

- Binary Logic: Classical computers are built upon Boolean algebra, using binary values (0 and 1) to represent logical states.
 - Classical Logic Gates: Devices such as AND, OR, NOT, NAND, NOR, XOR, and XNOR perform basic logical operations. These gates are constructed from transistors.
 - Transistor Physics: Transistors operate via classical electrodynamics and solid-state physics, particularly:
 - Semiconductors that can be doped to create p-type and n-type materials.
 - PN junctions that allow or block current based on voltage polarity.
 - Voltage thresholds that determine when a gate flips from 0 to 1.
 - Classical gates behave in a deterministic manner: given the same inputs, the outputs are always the same.
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- Moore's Law: the number of transistors on a chip doubles approximately every two years.
 - As transistors shrink to the nanometer scale, quantum effects like tunneling and superposition become non-negligible, and heat dissipation and power leakage issues emerge due to the density and sensitivity of circuits.
 - At scales below ~10 nanometers, electrons can tunnel through barriers that classical physics would forbid. This undermines the reliability of classical logic gates, which rely on sharp voltage thresholds.
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- Quantum Mechanics governs the behavior of particles at atomic and subatomic scales:
- Superposition: A quantum system can exist in multiple states simultaneously until measured.
- Entanglement: Two or more qubits can become correlated, such that the state of one immediately influences the other—no matter the distance.

- Quantum systems evolve via reversible operations governed by unitary matrices (unlike classical logic gates, which are not always reversible).

Quantum Bits (Qubits)

- A qubit is the quantum analog of a classical bit. It can be in state $|0\rangle$, $|1\rangle$, or any linear combination (superposition).
 - Qubits can be implemented using:
 - Spin states of electrons
 - Polarization of photons
 - Superconducting circuits
 - Ion traps
 - Measurement collapses the superposition, revealing a 0 or 1 probabilistically.
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- Operate on qubits and are described by unitary matrices. Unlike classical gates, all quantum gates are reversible.
 - Common single-qubit gates:
 - Pauli-X (quantum NOT)
 - Hadamard (H): Creates superposition
 - Phase (S, T) gates
 - Two-qubit gates:
 - CNOT (Controlled-NOT): Entangles qubits; crucial for universality
 - CZ (Controlled-Z)
 - These gates are combined to create quantum circuits analogous to classical logic circuits.
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- Parallelism via Superposition: A quantum computer with n qubits can represent 2^n states at once, allowing massive computational parallelism.
- Shor's Algorithm: Factors large integers exponentially faster than classical algorithms.
- Grover's Algorithm: Searches unsorted databases in \sqrt{N} time vs. N time classically.
- Error Correction: Due to the fragile nature of quantum states (subject to decoherence), quantum error correction and fault-tolerant computing are critical to building scalable systems.
- Non-Cloning Theorem: Quantum states cannot be perfectly copied, which makes direct duplication and classical fan-out techniques inapplicable.