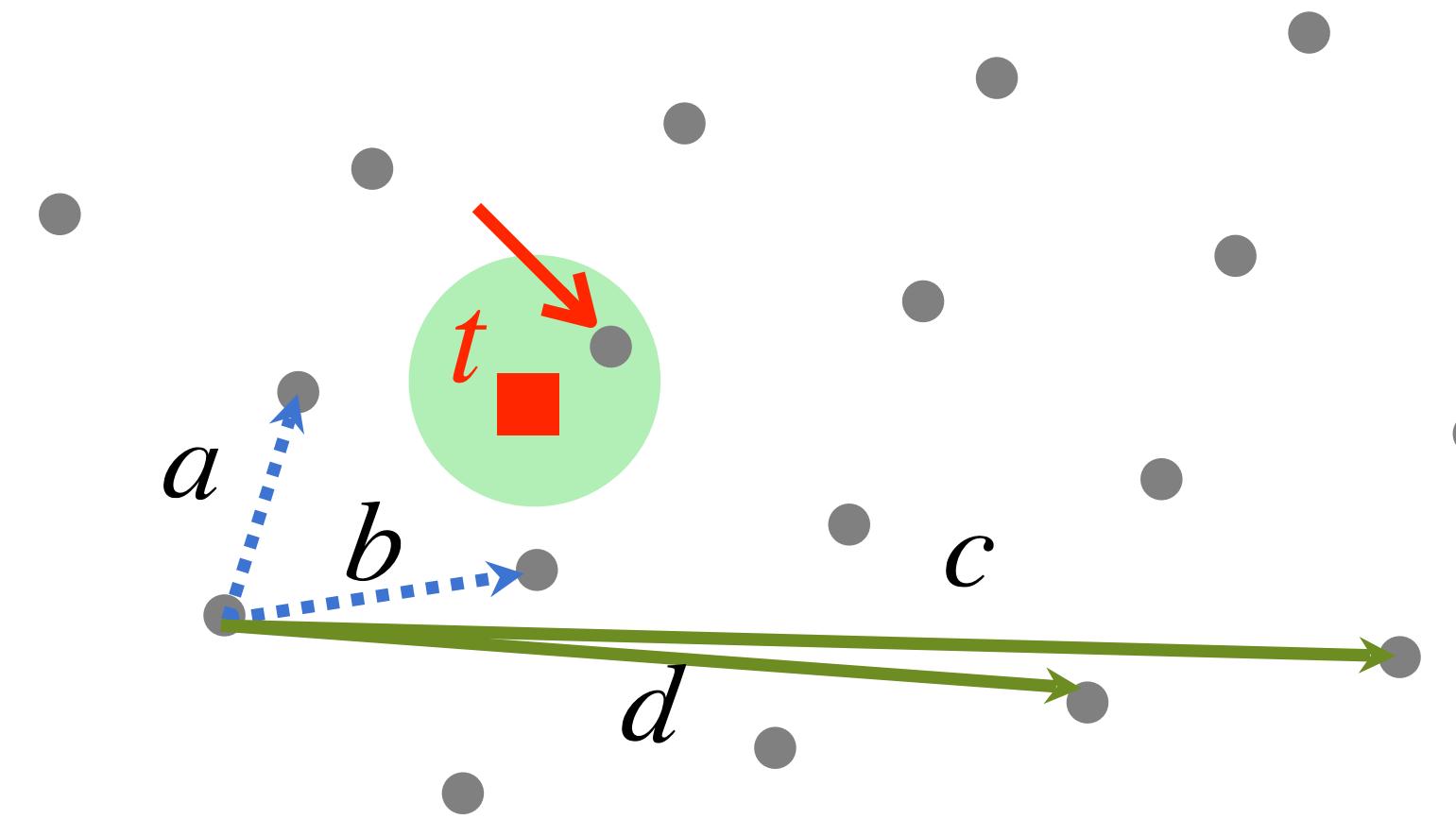
*Thanks!*

Scratch

# Supplement

# A toy (insecure) signature scheme [GGH97]

**Public key:** a bad basis  $B$   
**Secret key:** a good basis  $A$



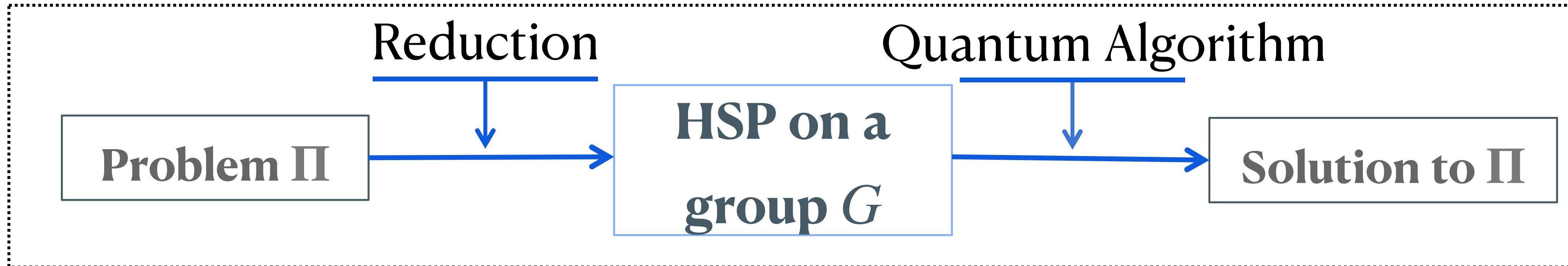
**Signing:** on msg  $t \in \mathbb{R}^n$ , use  
good basis to find closest  $v \in L$ .

**Verification:** on  $(t, v)$ , verify  
 $v \in L(B)$  and  $\|v - t\|$  small.

Forging a signature is difficult  
( $\approx$  CVP) without a good basis

- Unfortunately, the signatures reveal information about the good basis
- Nonetheless, lattices appear well suited to construct cryptography

# Hidden subgroup problem (HSP)

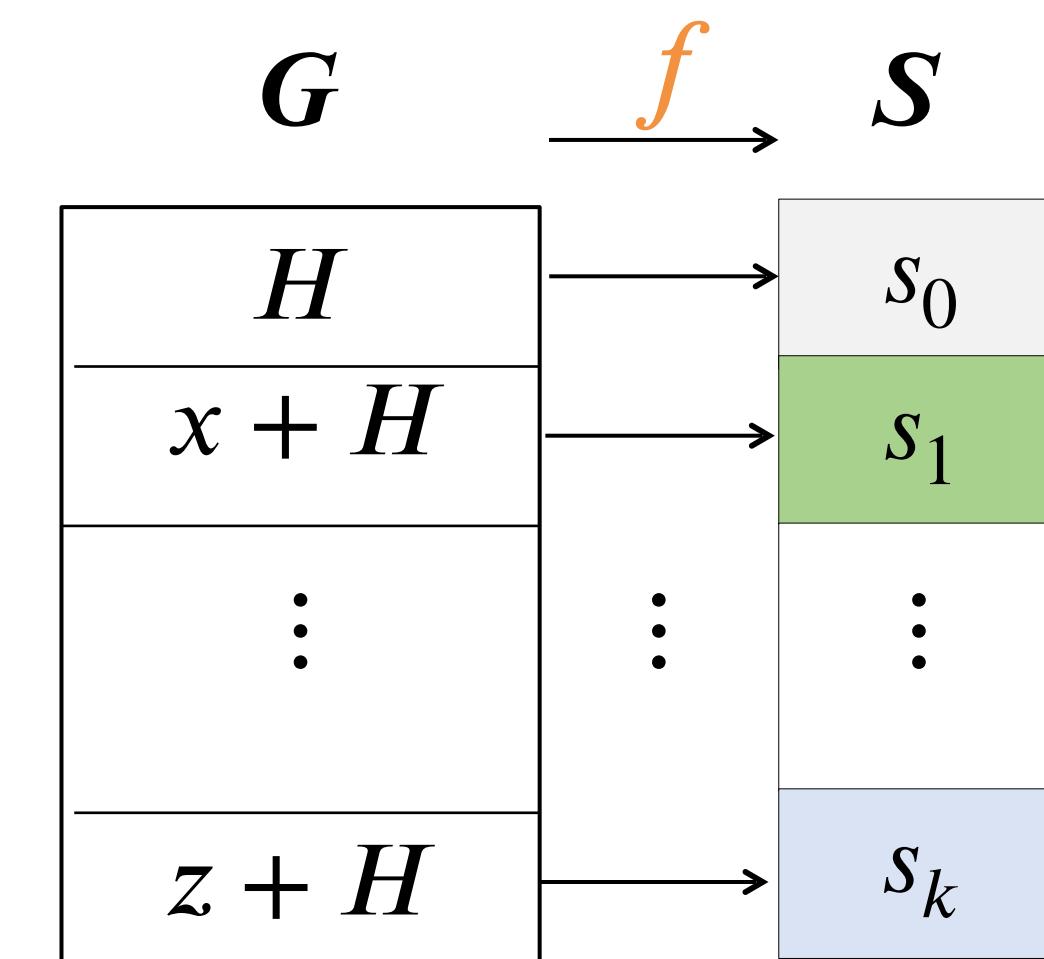


- **Standard HSP on finite group  $G$**

**Given:** oracle function  $f: G \rightarrow S$ , s.t.  $\exists H \leq G$ ,

$$f(x) = f(y) \text{ iff. } x - y \in H$$

**Goal:** Find  $H$  with few evaluations of  $f$ .



- **Continuous  $\mathbb{R}^n$  is tricky. We've found a solution [EHKS14]**

# Interesting HSP instances

| Computational Problems | HSP on G                           |
|------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Factoring              | $\mathbb{Z}$                       |
| Discrete logarithm     | $\mathbb{Z}_N \times \mathbb{Z}_N$ |
| Pell's equation        | $\mathbb{R}$                       |
| PIP etc.               | Continuous $\mathbb{R}^n$          |
| Graph isomorphism      | Symmetric group                    |
| Unique shortest vector | Dihedral group                     |

**Abelian groups**

$\exists$  efficient  
quantum algs

**Non-abelian**  
efficient quantum  
algs unknown