



23rd International Conference on  
Software Engineering and Formal Methods

SEFM 2025

# Quantum Software in Action Challenges and Opportunities in Software Engineering

Ricardo Pérez del Castillo



Universidad de  
Castilla-La Mancha

10-14 November 2025, Toledo, Spain

# Background



**Universidad de  
Castilla-La Mancha**

New degree on  
Computer Science  
(2019)







Facultad de  
**Ciencias Sociales y**  
**Tecnologías de la Información**  
Talavera de la Reina. UCLM

# Agenda

- Quantum Computing
- Quantum Computing Applications
- Quantum Software & Quantum Software Engineering
- Our Research Journey
- Conclusions

*Scan for slides*



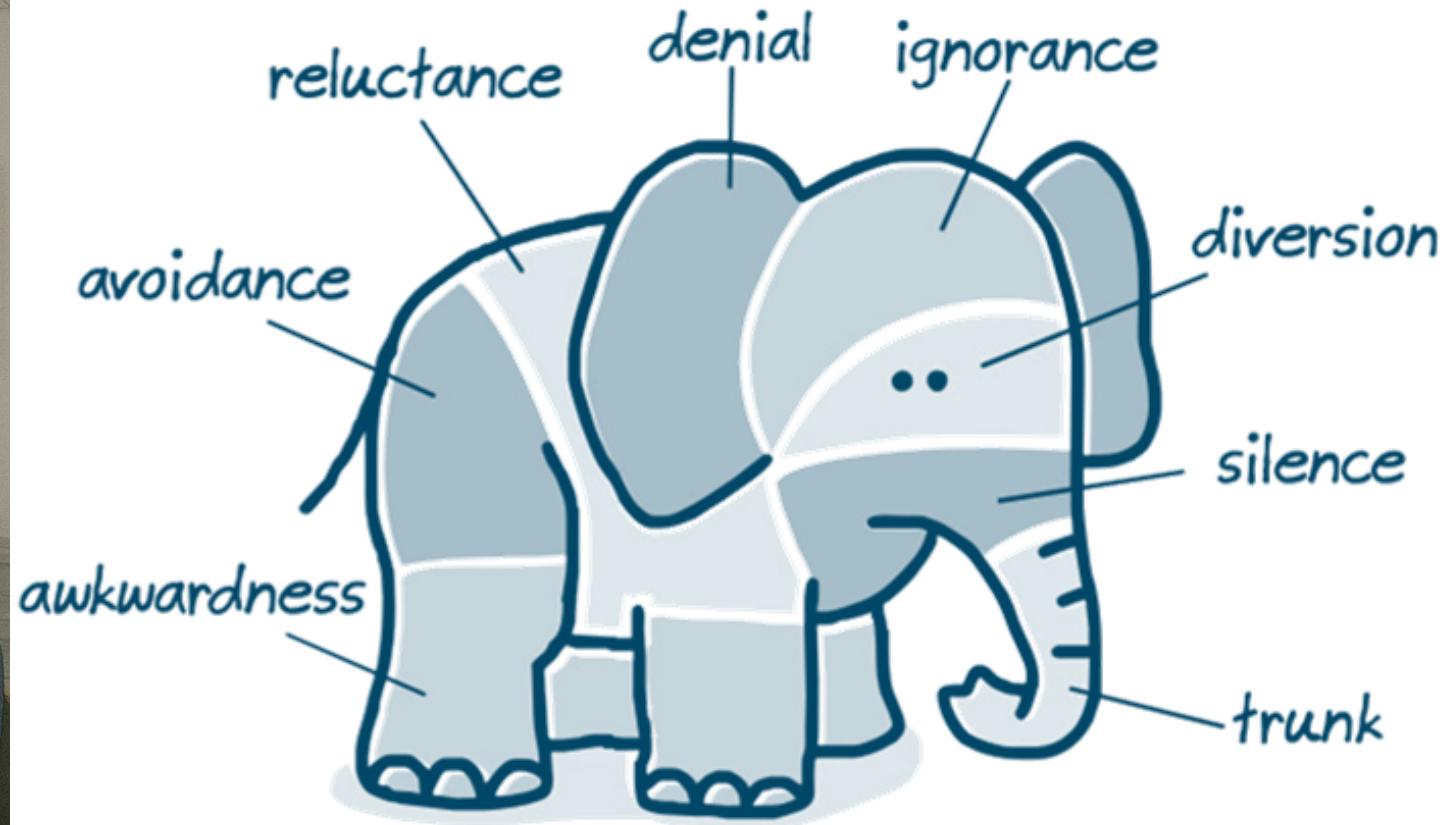
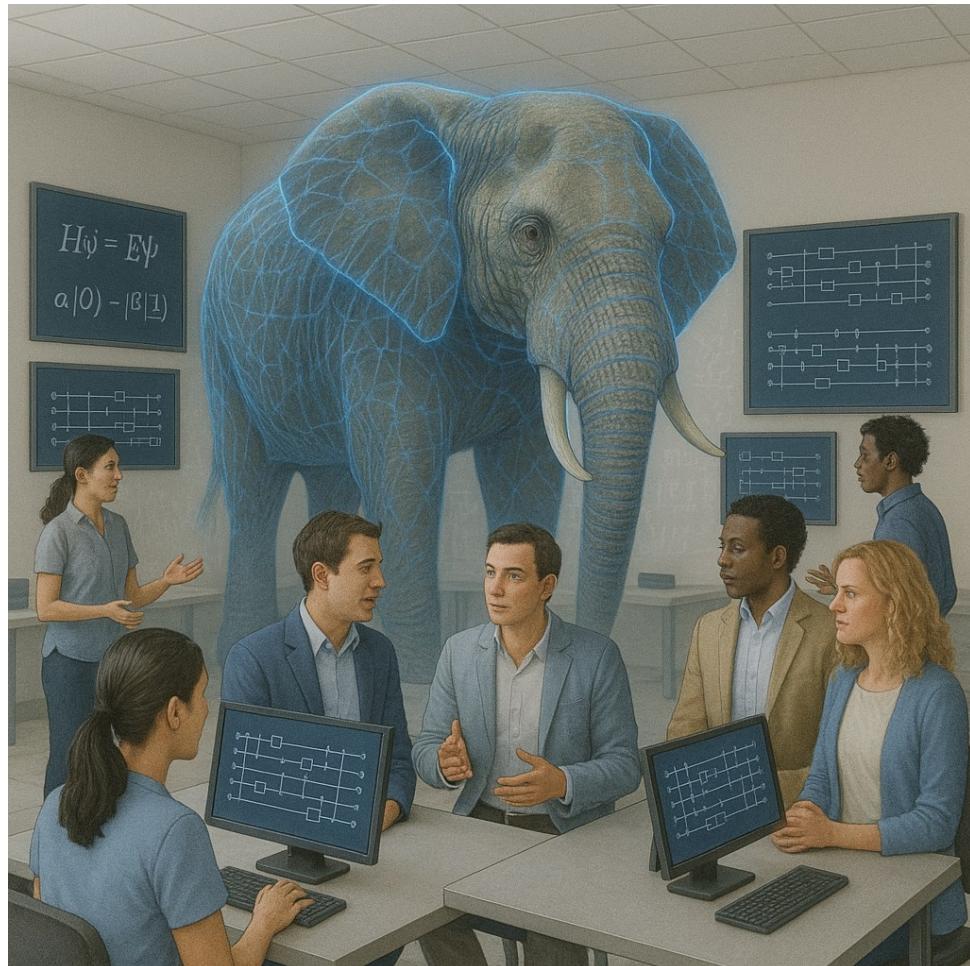
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- Quantum Computing Applications
- Quantum Software & Quantum Software Engineering
- Our Research Journey
- Conclusions

*Scan for slides*

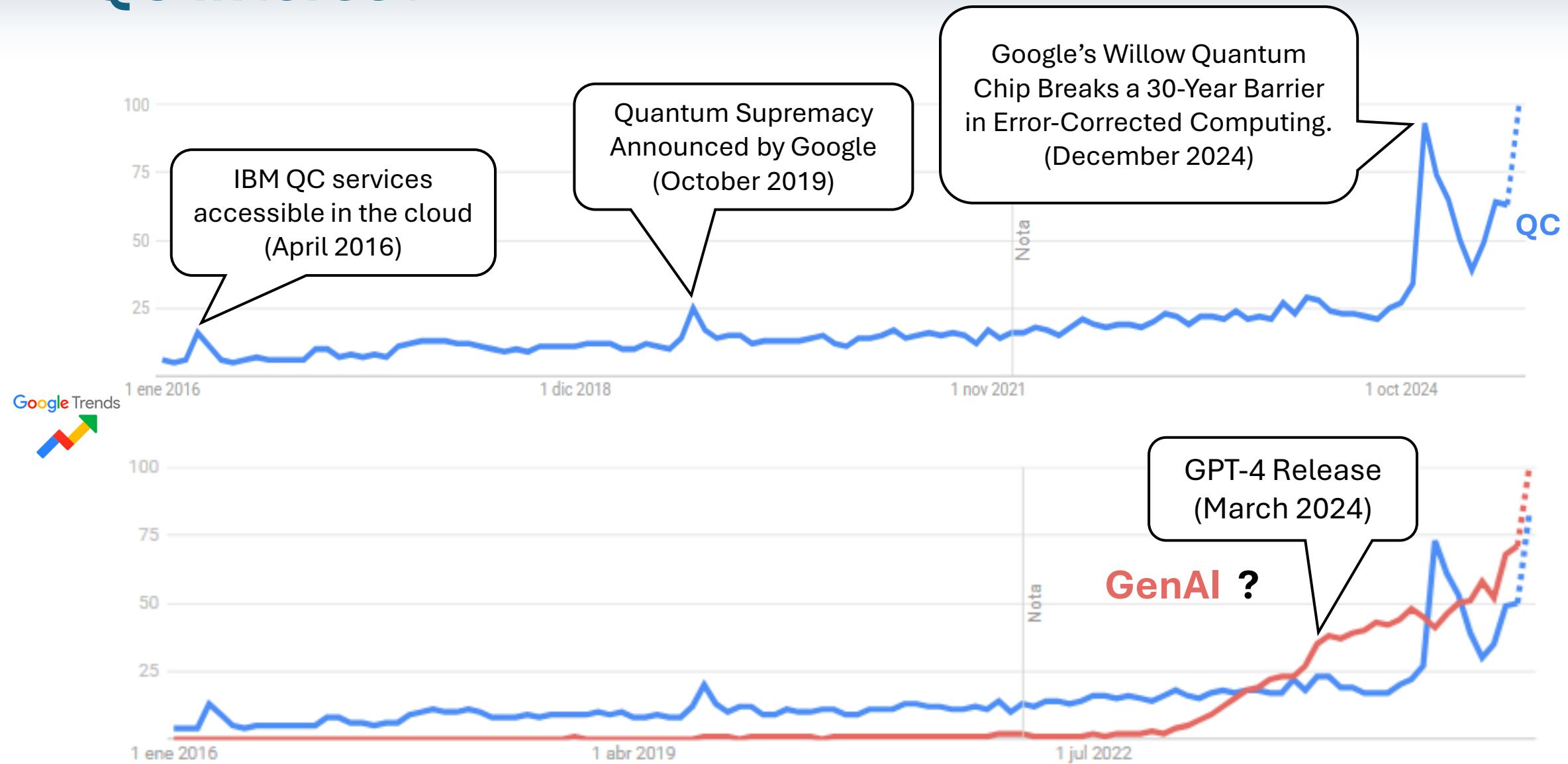


# Quantum Computing is in the Room

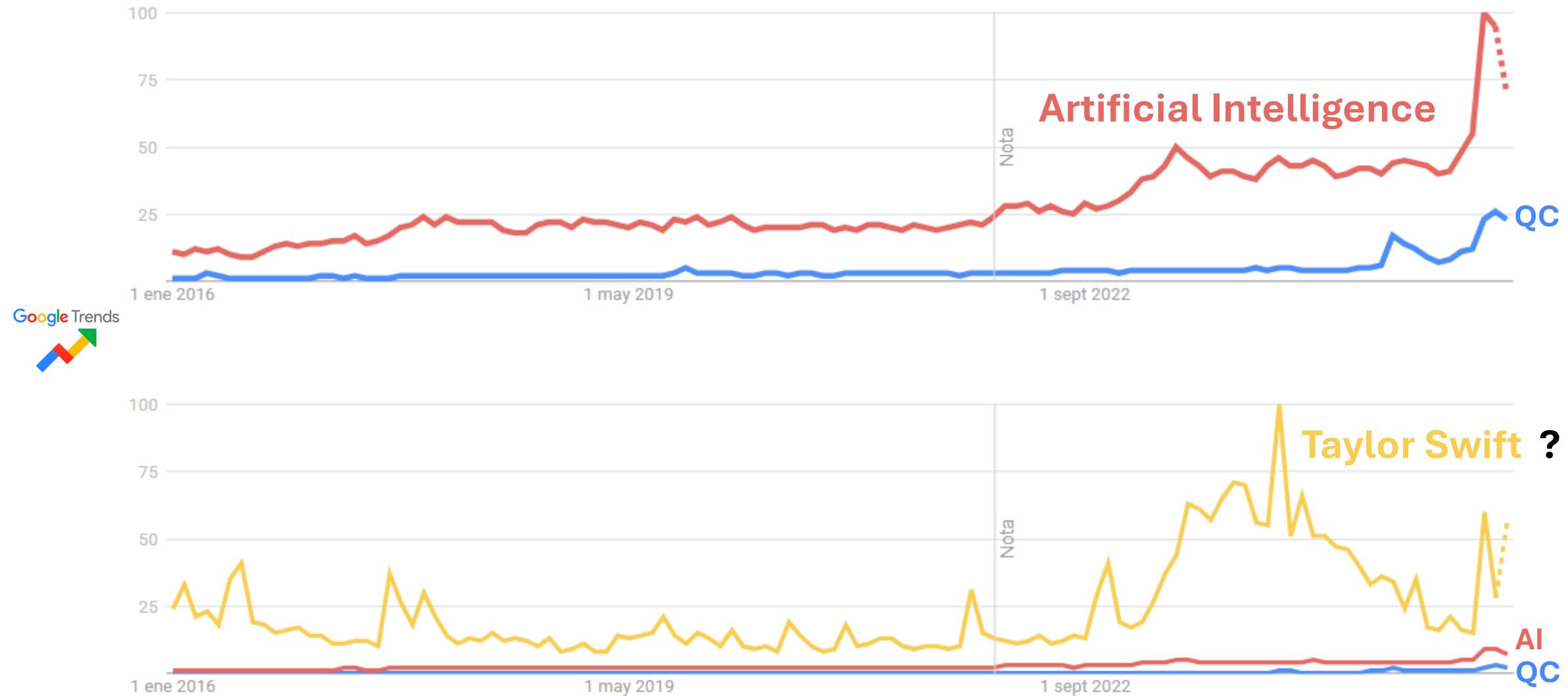


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# QC interest



# QC interest



# Some thoughts

„ Quantum information is a radical departure in information technology, more fundamentally different from current technology than the digital computer is from the abacus

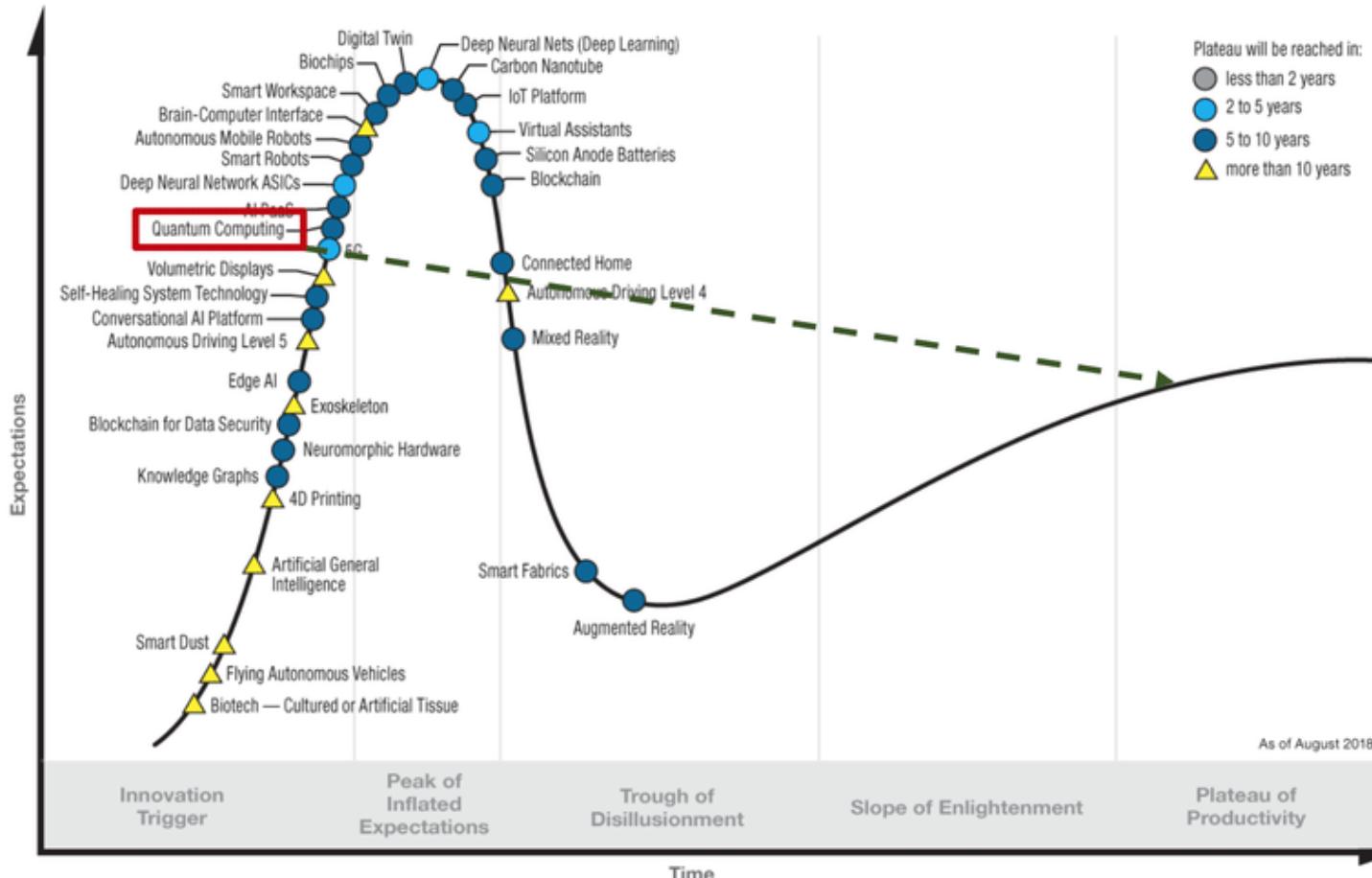


William Daniel Phillips, 1997



# Today (and Tomorrow) Quantum Computing Expectations

## Hype Cycle for Emerging Technologies 2018



[gartner.com/SmarterWithGartner](http://gartner.com/SmarterWithGartner)

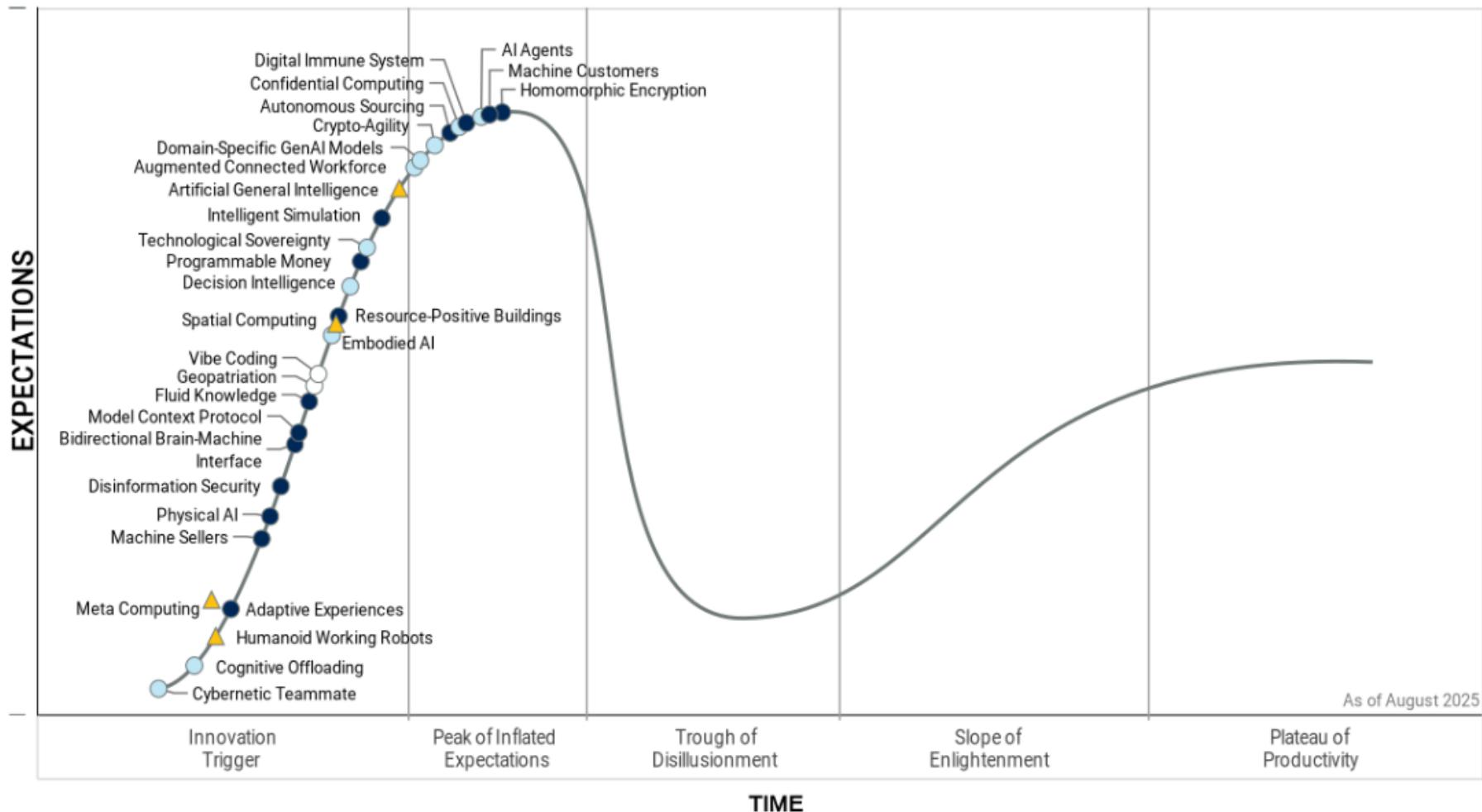
Source: Gartner (August 2018)

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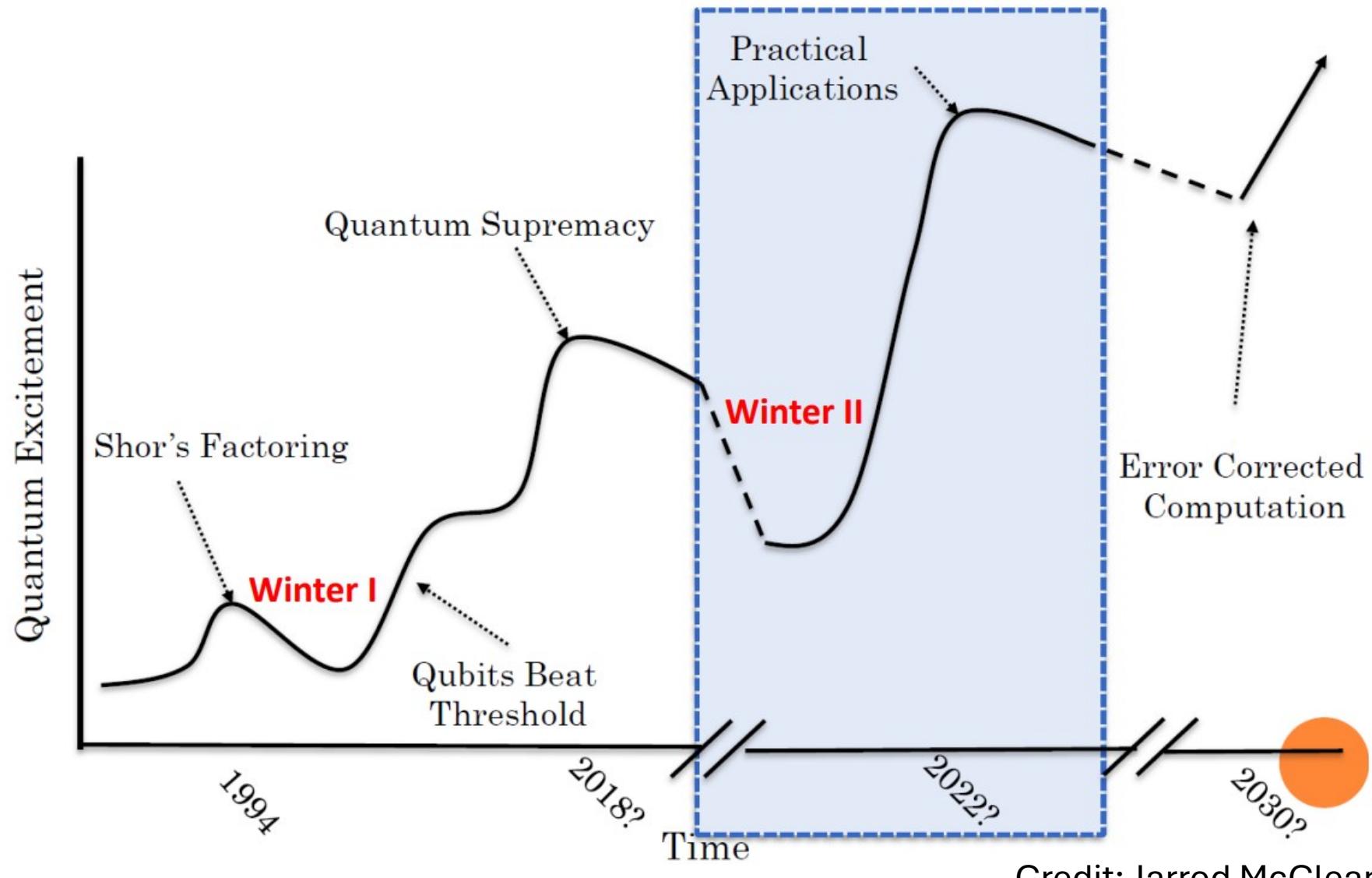
# Today (and Tomorrow) Quantum Computing Expectations

Hype Cycle for Emerging Technologies 2025

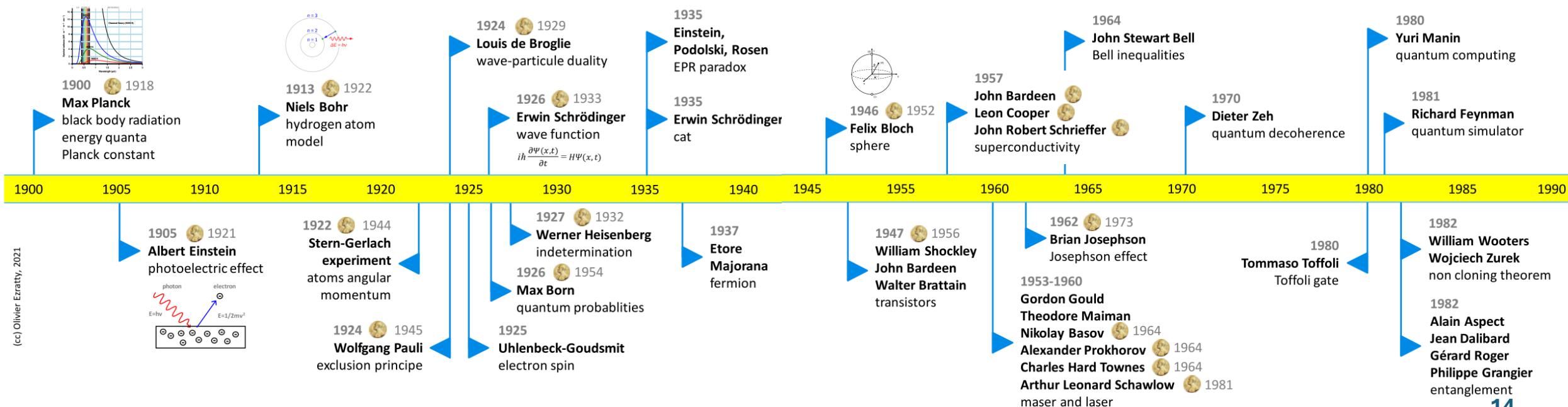
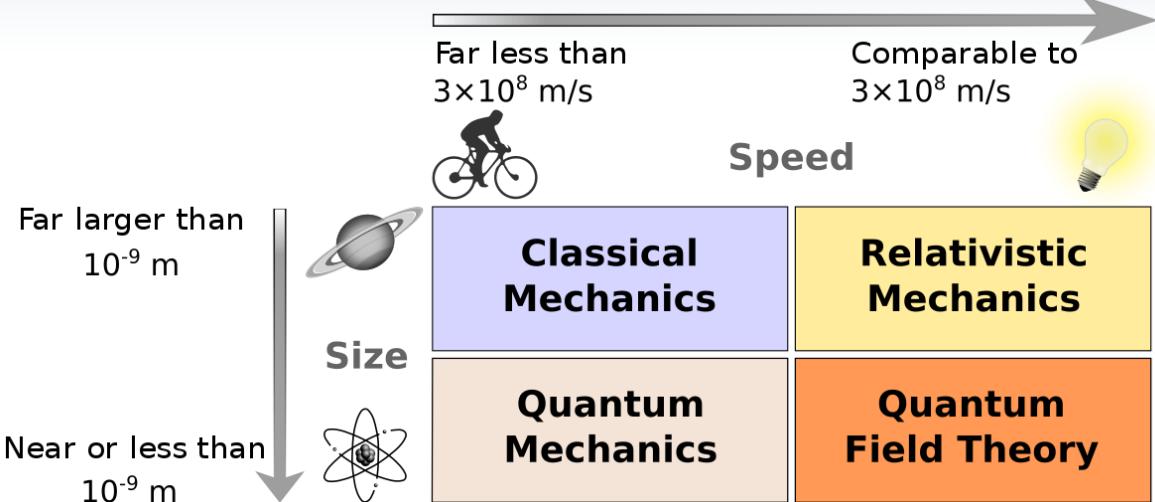
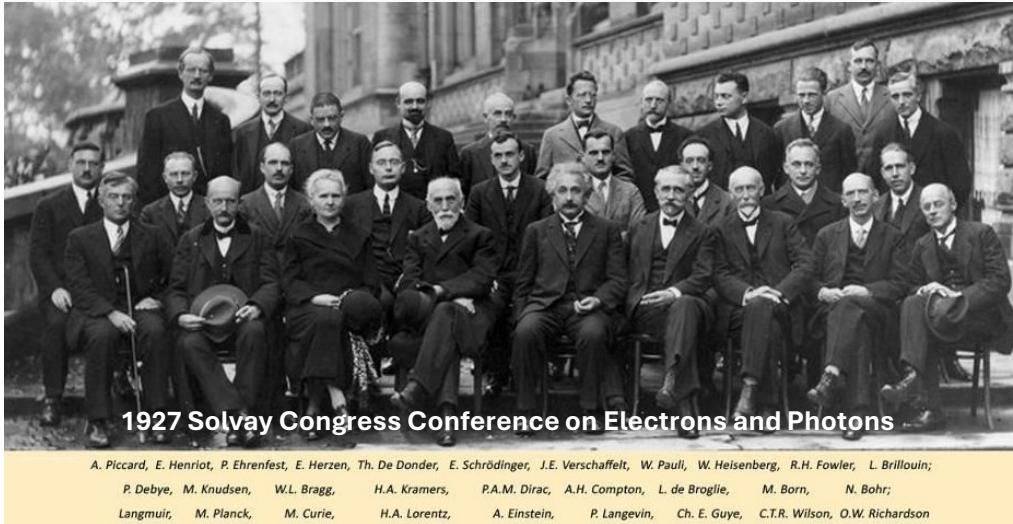


Plateau will be reached: ○ <2 yrs. ● 2-5 yrs. ● 5-10 yrs. ▲ >10 yrs. ✗ Obsolete before plateau

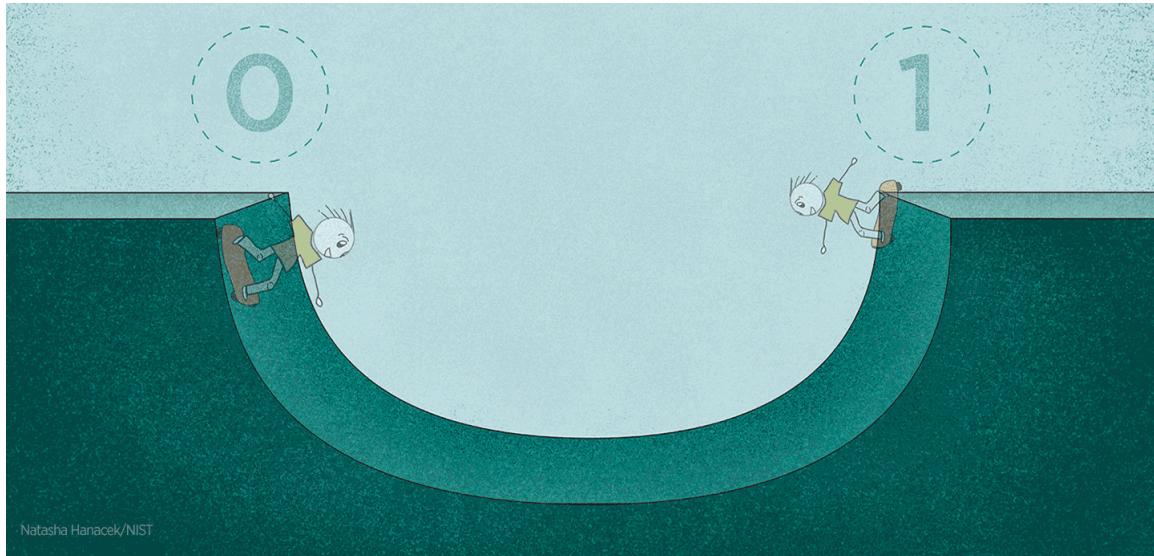
# Quantum Computing Hype Cycles



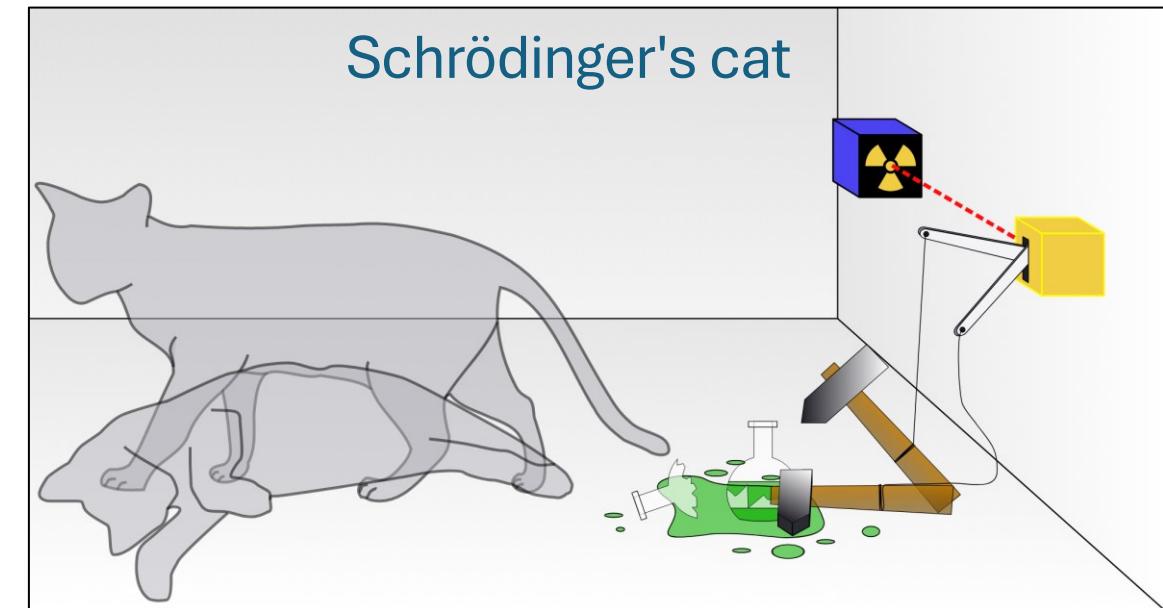
# Quantum Mechanics Foundations



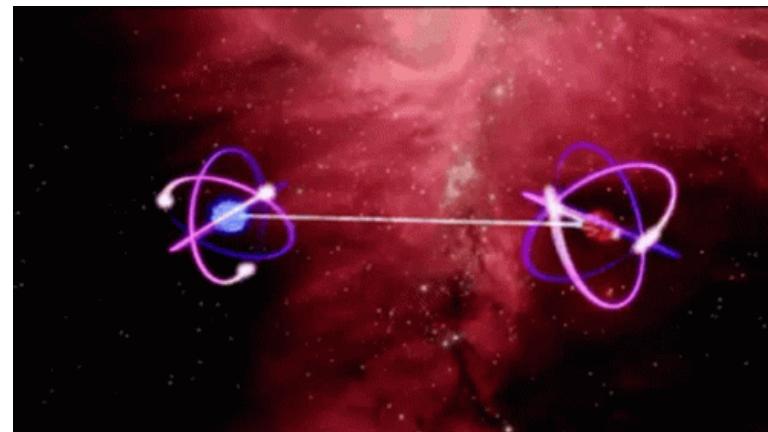
# Foundations: Superposition



$$\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} | \uparrow \rangle + \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} | \downarrow \rangle$$



# Foundations: Entanglement



$$\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \{ | \begin{array}{c} \text{cat} \\ \text{cat} \end{array} \rangle + | \begin{array}{c} \text{dog} \\ \text{dog} \end{array} \rangle \}$$

15

**EINSTEIN ATTACKS QUANTUM THEORY**

Scientist and Two Colleagues Find It Is Not 'Complete' Even Though 'Correct.'

**SEE FULLER ONE POSSIBLE**

Believe a Whole Description of 'the Physical Reality' Can Be Provided Eventually.

Copyright 1935 by Science Service.  
PRINCETON, N. J., May 3.—Professor Albert Einstein will attack science's important theory of quantum mechanics, a theory of which he was a sort of grandfather. He concludes that while it is "correct" it is not "complete."

With two colleagues at the Institute for Advanced Study here, the noted scientist is about to report to the American Physical Society what is wrong with the theory of quantum mechanics. It has been learned exclusively by Science Service.

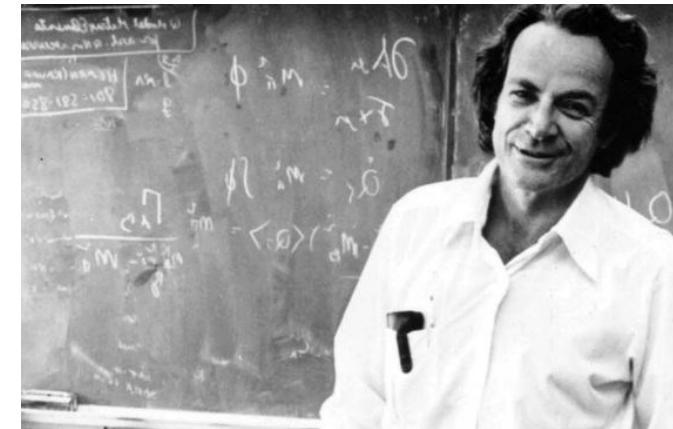
*Times Wide World Photo.*  
**ATTACKS A THEORY.**  
Professor Albert Einstein

A black and white photograph of Albert Einstein, showing him from the chest up. He is wearing a suit and tie, looking slightly to his left with a thoughtful expression. The photo is framed by a white border.

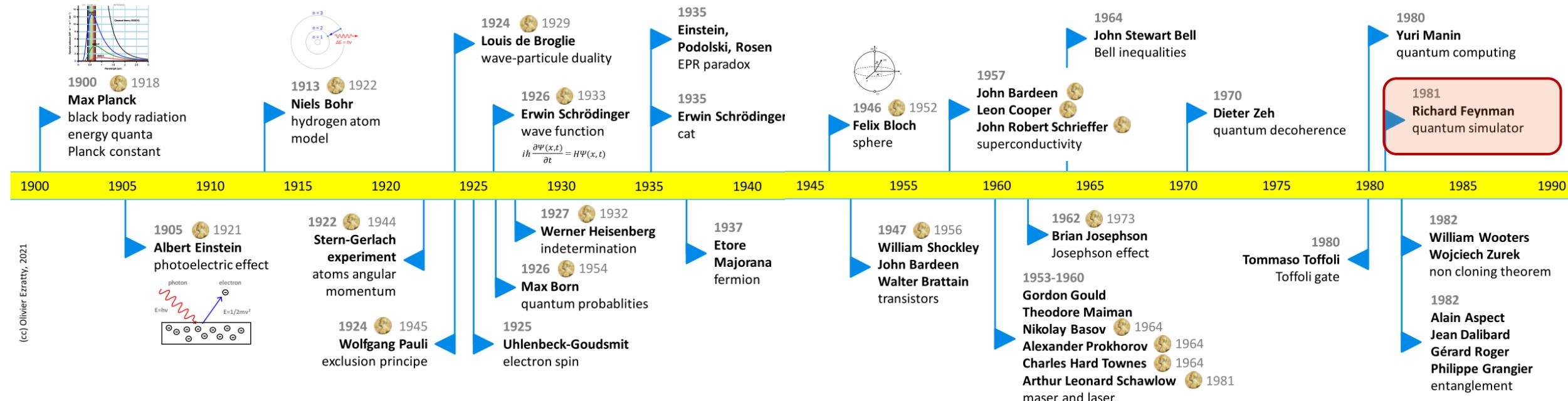
# Quantum Computing Foundations



*What kind of computer are we going to use to simulate physics?*



Richard Feynman, 1982



# Quantum Computing Foundations

VOLUME 74, NUMBER 20

PHYSICAL REVIEW LETTERS

15 MAY 1995

## Quantum Computations with Cold Trapped Ions

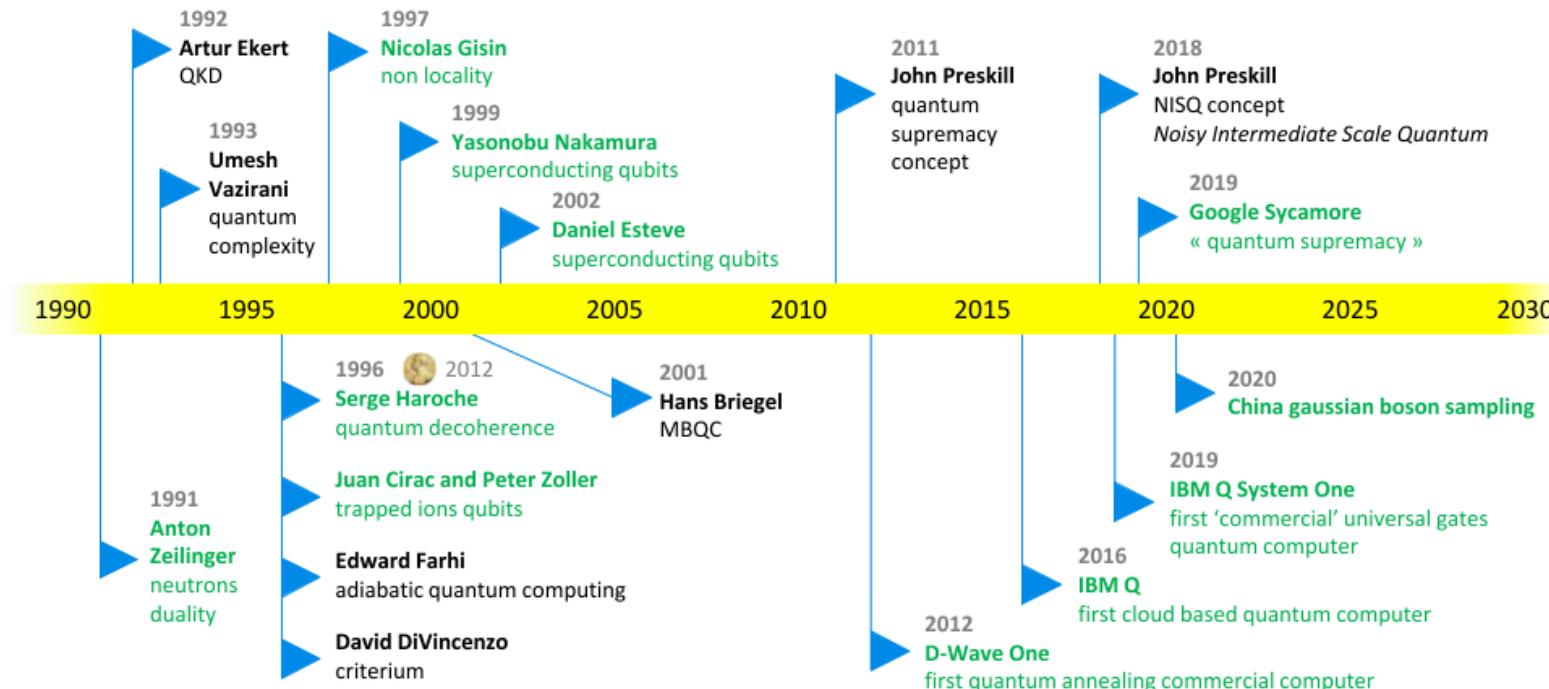
J. I. Cirac and P. Zoller\*

*Institut für Theoretische Physik, Universität Innsbruck, Technikerstrasse 25, A-6020 Innsbruck, Austria  
(Received 30 November 1994)*

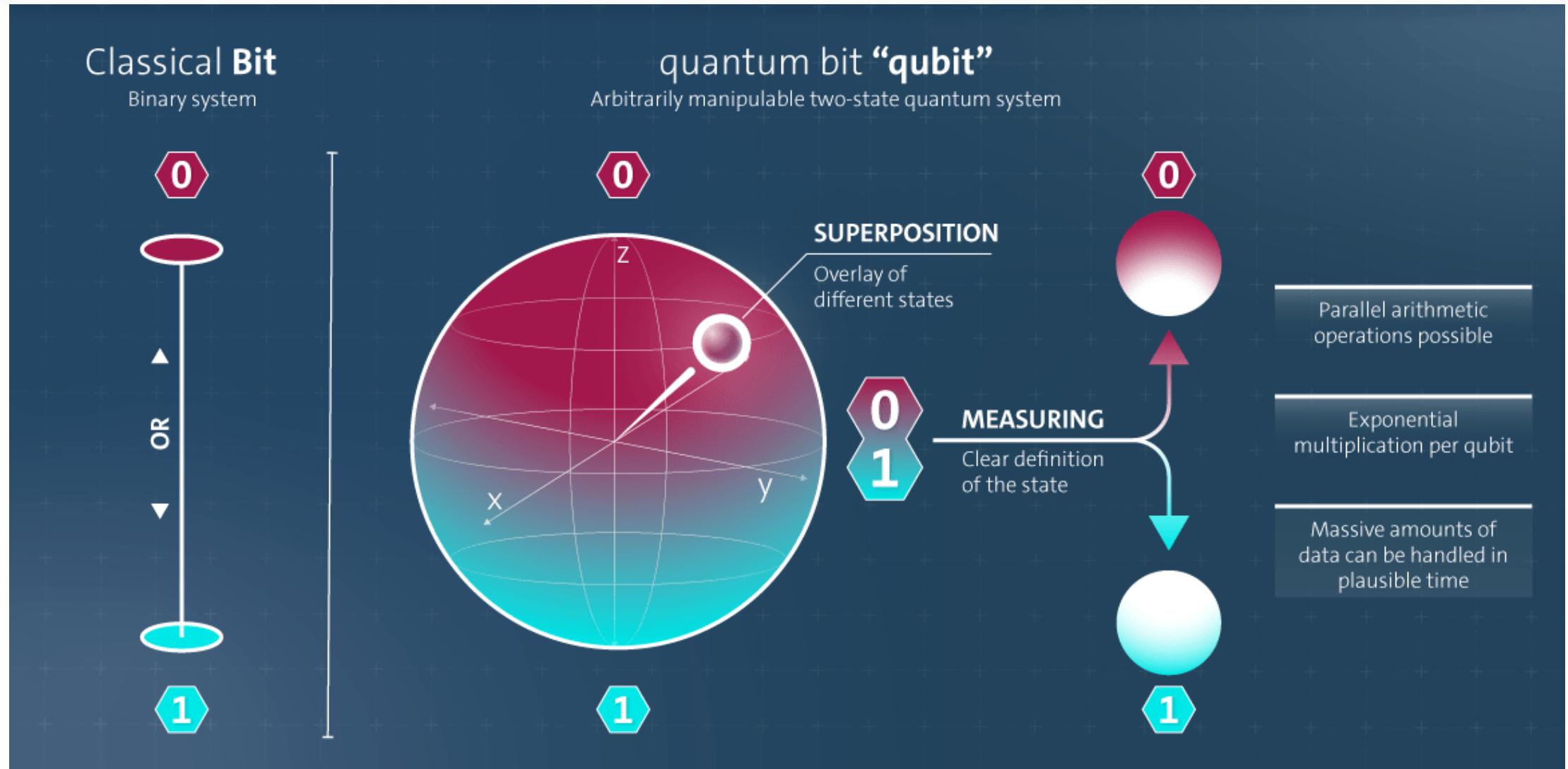
A quantum computer can be implemented with cold ions confined in a linear trap and interacting with laser beams. Quantum gates involving any pair, triplet, or subset of ions can be realized by coupling the ions through the collective quantized motion. In this system decoherence is negligible, and the measurement (readout of the quantum register) can be carried out with a high efficiency.



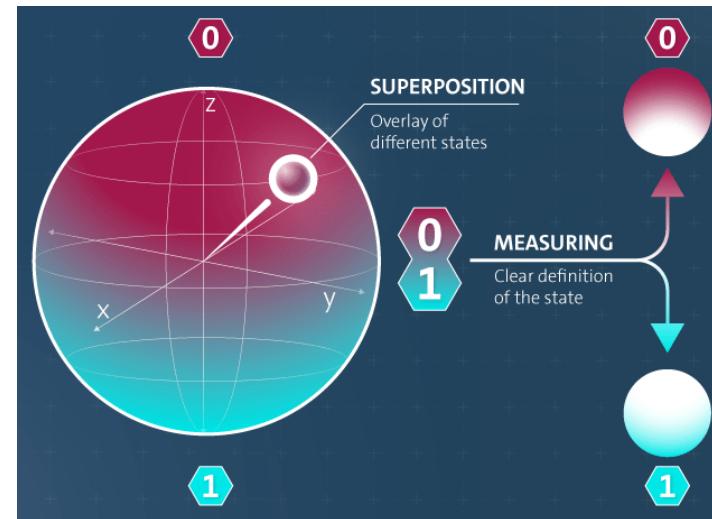
Juan Ignacio  
Cirac



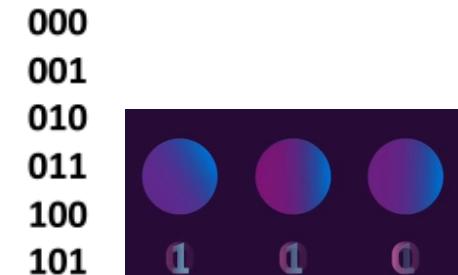
# Qubits



# Quantum Speedups



n bits register	n qubits register
$101$	$2^n$ possible states <b>once at a time</b>
evaluable	$n=3$ example
independent copies	$2^n$ possible states <b>simultaneously</b>
individually erasable	partially evaluable
non destructive readout	no copy
deterministic	non individually erasable
	value changed after readout
	probabilistic



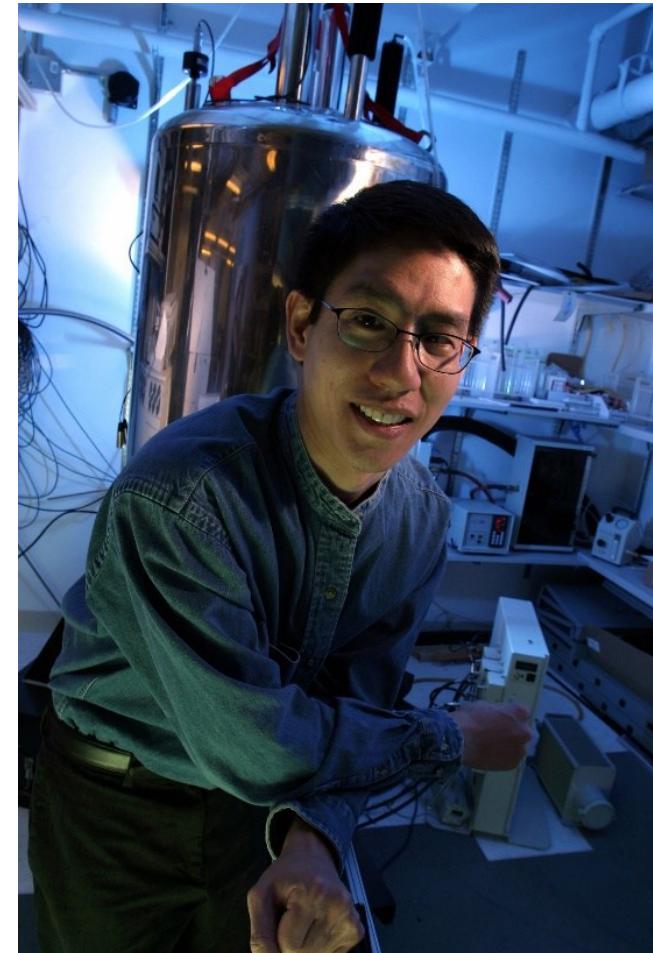
aka register  
pure states

# QC is not a tomorrow's technology, it is real

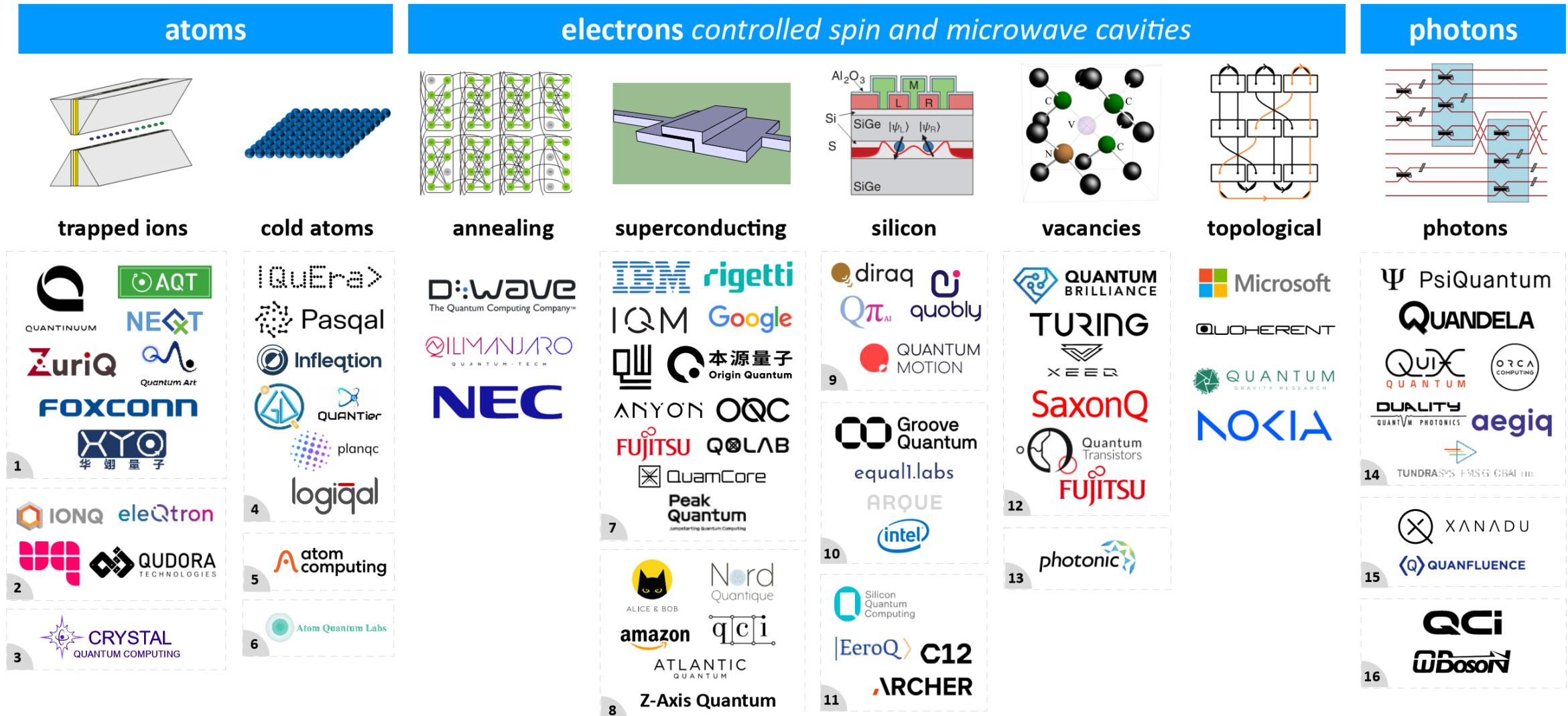
“The thing driving the hype is the realization that quantum computing is actually real.

*It is no longer a physicist’s dream — **it is an engineer’s nightmare.***

Isaac Chuang, 2018



# Physical Realization of Qubits



# Quantum Computing Hardware



Superconducting



Photonics

# Physical Realization of Qubits

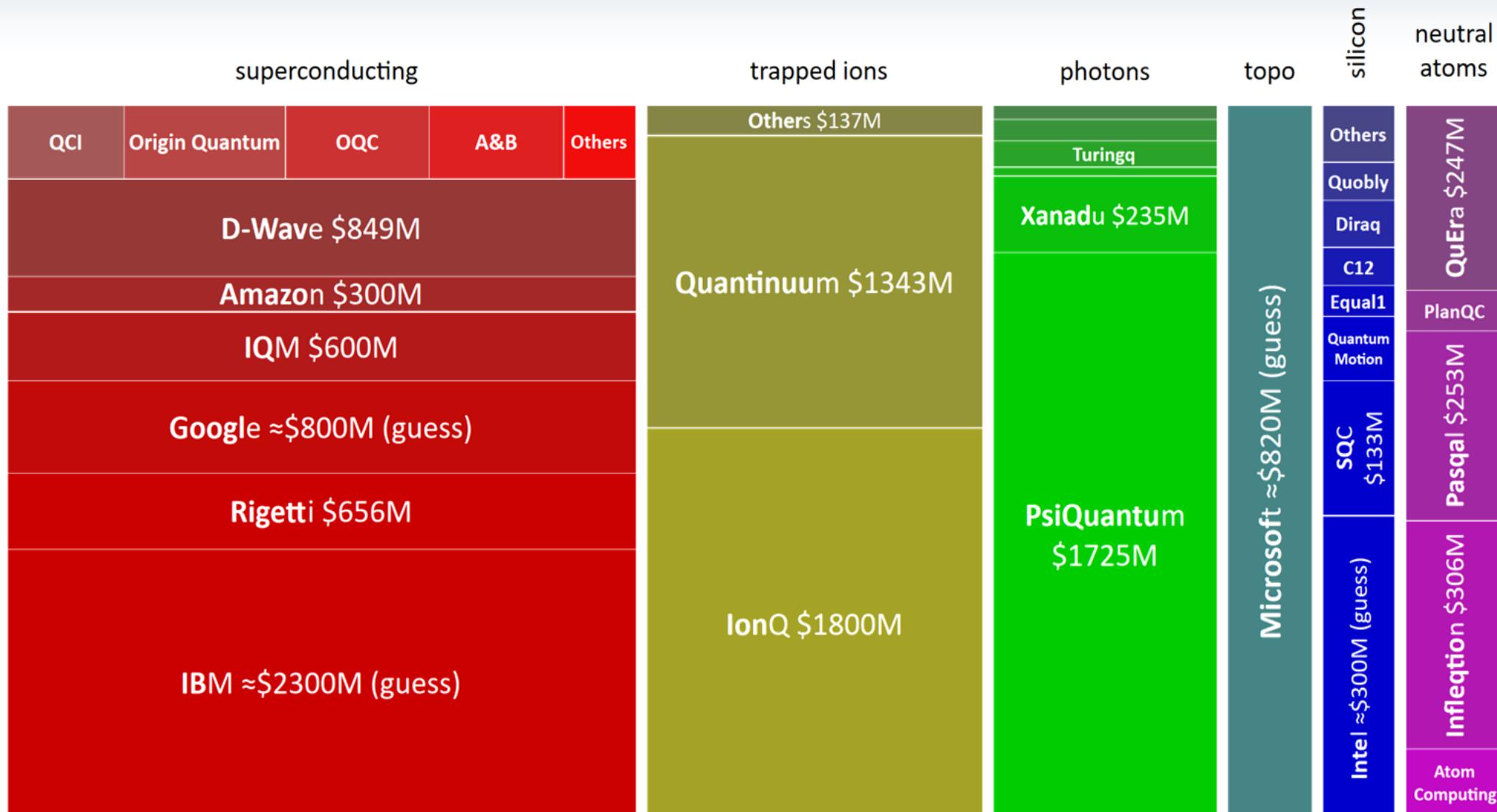
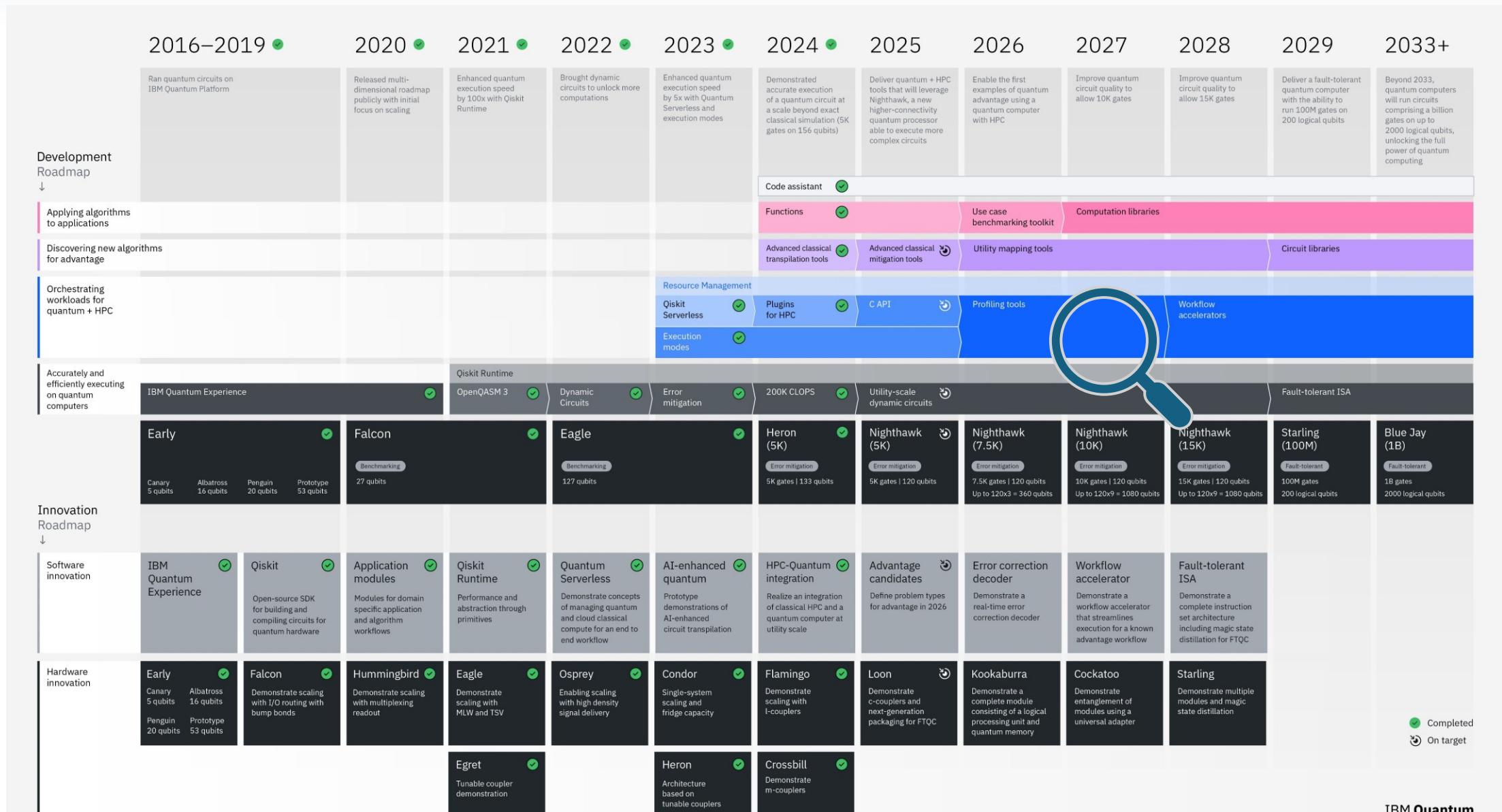


Figure 300: Fuzzy logic assessment of industry investments per qubit type mixing capital investment for startups and internal investments for legacy companies is “life to date” (LTD). (cc) Olivier Ezratty, September 2025.

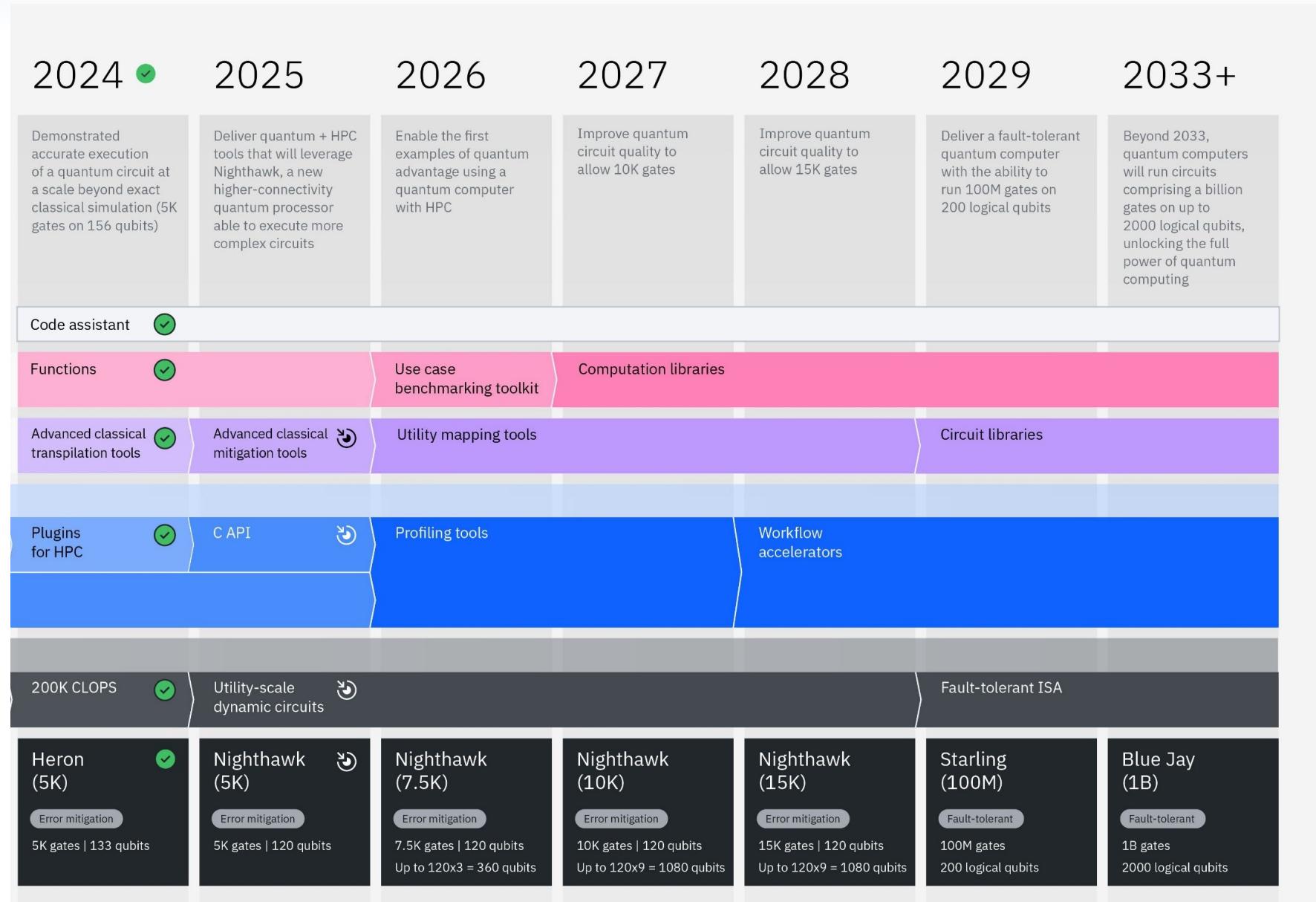
# IBM Roadmap



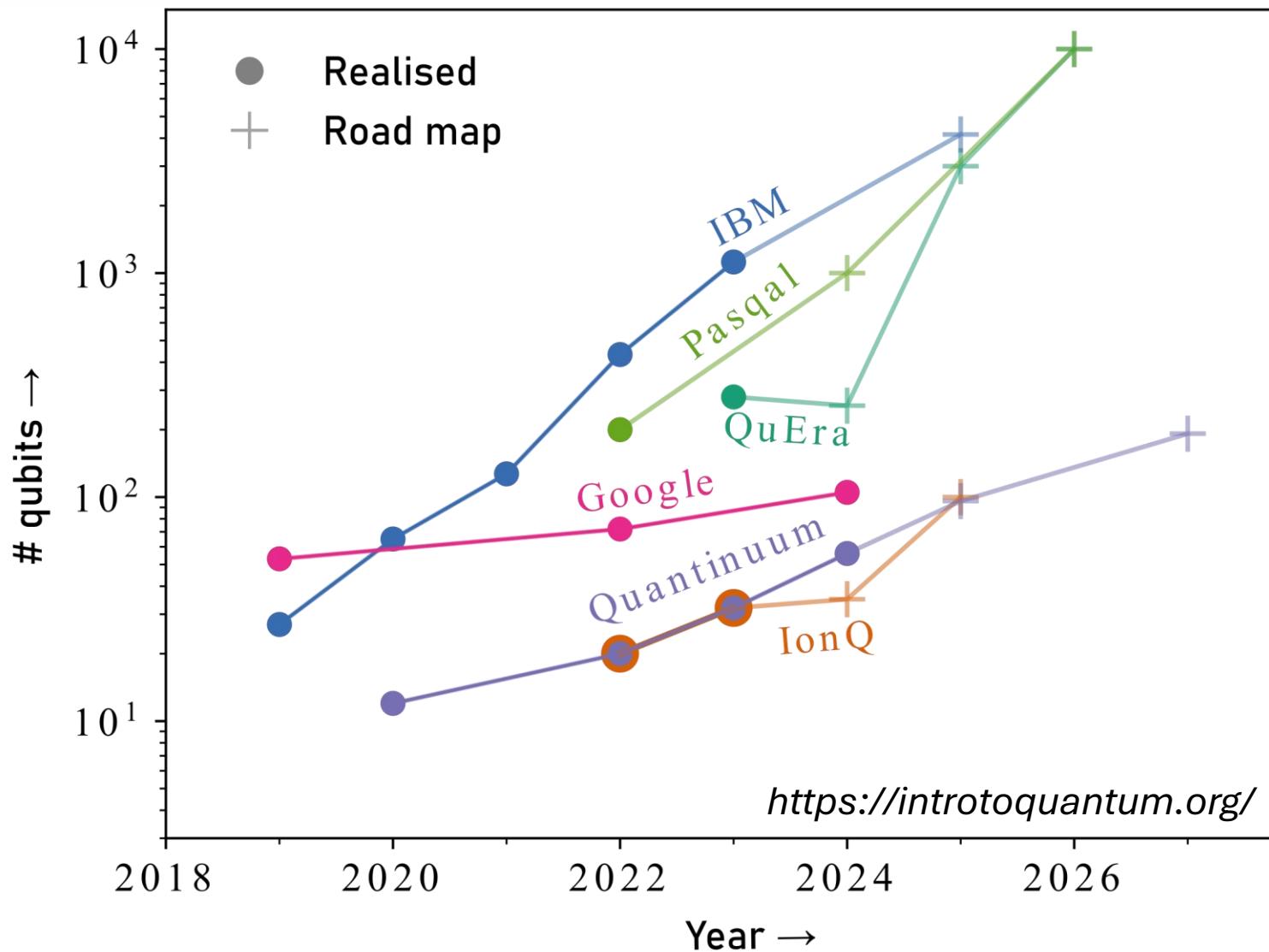
Completed  
On target

IBM Quantum

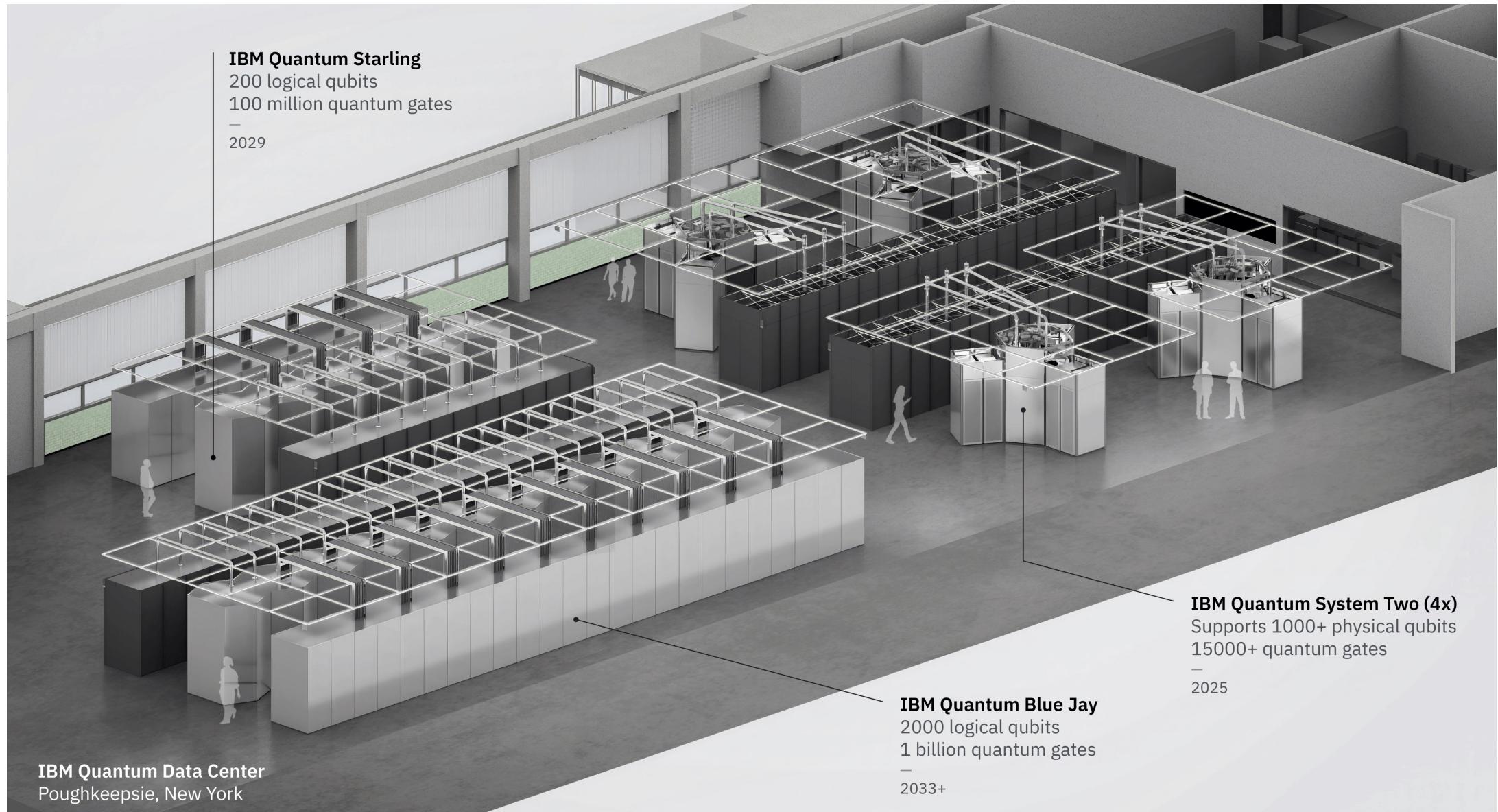
# IBM Roadmap



# Evolution of Number of Qubits

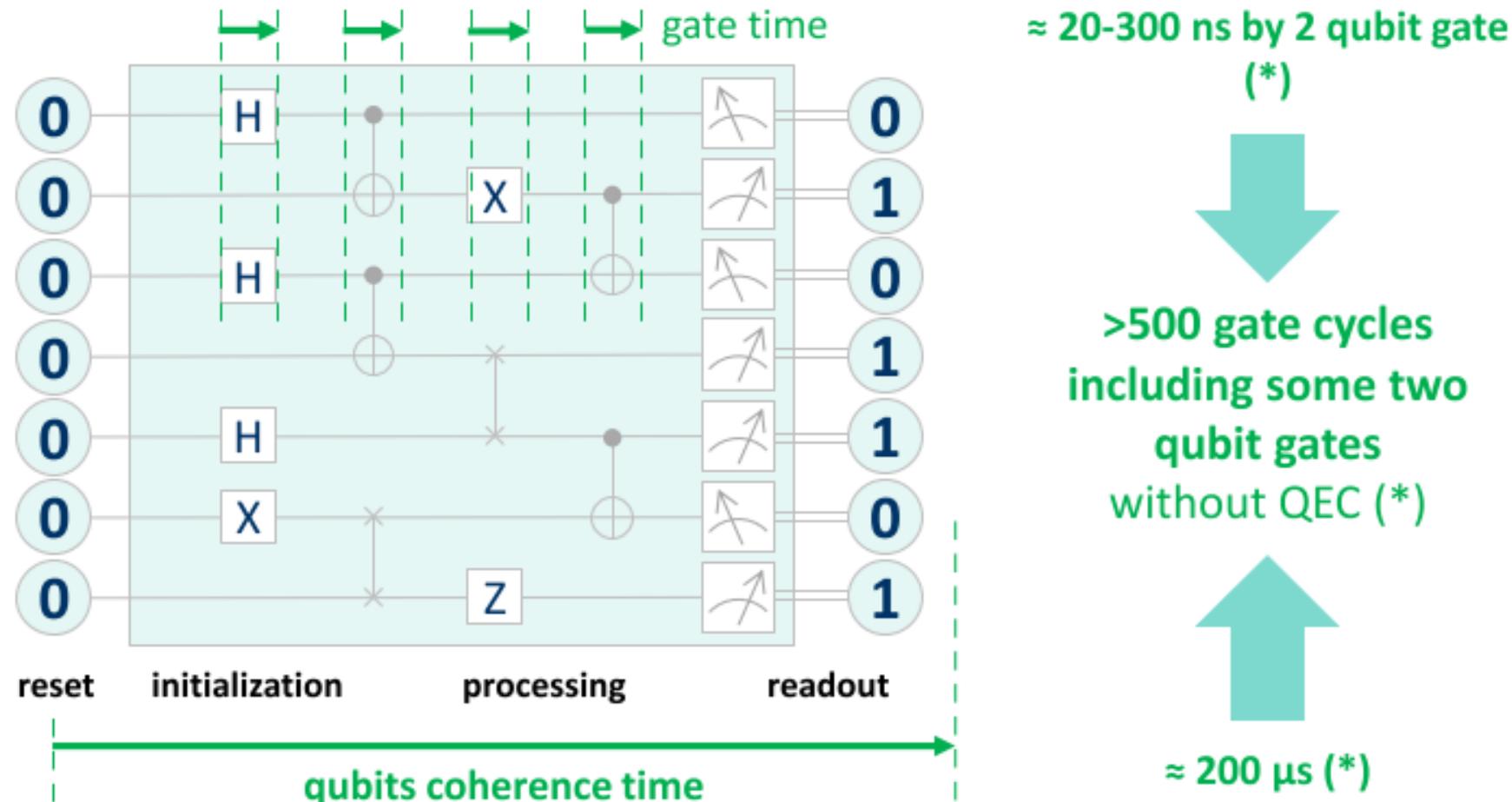


# QC in HPC (High Performance Computing)



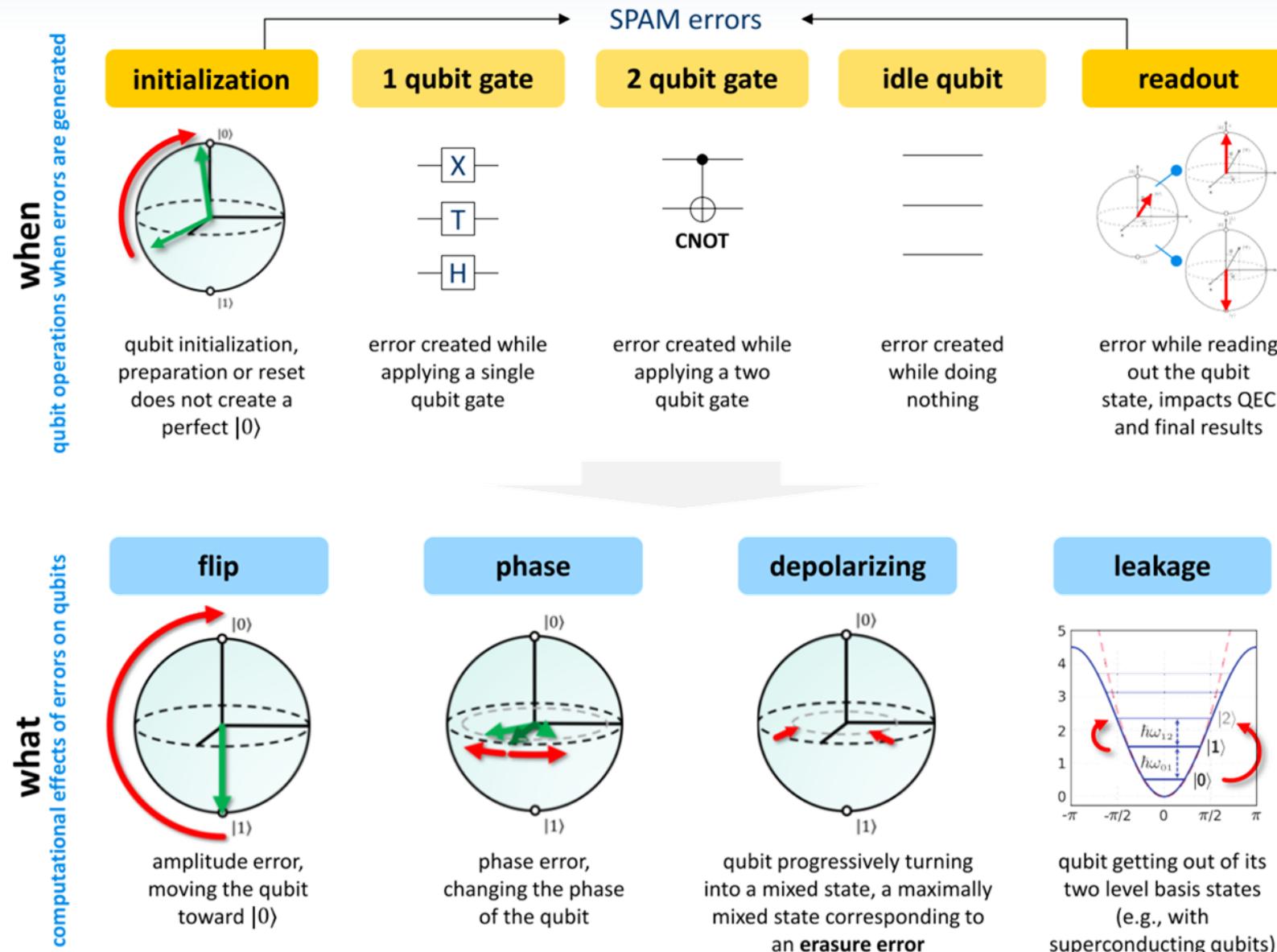
# Quantum computing challenges: Decoherence

- Limited timeframe where qubits are useful



(\* ) on IBM or Google superconducting qubits computers, best case, and without quantum error correction

# Quantum computing challenges: Error Correction



## Causes:

- Control
- Calibration
- Material defects
- Cosmic rays
- Multiple interactions
- Thermal noise
- Electromagnetic noise
- Photon los
- ...

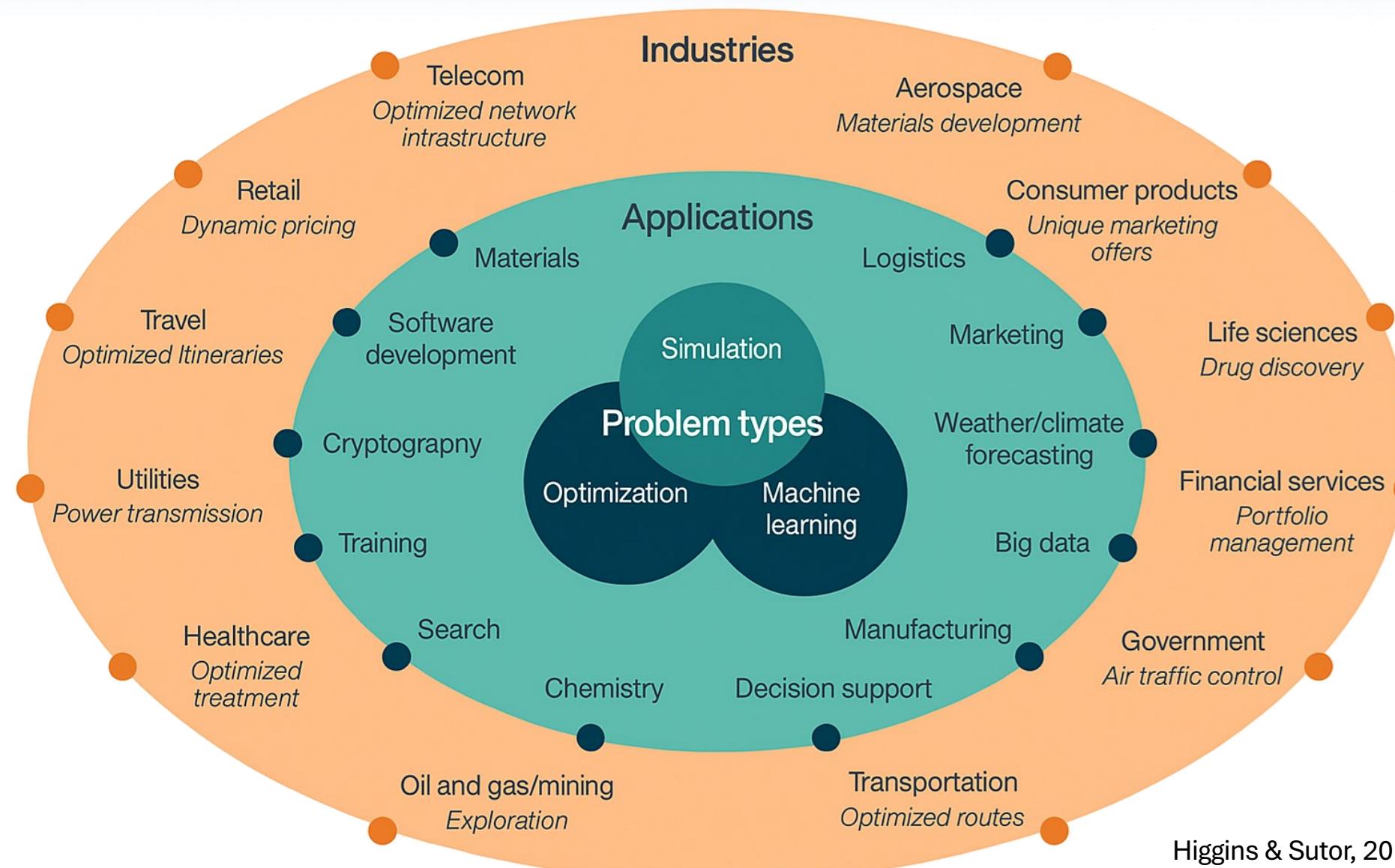
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*Scan for slides*

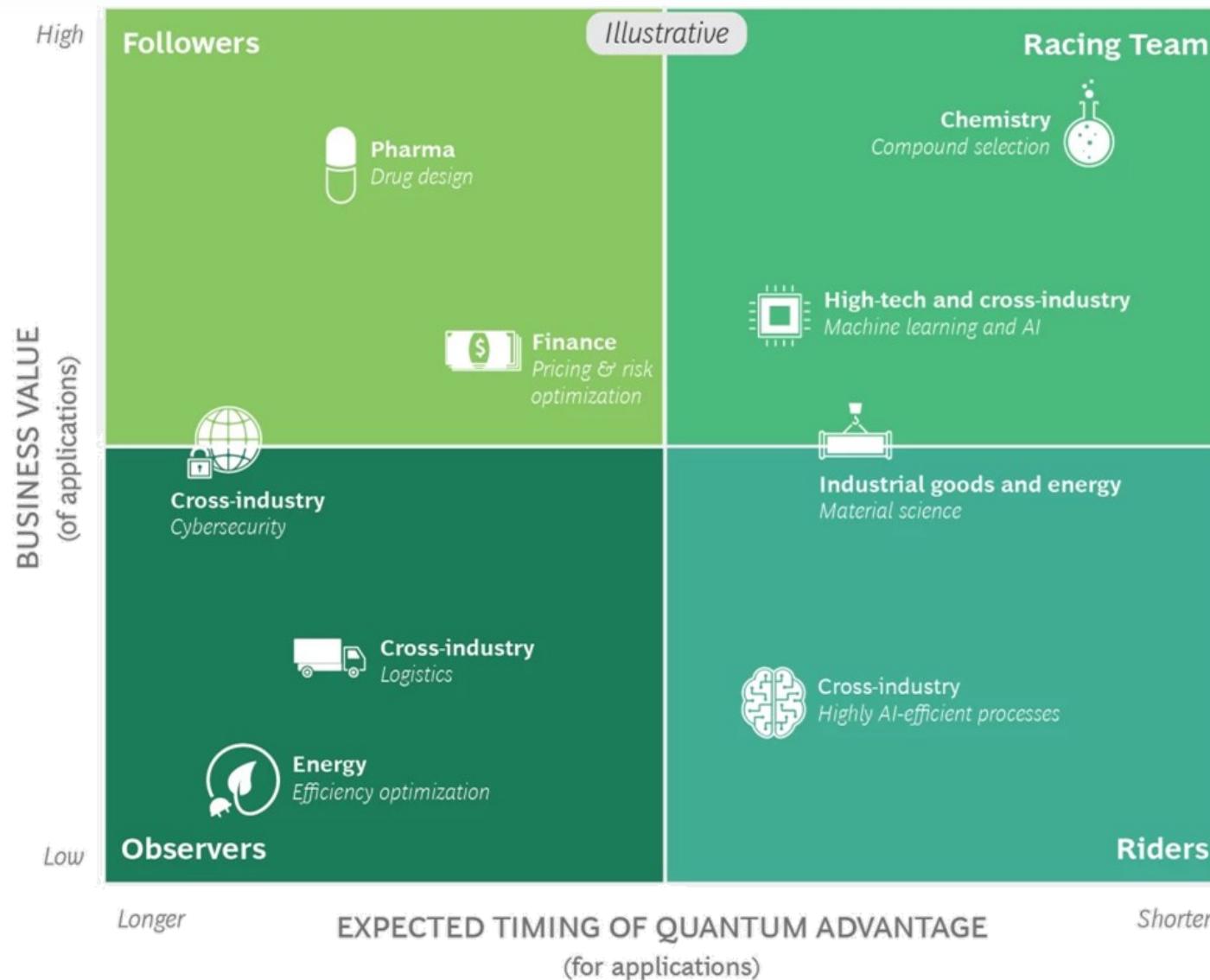


# Expected QC Applications



Higgins & Sutor, 2018

# Expected QC Applications



## HOW TO PLAY

### Racing Team

Build superior QC network  
Launch new offerings

### Riders

Engage with QC ecosystem  
Lead own effort

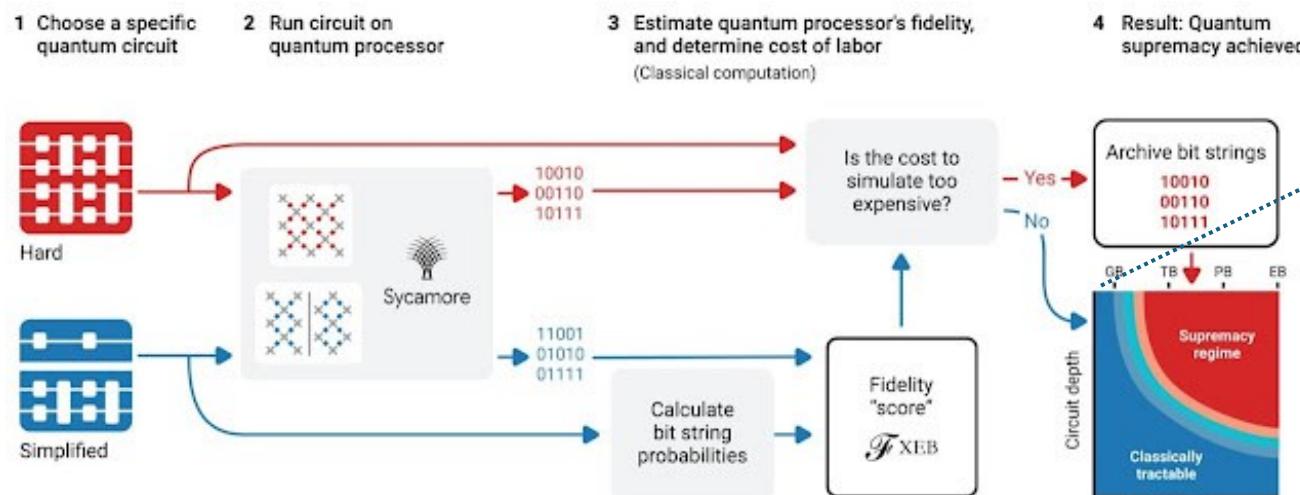
### Followers

Participate in QC networks  
Gain experience

### Observers

Monitor QC ecosystem  
Analyze business potential

# Quantum Supremacy?



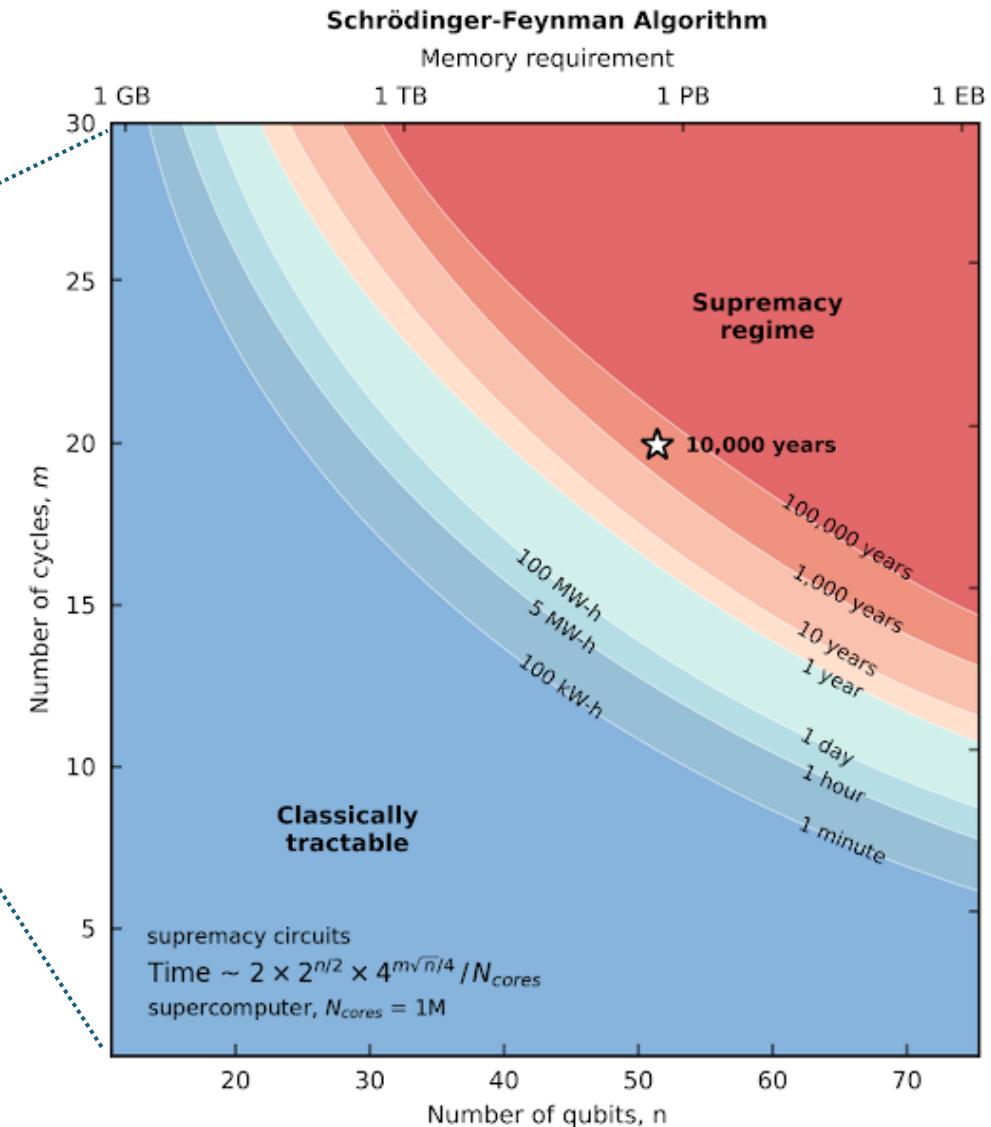
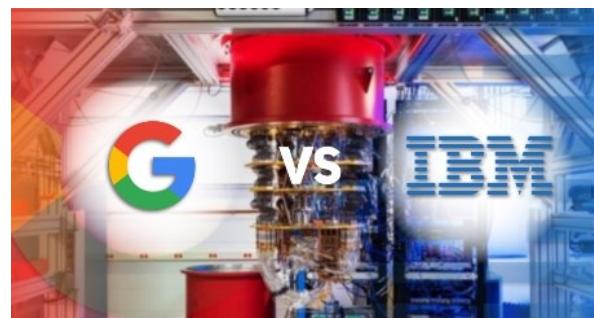
## Article

### Quantum supremacy using a programmable superconducting processor

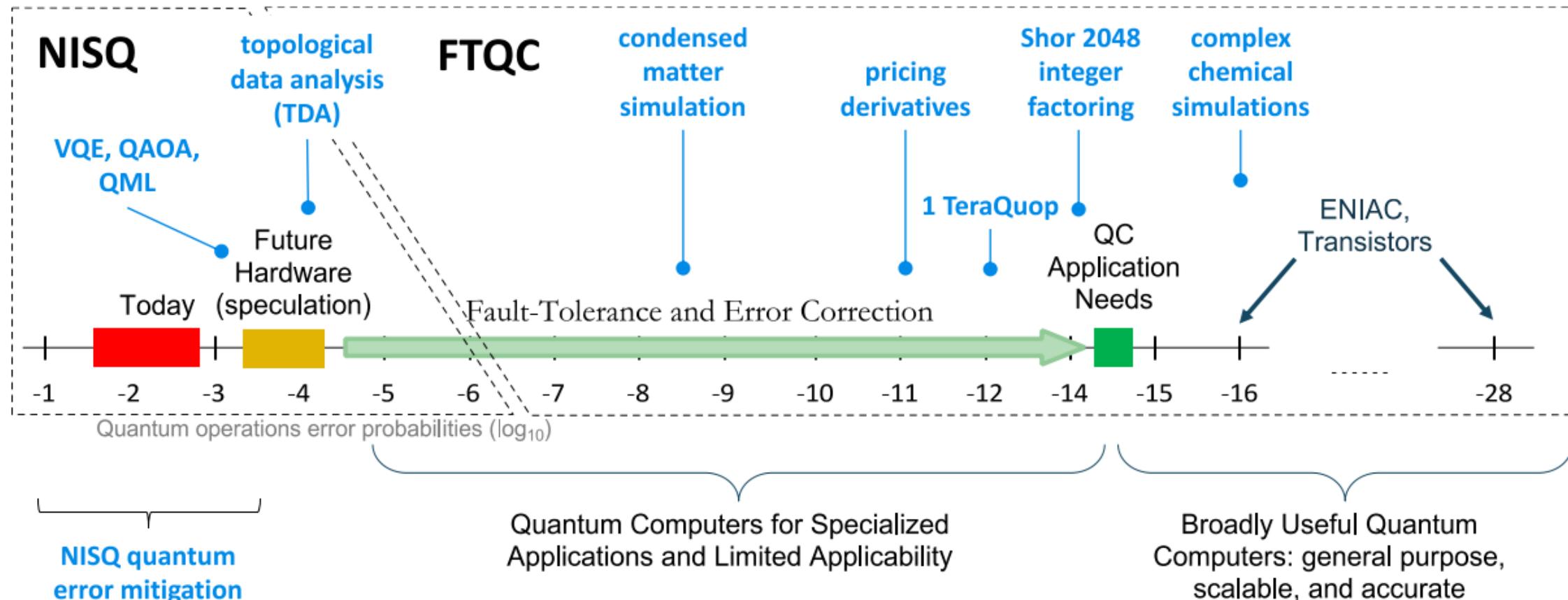
<https://doi.org/10.1038/s41586-019-1666-5>  
 Received: 22 July 2019  
 Accepted: 20 September 2019  
 Published online: 23 October 2019

Frank Arute<sup>1</sup>, Kunal Arya<sup>1</sup>, Ryne Babbush<sup>1</sup>, Dave Bacon<sup>1</sup>, Joseph C. Bardin<sup>1</sup>, Bamiz Barends<sup>1</sup>, Rupak Biswas<sup>2</sup>, Sergio Boixo<sup>1</sup>, Fernando G. S. L. Brancão<sup>3,4</sup>, David A. Buell<sup>1</sup>, Brian Burkett<sup>1</sup>, Yu Chen<sup>1</sup>, Zijun Chen<sup>1</sup>, Ben Chiaro<sup>1</sup>, Roberto Collins<sup>1</sup>, William Courtney<sup>1</sup>, Andrew Dunsworth<sup>1</sup>, Edward Farhi<sup>1</sup>, Brooks Foxen<sup>1</sup>, Austin Fowler<sup>1</sup>, Craig Gidney<sup>1</sup>, Marisa Giustina<sup>1</sup>, Rob Graff<sup>1</sup>, Keith Guerin<sup>1</sup>, Steve Hagegger<sup>1</sup>, Matthew P. Harrigan<sup>1</sup>, Michael J. Hartmann<sup>1</sup>, Alan Ho<sup>1</sup>, Markus Hoffmann<sup>1</sup>, Trent Huang<sup>1</sup>, Travis S. Humble<sup>1</sup>, Sergei V. Isakov<sup>1</sup>, Evan Jeffrey<sup>1</sup>, Zhang Jiang<sup>1</sup>, Dvir Kafri<sup>1</sup>, Kostyantyn Kechedzhi<sup>1</sup>, Julian Kelly<sup>1</sup>, Paul V. Klimov<sup>1</sup>, Sergey Knysh<sup>1</sup>, Alexander Korotkov<sup>1,5</sup>, Fedor Kostritsa<sup>1</sup>, David Landhuis<sup>1</sup>, Mike Lindmark<sup>1</sup>, Erik Lucero<sup>1</sup>, Dmitry Lyakh<sup>1</sup>, Salvatore Mandrà<sup>3,7</sup>, Jarrod R. McClean<sup>1</sup>, Matthew McEwen<sup>1</sup>, Anthony Megrant<sup>1</sup>, Xiao Mi<sup>1</sup>, Kristel Michelsen<sup>1,8</sup>, Masoud Mohseni<sup>1</sup>, Josh Mutus<sup>1</sup>, Ofer Naaman<sup>1</sup>, Matthew Neeley<sup>1</sup>, Charles Neill<sup>1</sup>, Murphy Yuezhen Niu<sup>1</sup>, Eric Ostby<sup>1</sup>, Andre Petukhov<sup>1</sup>, John C. Platt<sup>1</sup>, Chris Quintana<sup>1</sup>, Eleanor G. Rieffel<sup>1</sup>, Pedram Roushan<sup>1</sup>, Nicholas C. Rubin<sup>1</sup>, Daniel Sank<sup>1</sup>, Kevin J. Satzinger<sup>1</sup>, Vadim Smelyanskiy<sup>1</sup>, Kevin J. Sung<sup>1,13</sup>, Matthew D. Trevithick<sup>1</sup>, Amit Vainsencher<sup>1</sup>, Benjamin Villalonga<sup>1,14</sup>, Theodore White<sup>1</sup>, Z. Jamie Yao<sup>1</sup>, Ping Yeh<sup>1</sup>, Adam Zalcman<sup>1</sup>, Hartmut Neven<sup>1</sup> & John M. Martinis<sup>1,15</sup>

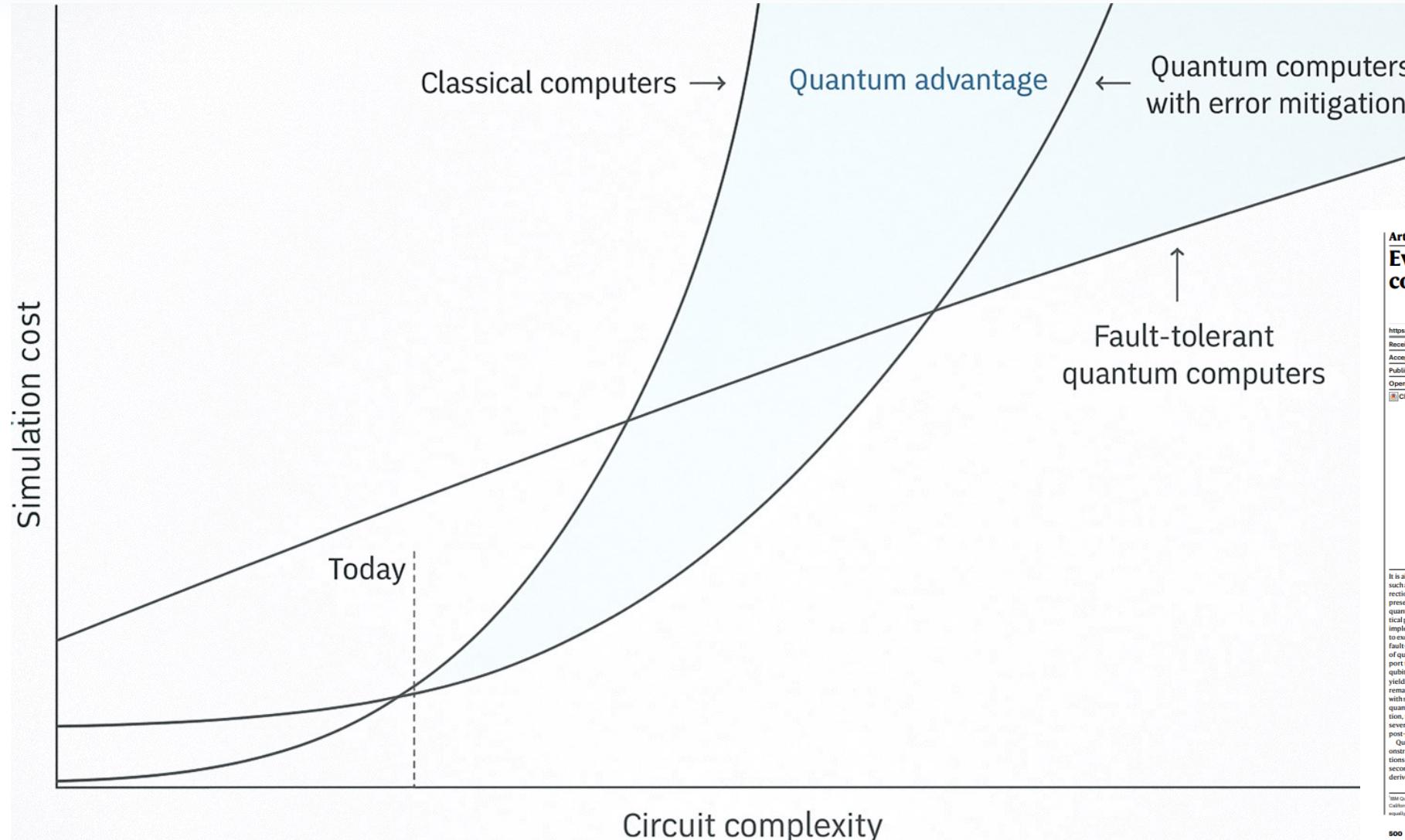
The promise of quantum computers is that certain computational tasks might be executed exponentially faster on a quantum processor than on a classical processor<sup>1</sup>. A fundamental challenge is to build a high-fidelity processor capable of running quantum algorithms in an exponentially large computational space. Here we report the use of a processor with programmable superconducting qubits<sup>2–7</sup> to create quantum states on 53 qubits, corresponding to a computational state-space of dimension  $2^{53}$  (about  $10^{16}$ ). Measurements from repeated experiments sample the resulting probability distribution, which we verify using classical simulations. Our Sycamore processor takes about 200 seconds to sample one instance of a quantum circuit a million times—our benchmarks currently indicate that the equivalent task for a state-of-the-art classical supercomputer would take approximately 10,000 years. This dramatic increase in speed compared to all known classical algorithms is an experimental realization of quantum supremacy<sup>8–11</sup> for this specific computational task, heralding a much-anticipated computing paradigm.



# NISQ (Noisy Intermediate-Scale Quantum) vs. FTQC (Fault-Tolerant Quantum Computing)



# Quantum Advantage (expected by 2026?)



## Article

### Evidence for the utility of quantum computing before fault tolerance

<https://doi.org/10.1038/s41586-023-06096-3>

Received: 24 February 2023

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Published online: 14 June 2023

Open access

Check for updates

Quantum computing promises to offer substantial speed-ups over its classical counterpart for certain problems. However, the greatest impediment to realizing its full potential is noise that is inherent to these systems. The widely accepted solution to this challenge is the implementation of fault-tolerant quantum circuits, which is out of reach for current processors. Here we report experiments on a noisy 127-qubit processor and demonstrate the measurement of accurate expectation values for circuit volumes at a scale beyond brute-force classical simulation. We argue that this represents evidence for the utility of quantum computing in a pre-fault-tolerant era. These experimental results are enabled by advances in the coherence and calibration of a superconducting processor at this scale and the ability to characterize and controllably manipulate noise across such a large device. We establish the accuracy of the measured expectation values by comparing them with the output of exactly verifiable circuits. In the regime of strong entanglement, the quantum computer provides correct results for which leading classical approximations such as pure-state-based 1D (matrix product states, MPS) and 2D (isometric tensor network states, isoTNS) tensor network methods<sup>1,2</sup> break down. These experiments demonstrate a foundational tool for the realization of near-term quantum applications<sup>3,4</sup>.

It is almost universally accepted that advanced quantum algorithms surpass the accuracy of classical simulation for near-term quantum computation. However, it is actively debated whether processors available at present can be made sufficiently reliable to run other, shorter-depth quantum circuits at a scale that could provide an advantage for practical problems. At this point, the conventional expectation is that the noise levels in even the most reliable quantum processor are still too severe for classical simulation. Despite the rapid progress of quantum hardware in recent years, simple fidelity bounds<sup>5</sup> support this bleak forecast; one estimates that a quantum circuit 100 qubits long with 1000 0.1% gate errors yields a state fidelity less than  $1 \times 10^{-7}$ . Nonetheless, the question remains whether properties of the ideal state can be accessed even with such low fidelities. The error-mitigation<sup>6,7</sup> approach to near-term quantum advantage on noisy devices exactly addresses this question, in that one can produce accurate expectation values from several different runs of the noisy quantum circuit using classical post processing.

Quantum advantage can be approached in two steps: first, by demonstrating the ability of existing devices to perform accurate computations at a scale that lies beyond brute-force classical simulation, and second by finding problems with associated quantum circuits that derive an advantage from these devices. Here we focus on the time evolution of a 2D transverse-field Ising model, sharing the topology of the qubit processor (Fig. 1a). The Ising model appears extensively across several areas in physics and has found creative extensions in recent simulations exploring quantum many-body phenomena, such as time crystals<sup>8,9,10</sup>, quantum spin glasses<sup>11</sup>, and the time evolution of the 2D transverse-field Ising model is most relevant in the limit of large entanglement growth in which scalable classical approximations struggle.

In particular, we consider time dynamics of the Hamiltonian,

$$H = -J \sum_{\langle ij \rangle} Z_i Z_j + h \sum_i X_i$$

IBM Quantum, IBM Thomas J. Watson Research Center, Yorktown Heights, NY, USA. <sup>2</sup>IBM Quantum, IBM Research, Cambridge, MA, USA. <sup>3</sup>Department of Physics, University of California, Berkeley, Berkeley, CA, USA. <sup>4</sup>RIKEN iTHEMS, Wako, Japan. <sup>5</sup>Materials Sciences Division, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, Berkeley, CA, USA. \*These authors contributed equally: Youngeuk Kim, Andrew Eddins. \*e-mail: youngeuk.kim@ibm.com; eddins@ibm.com; abindu@ucla.edu

500 | Nature | Vol 618 | 15 June 2023

# Target Problems for QC

**EXPTIME**: classically solvable in exponential time  
*Unrestricted chess on an  $n \times n$  board*

**PSPACE**: classically solvable in polynomial space  
*Restricted chess on an  $n \times n$  board*

**QMA**: quantumly verifiable in polynomial time

**NP**: classically verifiable in polynomial time

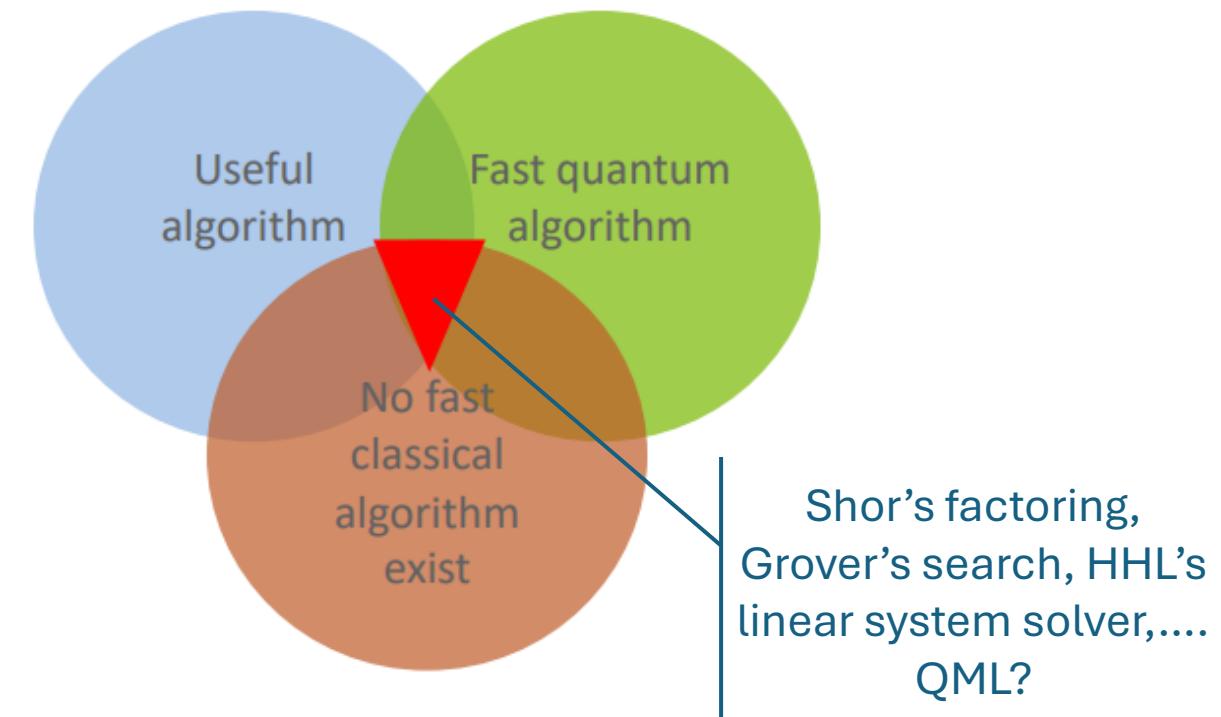
**NP-Complete**: hardest problems in NP  
*Traveling salesman problem*

**P**: classically solvable in polynomial time  
*Testing whether a number is prime*

*Integer factorization*

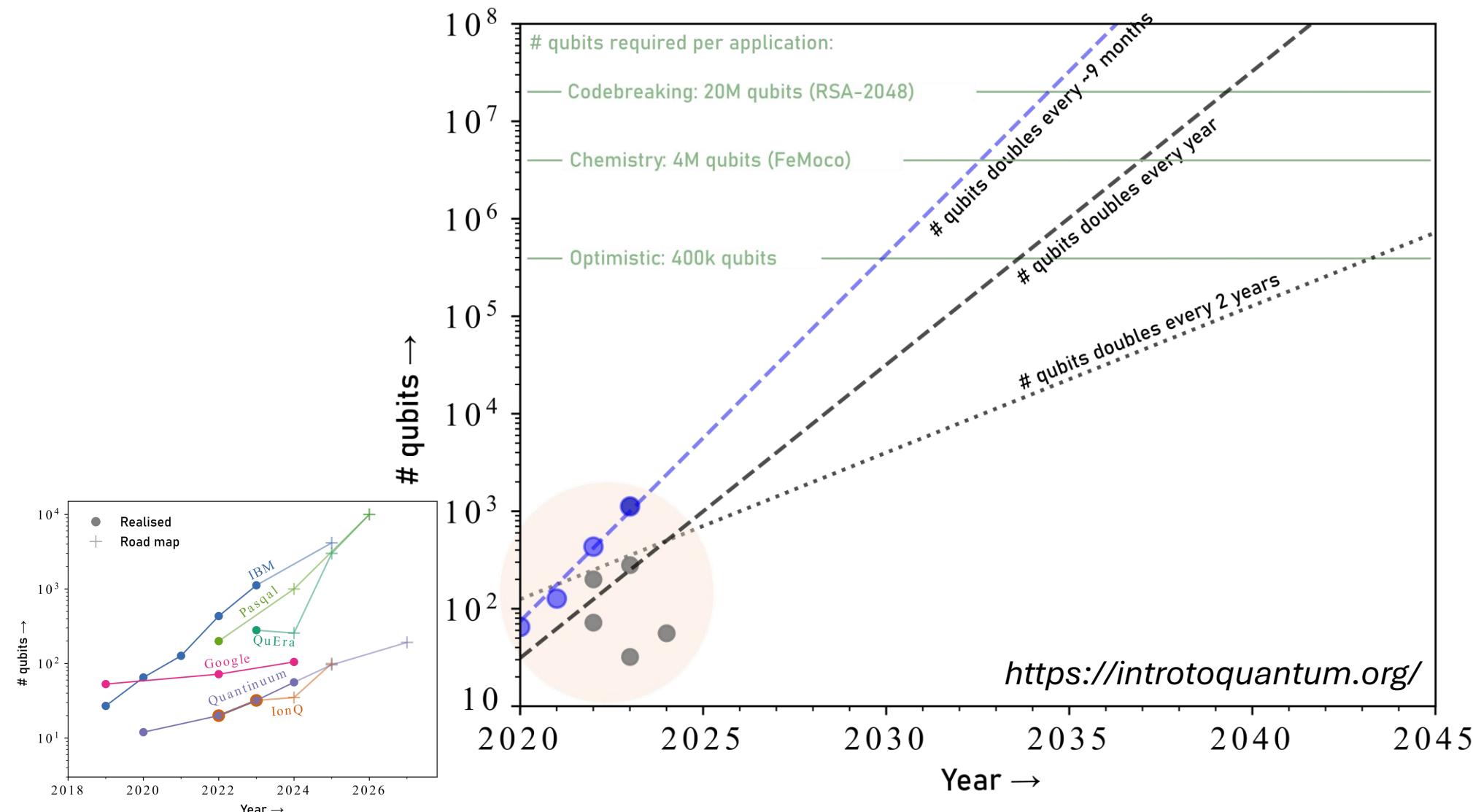
**BQP**: quantumly solvable in polynomial time

**QMA-Complete**: hardest problems in QMA  
*Quantum Hamiltonian ground state problem*

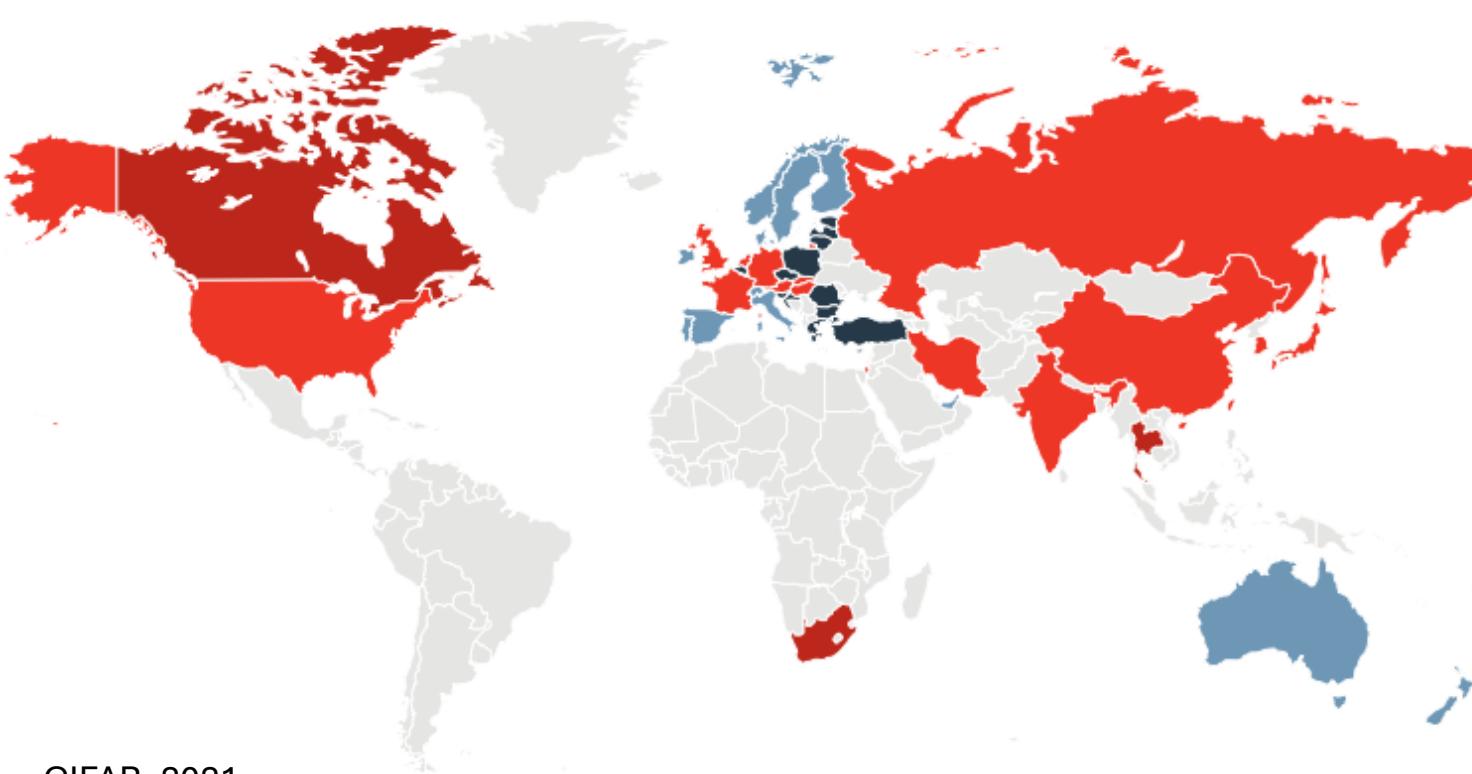


# Predicted #Qubits for Quantum Advantage

Qubit growth estimates, according to Moore's Law

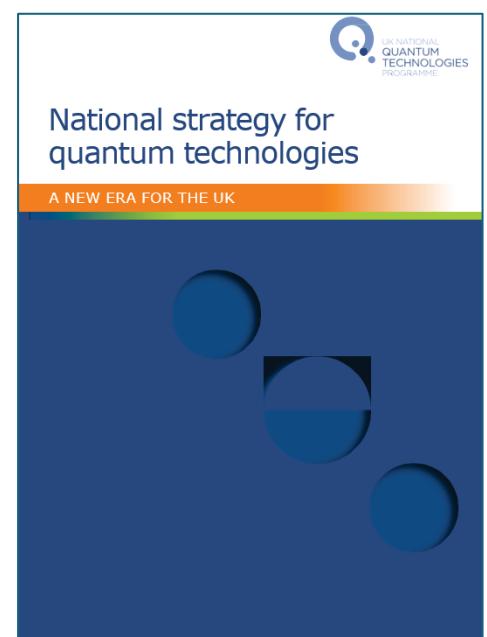
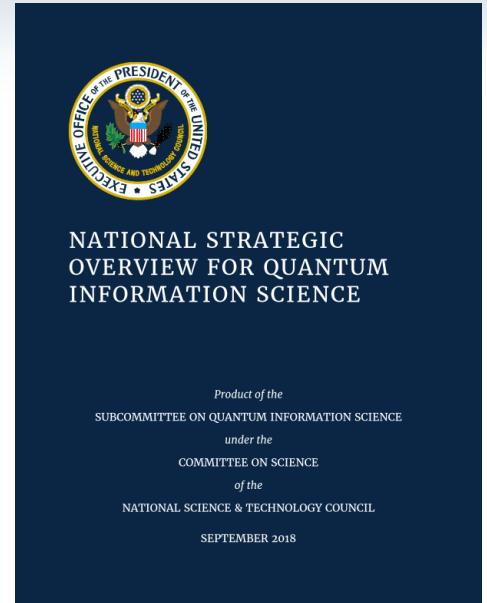


# R&D Policies

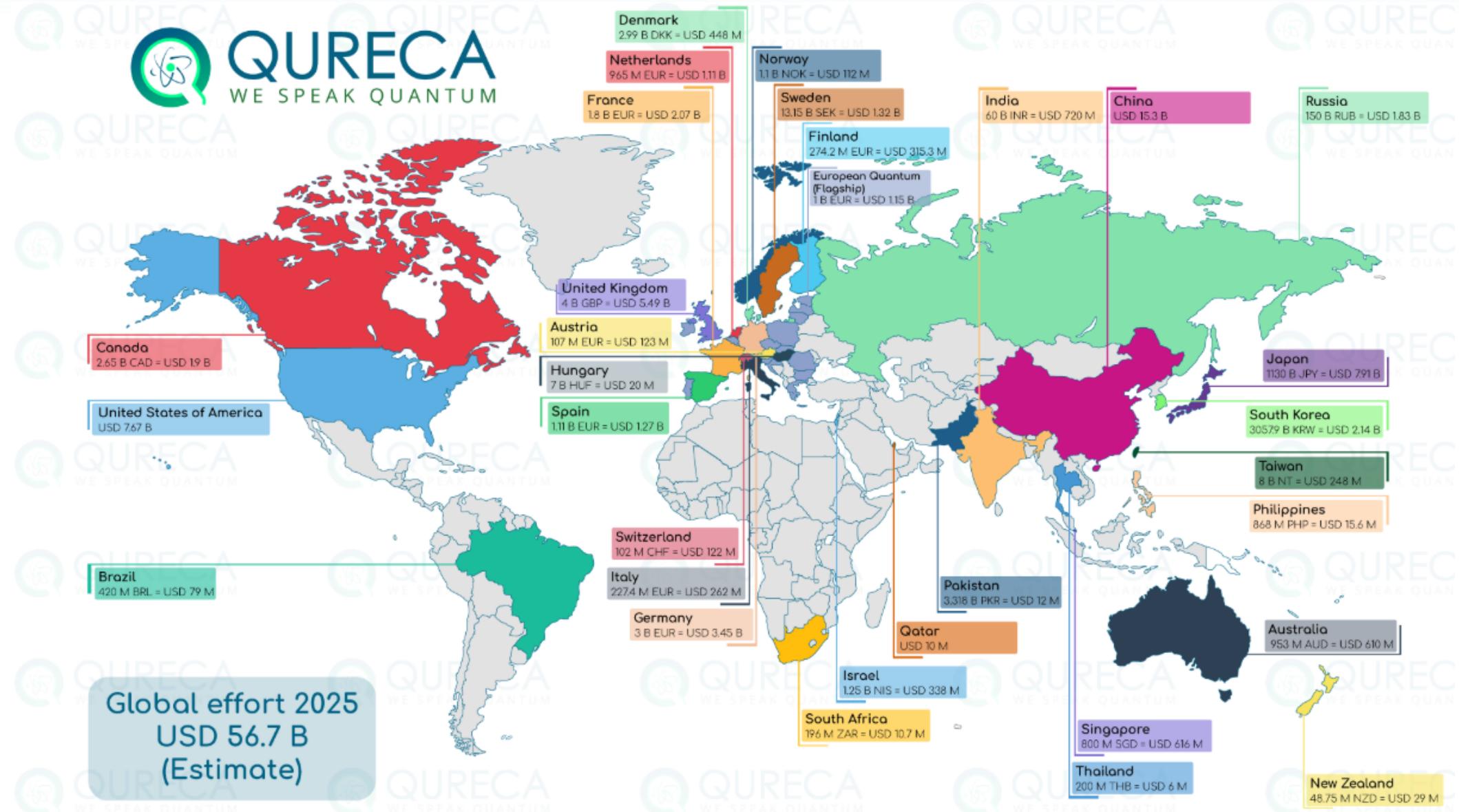


CIFAR, 2021

- Countries with coordinated national quantum strategy
- Countries without national strategy, but with significant government or government-endorsed initiatives
- Quantum strategy in development



# Public Investment



# Agenda

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*Scan for slides*

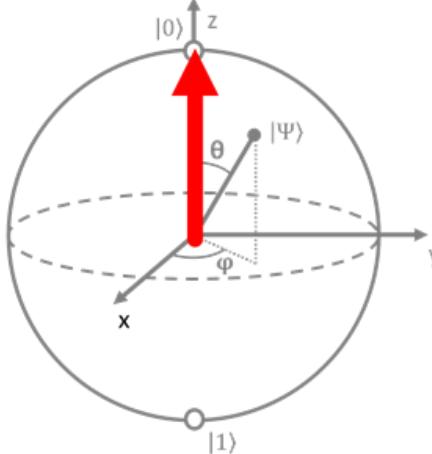


# Quantum Software works with Probability and Uncertainty



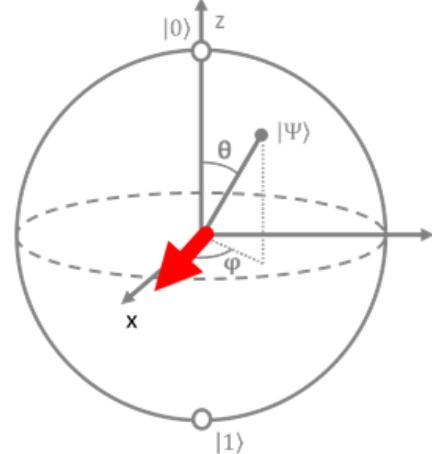
# How to work with qubits?

## initialization



$|0\rangle$

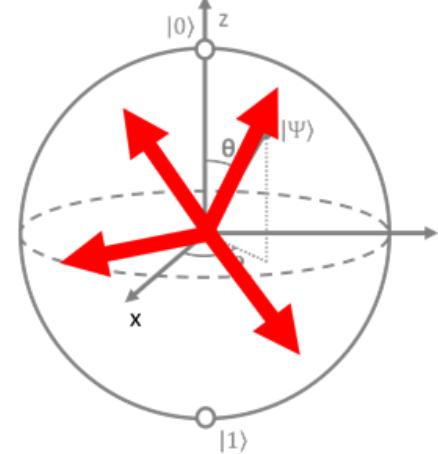
## Hadamard gate



$$\frac{|0\rangle + |1\rangle}{\sqrt{2}}$$

superposition of 0 and 1

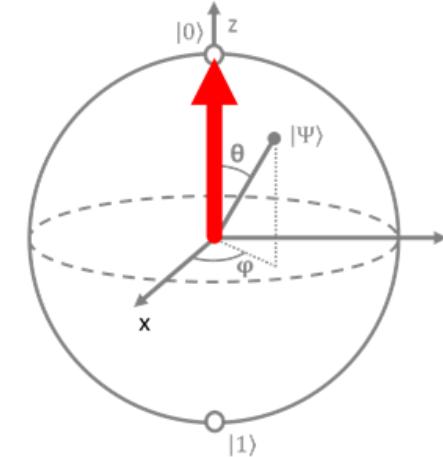
## other gates



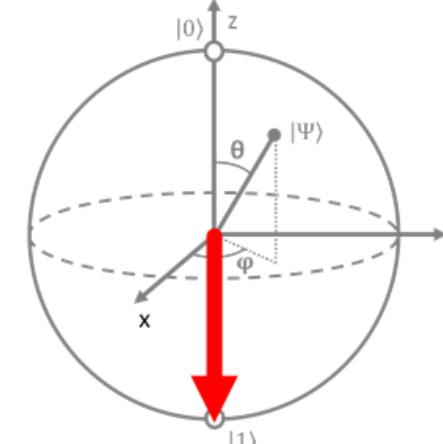
qubit vector turning around  
in Bloch sphere

2 and 3 qubit gates will  
conditionally link qubits

## measurement



measurement returns  
 $|0\rangle$  with a probability  
 $\alpha^2$  depending on the  
qubit state, then qubit  
state becomes  $|0\rangle$



measurement returns  
 $|1\rangle$  with a probability  
 $\beta^2$  depending on the  
qubit state, then qubit  
state becomes  $|1\rangle$

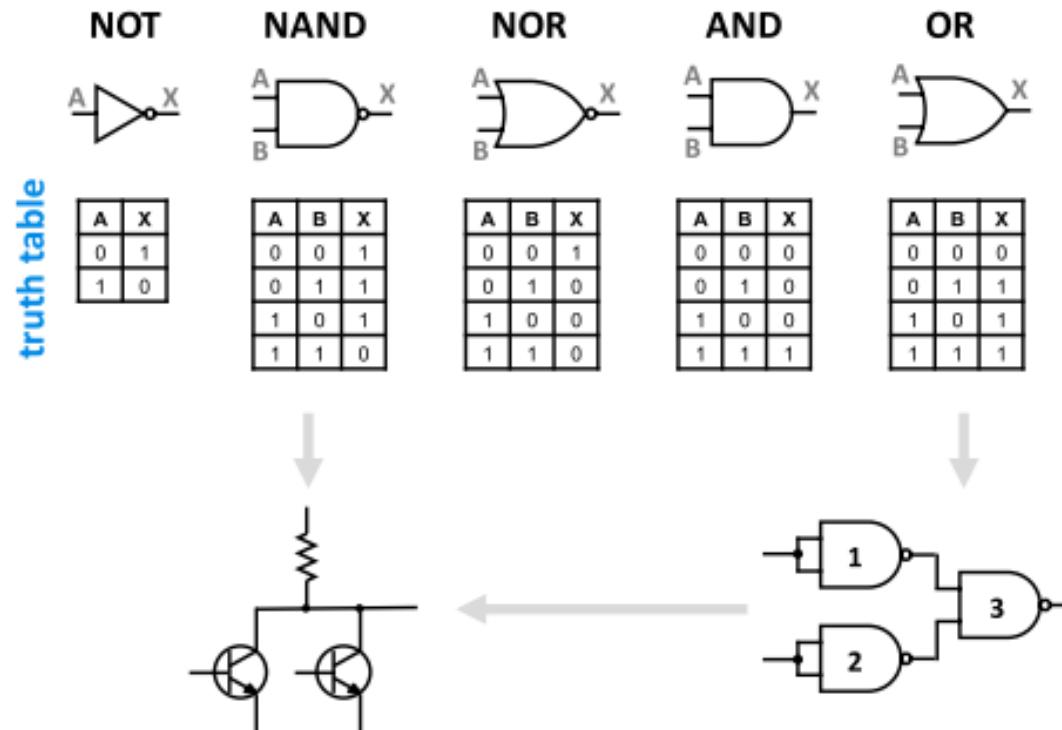
during computing, the process is rather analog

(cc) Olivier Ezratty, 2021

# How to work with qubits?

## classical logic gates

boolean algebra on 1 or 2 bits



(cc) Olivier Ezratty, february 2021

## quantum gates

matrix based unitary transformations

rotation X NOT	$\begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$	rotation Y	$\begin{bmatrix} 0 & -i \\ i & 0 \end{bmatrix}$	rotation Z	$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 \end{bmatrix}$	superposition Hadamard	$\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 1 & -1 \end{bmatrix}$
CNOT		C2NOT Toffoli		SWAP		Fredkin conditional SWAP	
	$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$	$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$	$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$	$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$			

# How to work with qubits?

Untitled circuit | File Edit View Visualizations seed 3392 ▾ Setup and run

Operations Left alignment Inspect

Search q[0] q[1] q[2] q[3] c4

- - - -

**H**  $\oplus$   $\oplus$   $\oplus$   $\oplus$   $\times$   
**I** **T** **S** **Z**  **$T^\dagger$**   
 **$S^\dagger$**  **P** **RZ**  $\alpha^z$   $|0\rangle$   
**if**  $\sqrt{X}$   $\sqrt{X^\dagger}$

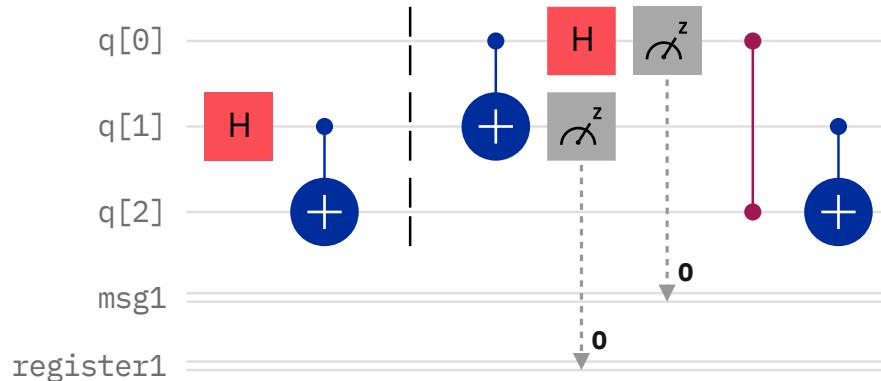
Probabilities 0000

Q-sphere π/2 0 3π/2 π

State  Phase angle

The screenshot shows a quantum computing software interface. At the top, there's a menu bar with 'Untitled circuit', 'File', 'Edit', 'View', 'Visualizations seed 3392', and a blue 'Setup and run' button. Below the menu is an 'Operations' section with a search bar and a grid of quantum gates: H, T, S, Z, T†, S†, P, RZ, phase shift α<sup>z</sup>, and state preparation |0⟩. To the right of the operations are four qubit lines labeled q[0] through q[3], each with a corresponding circle containing a minus sign. Below the operations is a 'Probabilities' section showing a bar chart with 100% probability for state 0000. To the right is a 'Q-sphere' visualization showing a point at the north pole labeled |0000⟩. A control panel at the bottom right includes buttons for rotation and zoom.

# Quantum Circuits & Quantum Programming Languages



```
OPENQASM 2.0;
include "qelib1.inc";

qreg q[3];
creg msg[1];
creg register[1];

h q[1];
cx q[1],q[2];
barrier q[1],q[0],q[2];
cx q[0],q[1];
h q[0];
measure q[0] -> msg[0];
cz q[0],q[2];
measure q[1] -> register[0];
cx q[1],q[2];
```

```
from qiskit import QuantumRegister, ClassicalRegister,
                  QuantumCircuit
from numpy import pi

qreg_q = QuantumRegister(3, 'q')
creg_msg = ClassicalRegister(1, 'msg')
creg_register = ClassicalRegister(1, 'register')
circuit = QuantumCircuit(qreg_q, creg_msg, creg_register)

circuit.h(qreg_q[1])
circuit.cx(qreg_q[1], qreg_q[2])
circuit.barrier(qreg_q[1], qreg_q[0], qreg_q[2])
circuit.cx(qreg_q[0], qreg_q[1])
circuit.h(qreg_q[0])
circuit.measure(qreg_q[0], creg_msg[0])
circuit.cz(qreg_q[0], qreg_q[2])
circuit.measure(qreg_q[1], creg_register[0])
circuit.cx(qreg_q[1], qreg_q[2])
```

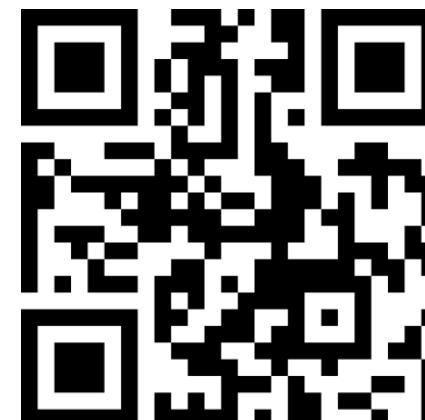


# Quantum Programming Languages

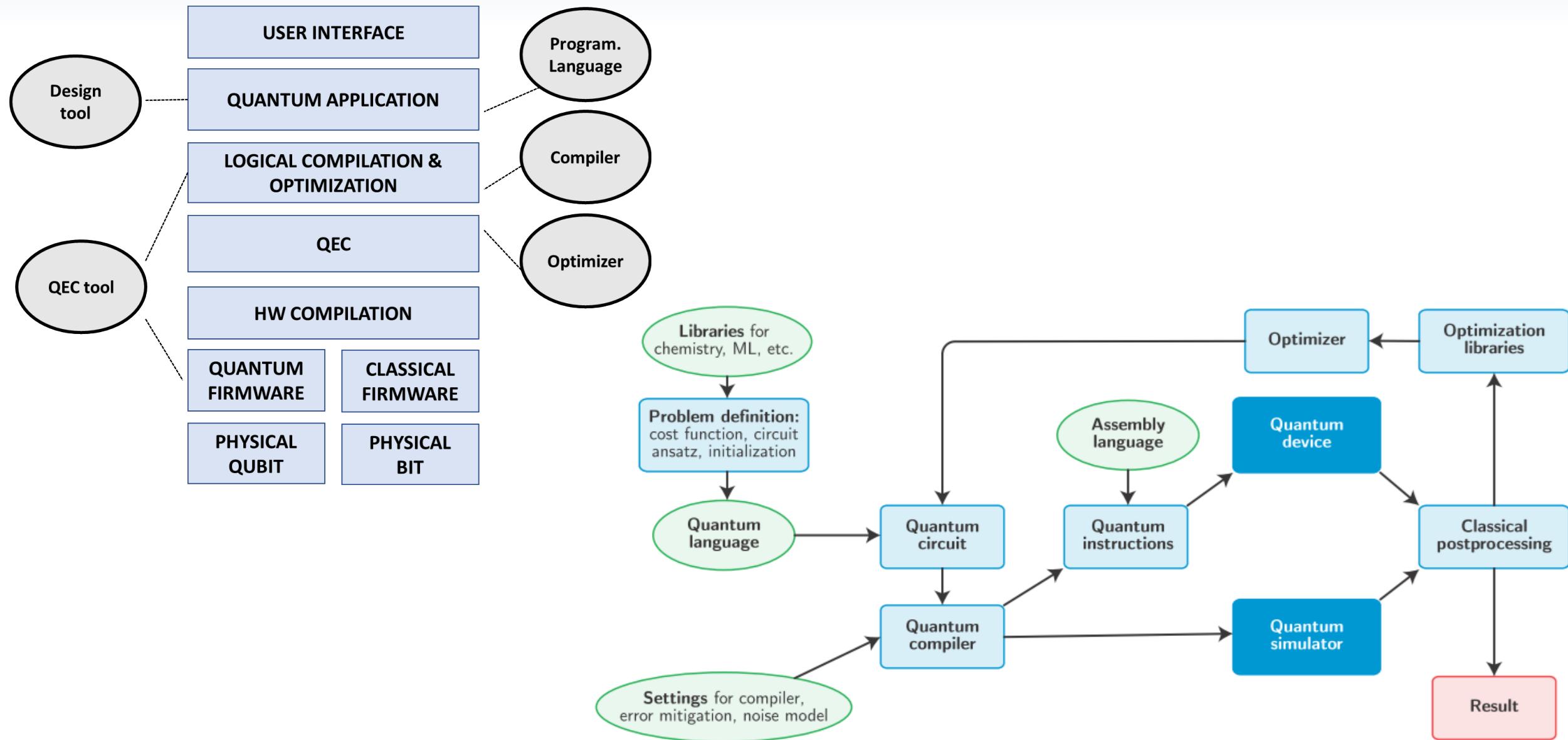
Year	Programming Language	Base Language	Abstraction Level	Paradigm
1956	Quantum Lambda Calculi	Lambda calculus	High	Functional
1996	QCL	C	Low	Imperative
2000	qGCL A <sub>4</sub>	Pascal Lambda calculus	High High	Imperative Functional
2003	Q language	C++	High	Imperative
2004	QEC (QPL) CQP	Flowchart Process calculus	High High	Functional Other
2005	QML qQPL QPAIq	Similar to Haskell Denotational Process calculus	High High High	Functional Functional Other
2006	LanQ	C	Low	Imperative
2008	NDQJava	Java	High	Imperative
2009	Cove	C#	High	Imperative
2011	QuEST	Java	High	Other
2012	Scaffold	C (C++)	Low/High	Imperative
2013	Chisel-Q QuaFL Quipper	Scala Haskell Haskell	High High High	Multiparadigm Functional Functional
2014	LIQLlil>	F#	High	Functional
2015	Proto-Quipper	Haskell	High	Functional
2016	QASM FJQuantum ProjectQ qPCF pyQuil (Quil)	Assembly language Feather-weight Java Python Lambda calculus Python	Low High High High High	Imperative Imperative Multiparadigm Functional Functional
2017	OpenQASM GASM Python FOREST OWtRE	Assembly language Assembly language Python Haskell Coq proof assistant	Low Low High High High	Imperative Imperative Multiparadigm Other Other
2018	IQu Strawberry Fields Blackbird QuantumOptics jl C# QISl>	Idealized Algol Python Python Python C# .Net language	High High High High High High	Imperative Multiparadigm Multiparadigm Imperative Multiparadigm Imperative
2020	Silq Jaquqil	Python Assembly language	High High	Imperative Imperative



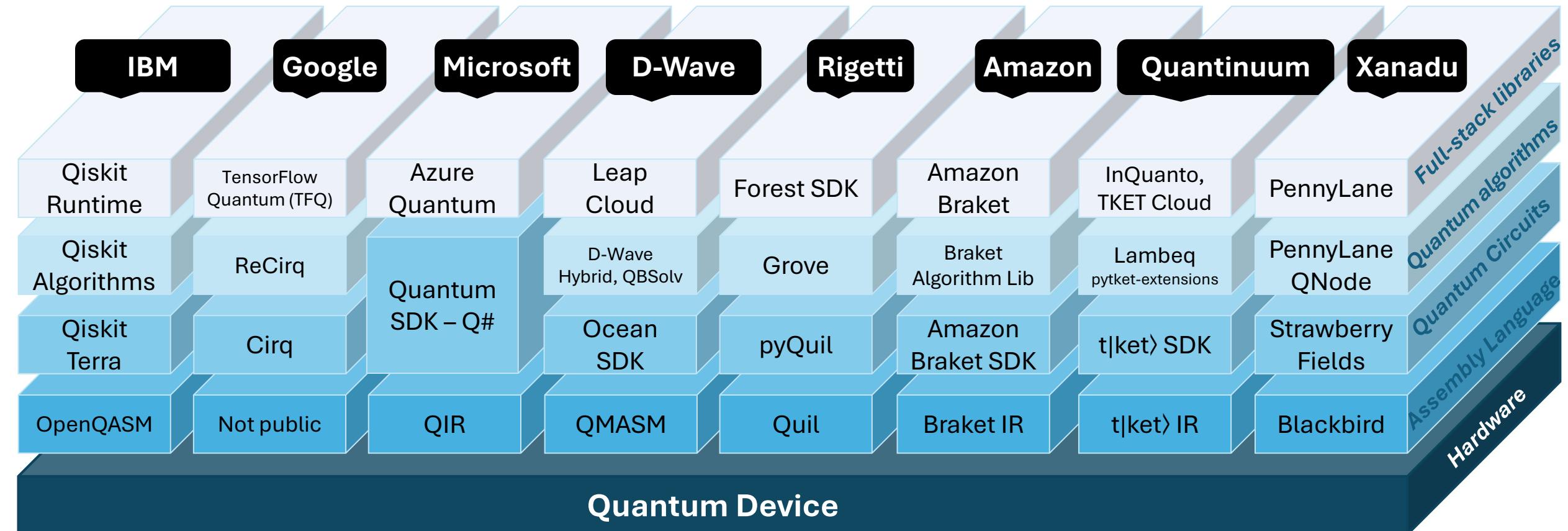
Manuel A. Serrano, José A. Cruz-Lemus, Ricardo Pérez-Castillo, Mario Piattini:  
**Quantum Software Components and Platforms: Overview and Quality Assessment.** ACM Comput. Surv. 55(8): 164:1-164:31 (2023)



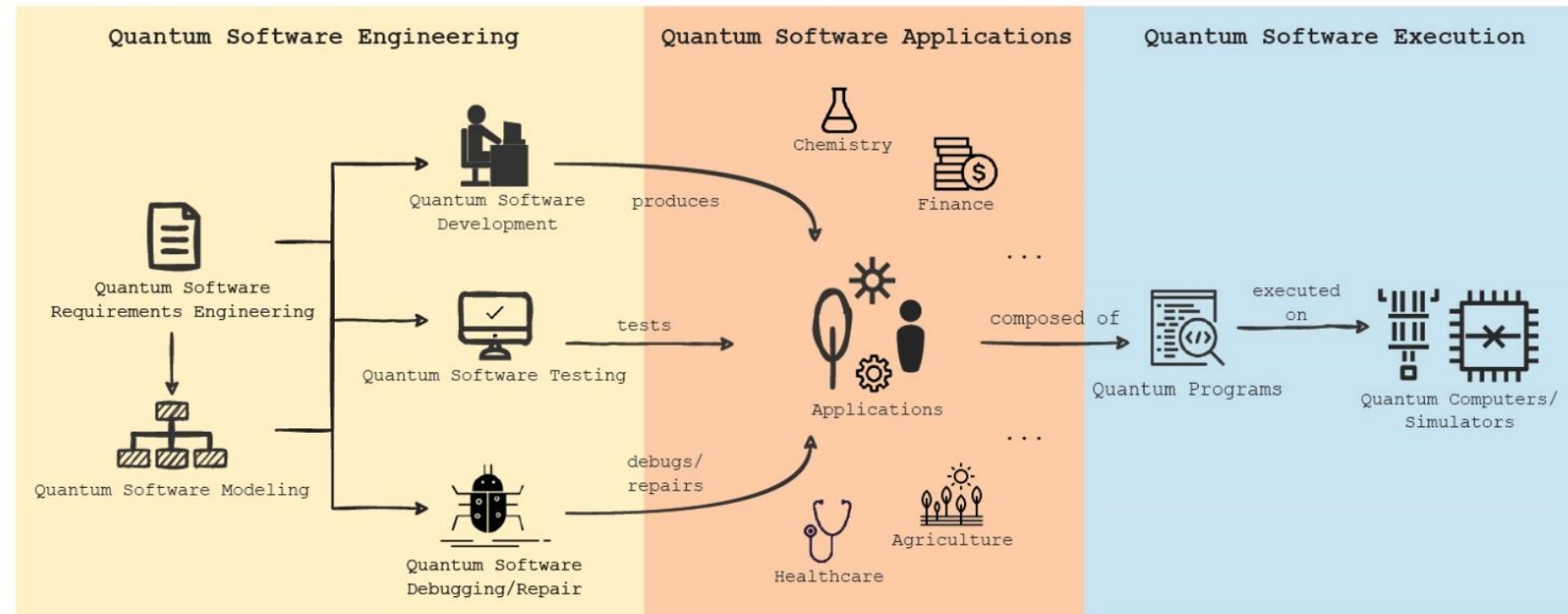
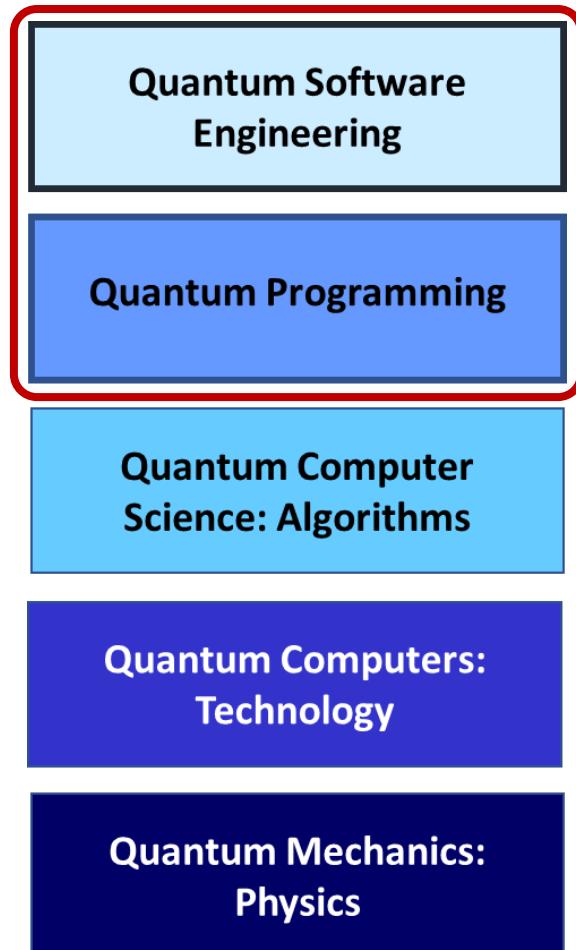
# Quantum Software Development Stacks



# Quantum Software Development Stacks



# Quantum Software Engineering (QSE)



- Understanding both low and high-level algorithms
- Know-how about the way these algorithms can be assembled and coupled with classical algorithms
- How to find the ways to translate “business problems” into these algorithms.

# The Talavera Manifesto for Quantum Soft. Eng. and Programming (2020)



<https://www.aquantum.es/manifesto/>

# The Talavera Manifesto for Quantum Soft. Eng. and Programming (2020)

## Principles

1. QSE is **agnostic** regarding quantum prog. languages and technologies
2. QSE embraces the **coexistence** of classical and quantum computing
3. QSE allows the management of quantum software development **projects**
4. QSE deals with the **evolution** of quantum software
5. QSE attempts to deliver quantum programs with desirable **zero defects**
6. QSE is concerned about the **quality** of quantum software
7. QSE is in favour of quantum software **reuse**
8. QSE is aware of the need for security and **privacy by design**
9. QSE covers the **governance and management** of software

# QSE Roadmap and Challenges



## Quantum Software Engineering: Roadmap and Challenges Ahead

JUAN MANUEL MURILLO, JOSE GARCIA-ALONSO, and ENRIQUE MOGUEL, University of Extremadura, Cáceres, Spain

JOHANNA BARZEN and FRANK LEYMAN, University of Stuttgart, Stuttgart, Germany

SHAUkat ALI, Simula Research Laboratory, Oslo, Norway and Computer Science, Oslo Metropolitan University, Oslo, Norway

TAO YUE, Computer Science and Engineering, Beihang University, Beijing, China

PAOLO ARCAINI, National Institute of Informatics, Chiyoda-ku, Japan

RICARDO PÉREZ-CASTILLO, Faculty of Social Sciences and Information Technologies, University of Castilla-La Mancha, Talavera de la Reina, Spain

IGNACIO GARCÍA-RODRÍGUEZ DE GUZMÁN, Institute of Technologies and Information Systems, University of Castilla-La Mancha, Ciudad Real, Spain

MARIO PIATTINI, University of Castilla-La Mancha, Ciudad Real, Spain

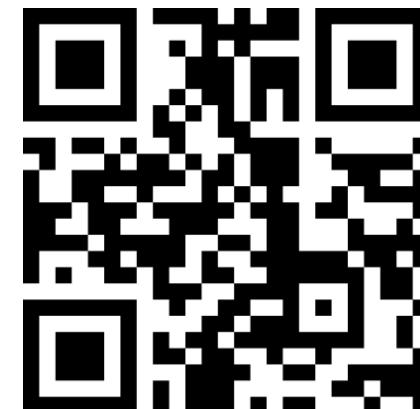
ANTONIO RUIZ-CORTÉS, Computer Languages and Systems, University of Seville, Seville, Spain

ANTONIO BROGI, Department of Computer Science, University of Pisa, Pisa, Italy

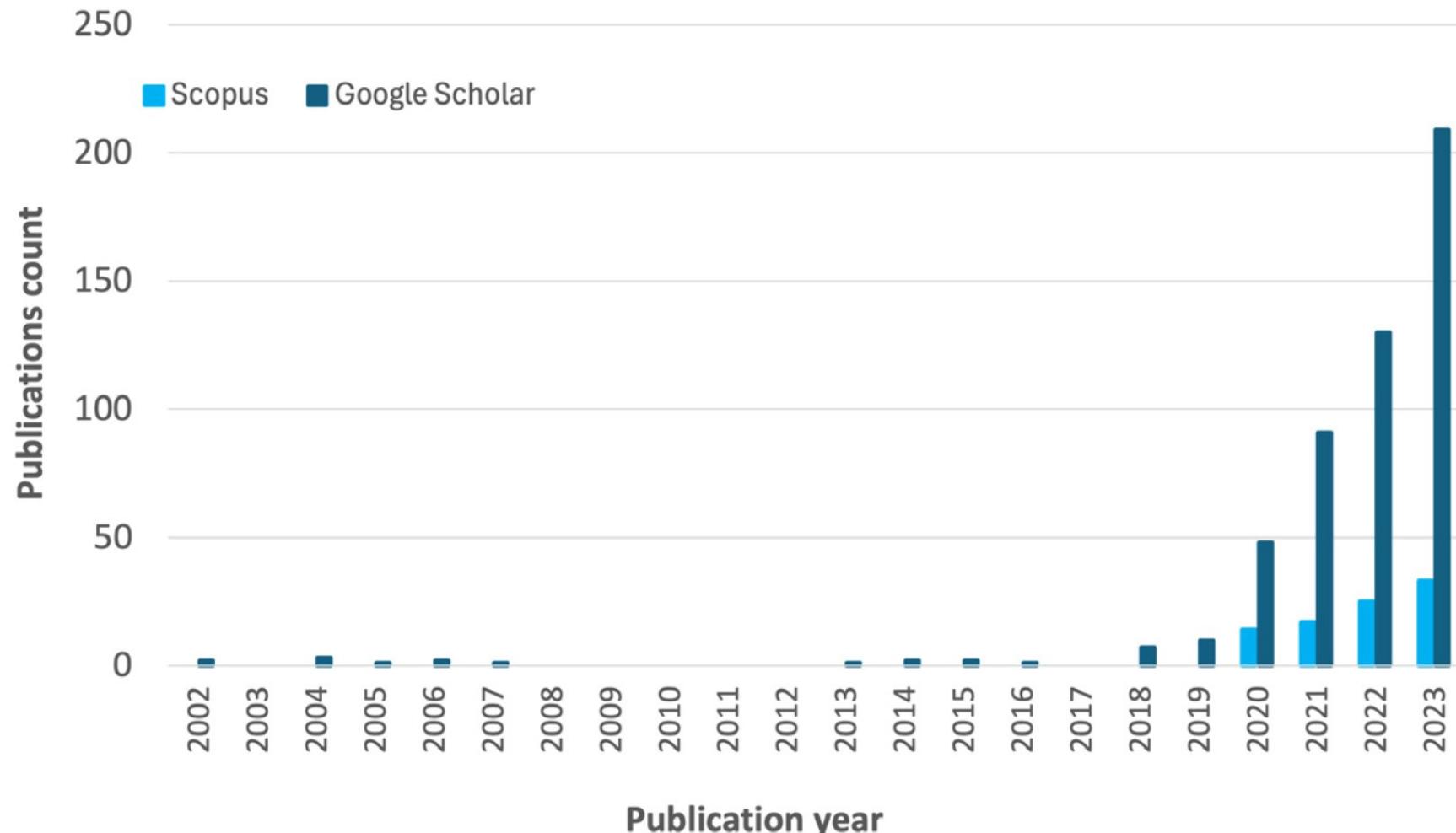
JIANJUN ZHAO, Faculty of Information Science and Electrical Engineering, Kyushu University, Fukuoka, Japan

ANDRIY MIRANSKY, Toronto Metropolitan University, Toronto, Ontario, Canada

MANUEL WIMMER, Johannes Kepler University Linz, Linz, Austria



# Research Interest on QSE



*Murillo et al., 2025*

# Challenges on QSE

- **Quantum Software Testing**
  - Ch-ST-1. Efficient test oracles.
  - Ch-ST-2. Test scalability.
  - Ch-ST-3. From simulators to real quantum computers.
  - Ch-ST-4. (Quantum) AI and (quantum) software testing.
- **Quantum Service Oriented Computing**
  - Ch-SoC-1. Interoperability.
  - Ch-SoC-2. Platform independence.
  - Ch-SoC-3. Demand and capacity management.
  - Ch-SoC-4. Workforce training.
- **Quantum MDE**
  - Ch-MDE-1. Modeling quantum-specific constructs.
  - Ch-MDE-2. Development of high-level design methodologies.
  - Ch-MDE-3. Scalable quantum software maintenance and evolution.
  - Ch-MDE-4. Intelligent code generation and orchestration.
- **Quantum Programming Paradigms**
  - Ch-PP-1. Complexity of circuits.
  - Ch-PP-2. Composable and reusable quantum software.
  - Ch-PP-3. Abstractions for quantum software.
- **Quantum Software Architectures**
  - Ch-SA-1. Architectural decisions in quantum software.
  - Ch-SA-2. Design patterns for hybrid software systems.
  - Ch-SA-3. Empirical evidence for the application of design patterns.
  - Ch-SA-4. Evolution of hybrid software architectures.
- **Quantum Software Development Processes**
  - Ch-DP-1. Iterative development of hybrid software.
  - Ch-DP-2. Risk management.
  - Ch-DP-3. Project management.
- **Quantum Artificial Intelligence**
  - Ch-AI-1. Quantum circuit optimization.
  - Ch-AI-2. Developing hybrid AI-quantum workflows.
  - Ch-AI-3. Error mitigation and correction.
  - Ch-AI-4. Scalability of AI-assisted quantum software development.

# Challenges on QSE



## ▪ Quantum Software Testing

- Ch-ST-1. Efficient test oracles.
- Ch-ST-2. Test scalability.
- Ch-ST-3. From simulators to real quantum computers.
- Ch-ST-4. (Quantum) AI and (quantum) software testing.

## ▪ Quantum Service Oriented Computing

- Ch-SoC-1. Interoperability.
- Ch-SoC-2. Platform independence.
- Ch-SoC-3. Demand and capacity management.
- Ch-SoC-4. Workforce training.

## ▪ Quantum MDE

- Ch-MDE-1. Modeling quantum-specific constructs.
- Ch-MDE-2. Development of high-level design methodologies.
- Ch-MDE-3. Scalable quantum software maintenance and evolution.
- Ch-MDE-4. Intelligent code generation and orchestration.

## ▪ Quantum Programming Paradigms

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## ▪ Quantum Software Development Processes

- Ch-DP-1. Iterative development of hybrid software.
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## ▪ Quantum Artificial Intelligence

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- Ch-AI-2. Developing hybrid AI-quantum workflows.
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- Ch-AI-4. Scalability of AI-assisted quantum software development.

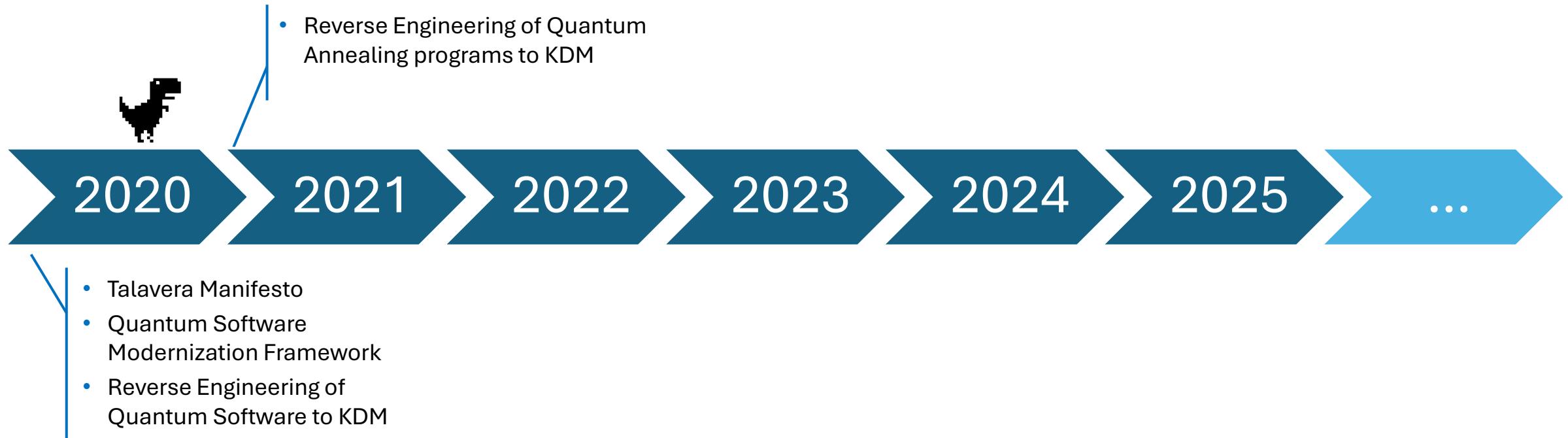
# Agenda

- Quantum Computing
- Quantum Computing Applications
- Quantum Software & Quantum Software Engineering
- **Our Research Journey**
- Conclusions

*Scan for slides*



# Our Research Journey

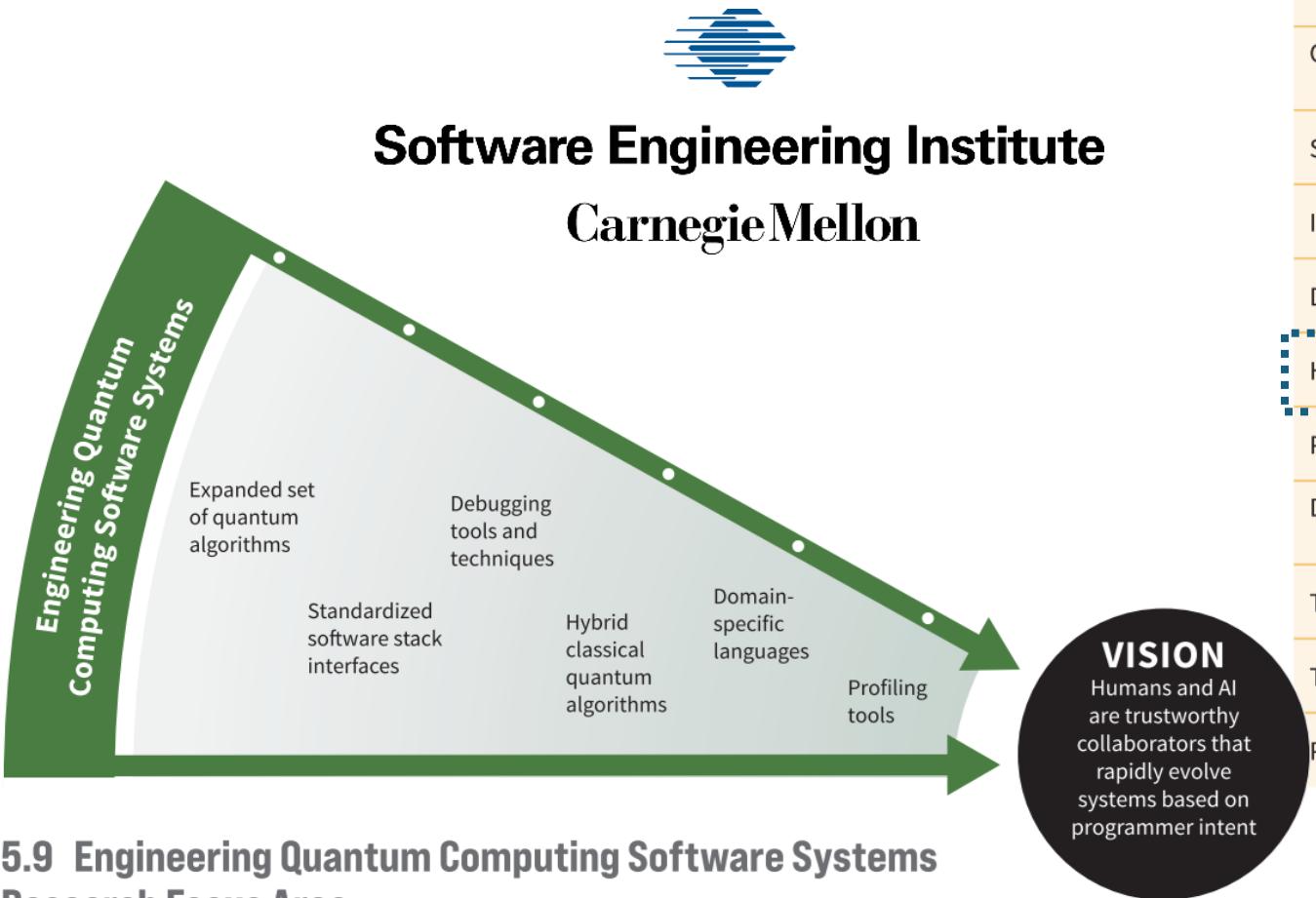


# Classical vs Quantum Software Systems



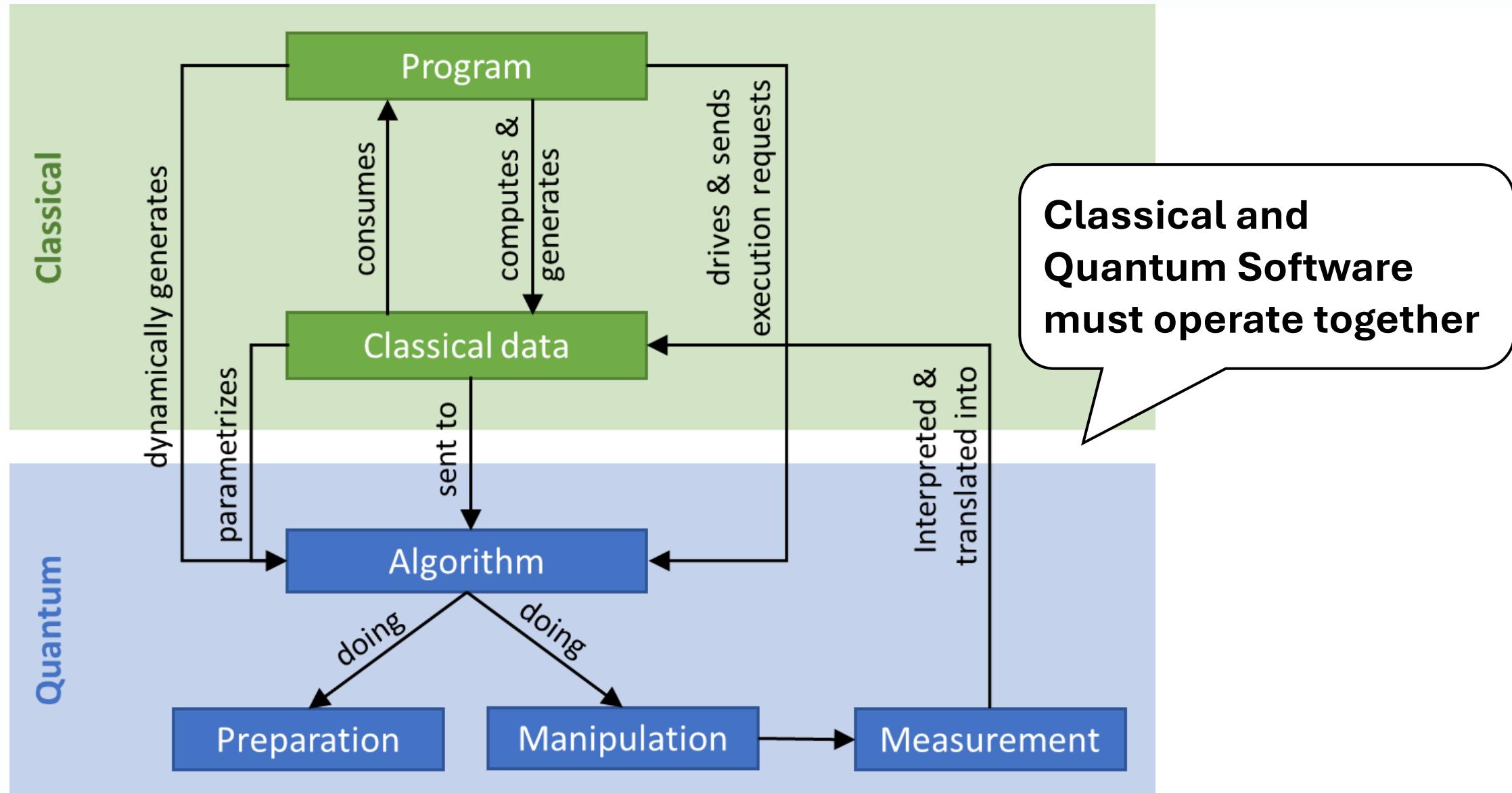
- Classic Information Systems **are still useful** for companies
  - Those who have embedded a lot of mission-critical knowledge
- ***Quantumfy* every business operation, perhaps for sure, does not make sense.**
  - High cost and no computational gain for simple operations
  - Both computing paradigms must will operate together.

# Quantum Software by SEI



Research Direction	Short Term	Mid-term	Long-term
Benchmarks for quantum computing	X		
Large-scale simulation techniques	X		
Expanded set of quantum algorithms	X	X	
Quantum algorithm insights leveraged for classical algorithms	X	X	
Standardized software stack interfaces	X	X	
Intermediate comparisons: QC and simulators	X	X	
Debugging tools and techniques		X	X
Hybrid classical-quantum algorithms		X	X
Proven correct libraries		X	X
Domain-specific languages with greater abstraction		X	X
Target architecture mapping techniques		X	X
Tools for continuous integration		X	X
Profiling tools		X	X

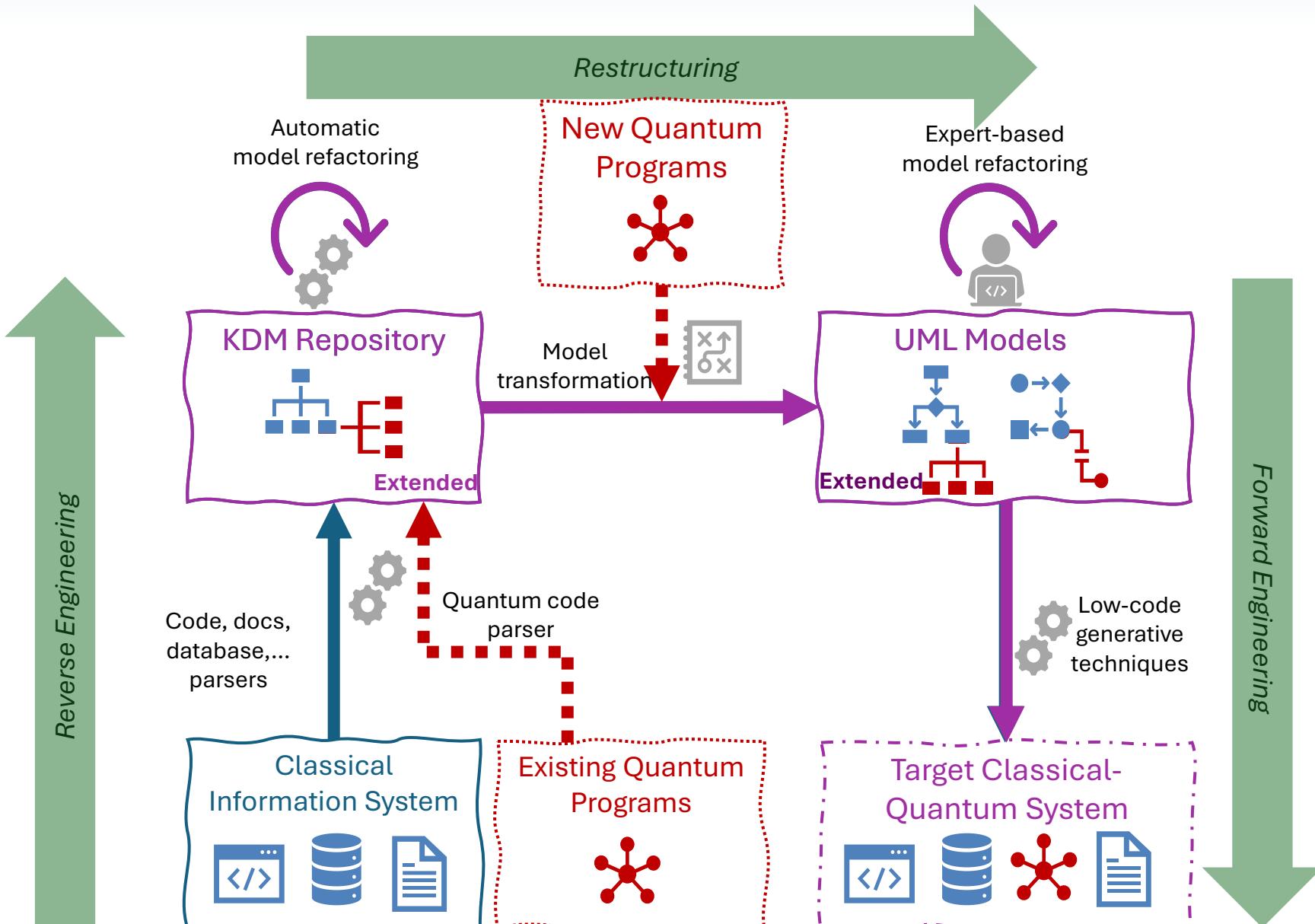
# Integration in Hybrid Software Systems



# Software Modernization from/to Hybrid Software Systems



Pérez-Castillo, R., M.A. Serrano, and M. Piattini, **Software modernization to embrace quantum technology**. *Advances in Engineering Software*, 2021. 151: p. 102933.



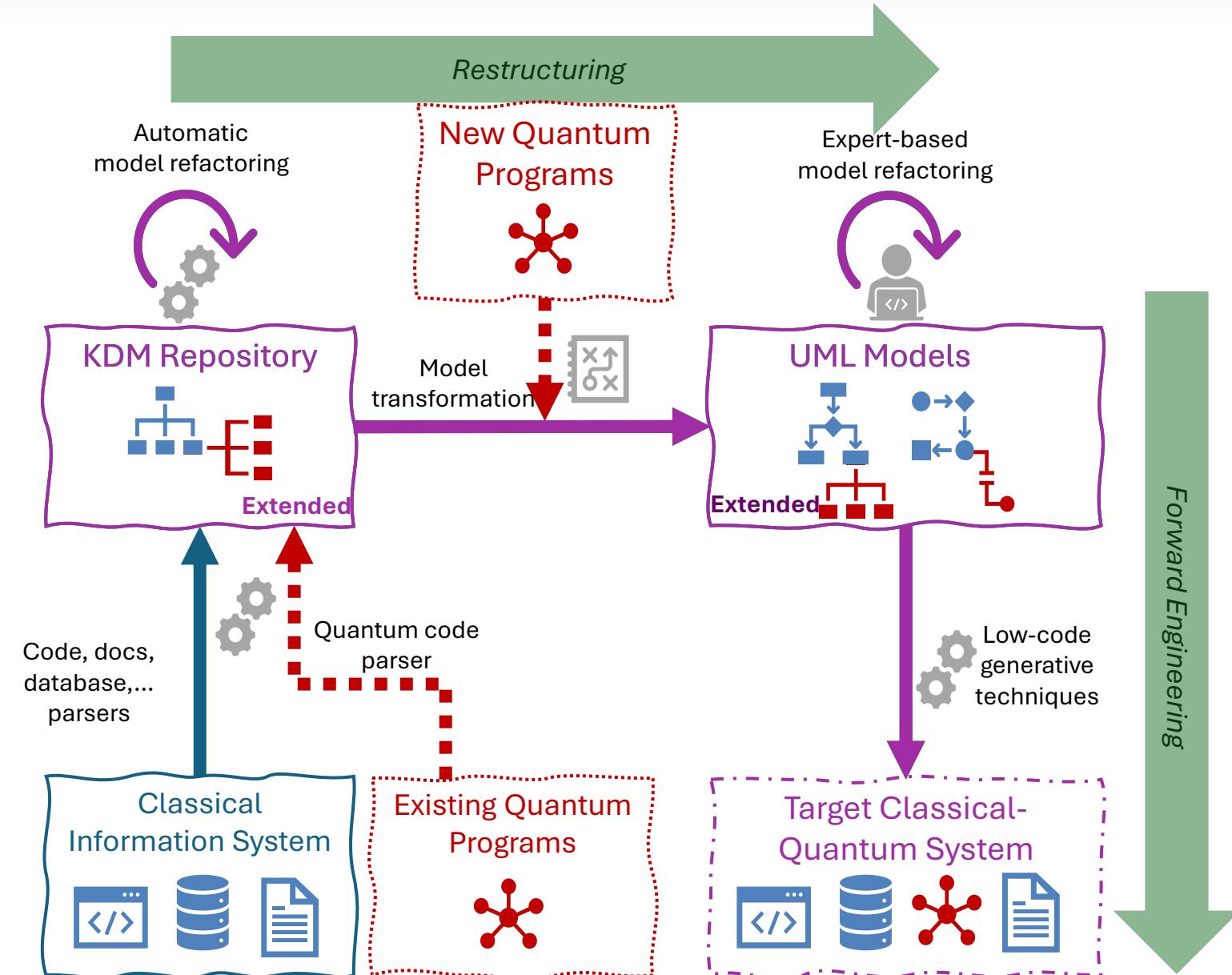
# Software Modernization from/to Hybrid Software Systems



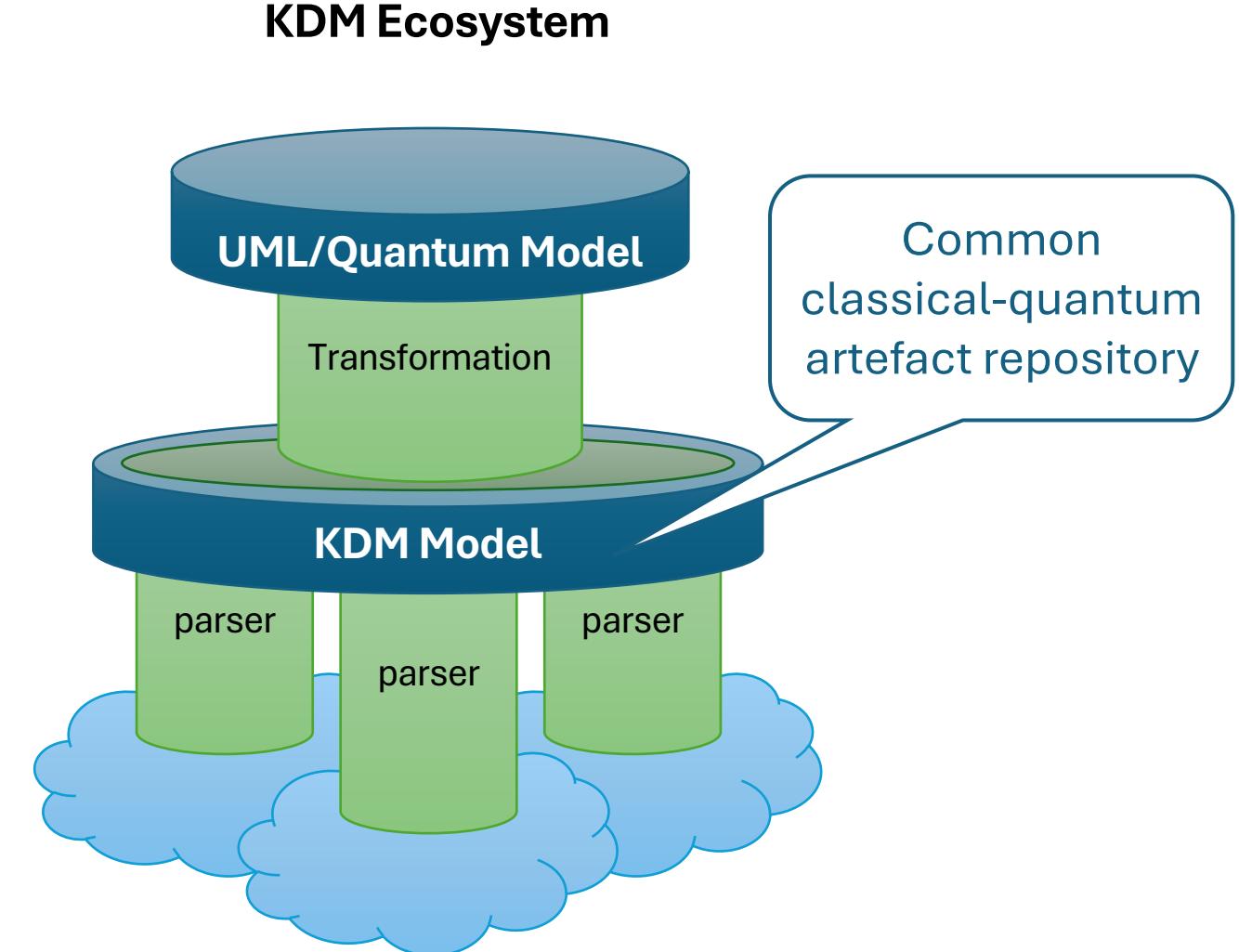
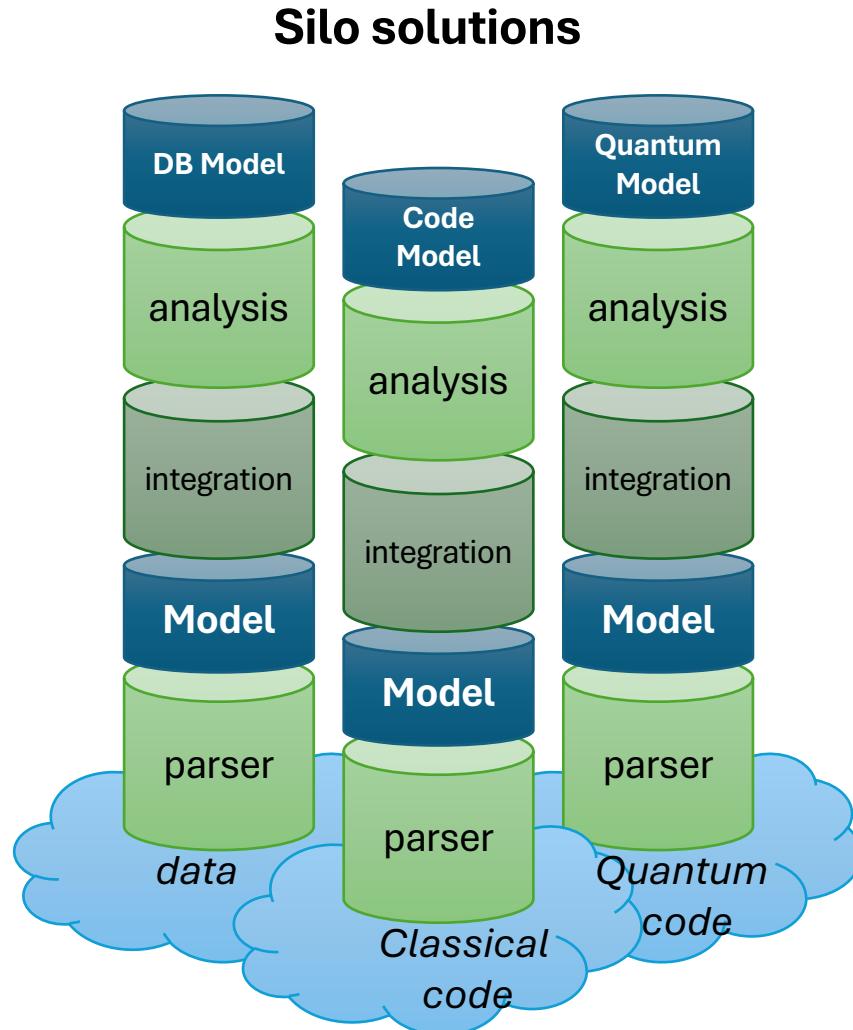
Pérez-Castillo, R., Jiménez-Navajas, L. & Piattini, M. QRev: migrating quantum code towards hybrid information systems. *Software Qual J* (2021)



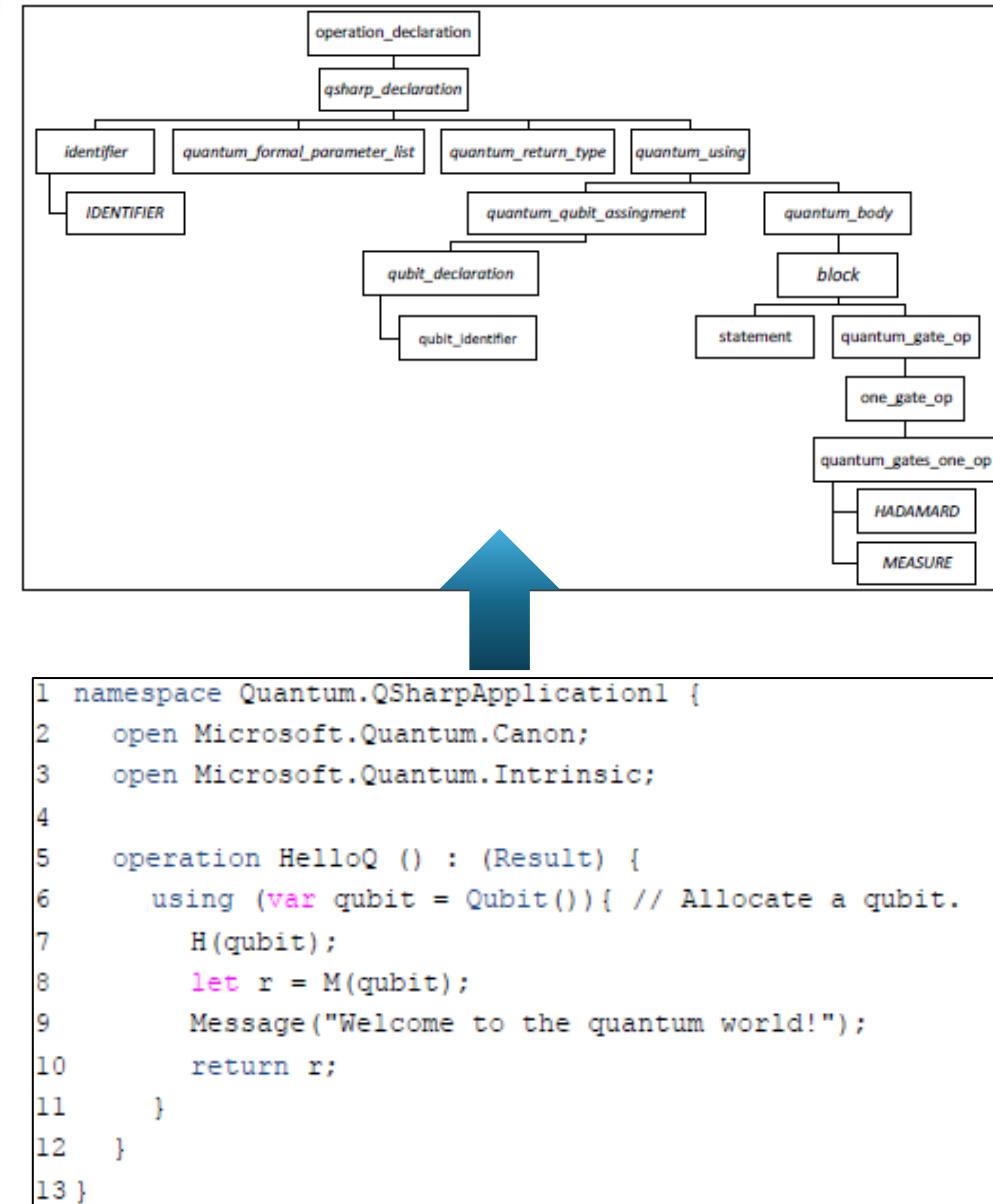
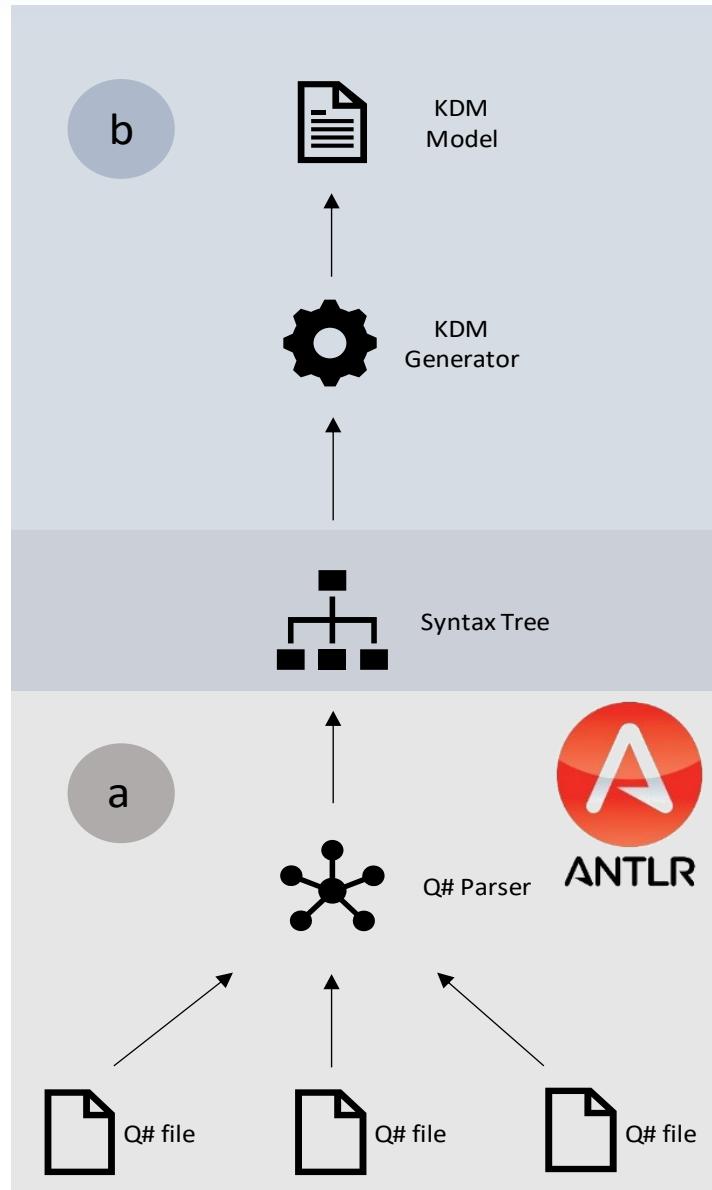
Reverse Engineering



# Advantage of KDM Ecosystem



# Reverse Engineering: Q# to KDM



# Reverse Engineering: Q# to KDM

**KDM Quantum Extension Family**

```

<kdm:Segment xmlns:xmi="http://www.omg.org/XMI" xmlns:xsi="http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema-instance" xmlns:action="http://www.omg.org/spec/KDM/20160201/action" xmlns:code="http://www.omg.org/spec/KDM/20160201/code"
  xmlns:kdm="http://www.omg.org/spec/KDM/20160201/kdm" xmi:version="2.0" name="Stereotype Example">
  <extensionFamily name="Example extensions">
    <stereotype name="quantum programming language"/>
    <stereotype name="quantum program">
      <tag tag="implemented in" type="" />
    </stereotype>
    <stereotype name="quantum gate" type="" />
    <stereotype name="qubit" />
    <stereotype name="qubit measure" type="" />
  </extensionFamily>
  <model xsi:type="code:CodeModel" name="Quantum Full Adder">
    <codeElement xsi:type="code:LanguageUnit" stereotype="//@extensionFamily.0/@stereotype.0" name="QASM">
      <codeElement xsi:type="code:DefinedType" stereotype="//@extensionFamily.0/@stereotype.3" name="qubit"/>
      <codeElement xsi:type="code:DefinedType" stereotype="//@extensionFamily.0/@stereotype.3 //@extensionFamily.0/@stereotype.4" name="measured qubit"/>
    </codeElement>
    <codeElement xsi:type="code:CompilationUnit" stereotype="//@extensionFamily.0/@stereotype.1" name="Full Adder">
      <annotation text="This program implements a quantum full adder"/>
      <taggedValue xsi:type="kdm:TaggedValue" tag="//@extensionFamily.0/@stereotype.1/@tag.0" value="QASM"/>
      <entryFlow to="//@model.0/@codeElement.1/@codeElement.4" from="//@model.0/@codeElement.1"/>
      <codeElement xsi:type="code:StorableUnit" stereotype="//@extensionFamily.0/@stereotype.3" name="q[0]" type="//@model.0/@codeElement.0/@codeElement.0" ext="" isStat="true"/>
      <codeElement xsi:type="code:StorableUnit" stereotype="//@extensionFamily.0/@stereotype.3" name="q[1]" type="//@model.0/@codeElement.0/@codeElement.0" ext="" isStat="true"/>
      <codeElement xsi:type="code:StorableUnit" stereotype="//@extensionFamily.0/@stereotype.3" name="q[2]" type="//@model.0/@codeElement.0/@codeElement.0" ext="" isStat="true"/>
      <codeElement xsi:type="code:StorableUnit" stereotype="//@extensionFamily.0/@stereotype.3" name="q[3]" type="//@model.0/@codeElement.0/@codeElement.0" ext="" isStat="true"/>
      <codeElement xsi:type="action:ActionElement" stereotype="//@extensionFamily.0/@stereotype.2" name="hadamard" kind="">
        <source language="QASM" snippet="h q[0];"/>
        <actionRelation xsi:type="action:Addresses" to="//@model.0/@codeElement.1/@codeElement.0" from="//@model.0/@codeElement.1/@codeElement.4"/>
        <actionRelation xsi:type="action:Flow" to="//@model.0/@codeElement.1/@codeElement.5" from="//@model.0/@codeElement.1/@codeElement.4"/>
      </codeElement>
      <codeElement xsi:type="action:ActionElement" stereotype="//@extensionFamily.0/@stereotype.2" name="hadamard" kind="">
        <source language="QASM" snippet="h q[1];"/>
        <actionRelation xsi:type="action:Addresses" to="//@model.0/@codeElement.1/@codeElement.1" from="//@model.0/@codeElement.1/@codeElement.5"/>
        <actionRelation xsi:type="action:Flow" to="//@model.0/@codeElement.1/@codeElement.6" from="//@model.0/@codeElement.1/@codeElement.5"/>
      </codeElement>
      <codeElement xsi:type="action:ActionElement" stereotype="//@extensionFamily.0/@stereotype.2" name="hadamard" kind="">
        <source language="QASM" snippet="h q[2];"/>
        <actionRelation xsi:type="action:Addresses" to="//@model.0/@codeElement.1/@codeElement.2" from="//@model.0/@codeElement.1/@codeElement.6"/>
        <actionRelation xsi:type="action:Flow" to="//@model.0/@codeElement.1/@codeElement.7" from="//@model.0/@codeElement.1/@codeElement.6"/>
      </codeElement>
      <codeElement xsi:type="action:ActionElement" stereotype="//@extensionFamily.0/@stereotype.2" name="toffoli" kind="">
        <source language="QASM" snippet="ccx q[0],q[1],q[3];"/>
        <actionRelation xsi:type="action:Reads" to="//@model.0/@codeElement.1/@codeElement.0" from="//@model.0/@codeElement.1/@codeElement.7"/>
        <actionRelation xsi:type="action:Reads" to="//@model.0/@codeElement.1/@codeElement.1" from="//@model.0/@codeElement.1/@codeElement.7"/>
        <actionRelation xsi:type="action:Addresses" to="//@model.0/@codeElement.1/@codeElement.3" from="//@model.0/@codeElement.1/@codeElement.7"/>
        <actionRelation xsi:type="action:Flow" to="//@model.0/@codeElement.1/@codeElement.8" from="//@model.0/@codeElement.1/@codeElement.7"/>
      </codeElement>
      <codeElement xsi:type="action:ActionElement" stereotype="//@extensionFamily.0/@stereotype.2" name="cnot" kind="">
        <source language="QASM" snippet="cx q[0],q[1];"/>
        <actionRelation xsi:type="action:Reads" to="//@model.0/@codeElement.1/@codeElement.0" from="//@model.0/@codeElement.1/@codeElement.8"/>
        <actionRelation xsi:type="action:Addresses" to="//@model.0/@codeElement.1/@codeElement.1" from="//@model.0/@codeElement.1/@codeElement.8"/>
        <actionRelation xsi:type="action:Flow" to="//@model.0/@codeElement.1/@codeElement.9" from="//@model.0/@codeElement.1/@codeElement.8"/>
      </codeElement>
    ...</model>
  </kdm:Segment>

```

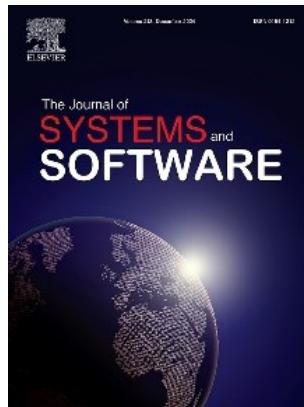
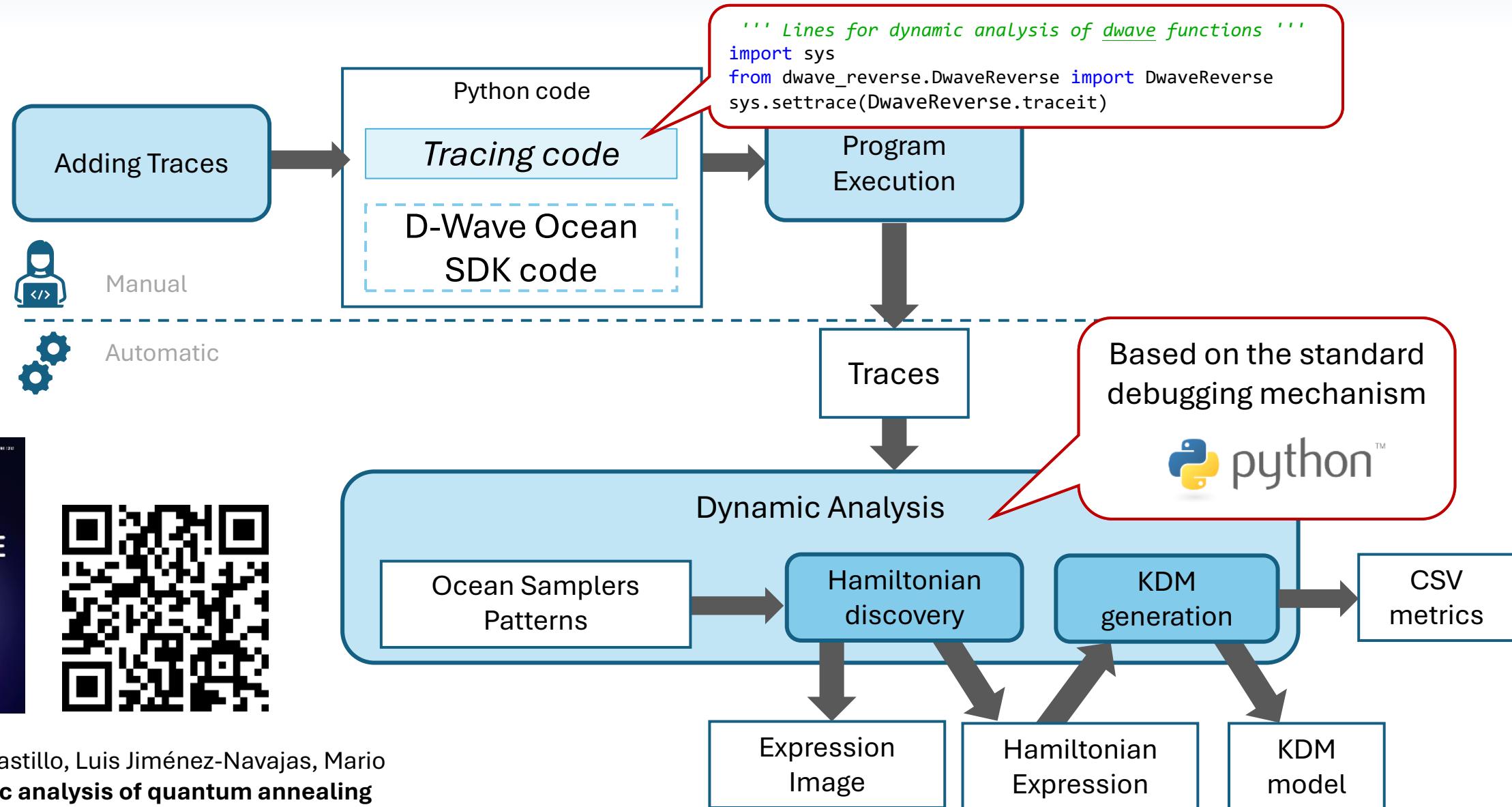
OPENQASM 2.0;

```

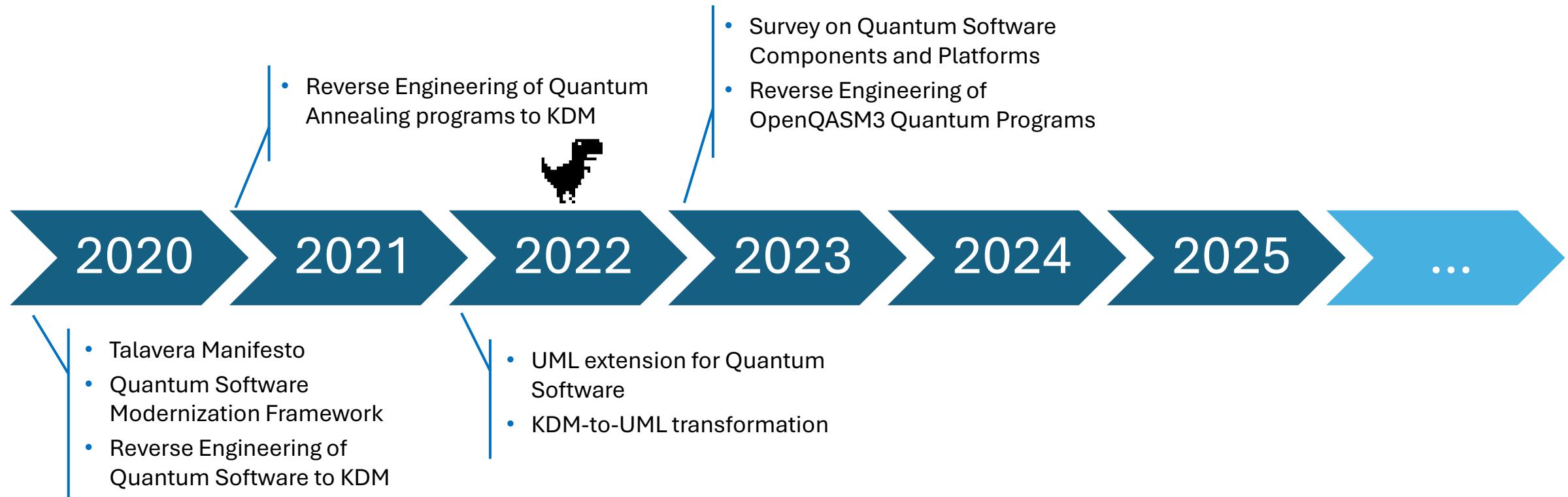
1   include "qelib1.inc";
2   gate nG0 ( param ) q {
3     h q;
4   }
5   qreg q[4];
6   creg c[4];
7
8   h q[0];
9   h q[1];
10  h q[2];
11  ccx q[0],q[1],q[3];
12  cx q[0],q[1];
13  ccx q[1],q[2],q[3];
14  cx q[1],q[2];
15  cx q[0],q[1];
16  id q[2];
17  measure q[2] -> c[2];
18  measure q[3] -> c[3];

```

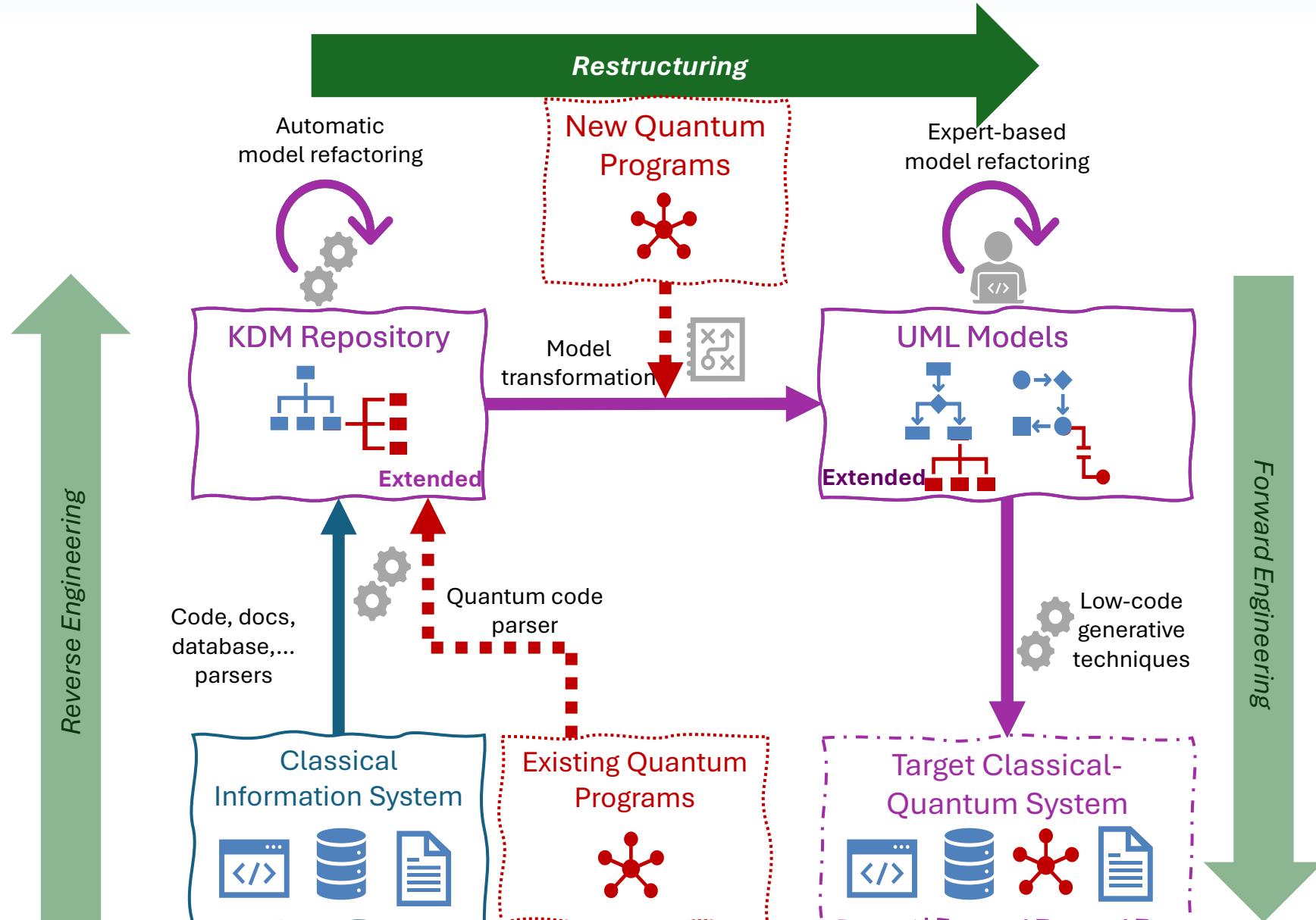
# Dynamic Analysis for reversing Quantum Annealing Programs



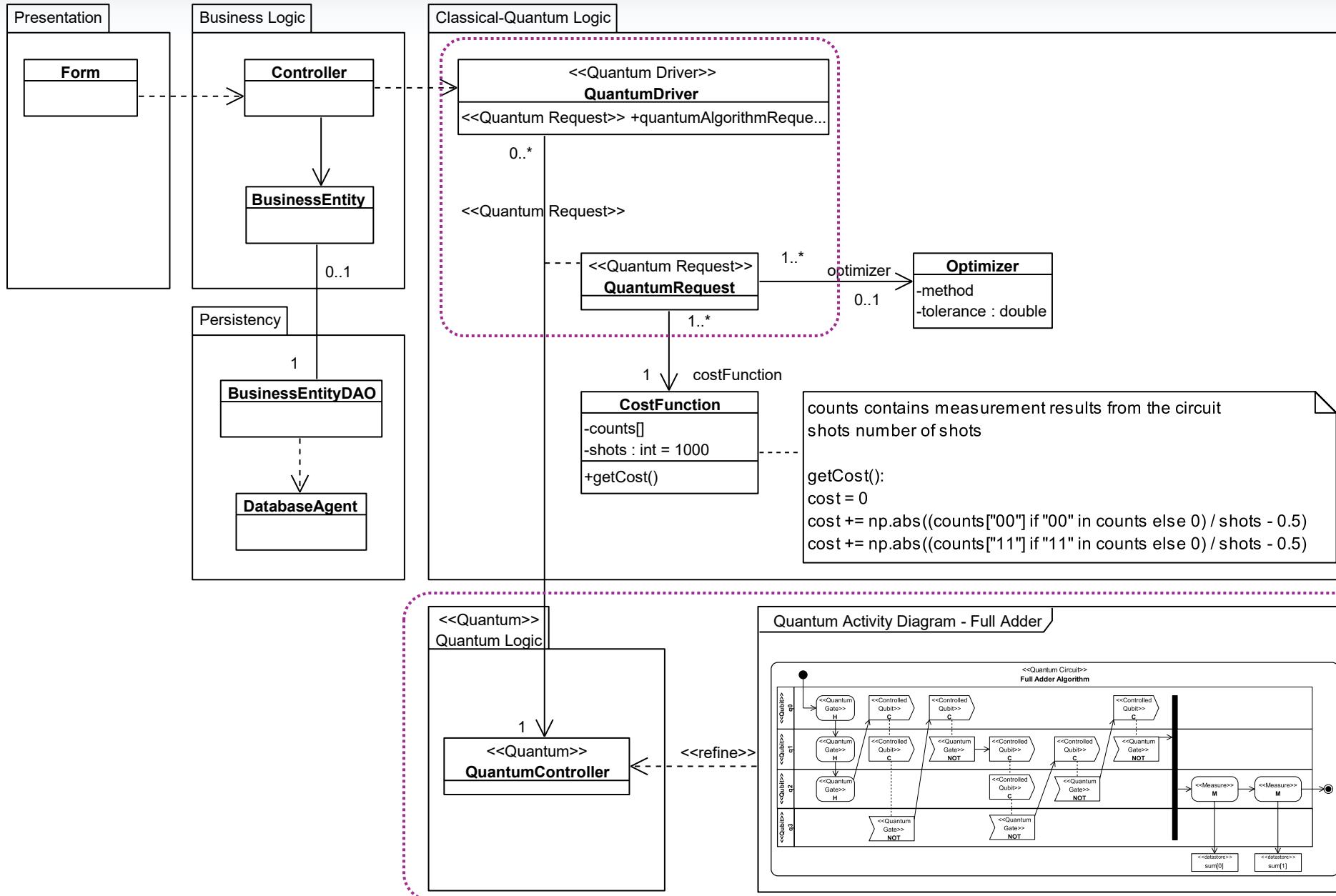
# Our Research Journey



# Software Modernization from/to Hybrid Software Systems



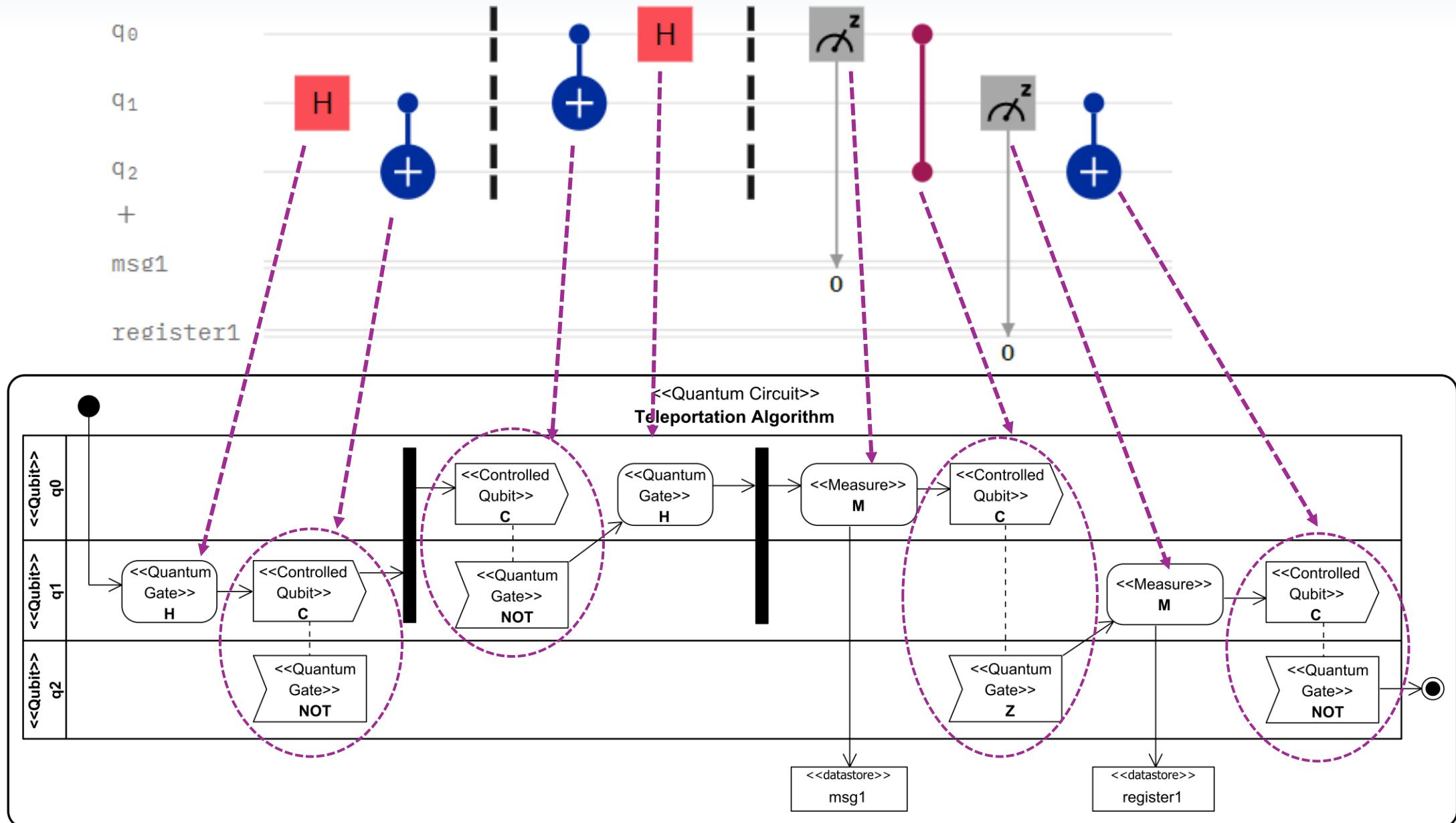
# Quantum UML Profile



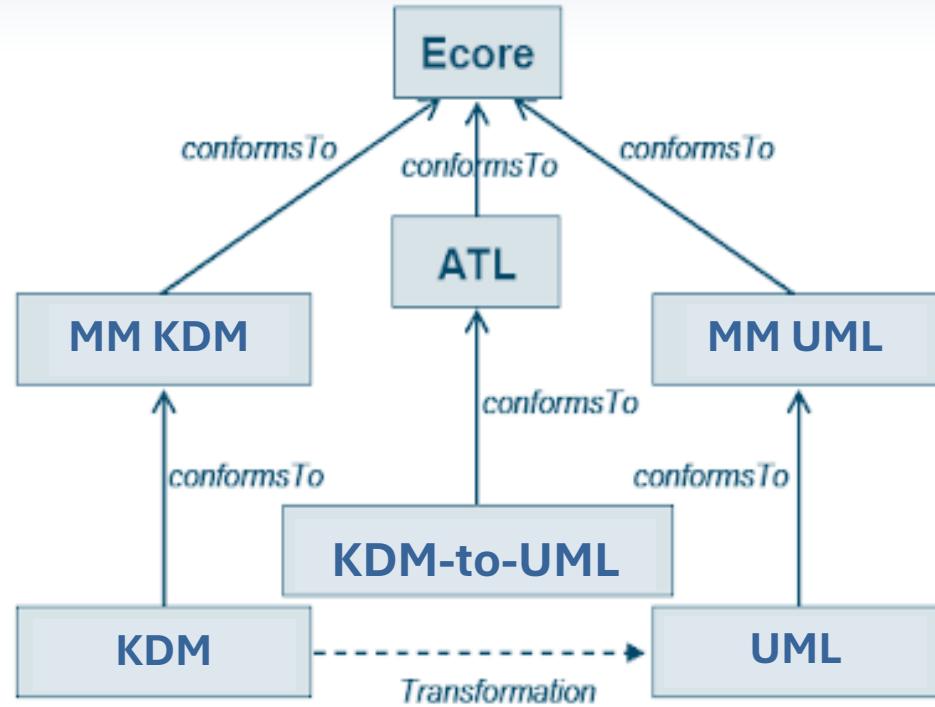
Ricardo Pérez-Castillo, Mario Piattini: **Design of classical-quantum systems with UML.** Computing 104(11): 2375-2403 (2022)



# Restructuring: Quantum UML profile



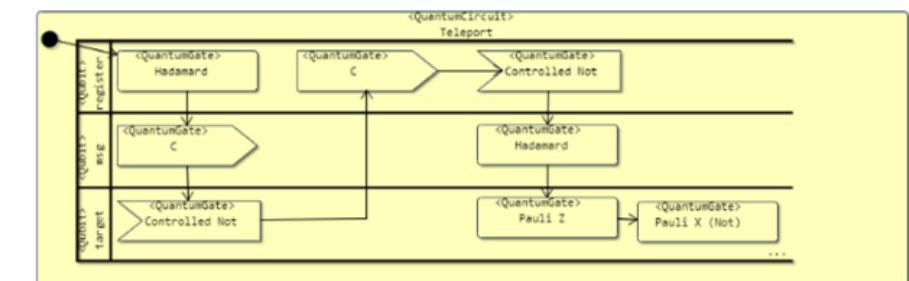
# Restructuring: Transformación KDM a UML



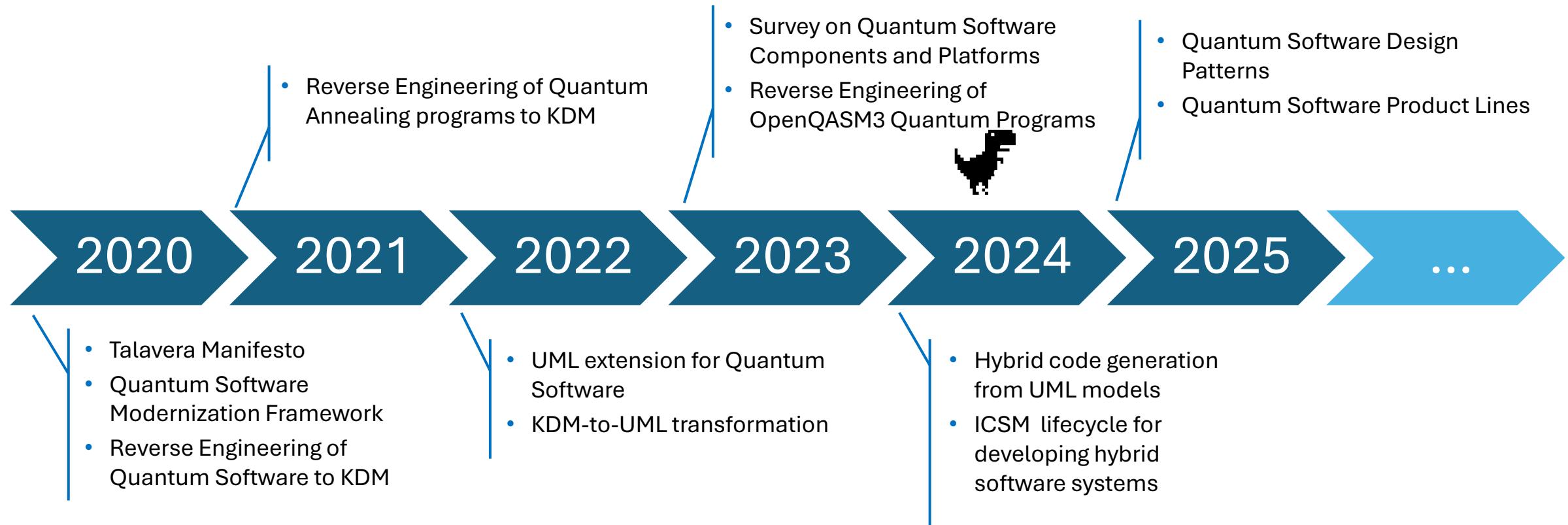
Q# element	Input KDM	Output UML
Quantum program	CompilationUnit	Interaction
Quantum operation	CallableUnit	Activity
Qubit declaration	StorableUnit	ActivityPartition
Quantum gate	ActionElement	CallOperationAction/ AcceptEventAction/ SendSignalAction
Data flow between gates	Flow	ControlFlow

- ❖ Segment TeleportationSample\_1609842604000.xml
- ❖ Extension Family quantum extension
- ❖ Stereotype quantum programming language
- ❖ Stereotype quantum program
- ❖ Stereotype quantum operation
- ❖ Stereotype quantum gate
- ❖ Stereotype qubit
- ❖ Stereotype qubit measure
- ❖ Stereotype control qubit
- ❖ Stereotype qubit array
- ❖ Model TeleportationSample\_1609842604000.xml
- ❖ Compilation Unit TeleportationSample.qs
  - ❖ Language Unit Q# Common definitions
- ❖ Callable Unit Teleport
  - ❖ Signature Teleport\_signature
  - ❖ Storable Unit register
  - ❖ Element Hadamard
  - ❖ Element Controlled Not
  - ❖ Element Controlled Not
  - ❖ Element Hadamard
  - ❖ Element Pauli Z
  - ❖ Element Pauli X (Not)
- ❖ Callable Unit TeleportClassicalMessage
  - ❖ Signature TeleportClassicalMessage\_signature
  - ❖ Storable Unit msg
  - ❖ Storable Unit target
  - ❖ Element Pauli X (Not)
- ❖ Callable Unit TeleportRandomMessage

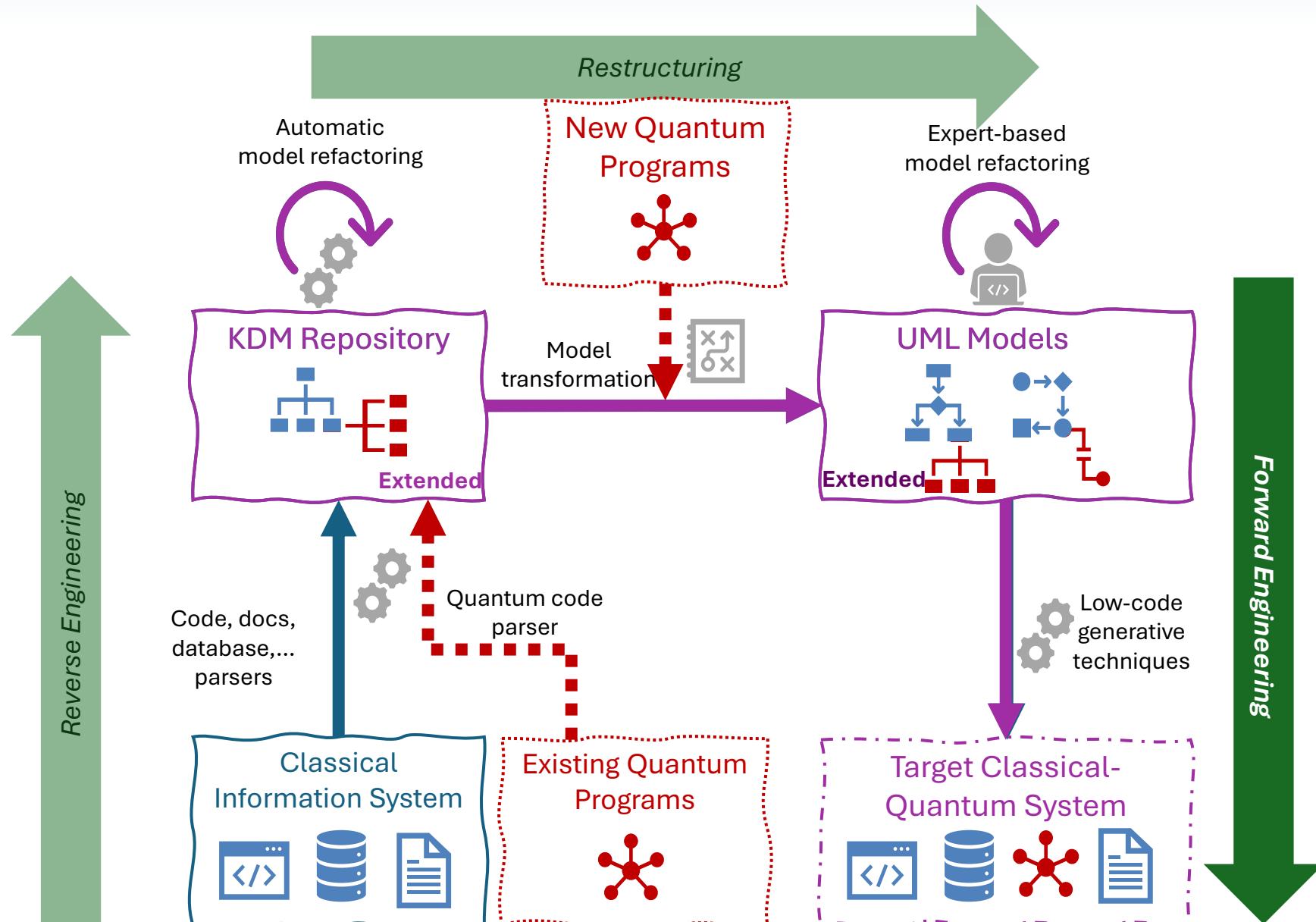
- ❖ <Model> TeleportationSample\_1609842604000.xml
- ❖ <Model> TeleportationSample\_1609842604000.xml
- ❖ <Interaction> TeleportationSample.qs
- ❖ <Activity> Teleport
  - ❖ <Activity Partition> register
  - ❖ <Activity Partition> msg
  - ❖ <Activity Partition> target
  - ❖ <Control Flow>
  - ❖ <Initial Node>
  - ❖ <Call Operation Action> Hadamard
  - ❖ <Accept Event Action> Controlled Not
- ❖ <Send Signal Action> C
- ❖ <Accept Event Action> Controlled Not
- ❖ <Send Signal Action> C
- ❖ <Call Operation Action> Hadamard
- ❖ <Call Operation Action> Pauli Z
- ❖ <Activity Final Node>
- ❖ <Activity> TeleportClassicalMessage
  - ❖ <Activity Partition> msg
  - ❖ <Activity Partition> target
  - ❖ <Control Flow>
  - ❖ <Initial Node>
  - ❖ <Activity Final Node>
- ❖ <Activity> TeleportRandomMessage



# Our Research Journey

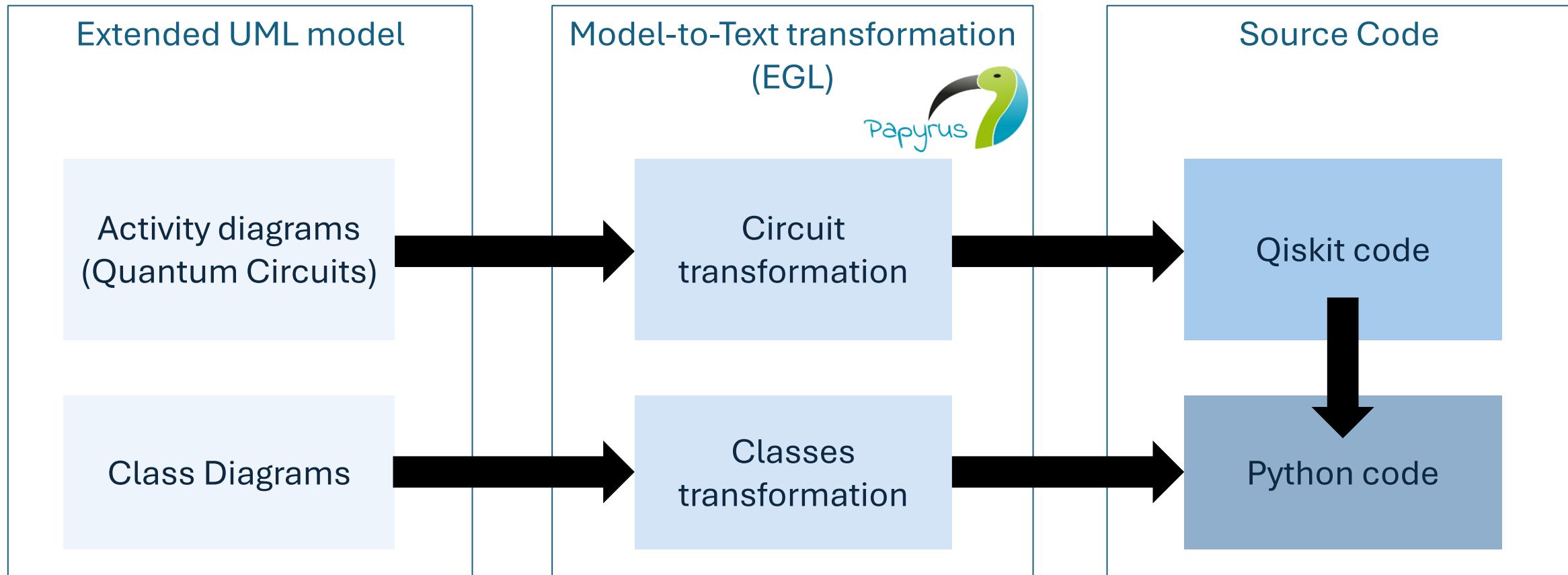


# Software Modernization from/to Hybrid Software Systems



# Hybrid code generation from UML

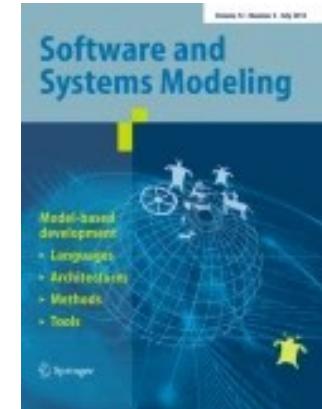
- Model-to-Text transformation with EGL (Eclipse Generation Language)



# Hybrid code generation from UML

- Excerpt of EGL transformation for quantum gates generation in Qiskit

```
1 [*QUANTUM GATES*]
2 [% var initial = getInitialNode();
3     if(initial == null){
4         "There is no InitialNode".println();
5     } else{
6         var actual = initial.outgoings.target.get(0);
7         var type = actual.toString().split(' ').get(0).split('@').get(0);
8         while(not(type == "org.eclipse.uml2.uml.internal.impl.ActivityFinalNodeImpl")){
9             var gate = checkGateType(actual);
10            if (not (gate == "pass")){%
11                [%=circuitName%].[%=gate%]
12                [%]
13                actual = nextNode(actual);
14                type = actual.toString().split(' ').get(0).split('@').get(0);
15            }
16        }%]
```

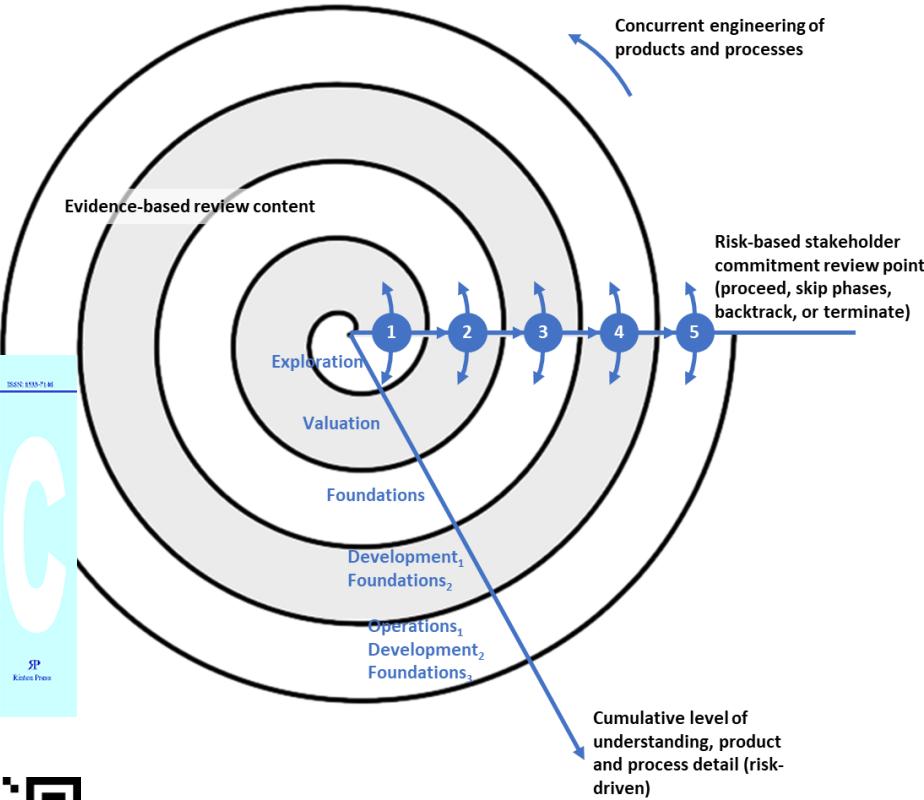
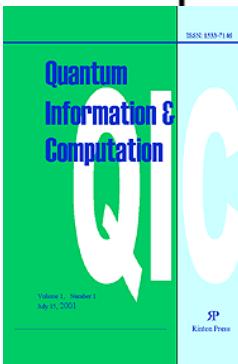


Luis Jiménez-Navajas, Ricardo Pérez-Castillo, Mario Piattini.  
**Code generation for classical-quantum software systems modeled in UML.** Softw. Syst. Model. 24(3): 795-821 (2025)

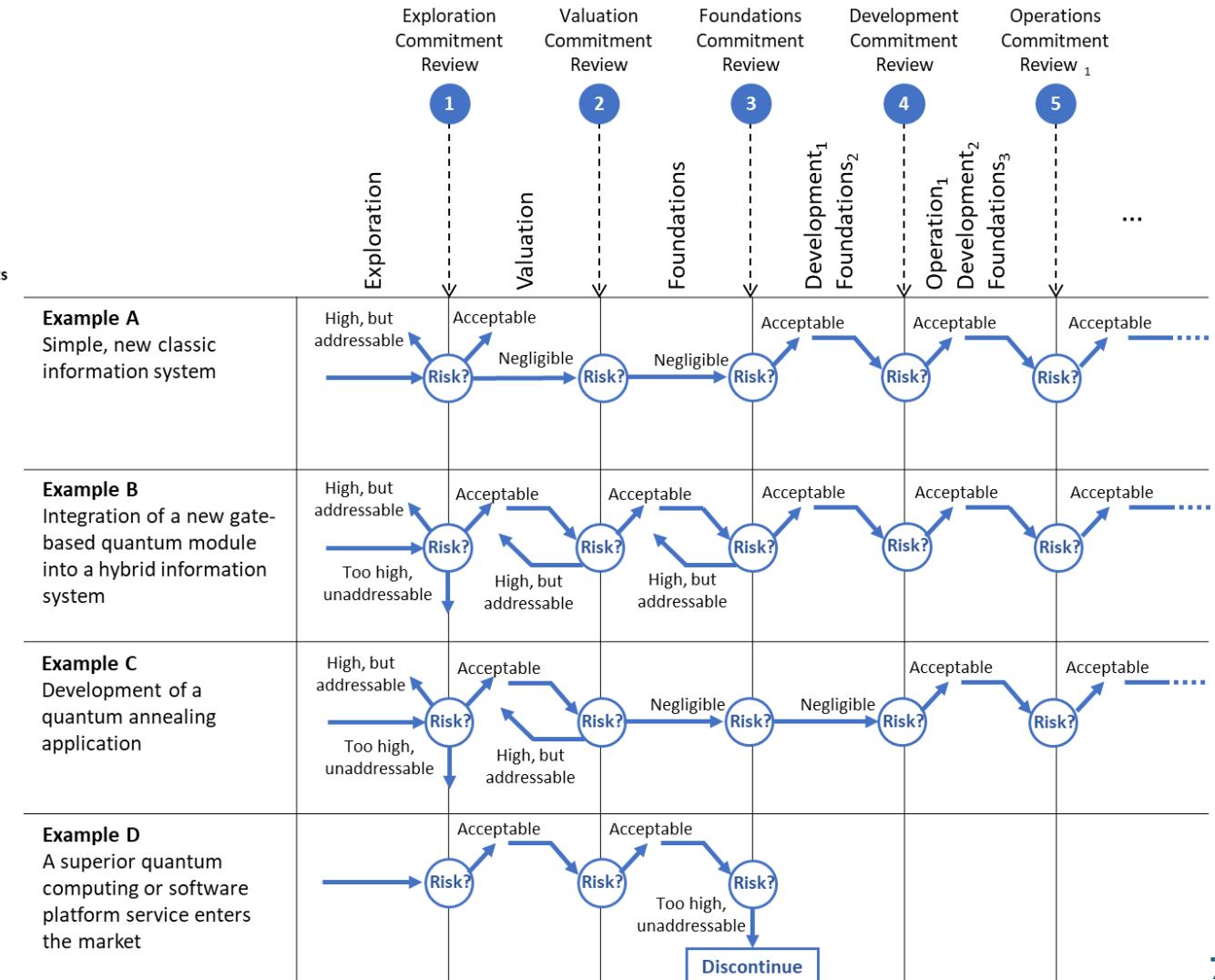


# ICSM Life Cycle for Hybrid Software

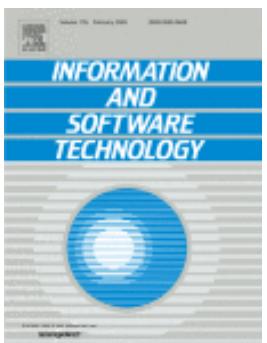
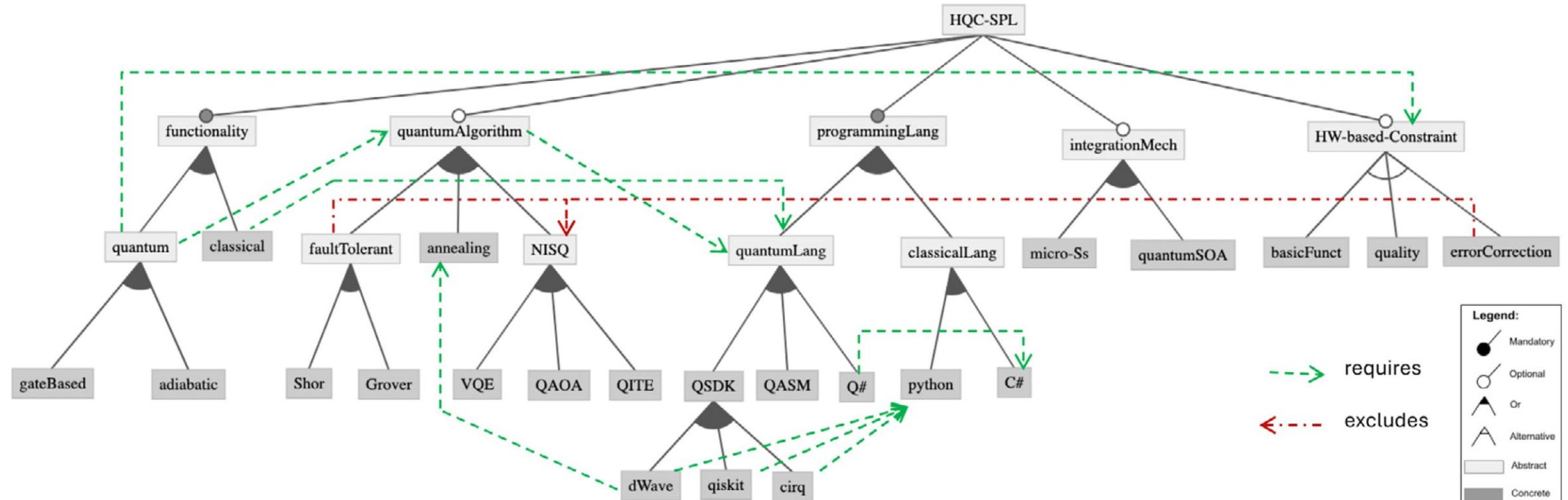
## ■ ICSM (Incremental Commitment Spiral Model) as a Lifecycle



Ricardo Pérez-Castillo, Manuel Ángel Serrano, José A. Cruz-Lemus, Mario Piattini:  
**Guidelines to use the ICSM for developing quantum-classical systems.** Quantum Inf. Comput. 24(1&2): 71-88 (2024)



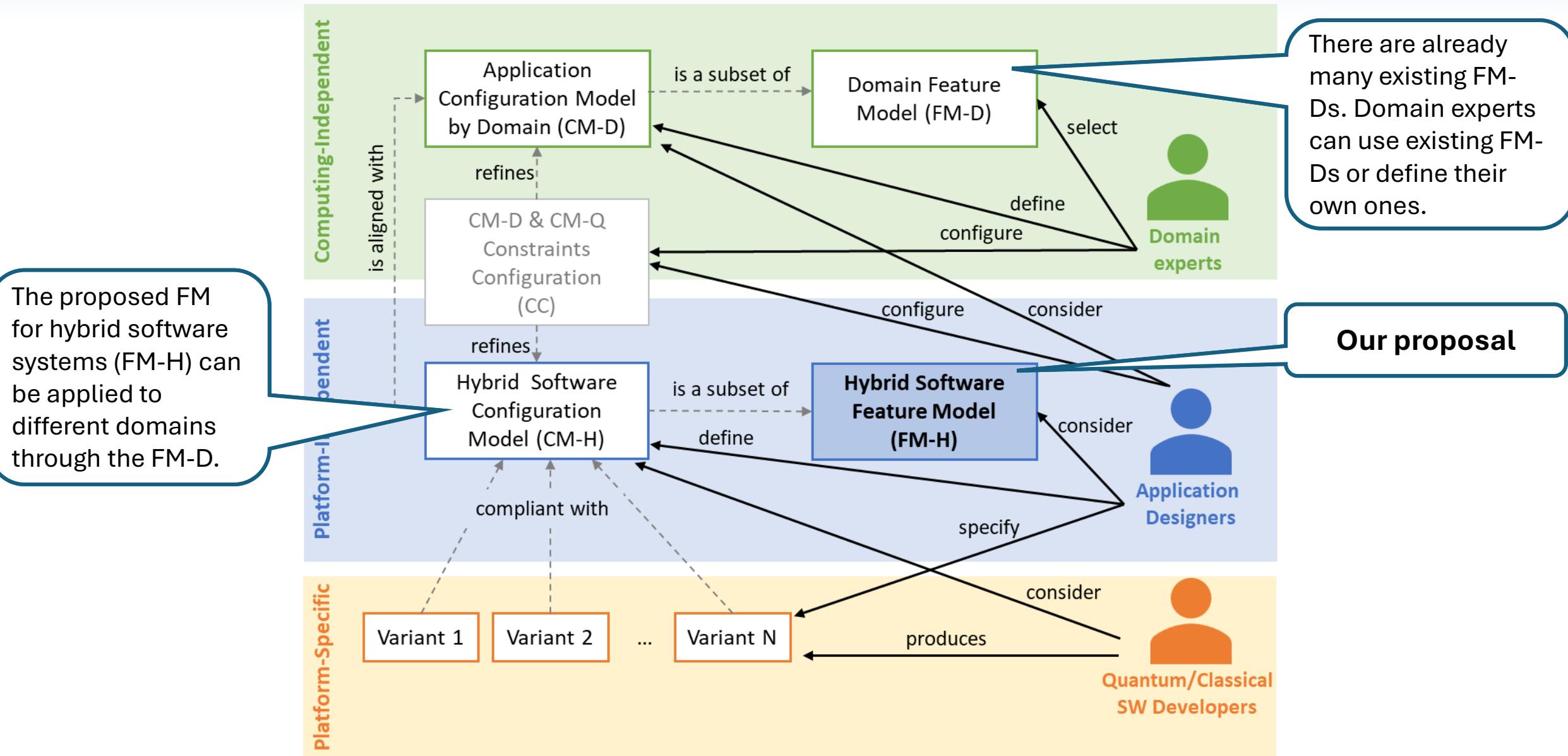
# Software Product Lines for Hybrid Software



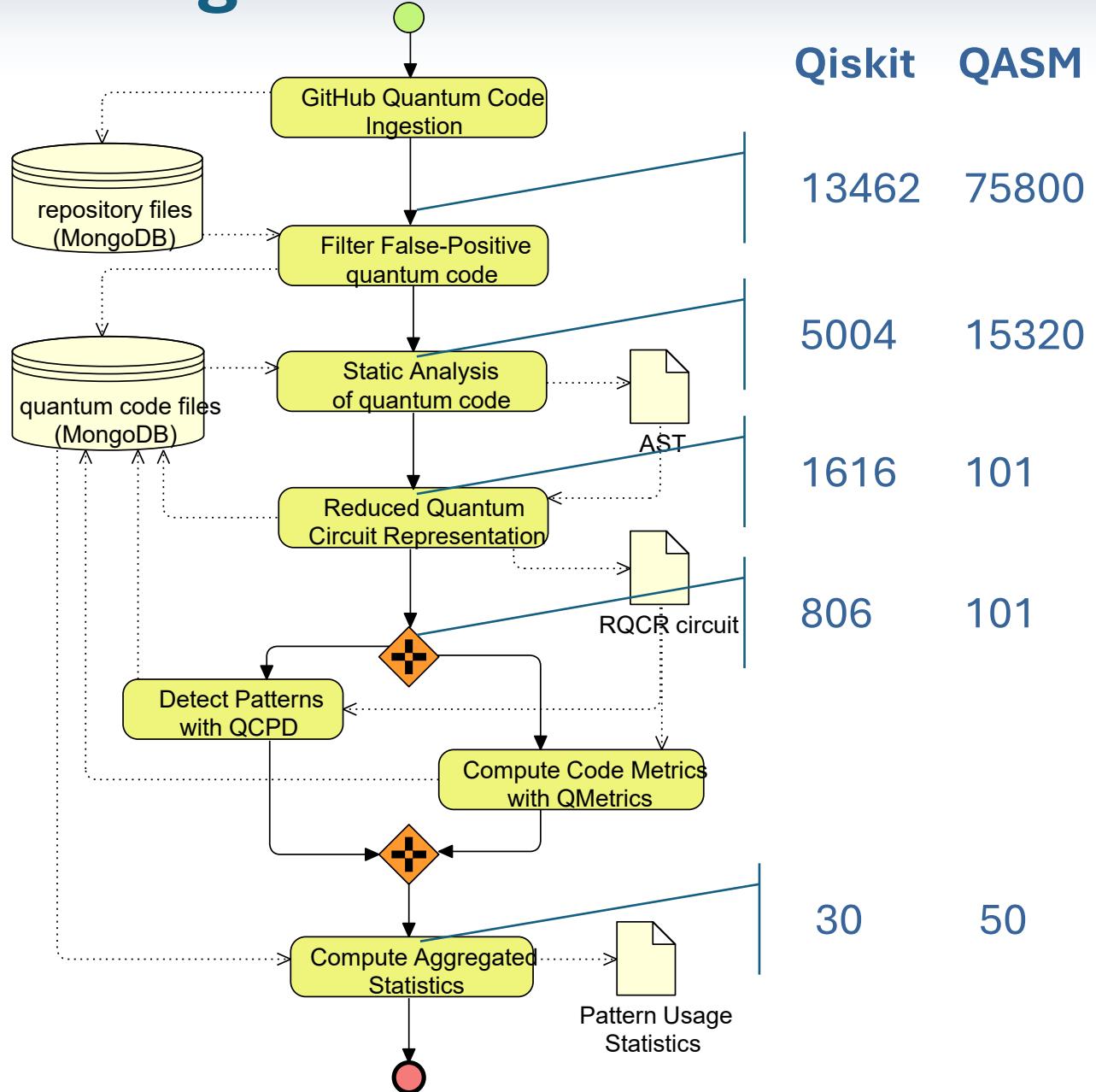
Samuel Sepúlveda,  
Ricardo Pérez-Castillo,  
Mario Piattini. **A software product line approach for developing hybrid software systems.** Inf. Softw. Technol. 178: 107625 (2025)



# Software Product Lines for Hybrid Software



# Design Pattern Detection on Quantum Programs



Qiskit    QASM

13462    75800

5004    15320

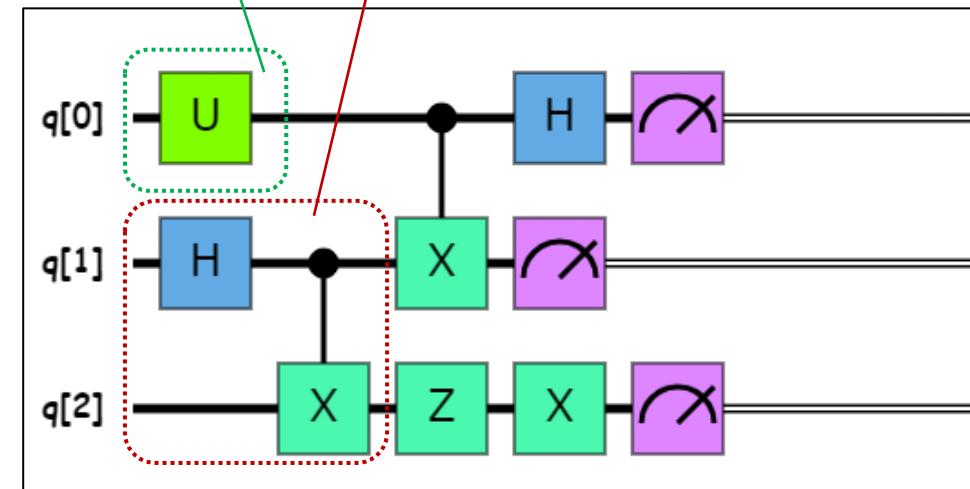
1616    101

806    101

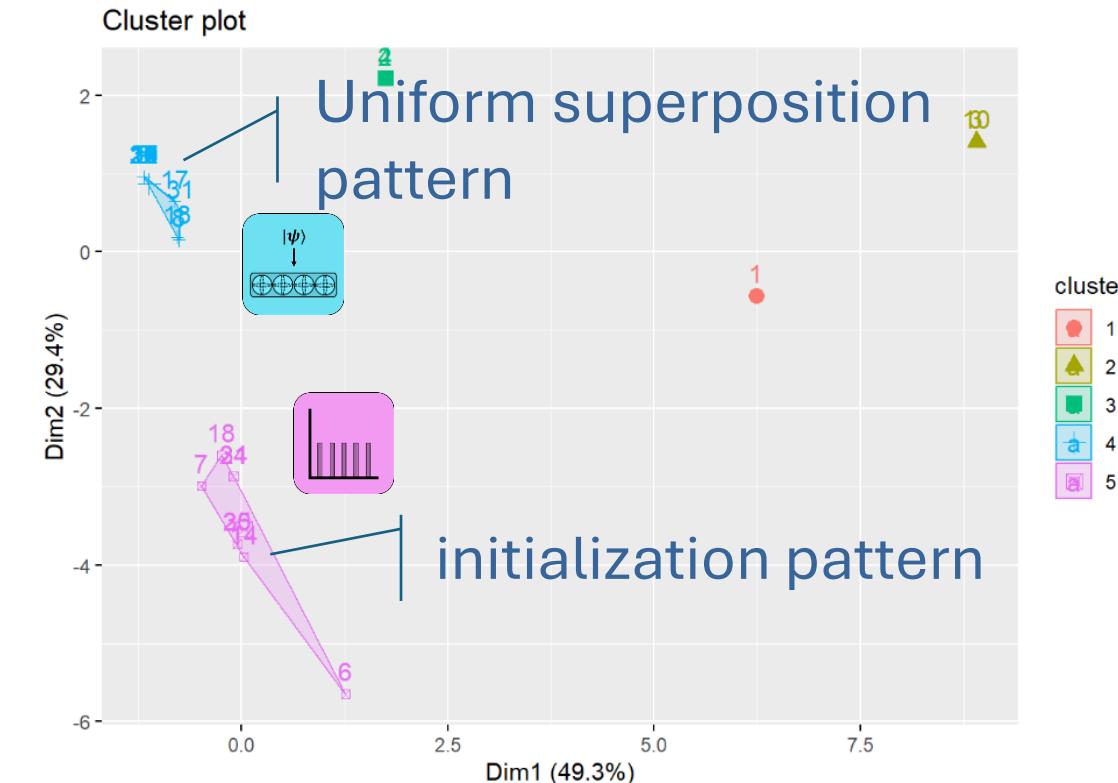
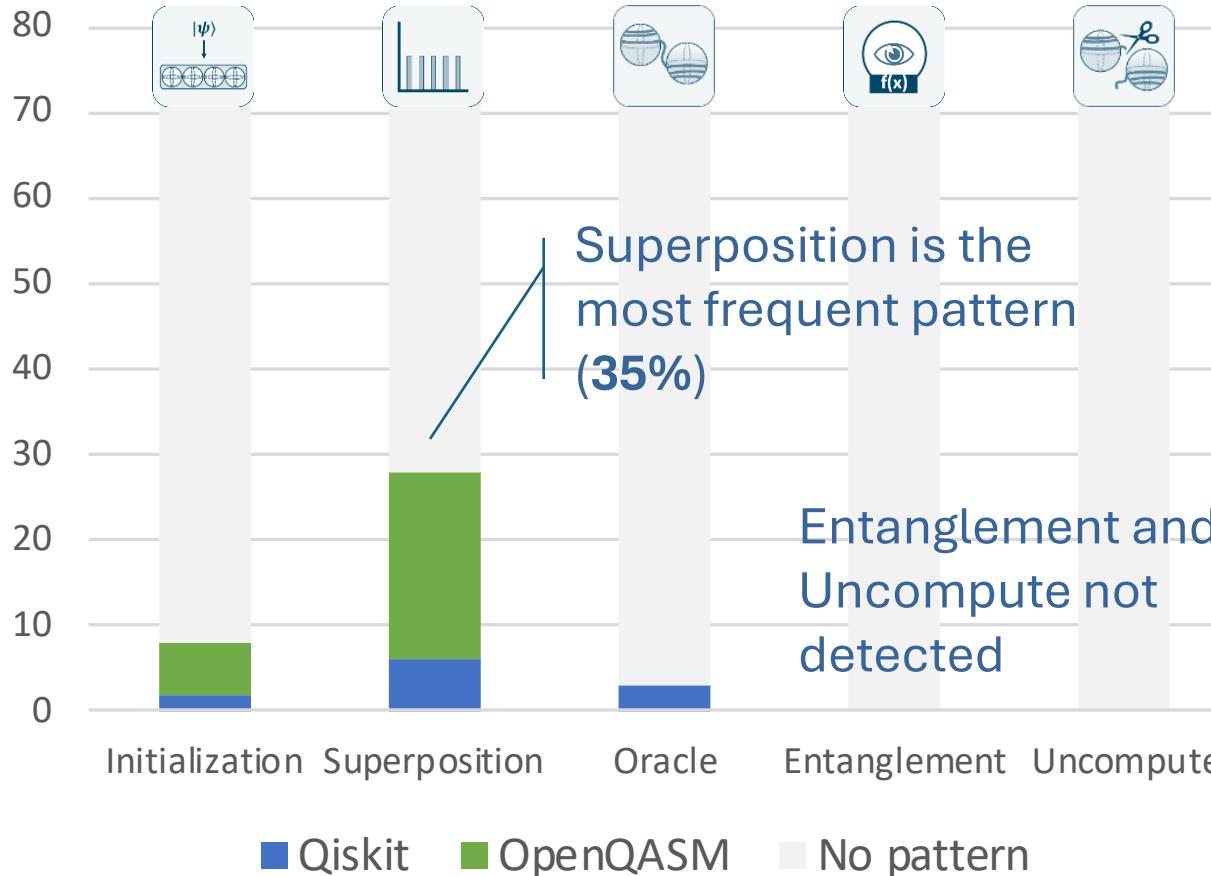
30    50



Oracle pattern detected    Entanglement pattern not detected



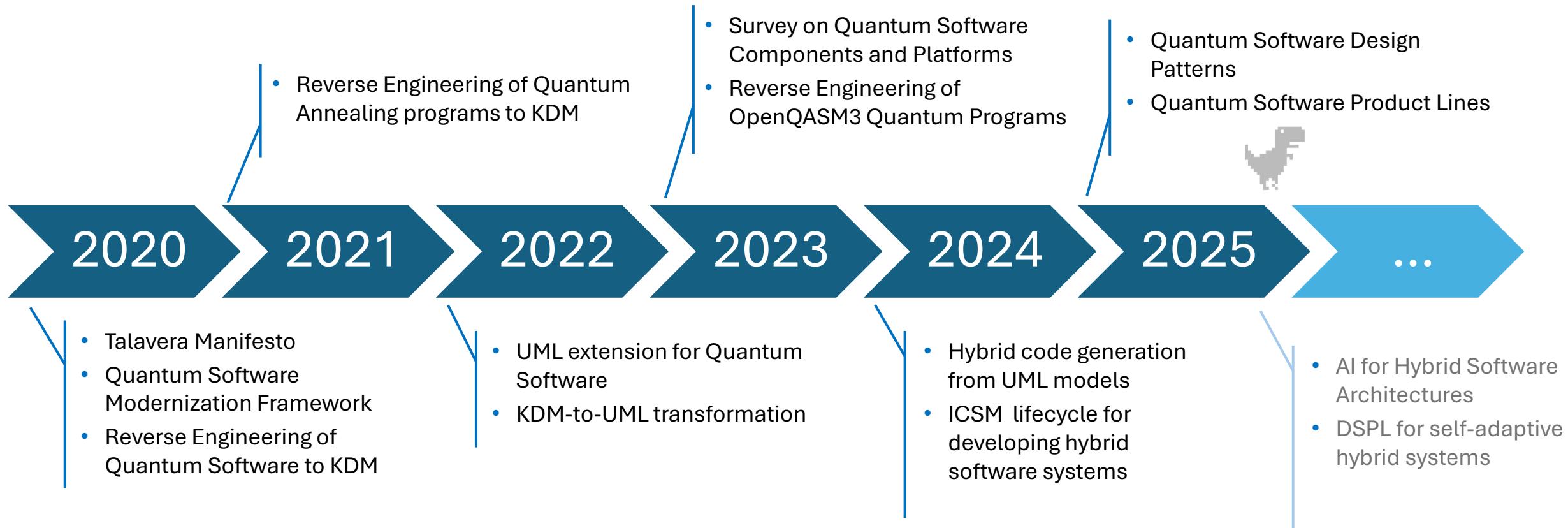
# Design Pattern Detection on Quantum Programs



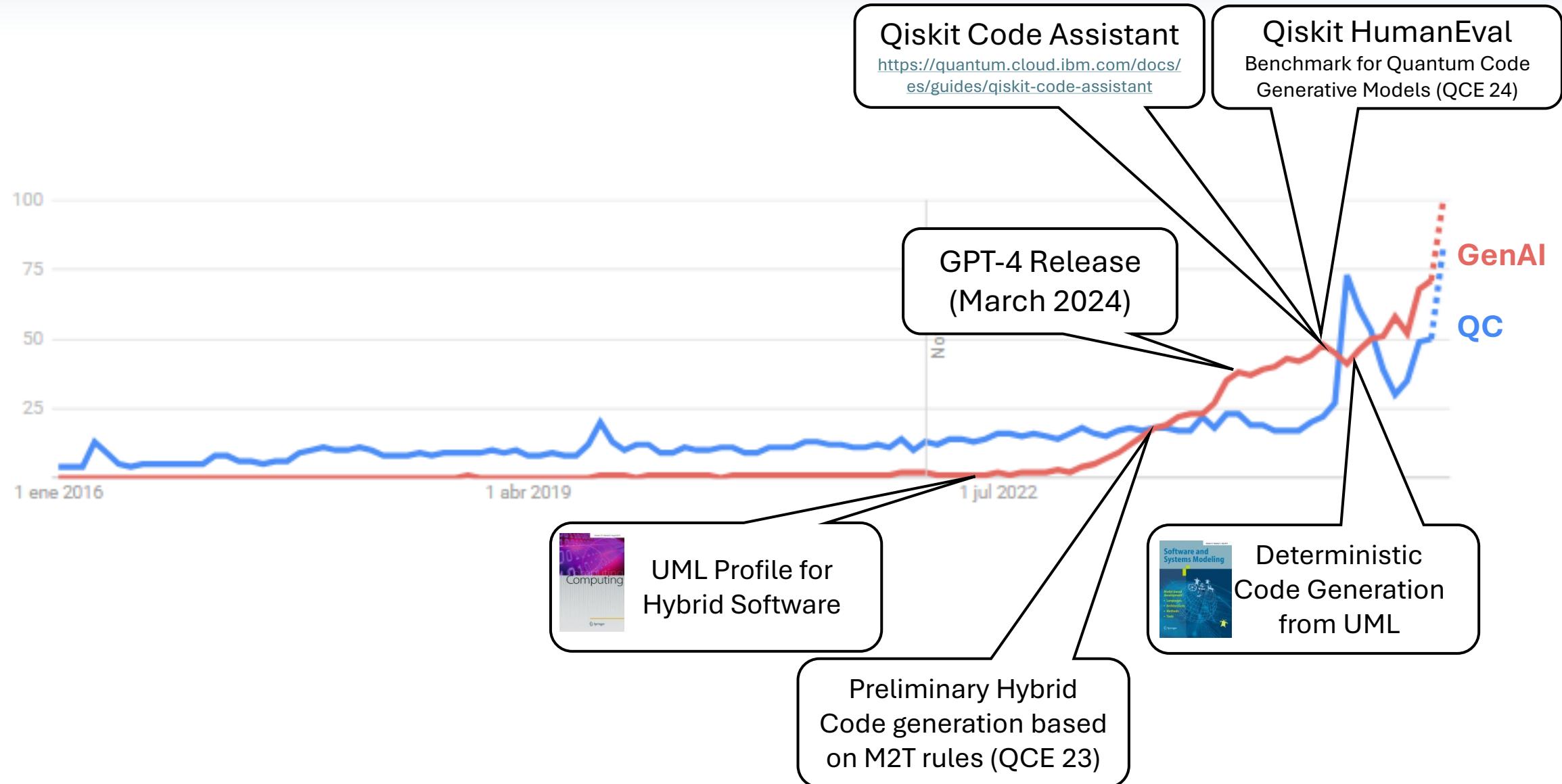
Miriam Fernández-Osuna,  
Ricardo Pérez-Castillo, José A.  
Cruz-Lemus, Michal Baczyk,  
Mario Piattini. **Exploring  
design patterns in quantum  
software: a case study.**  
Computing 107(5): 111 (2025)



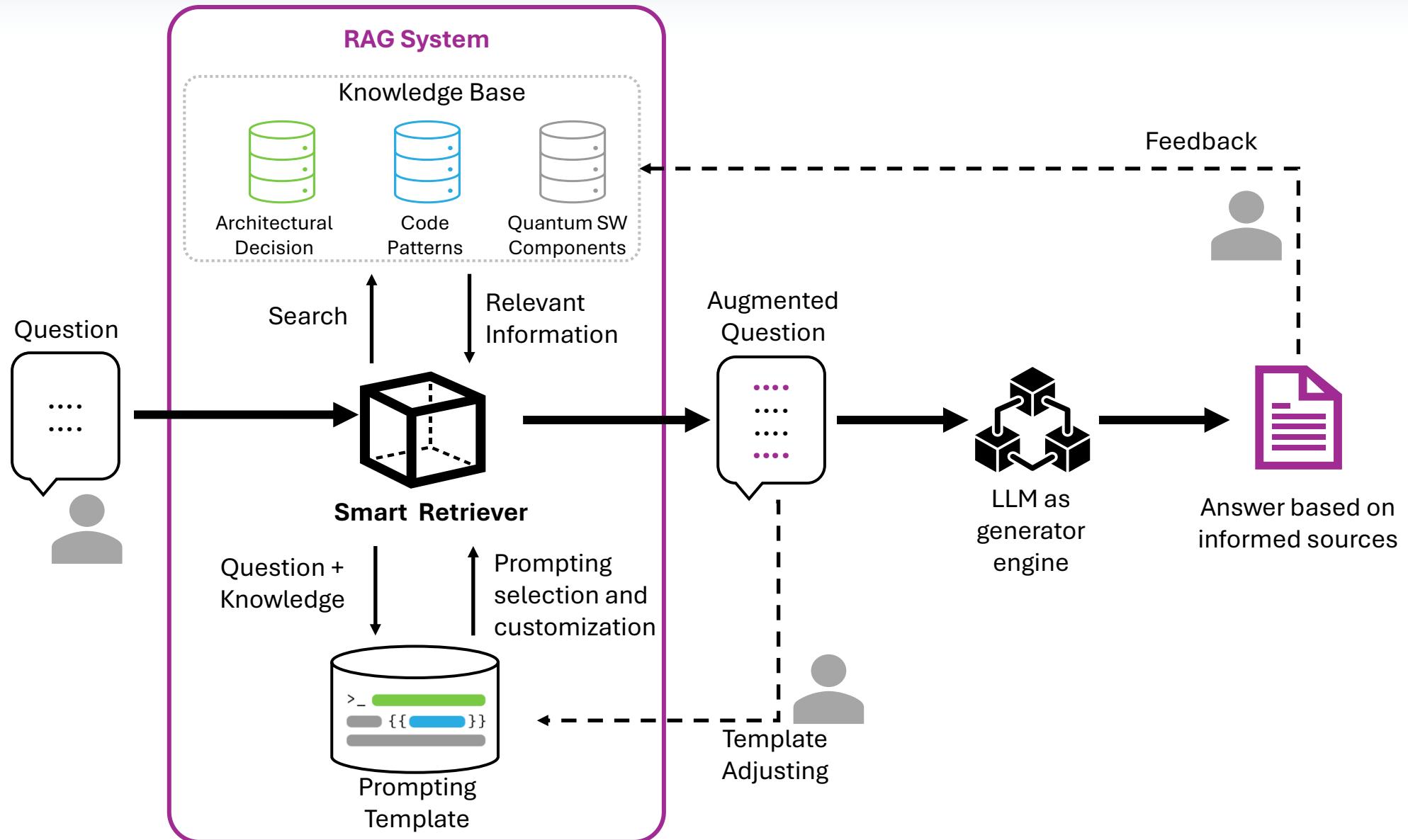
# Our Research Journey



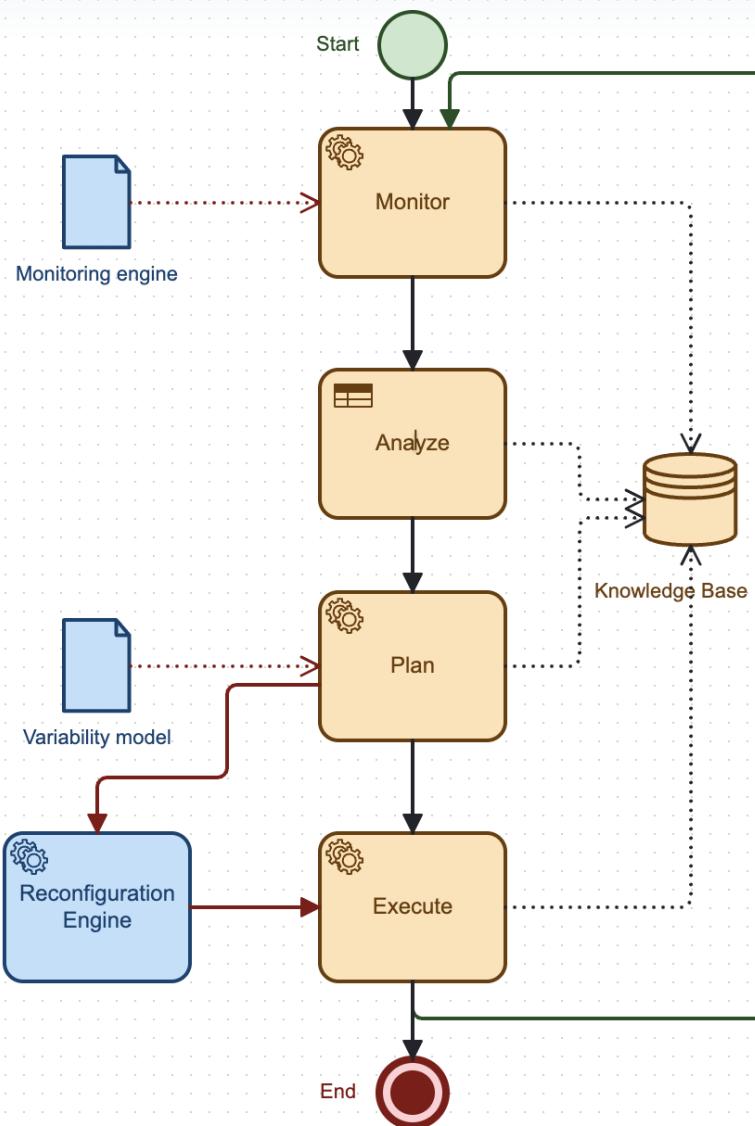
# GenAI is a game changer?



# RAG for hybrid software architecting



# Dynamic SPL for Self-Adaptation



## ■ DSPL Integration with MAPE-K

- Integration of Dynamic Software Product Lines (DSPL) with the MAPE-K feedback loop to support self-adaptation.

## ■ Run-time Variability Model

- Explicit representation of variability at run-time to enable context-aware reconfiguration.

## ■ Monitoring Engine

- Collects data from the running system and its environment to detect changes and trigger adaptations.

## ■ Reconfiguration Engine

- Applies adaptation decisions by enacting the selected system configuration.

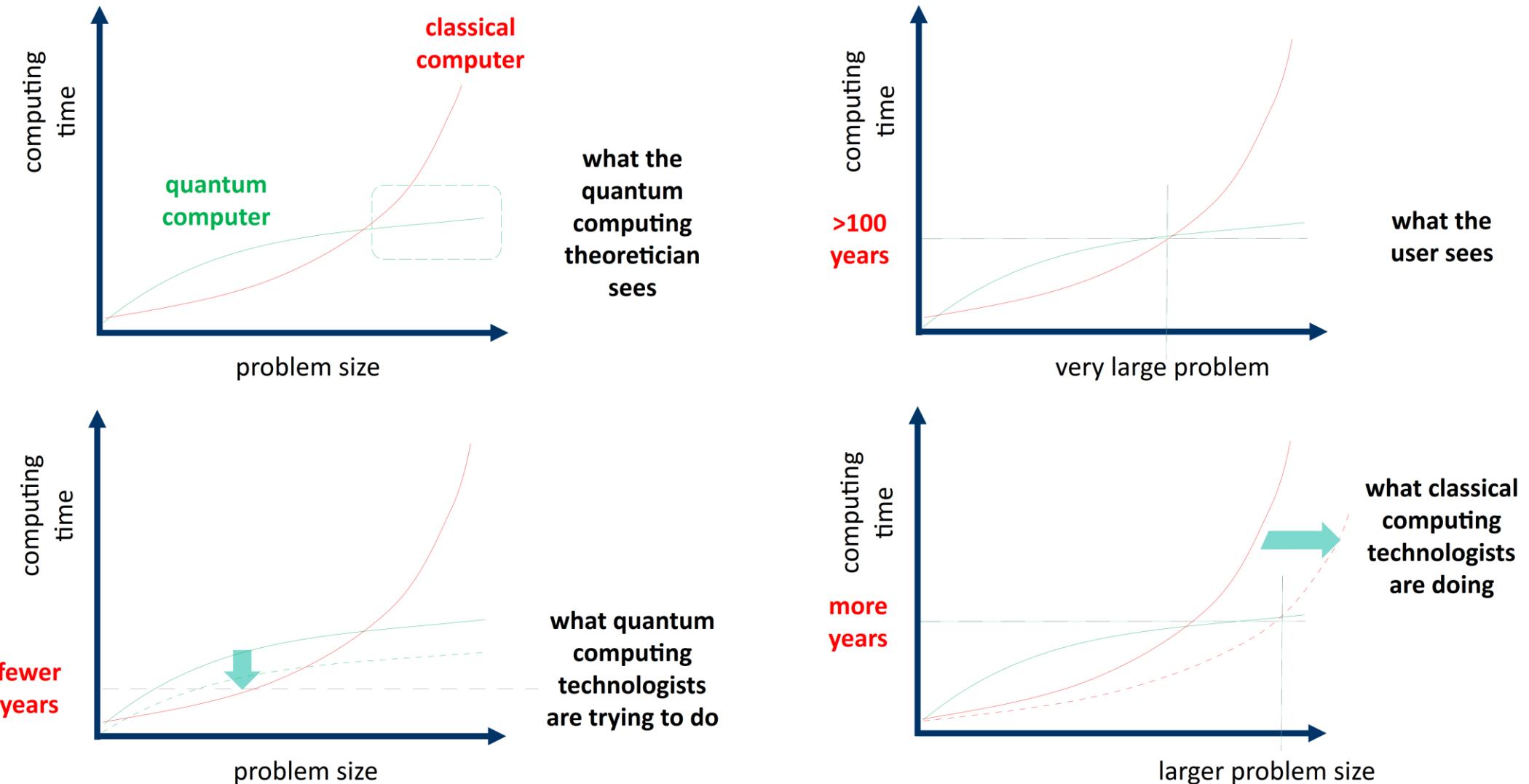
# Agenda

- Quantum Computing
- Quantum Computing Applications
- Quantum Software & Quantum Software Engineering
- Our Research Journey
- **Conclusions**

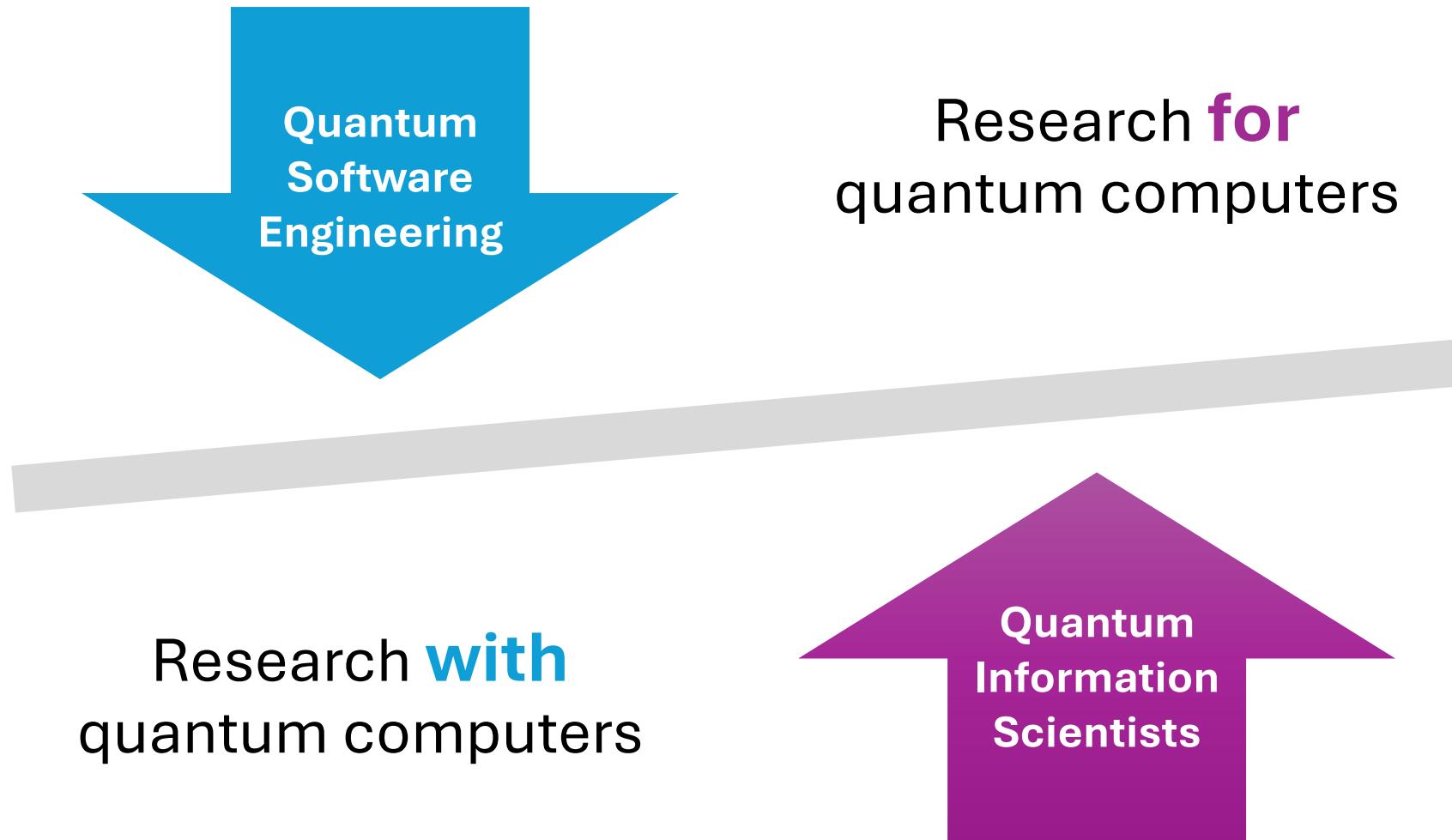
*Scan for slides*



# The ‘funny’ discussion



# Quantum Software Engineering Matters



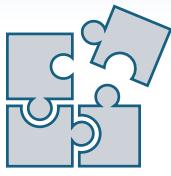
# The Road Ahead for QSE?



## Service-Oriented Computing (SOC)

- **Challenges:**  
Platform independence and interoperability, demand/capacity management.
- **Future Directions:**  
Standards and APIs, and tools for quantum and classical services integration

## Model-Driven Engineering (MDE)



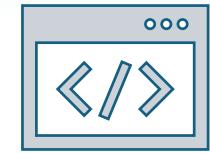
- **Challenges:**  
Design of high-level methodologies for hybrid systems, scalability in quantum software maintenance, and code generation.
- **Future Directions:**  
Improvement of code generation and orchestration of hybrid systems.



## Testing and Debugging

- **Challenges:**  
Test scalability, optimization of test oracles, and transition from simulators to real.
- **Future Directions:**  
Noise reduction techniques, efficient oracles, specialized debugging tools, and mutation and metamorphic testing?

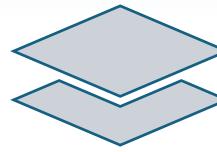
# The Road Ahead for QSE?



## Programming Paradigms

- **Challenges:** Complexity of quantum circuits and reuse of quantum software.
- **Future Directions:** Abstractions and composition of quantum programs.

## Software Architecture



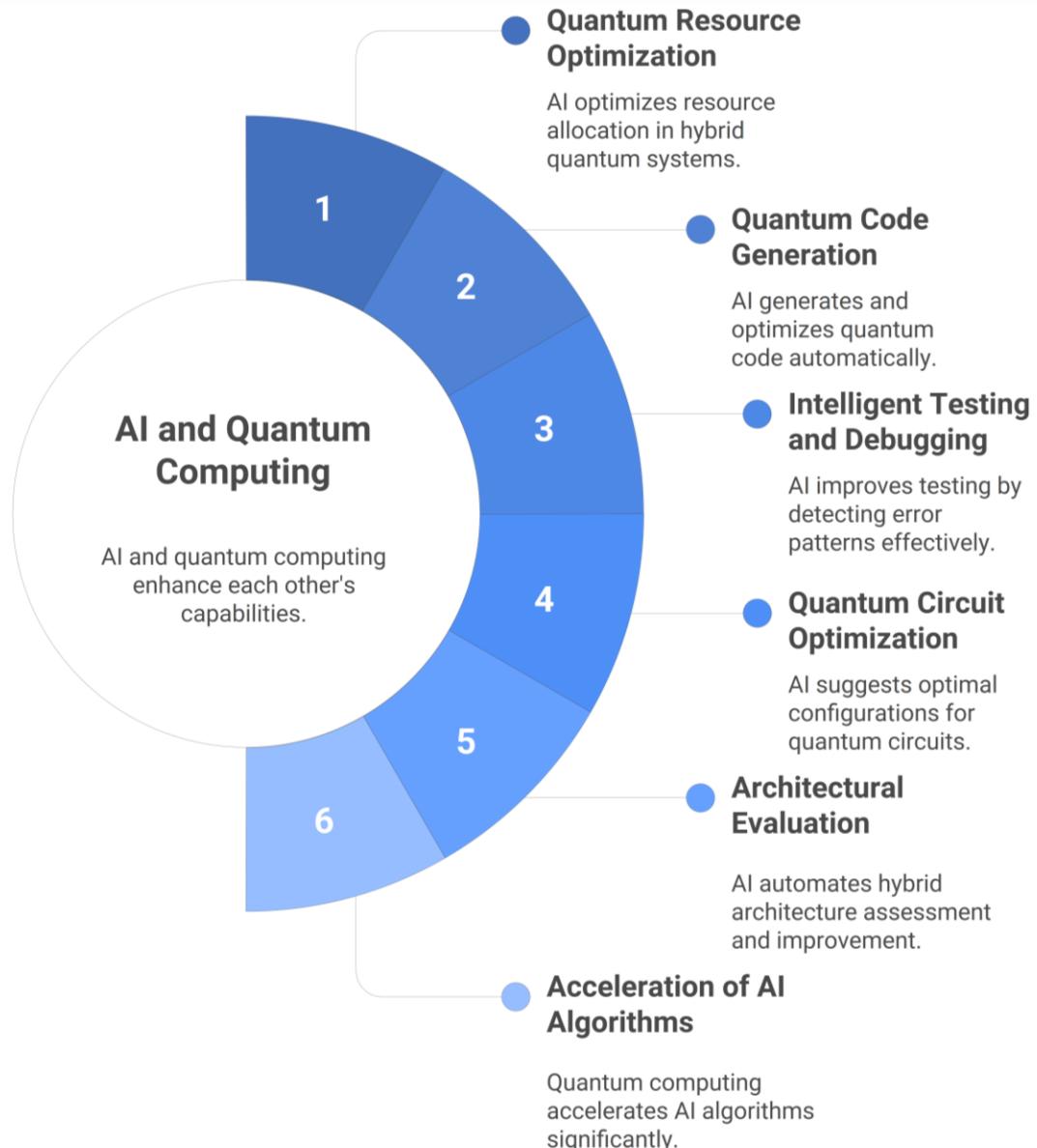
- **Challenges:** Architectural decisions for integrating quantum and classical systems.
- **Future Directions:** Empirical studies on design patterns and architectural evolutions.

## Software Development Processes

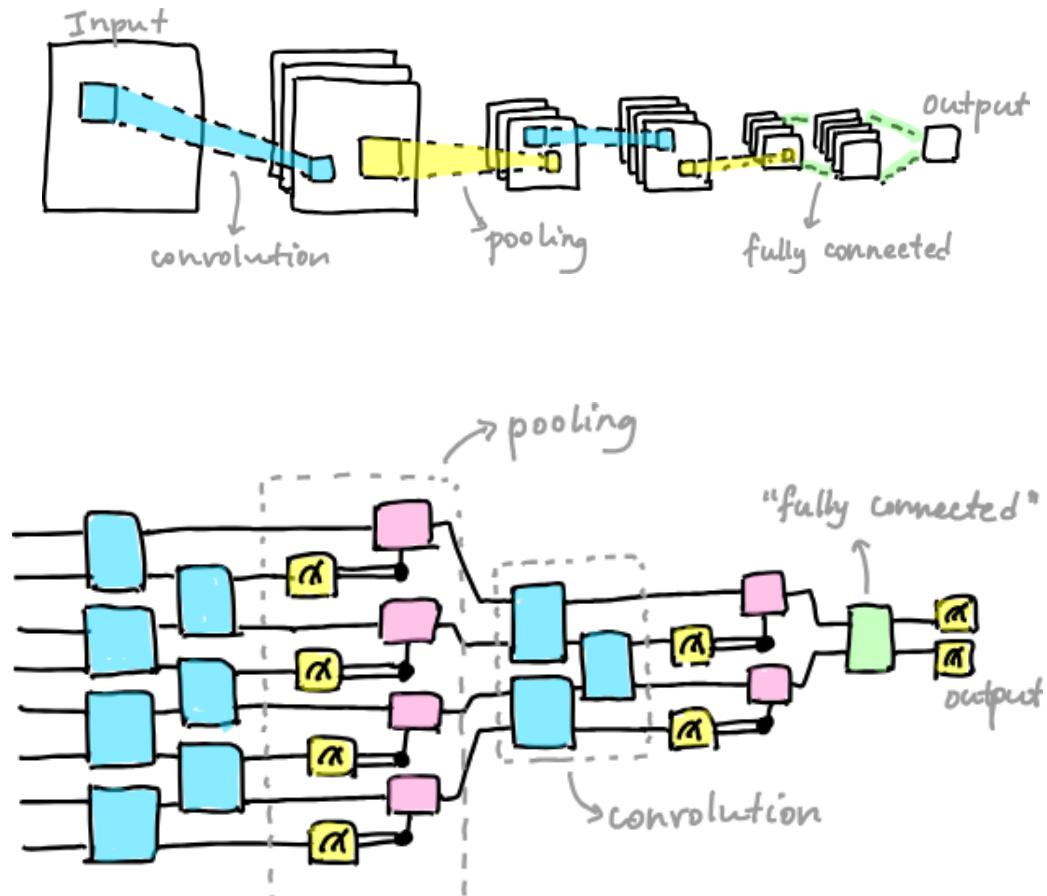


- **Challenges:** Iterative development models and risk management in hybrid software.
- **Future Directions:** Agile methodologies and DevOps tools to quantum environments.

# Unveiling the synergy of AI and QC



## Quantum Convolutional Neural Network



## Takeaway #1

# Quantum Computing is here and now

This is a today technology more than a tomorrow one

Still, some technical milestones are expected for boosting its adoption

Skepticism is a normal and healthy attitude in science

## Takeaway #2

**Quantum Software** is crucial to get the  
quantum advantage

## Takeaway #3

**The business information systems will  
combine classical and quantum software**

Software modernization is needed

## Takeaway #4

**The Quantum Workforce is key**

**Be ready**

# **Get the elephant out of the room!**



# Please, ask me

# THE AGE OF QUANTUM COMPUTING HAS NOT ARRIVED



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# Quantum Software in Action Challenges and Opportunities in Software Engineering

Ricardo Pérez del Castillo



Universidad de  
Castilla-La Mancha

10-14 November 2025, Toledo, Spain