

# Keeping up with the Quantashians

Will Zeng  
Rigetti Computing

Impact.Tech  
April 19, 2018

@wizeng



# Quantum Computing

If there is a sense of reality, then there must also be a sense of possibility

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## Part 1. The Tech:

Why build a quantum computer at all?

Why are we able to build them today?

Upcoming Tech milestones to watch.

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Rampant discussion #1 \*\*

\*\* hard limit of one question on the multiverse or whether we live in a simulation

## Part 1. The Tech:

Why build a quantum computer at all?

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Upcoming Tech milestones to watch.

## Rampant discussion #1 \*\*

## Part 2. The Industry:

What is the quantum industry and what is its trajectory?

What is the customer landscape?

How do I get involved as a  
{scientist, programmer, entrepreneur, investor}?

## Rampant discussion #2

\*\* hard limit of one question on the multiverse or whether we live in a simulation

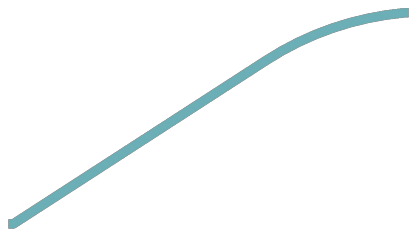
# Part 1. The Tech

Why build a quantum computer at all?

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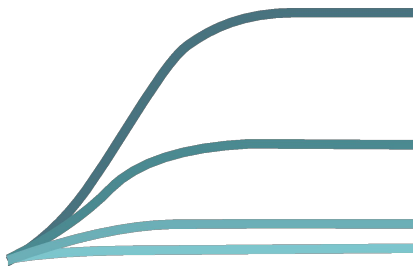
# Classical computers have fundamental limits



Transistor scaling

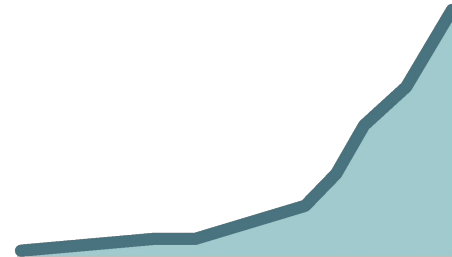
Economic limits with 10bn for next node fab

Ultimate single-atom limits



Returns to  
parallelization

Amdahl's law



Energy consumption

Exascale computing project  
has its own power plant

Power density can melt chips

# And there's more we want to do

Simulation Driven  
Drug Design

Organic Batteries &  
Solar Cells

Artificial General  
Intelligence



# Why build a quantum computer?

New power | New opportunity | Fundamental curiosity

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Quantum computing power\* scales exponentially with qubits

**N bits** can exactly simulate **log N qubits**

\* We will be more precise later in the talk

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This compute unit....



Commodore 64

can exactly simulate:

**10 Qubits**

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AWS M4 Instance

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Entire Global Cloud

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Rigetti 19 qubits  
available since Dec 2017

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# Why build a quantum computer?

**New power** | New opportunity | Fundamental curiosity

For **N qubits** every time step ( $\sim 100\text{ns}^*$ ) is an exponentially large  **$2^N \times 2^N$**  complex **matrix multiplication**

\* for superconducting qubit systems



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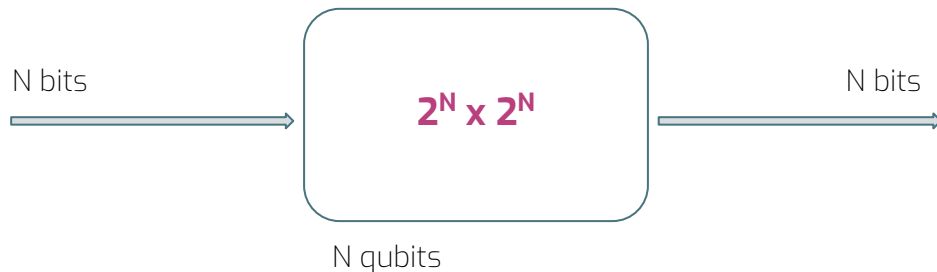
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The “big-memory small pipe” mental model for quantum computing



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# Why build a quantum computer?

**New power** | New opportunity | Fundamental curiosity

## Machine Learning

- > Development of new training sets and algorithms
- > Classification and sampling of large data sets



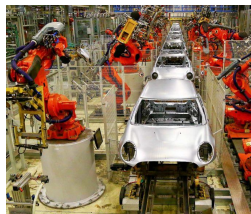
## Supply Chain Optimization

- > Forecast and optimize for future inventory demand
- > NP-hard scheduling and logistics map into quantum applications



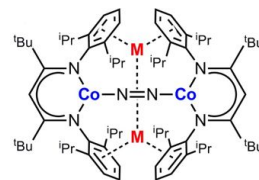
## Robotic Manufacturing

- > Reduce manufacturing time and cost
- > Maps to a Traveling Salesman Problem addressable by quantum constrained optimization



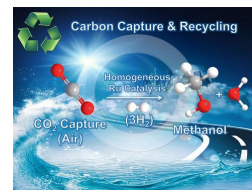
## Computational Materials Science

- > Design of better catalysts for batteries
- > Quantum algorithms for calculating electronic structure



## Alternative Energy Research

- > Efficiently convert atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> to methanol
- > Powered by existing hybrid quantum-classical algorithms + machine learning



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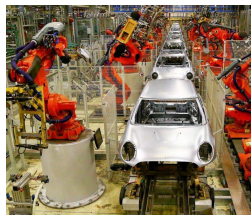
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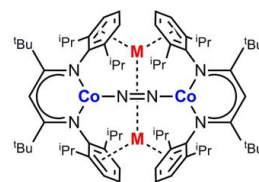
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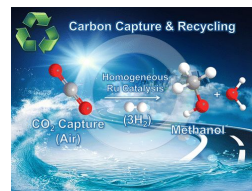
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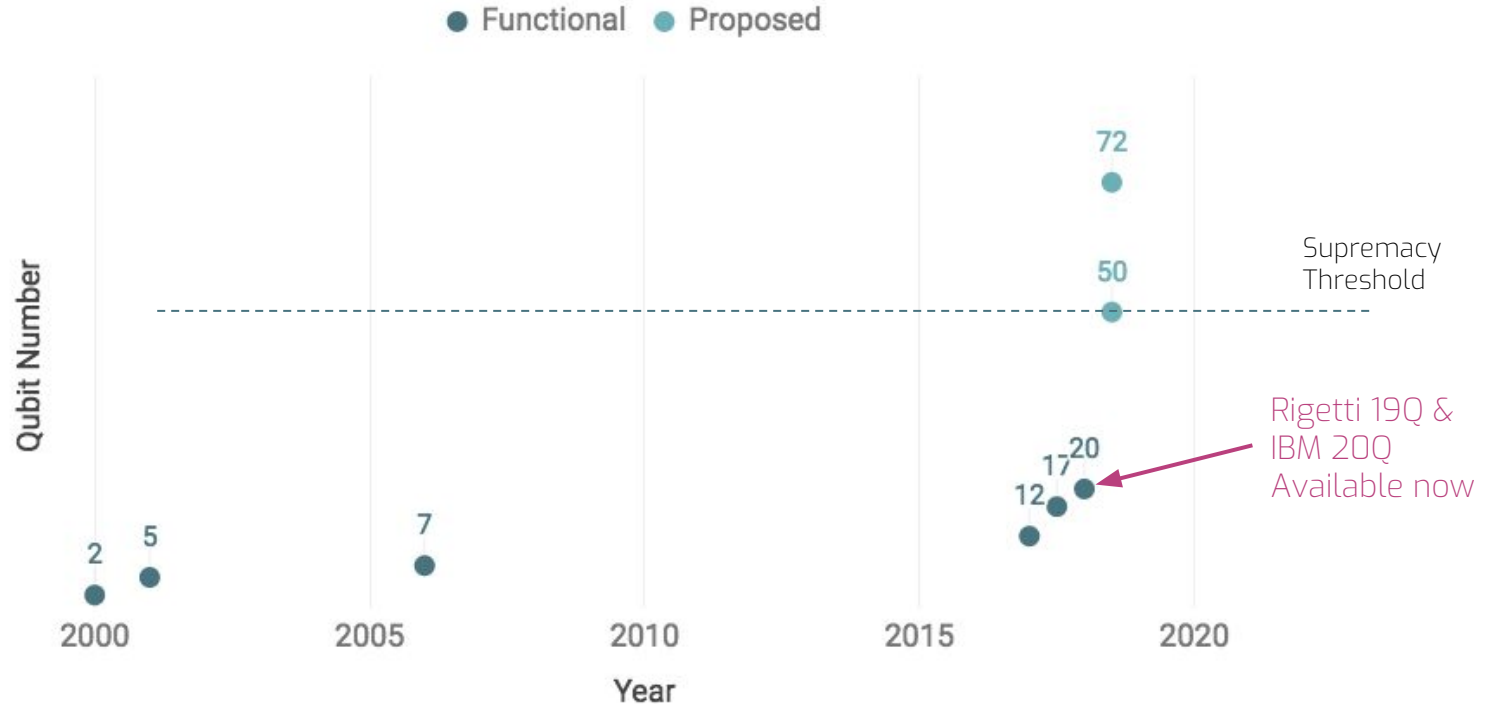


What isn't on here: breaking RSA with Shor's algorithm

# Why build a quantum computer?

New power | **New opportunity** | Fundamental curiosity

Quantum processors are scaling up quickly





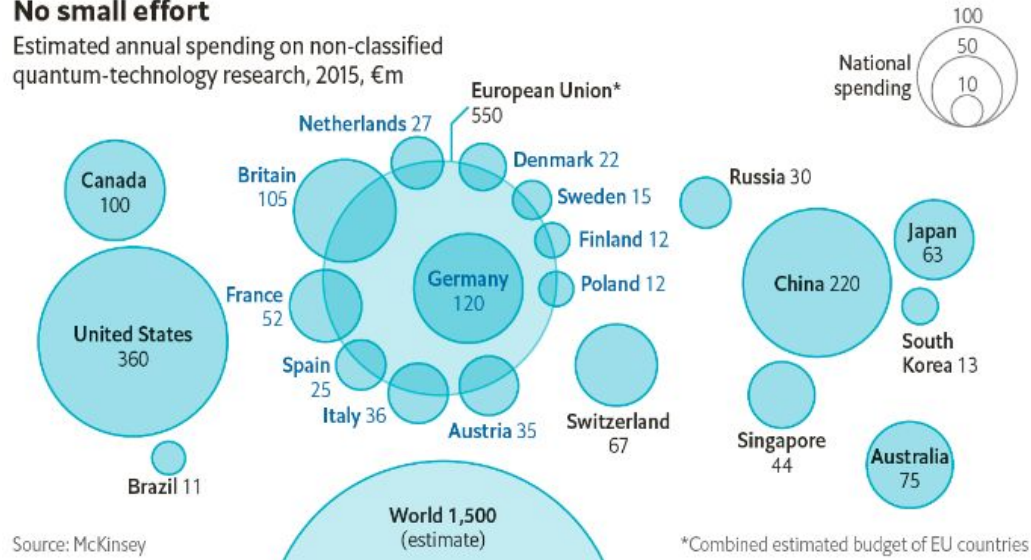
# Why build a quantum computer?

New power | **New opportunity** | Fundamental curiosity

Investments across academia, government, and industry are global and growing

## No small effort

Estimated annual spending on non-classified quantum-technology research, 2015, €m



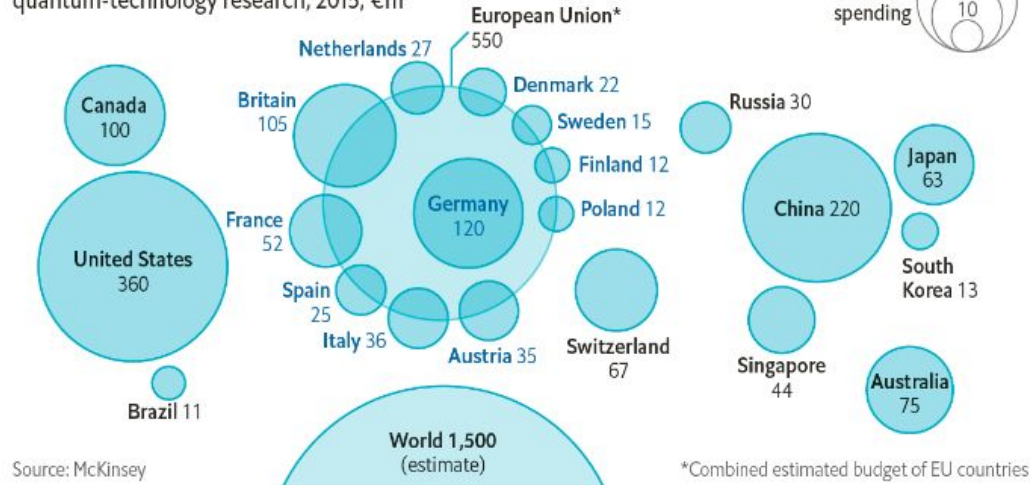
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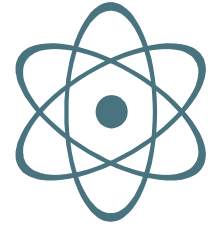
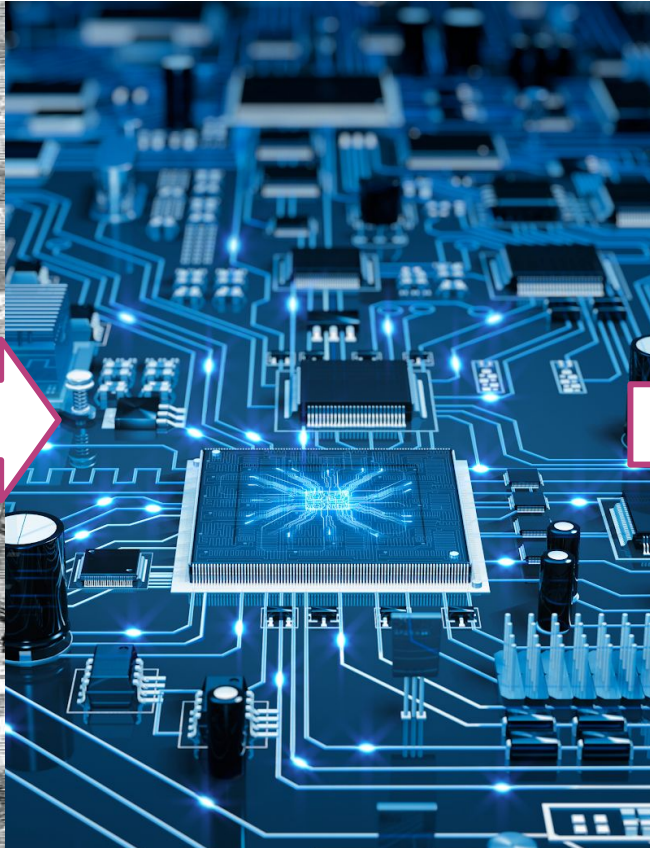
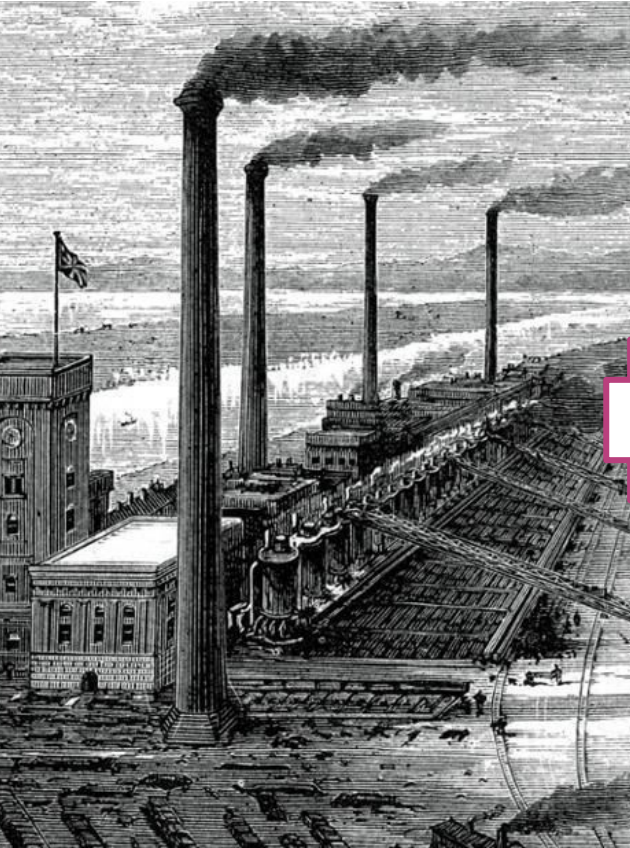
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Plus approximately \$300M in global VC investment

# Why build a quantum computer?

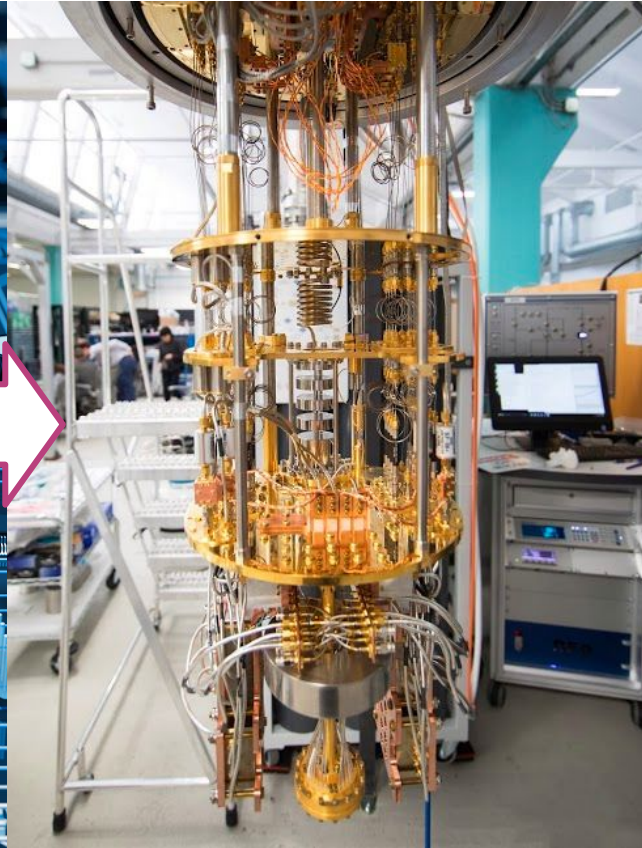
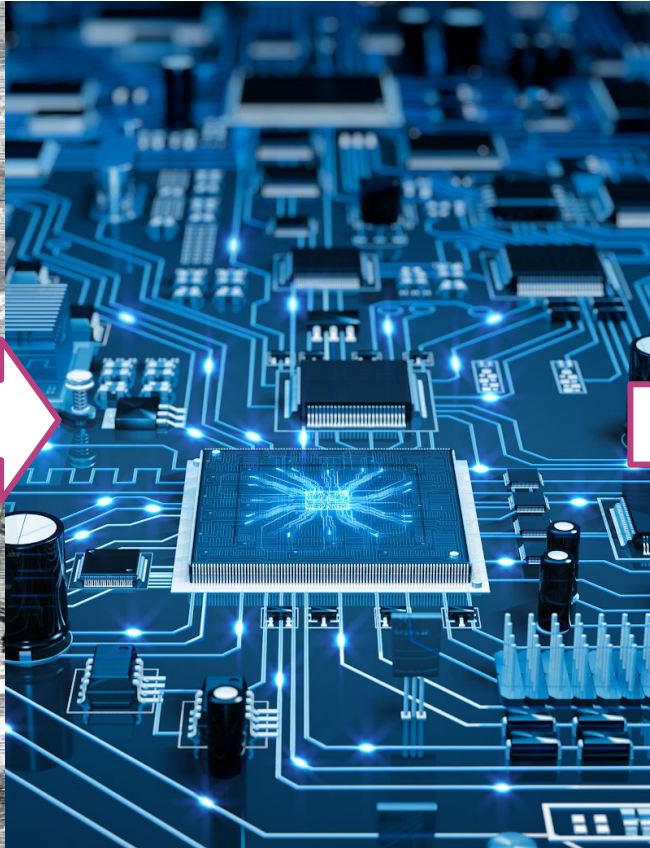
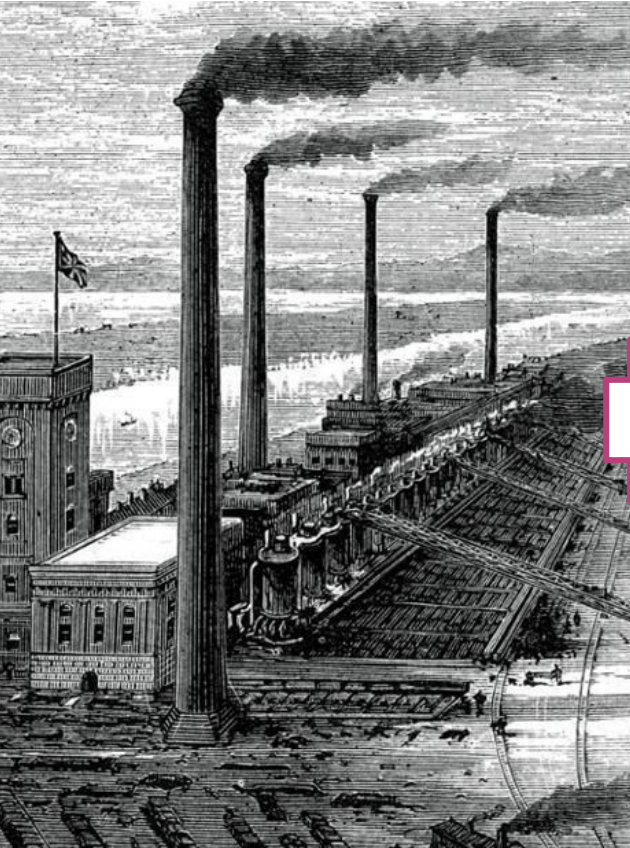
New power | New opportunity | **Fundamental curiosity**





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Quantum computing reorients the relationship between physics and computer science.

*Every “function which would **naturally** be regarded as computable”  
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*“... **nature** isn't classical, dammit...” - Feynman*

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Physical phenomenon apply to information and computation as well.

> Superposition

> No-cloning

> Teleportation

# Why build a quantum computer today?

Scalable hardware | Robust algorithms



# Why build a quantum computer today?

**Scalable hardware** | Robust algorithms

## Quantum

Isolated

Long-lived coherence

Not necessarily microscopic

+

## Computer

Fundamentally controllable

Simple scalable building blocks

Programmable

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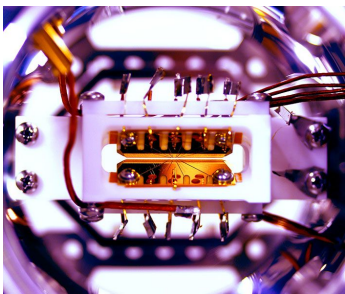
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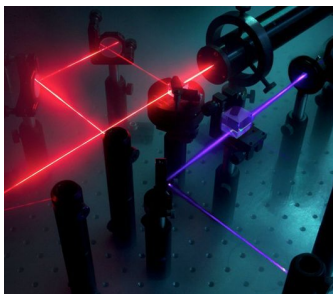
Simple scalable building blocks

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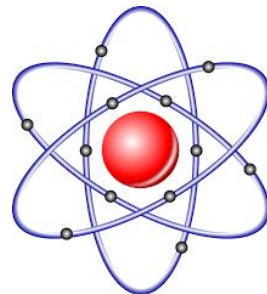
[1994-2010]



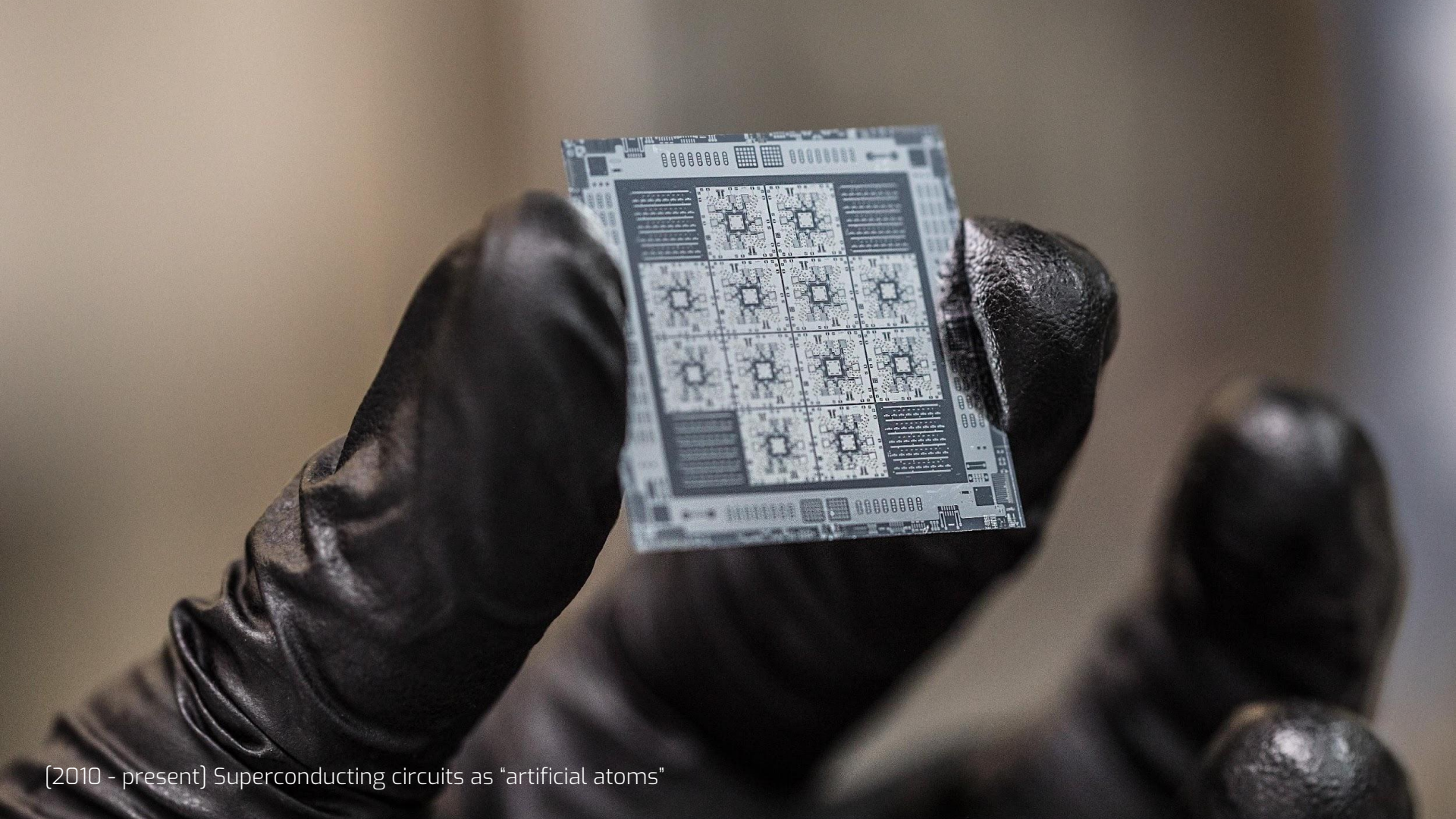
Ion Traps



Photonic Networks



Nuclear Magnetic Resonance

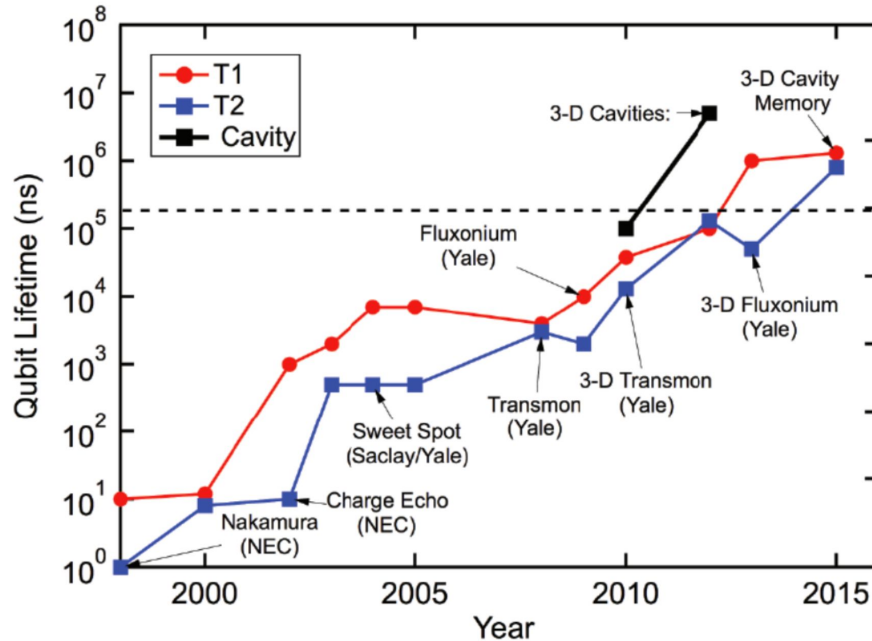


[2010 - present] Superconducting circuits as "artificial atoms"

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Superconducting qubit performance has increased by 10,000,000x in the last 15 years



M.Reagor thesis, 2015

# Why build a quantum computer today?

Scalable hardware | **Robust algorithms**

1994

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Scalable hardware | **Robust algorithms**

**1992-4**

First Quantum Algorithms w/ Exponential Speedup  
(Deutsch-Jozsa, Shor's Factoring, Discrete Log, ...)

**1996**

First Quantum Database Search Algorithm (Grover's)

TODAY

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$O(\log N)$

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**Big** proven speedups

- > Breaking RSA
- > Database search
- > Crypto

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Quantum Linear Equation Solving (Harrow, Hassidim, Lloyd)

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Quantum Algorithms for SVM's & Principal Component Analysis

**Big** proven speedups

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- > Classification
- > Linear systems
- > Recommender systems

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- > Breaking RSA
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These algorithms require  
**Big, Perfect Quantum Computers™**

> 10,000,000 qubits for Shor's algorithms  
to factor a 2048 bit number

TODAY

# Why build a quantum computer today?

Scalable hardware | **Robust algorithms**

We have Small, Noisy Quantum Computers <sup>TM</sup>

Chance of hardware error in a classical computer:

0.000,000,000,000,000,000,000,1 %

Chance of hardware error in a quantum computer:

0.1%

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Scalable hardware | **Robust algorithms**

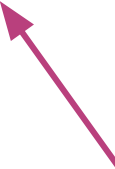
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NISQ:  
Noisy, intermediate  
scale quantum  
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TODAY

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**2013**

Practical Quantum Chemistry Algorithms (VQE)

**2016**

Practical Quantum Optimization Algorithms (QAOA)  
Simulations on Near-term Quantum Supremacy

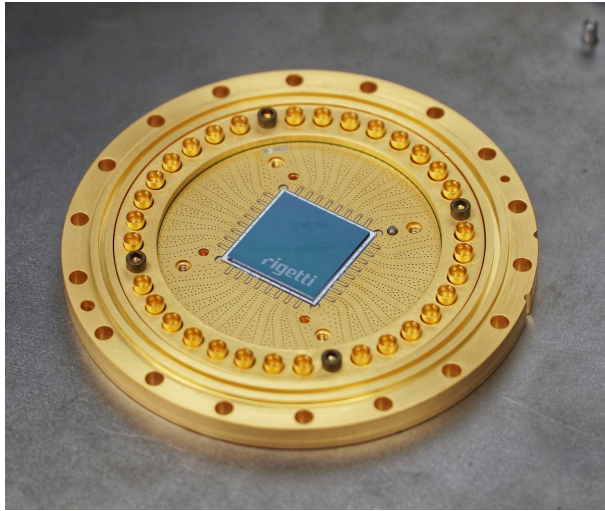
TODAY

**Hybrid** quantum/classical algs

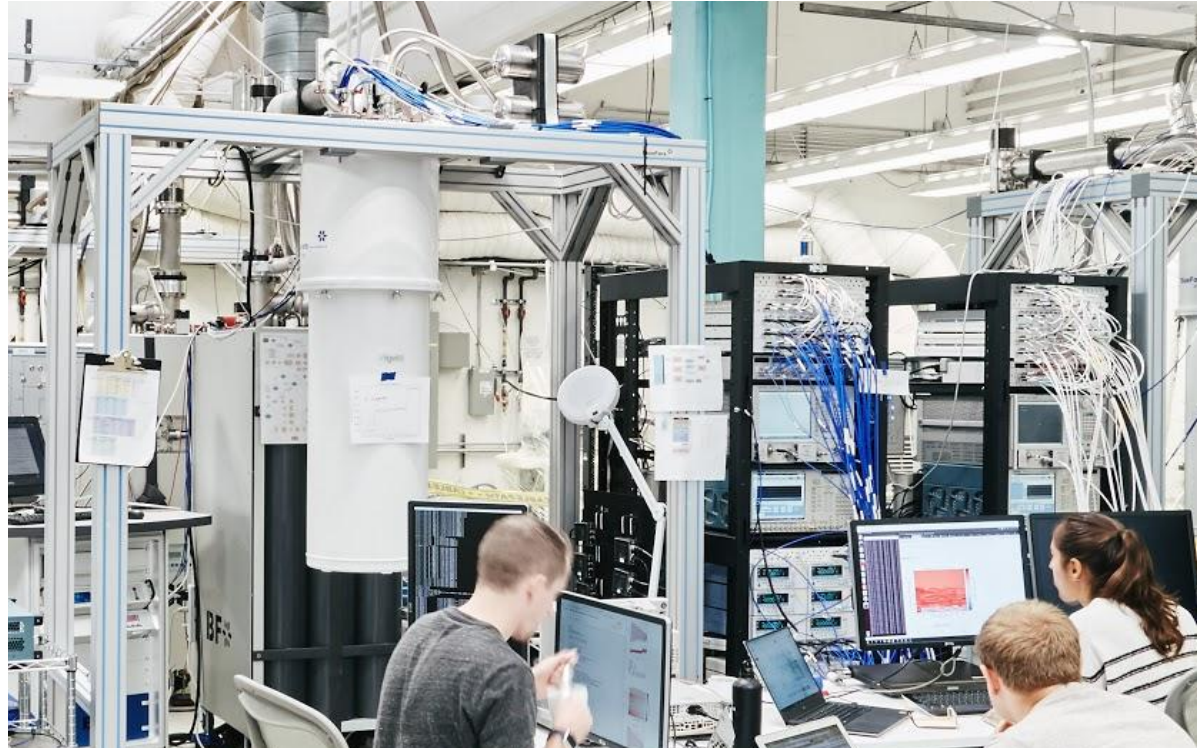
- > Noise Robust
- > Empirical speedups

# Useful quantum computation is **hybrid**

Quantum computers have  
quantum processor(s) and  
classical processors



Quantum processor

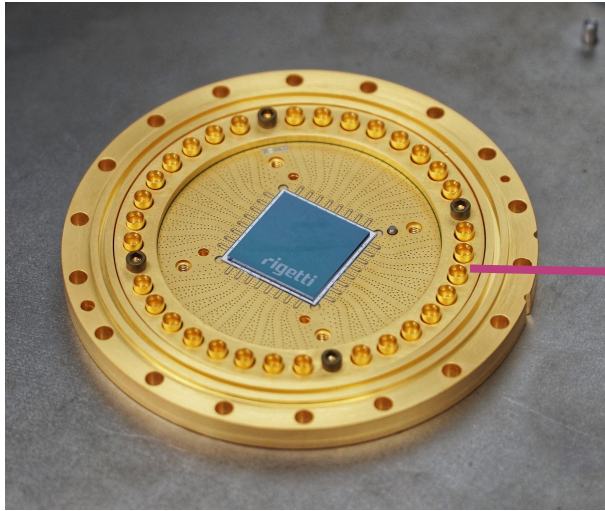


Full quantum computing system

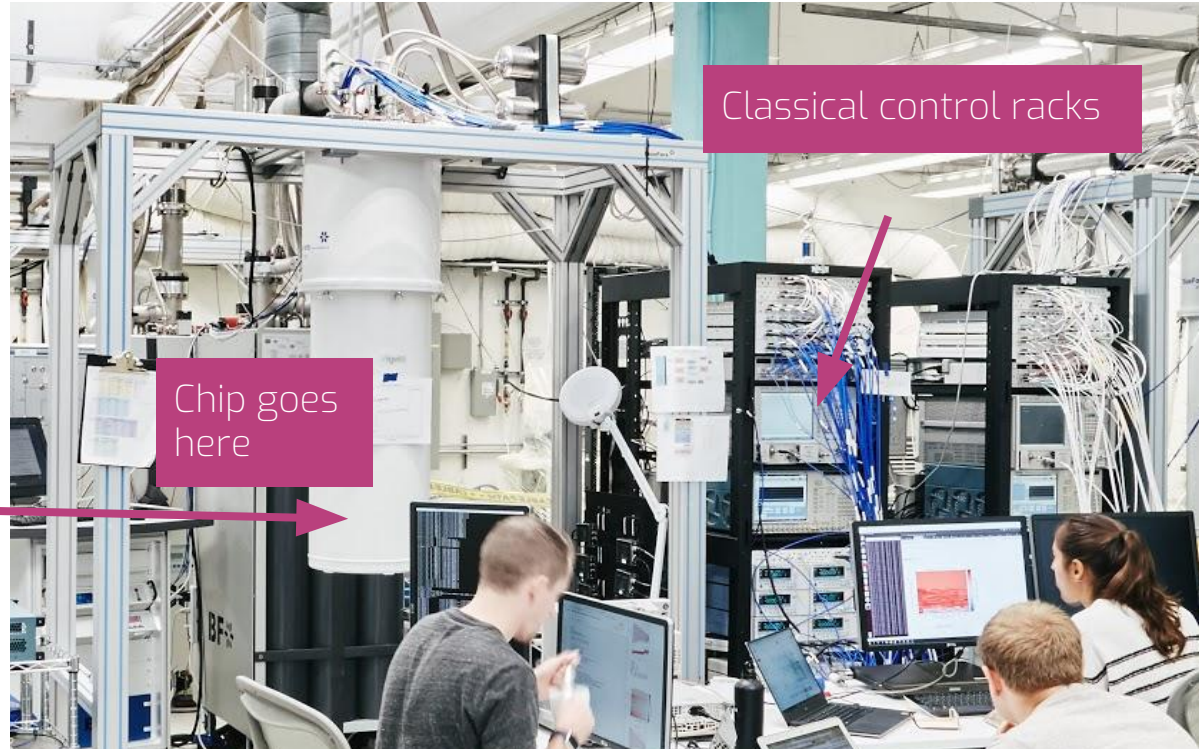


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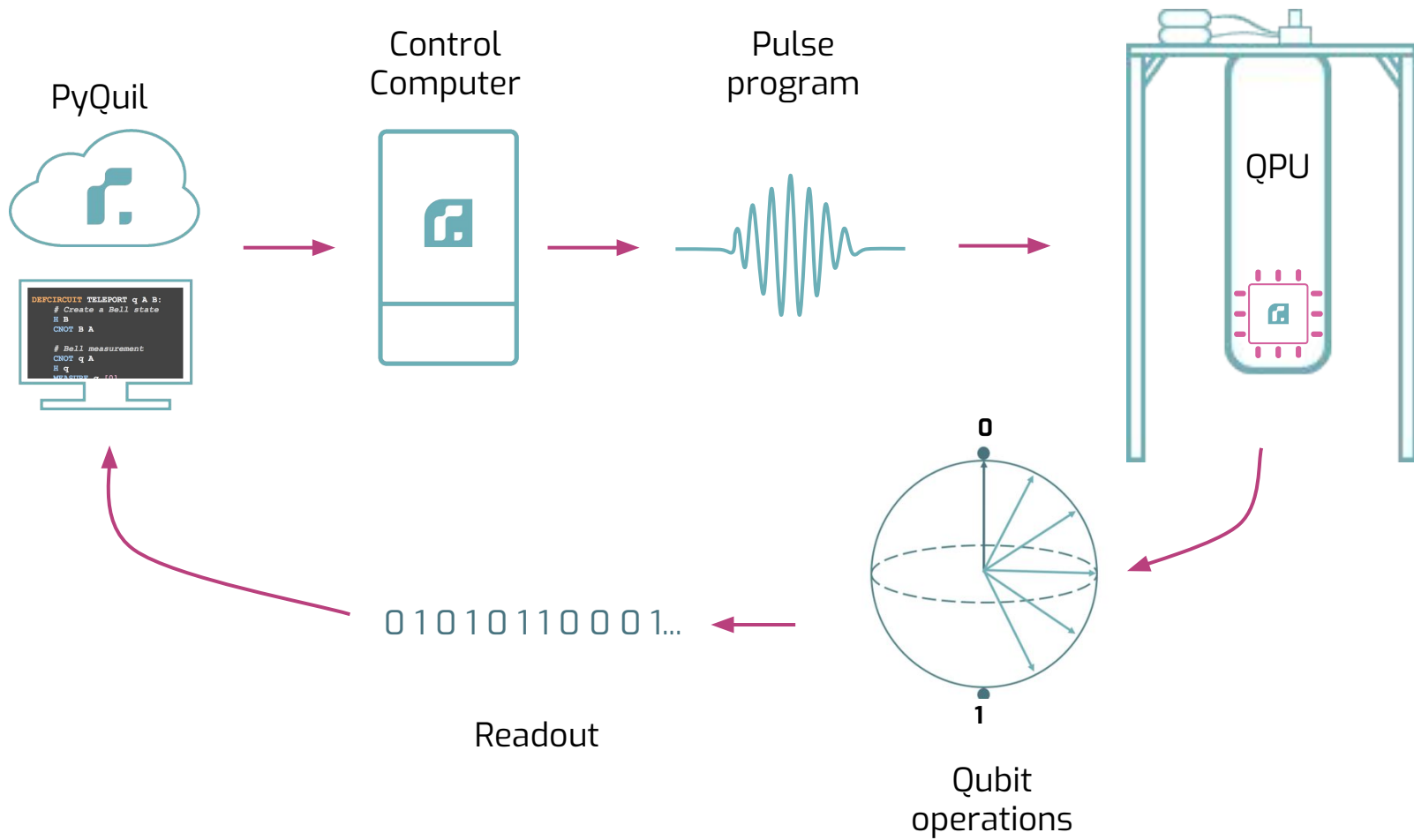


Quantum processor

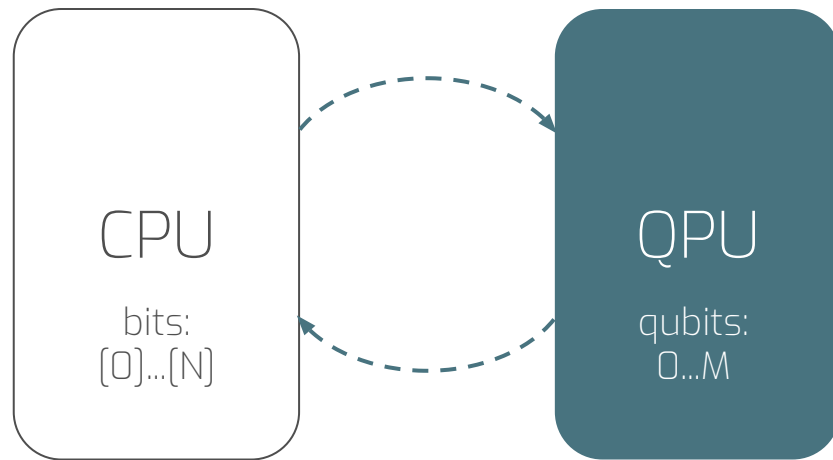


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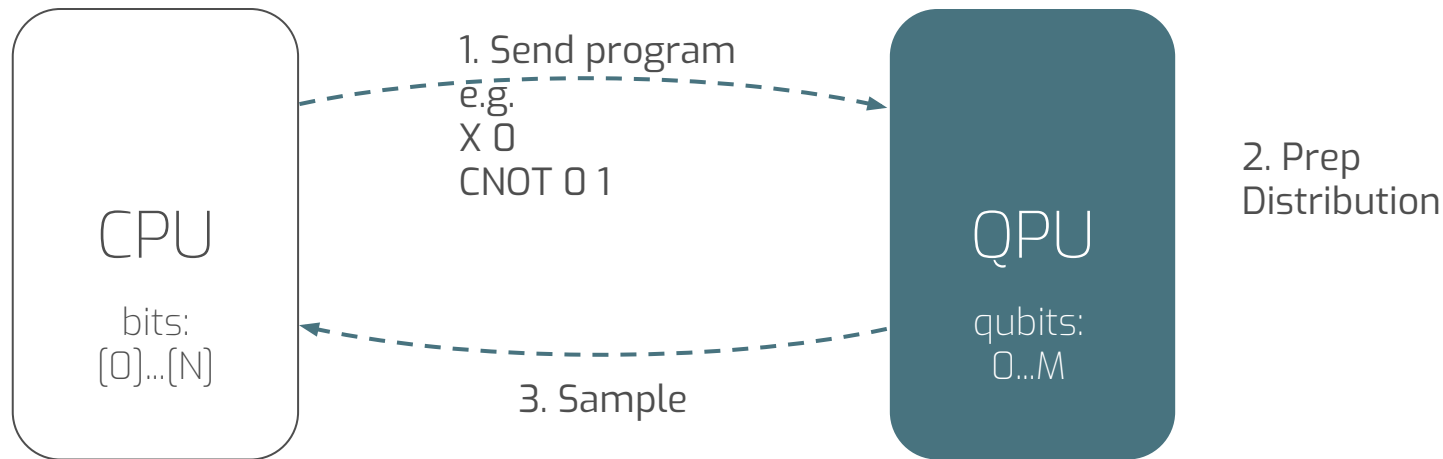
Useful quantum computation is **hybrid**



**Forest** is optimized for this with the Quil **[01]** instruction set.

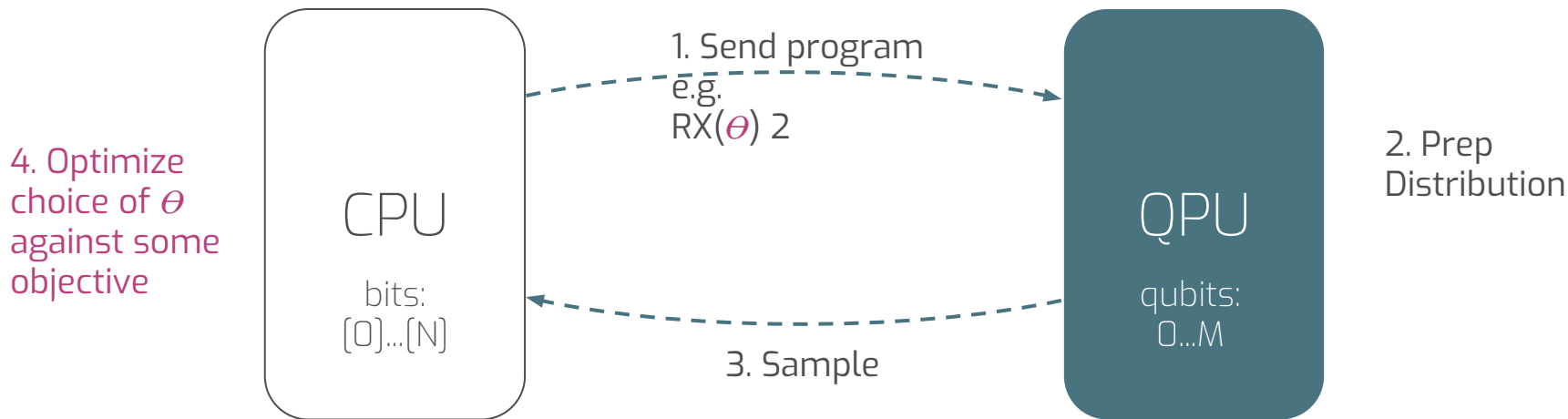
# Useful quantum computation is **hybrid**

Quantum programming is preparing and sampling from complicated distributions



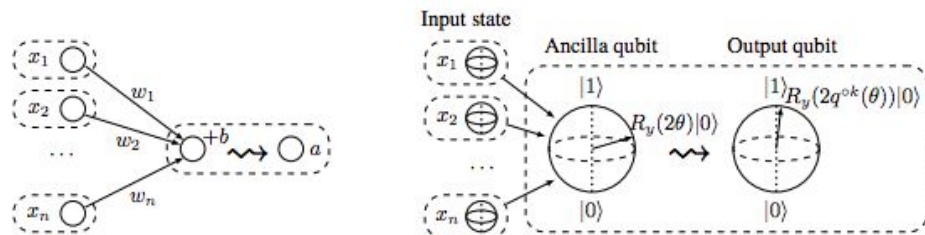
# Useful quantum computation is **hybrid**

By parameterizing quantum programs we can train them to be robust to noise



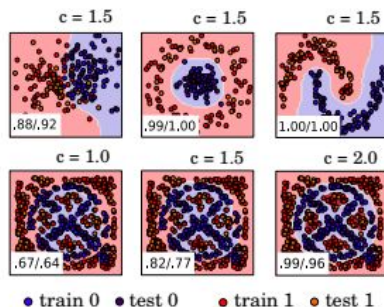
# Quantum Machine Learning

> Quantum neuron: an elementary building block for machine learning on quantum computers. (Cao et al. 2017)

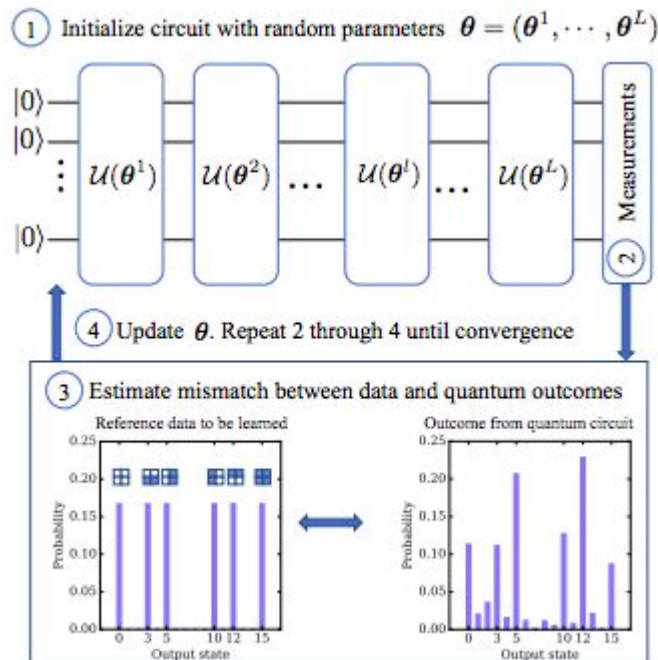


> Quantum circuit learning. (Mitarai et al. 2018)

> Quantum machine learning in feature Hilbert spaces. (Schuld and Killoran 2018)



A generative modeling approach for benchmarking and training shallow quantum circuits. (Benedetti et al. 2018)



# The Variational Quantum Eigensolver

Used for the electronic structure problem in quantum chemistry

## 1. MOLECULAR DESCRIPTION

e.g. Electronic Structure Hamiltonian

$$H = \sum_{i,j < i}^{N_n} \frac{Z_i Z_j}{|R_i - R_j|} + \sum_{i=1}^{N_e} \frac{-\nabla_{r_i}^2}{2} - \sum_{ij}^{N_n, N_e} \frac{Z_i}{|R_i - r_j|} + \sum_{i,j < i}^{N_e} \frac{1}{|r_i - r_j|}.$$

## 2. MAP TO QUBIT REPRESENTATION

e.g. Bravyi-Kitaev or Jordan-Wigner Transform

e.g. DI-HYDROGEN

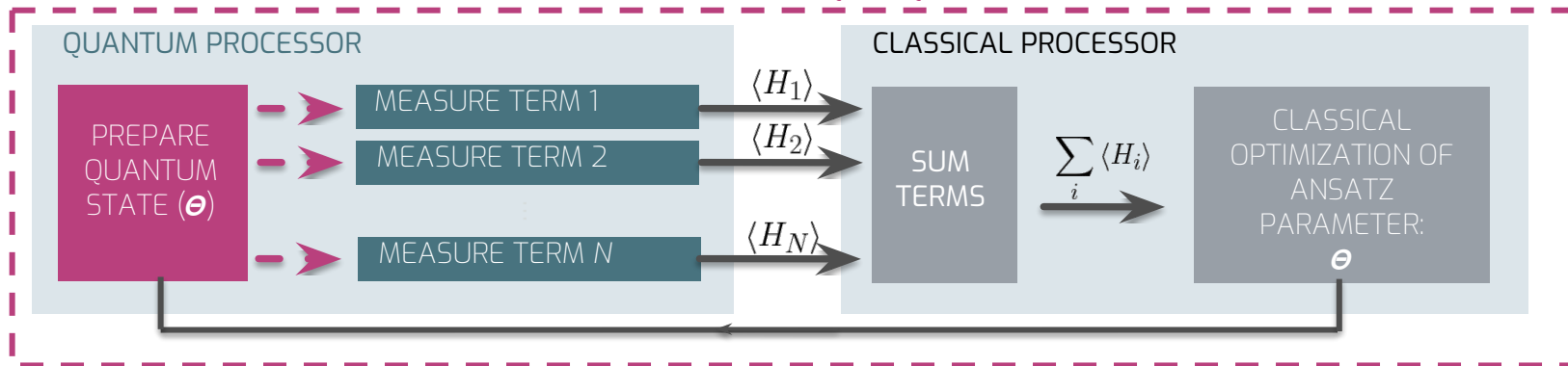
$$\begin{aligned} H = & f_0 \mathbb{1} + f_1 Z_0 + f_2 Z_1 + f_3 Z_2 + f_1 Z_0 Z_1 \\ & + f_4 Z_0 Z_2 + f_5 Z_1 Z_3 + f_6 X_0 Z_1 X_2 + f_6 Y_0 Z_1 Y_2 \\ & + f_7 Z_0 Z_1 Z_2 + f_4 Z_0 Z_2 Z_3 + f_3 Z_1 Z_2 Z_3 \\ & + f_6 X_0 Z_1 X_2 Z_3 + f_6 Y_0 Z_1 Y_2 Z_3 + f_7 Z_0 Z_1 Z_2 Z_3 \end{aligned}$$

## 3. PARAMETERIZED ANSATZ

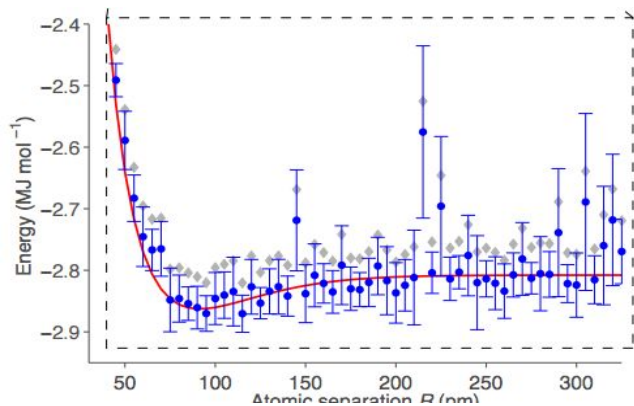
e.g. Unitary Coupled Cluster  
Variational Adiabatic Ansatz

$$\frac{\langle \varphi(\vec{\theta}) | H | \varphi(\vec{\theta}) \rangle}{\langle \varphi(\vec{\theta}) | \varphi(\vec{\theta}) \rangle} \geq E_0$$

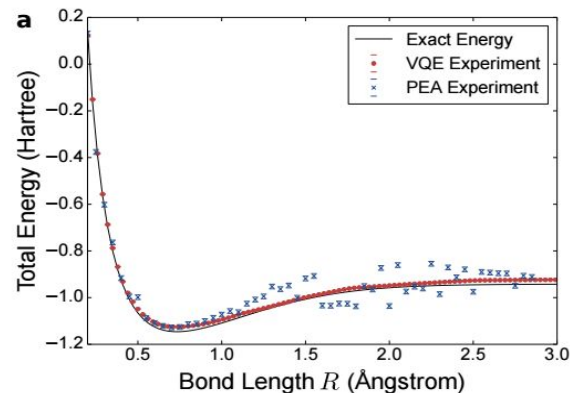
## 4. RUN Q.V.E. QUANTUM-CLASSICAL HYBRID ALGORITHM



# VQE Simulations on Quantum Hardware

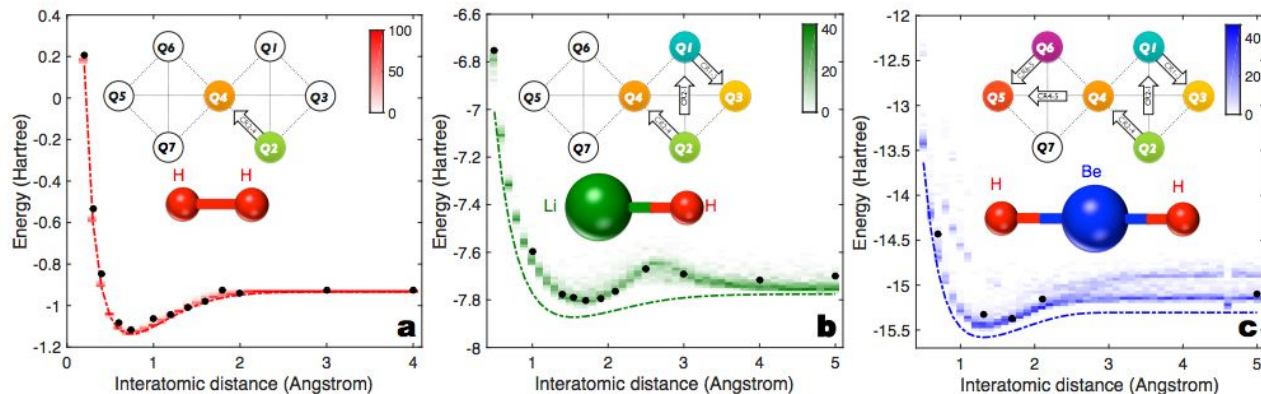


Peruzzo et al. 1304.3061



O'Malley et al. 1512.06860

Kandala et al.  
1704.05018



# Quantum Approximate Optimization Algorithm

[QAOA] Hybrid algorithm used for constraint satisfaction problems

Given binary constraints:

$$z \in \{0, 1\}^n$$

$$C_a(z) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } z \text{ satisfies the constraint } a \\ 0 & \text{if } z \text{ does not} \end{cases}$$

MAXIMIZE

$$C(z) = \sum_{a=1}^m C_a(z)$$

Traveling Salesperson

Scheduling

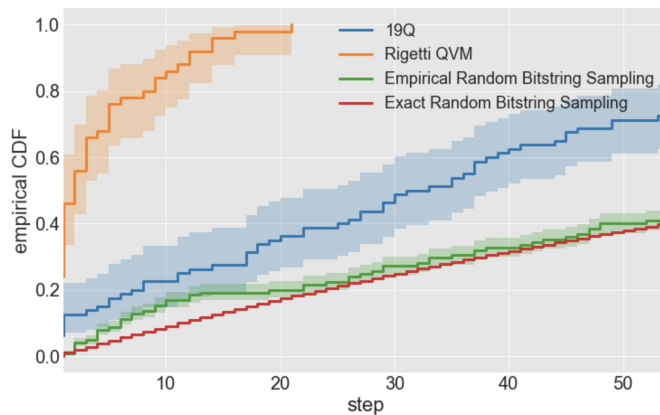
K-means clustering

Boltzmann Machine Training

Hadfield et al. 2017 [1709.03489]

Otterbach et al. 2017 [1712.05771]

Verdon et al. 2017 [1712.05304]





# QAOA in Forest

In **14** lines of code

```
from pyquil.quil import Program
from pyquil.gates import H
from pyquil.paulis import sI, sX, sZ, exponentiate_commuting_pauli_sum
from pyquil.api import QPUConnection

graph = [(0, 1), (1, 2), (2, 3)]
nodes = range(4)

init_state_prog = sum([H(i) for i in nodes], Program())
h_cost = -0.5 * sum(sI(nodes[0]) - sZ(i) * sZ(j) for i, j in graph)
h_driver = -1. * sum(sX(i) for i in nodes)

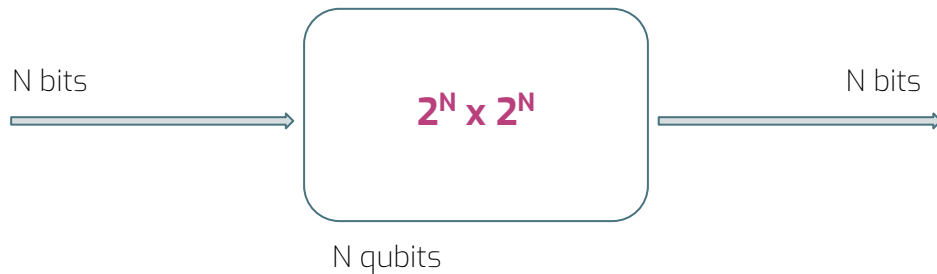
def qaoa_ansatz(betas, gammas):
    return sum([exponentiate_commuting_pauli_sum(h_cost)(g) +
exponentiate_commuting_pauli_sum(h_driver)(b) \
    for g, b in zip(gammas, betas)], Program())

program = init_state_prog + qaoa_ansatz([0., 0.5], [0.75, 1.])

qvm = QPUConnection()
qvm.run_and_measure(program, qubits=nodes, trials=10)
```

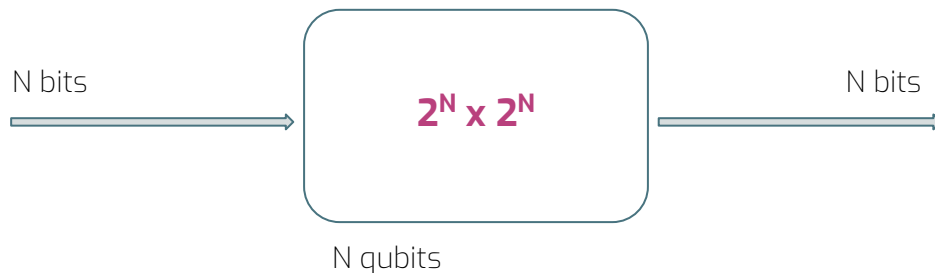
# What do near term applications look like?

The “big-memory small pipe” mental model for quantum computing



# What do near term applications look like?

The “big-memory small pipe” mental model for quantum computing



## CRITERIA:

- Complex models (esp. If represented in a high dimensional vector space)
- Small data (QC has limited I/O)
- NOT real-time applications (again due to limited I/O)
- Approximate solutions are useful (indicates robustness to noise in early quantum processors)

# Major Technology Challenges for Quantum Computing

- > Existence of valuable robust applications with hundreds to thousands of qubits
- > Reducing noise
- > Integrating chip design, fabrication, control systems, software
- > Implementing quantum error correction

# Upcoming technology milestones

1. Quantum computers exist [Today]
2. Quantum supremacy [18-24 mos]  
not as big a deal as it sounds, but still a bit deal
3. Limited quantum advantage [3-5 years]
4. Broad quantum advantage [5+ years]

# Rampant Discussion #1

## Part 2. The Industry

What is the quantum industry and what is its trajectory?

What is the customer landscape?

How do I get involved as a

{scientist, programmer, entrepreneur, investor}?

# The emerging quantum landscape has a taxonomy

## General-purpose (“Gate-based”) quantum computing

### Superconducting circuits



- Semi-conductor tech
- Near “supremacy” scale

### Topological systems



### Photonic systems



### Ion traps



- Good individual qubits
- Scalability not proven

### Quantum software & consulting



- Hardware agnostic
- Long-term apps
- Consulting / benchmarking services

### Quantum annealing

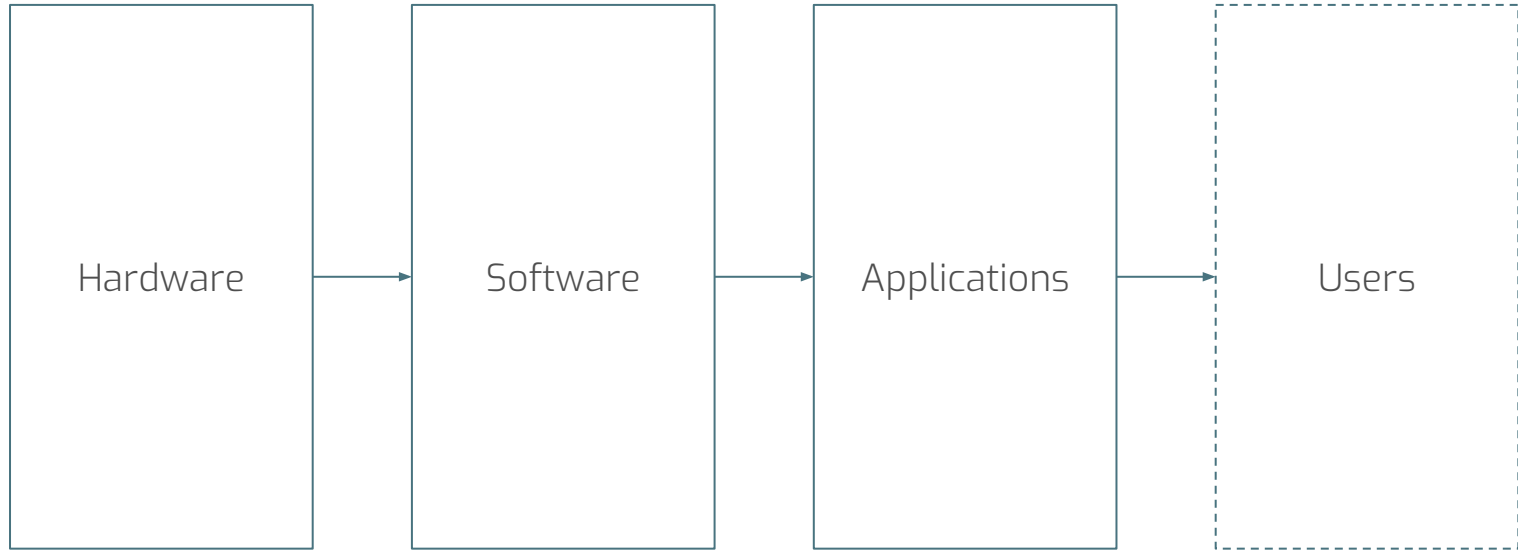


- Limited programmability
- Narrow applications

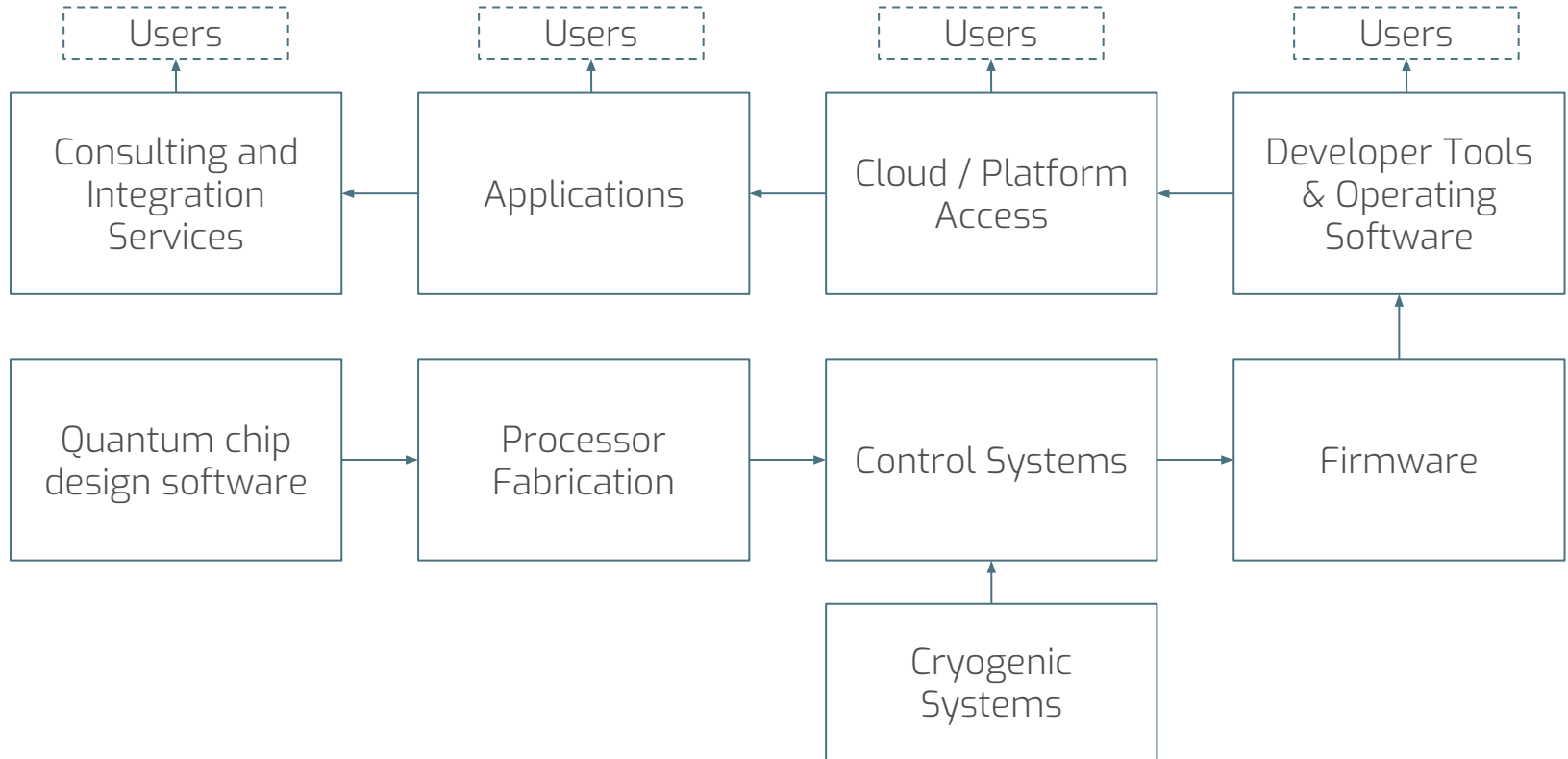


# A full supply and demand side industry is emerging

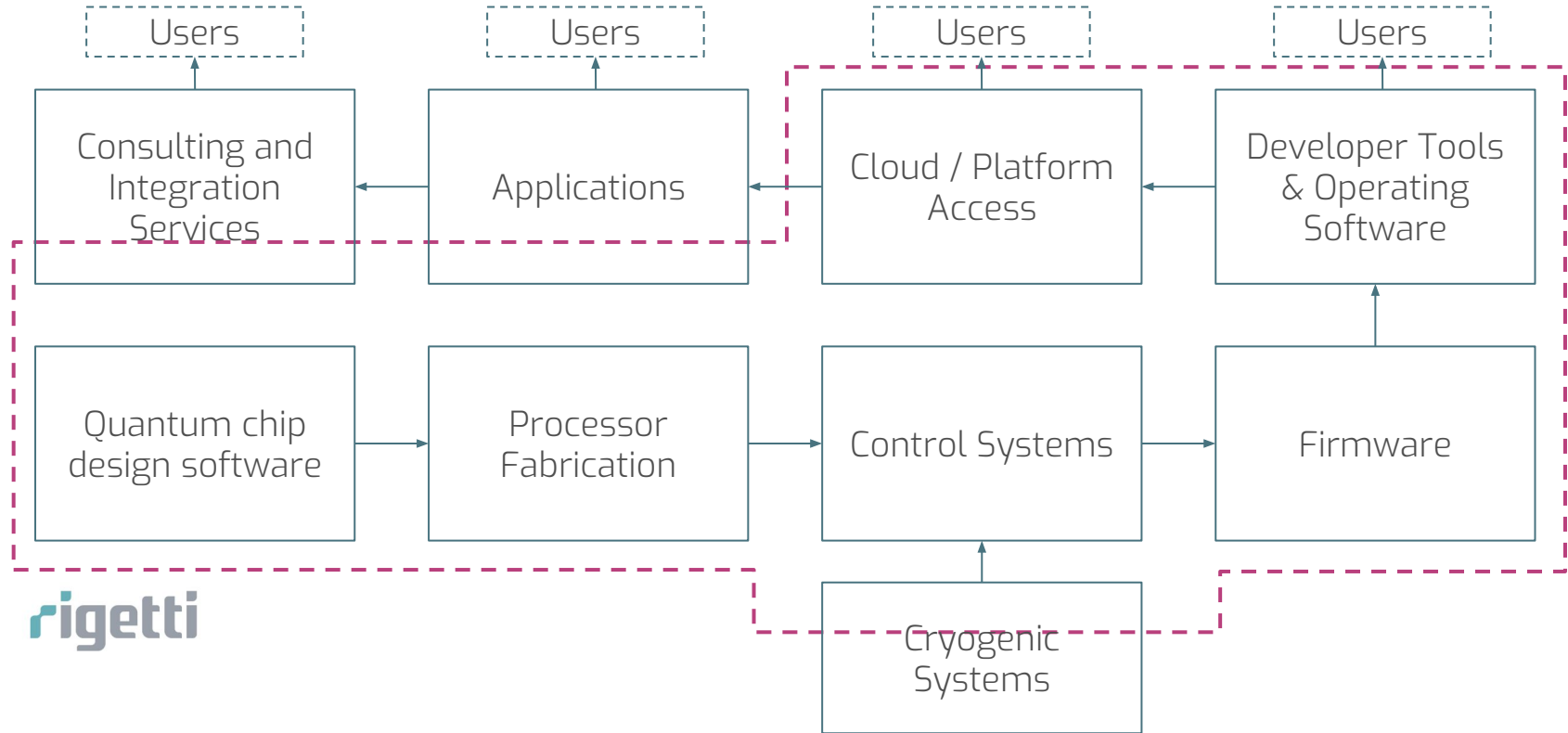
Lots of people have this unsophisticated and limited view:



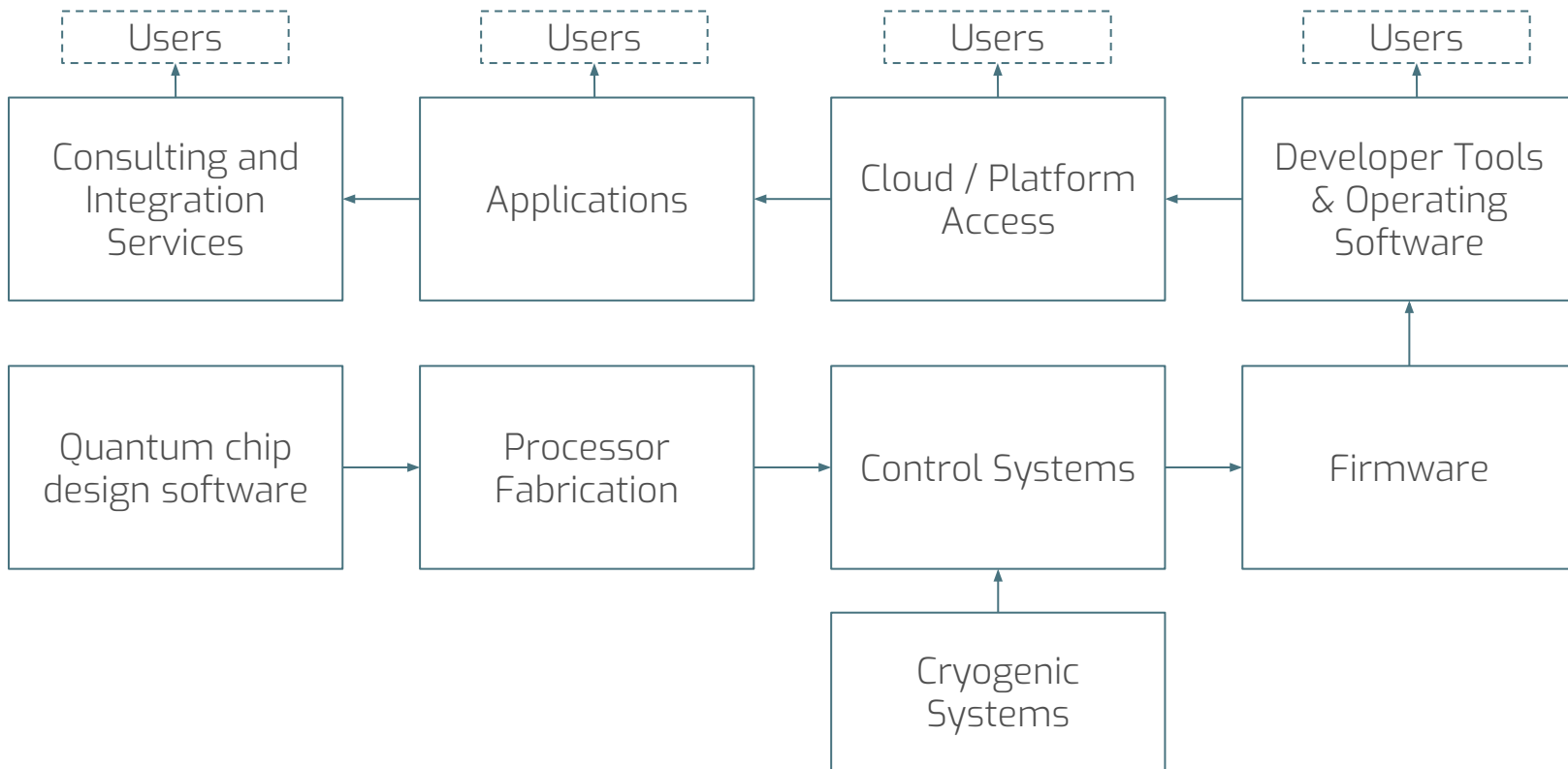
The real picture ~~is~~ will eventually be a rich ecosystem



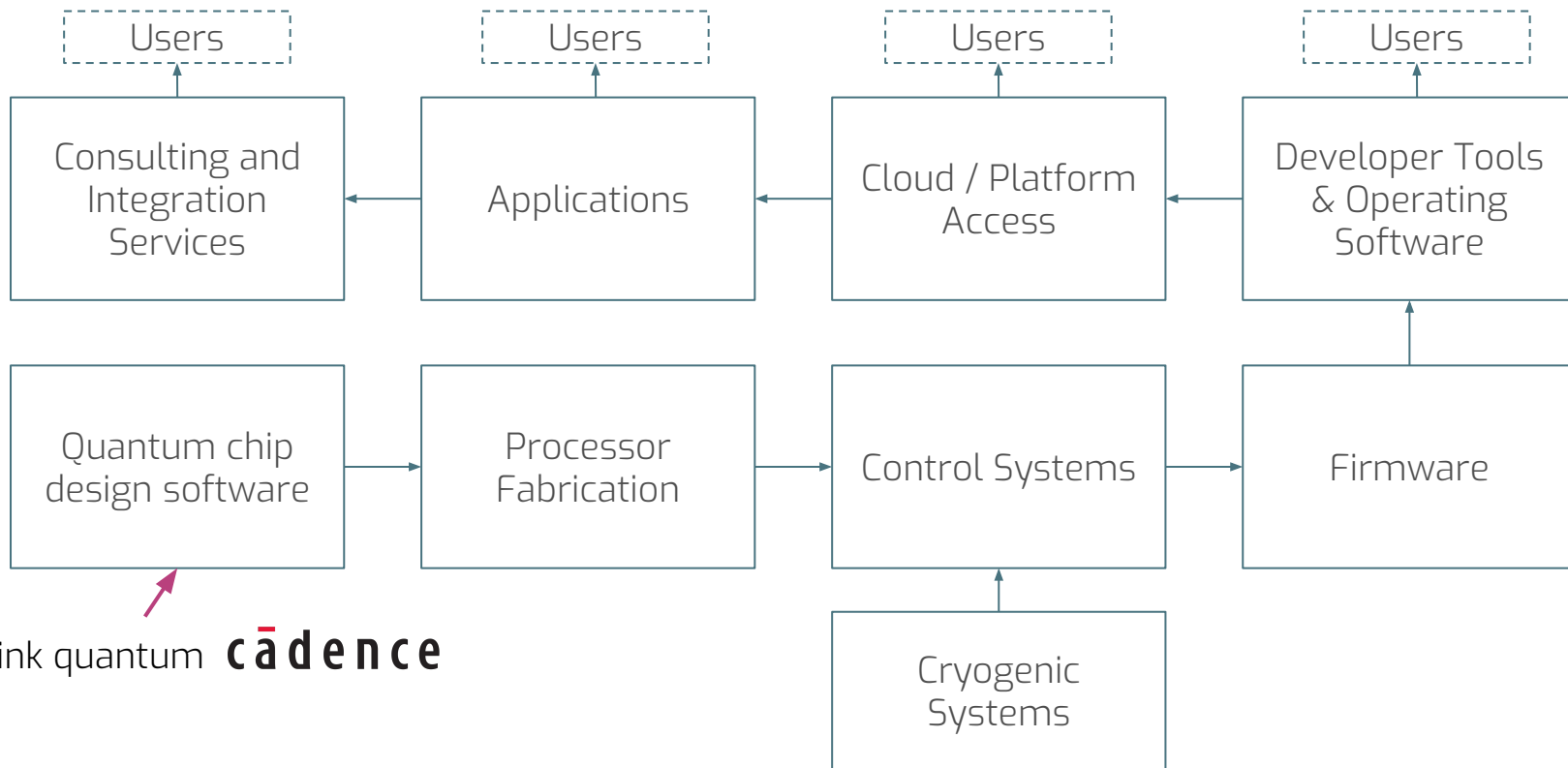
# Rigetti has chosen to vertically integrate a lot in house



# There are startups and companies in every niche today

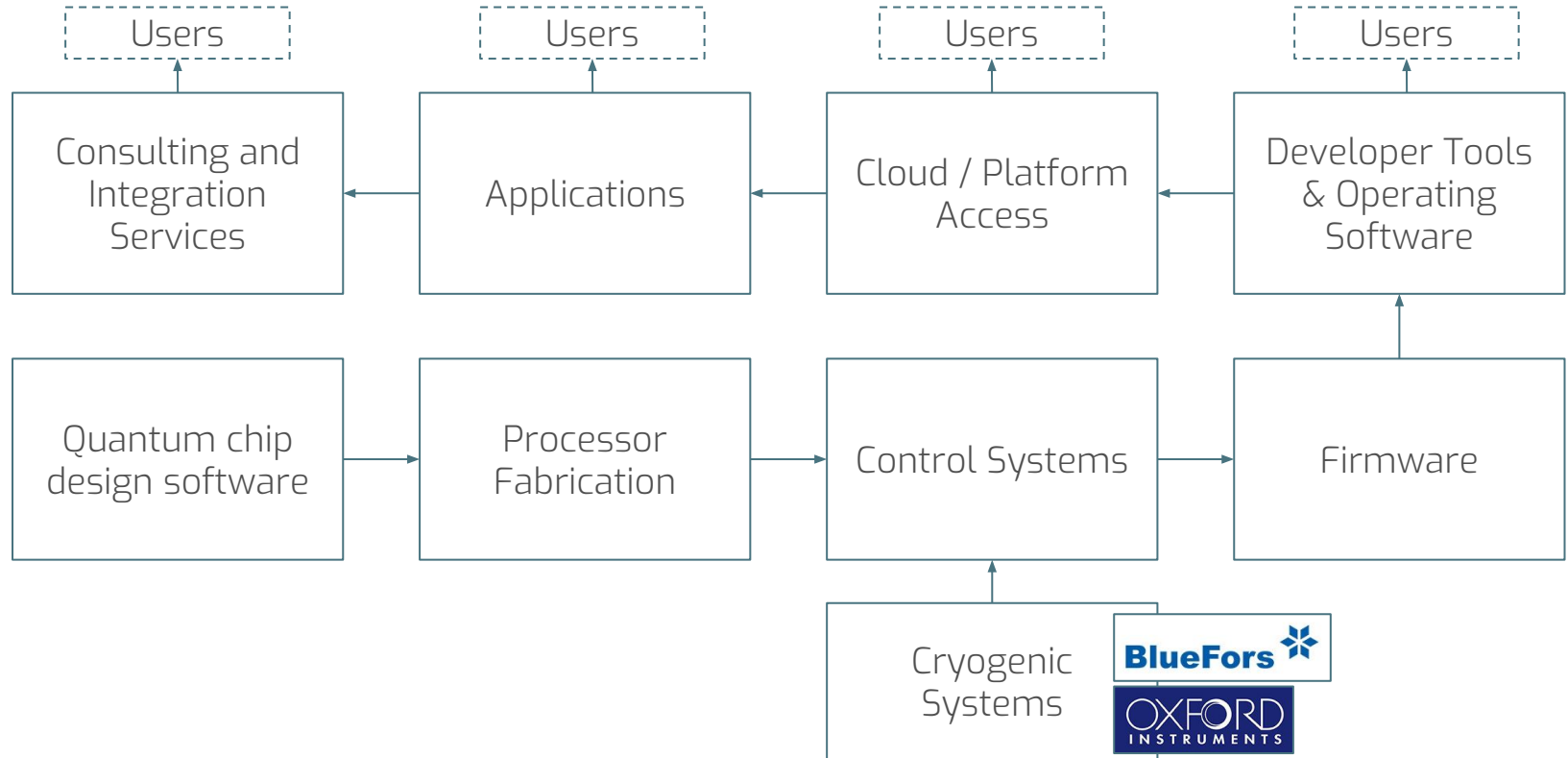


The classical analogs of each of these are massive



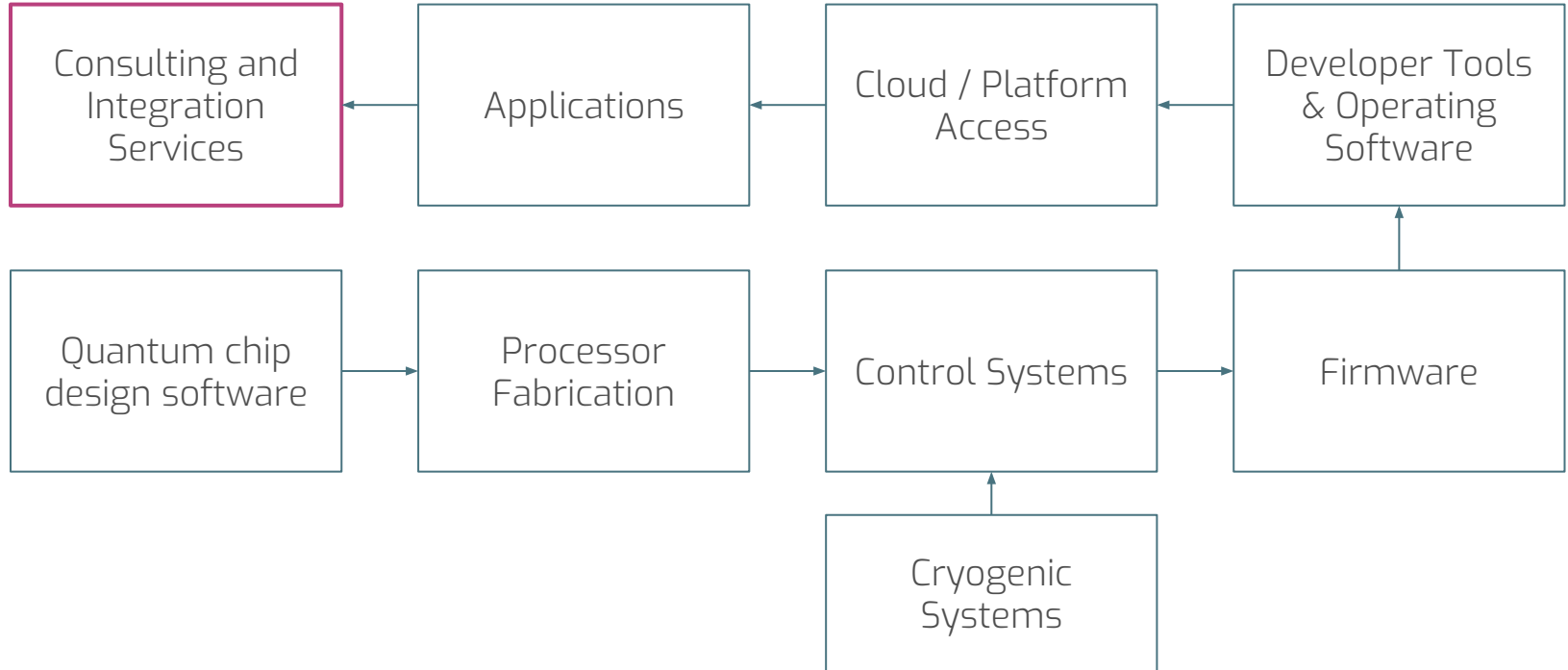
Think quantum **cādence**

# Access to cryogenic systems is an exogenic risk to the field

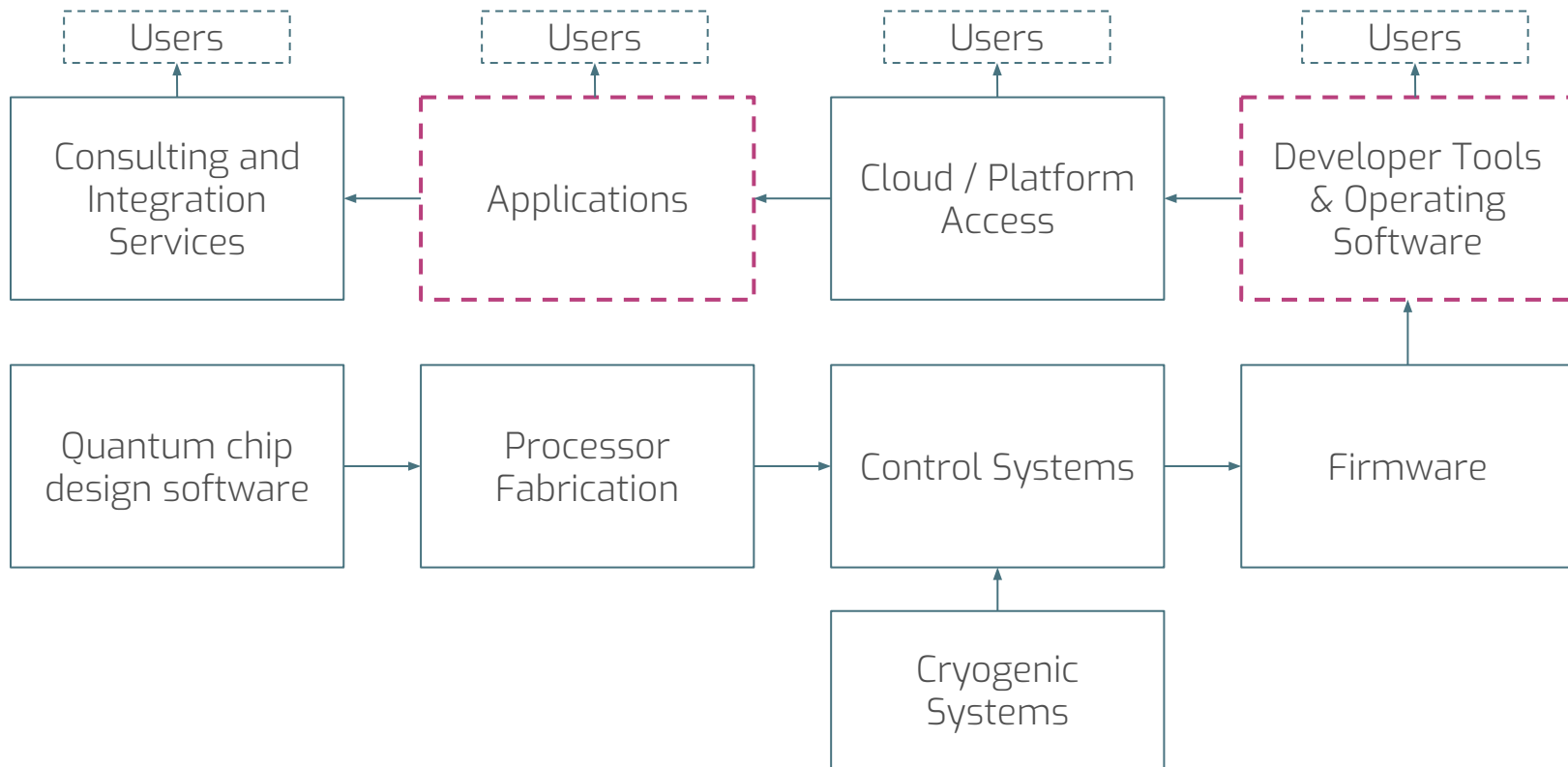


There is undifferentiated abundance & fragmentation  
at **this part** of the market

There are low barriers to entry

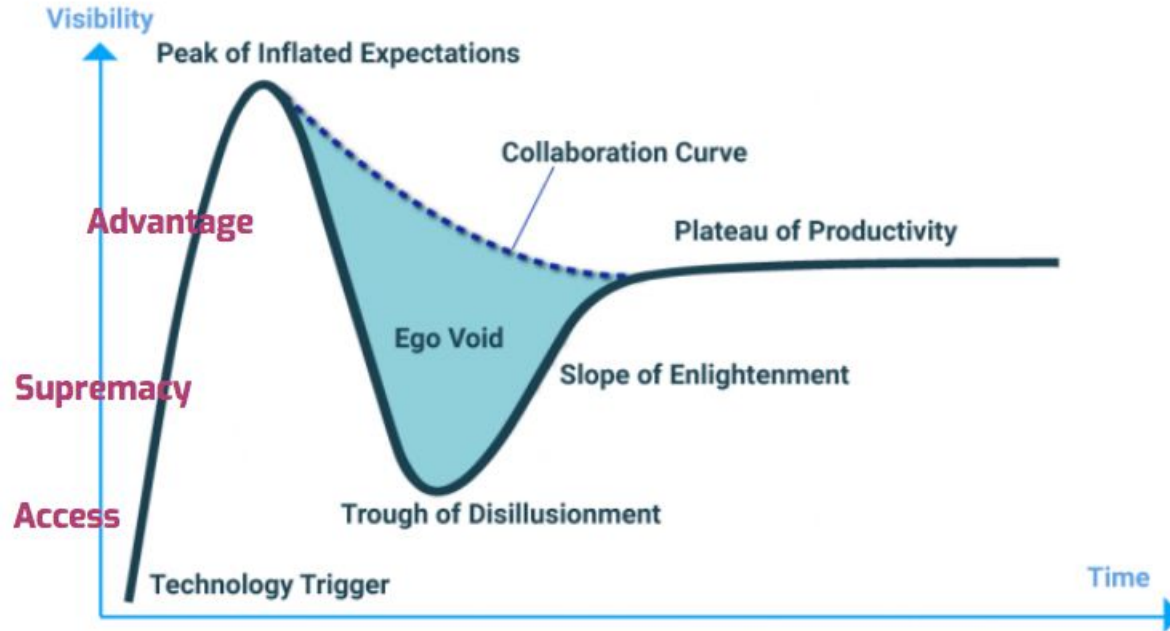


# While nobody is seriously tackling other areas

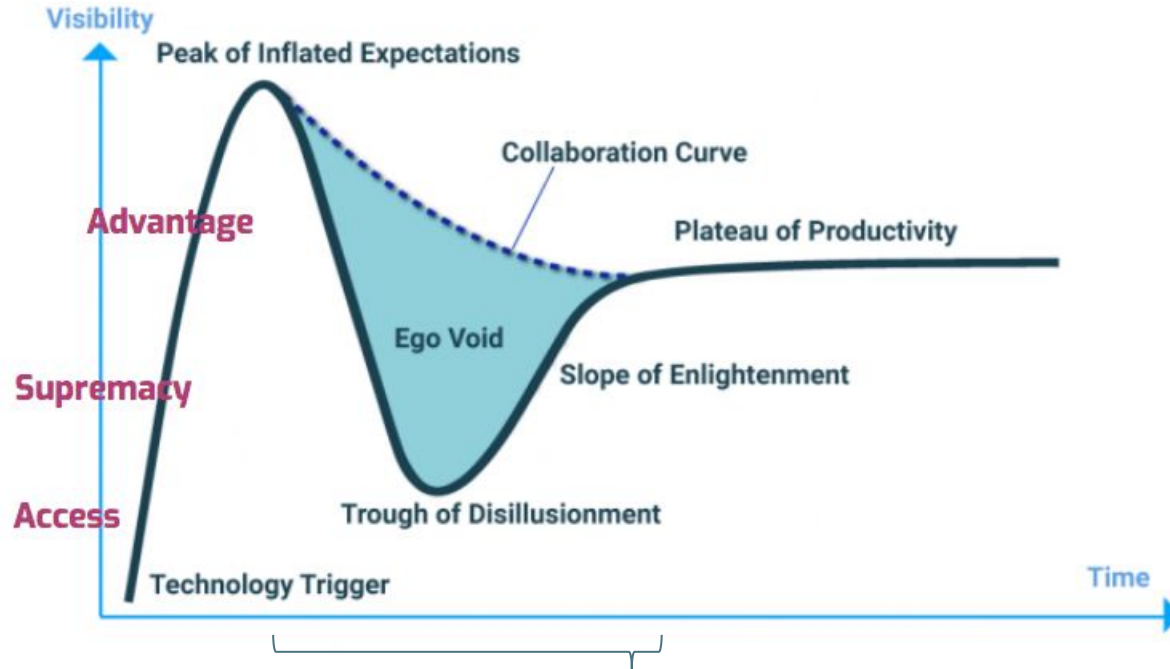




# Industry Trajectory: The Chasm



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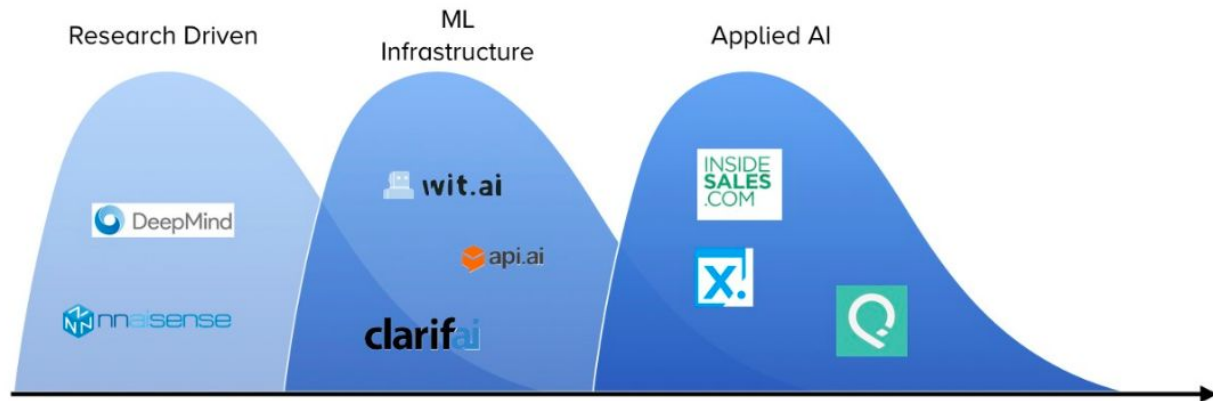
A combination of hardware, software, and applications are needed to cross this

Hardware is advancing but the  
software & apps ecosystem is fragmented

# Hardware is advancing but the software & apps ecosystem is fragmented

Will Quantum Software evolve analogously to AI? (acquisition heavy, no new great AI company)

## The 3 waves of AI companies



# Government investment for chasm-crossing

Foreign governments have led the way with direct funding



- Australia Center of Excellence at UNSW
- Funded at **\$25M** over 5yrs, 2016-2021



- Europe **€1B** over 5 years
- Individual countries also have initiatives,
  - Germany QUTEGA initiative likely **€300M** over 10yrs
  - UK made **£270M** investment in 2013



China has announced a **\$10B**, four million square foot national quantum laboratory in Heifi devoted to quantum information sciences

# Government investment for chasm-crossing

The US has led basic research and is starting to catch up on industry support



Sandia  
National  
Laboratories



Lawrence  
Livermore  
National  
Laboratory



2019 DOE budget allocates **\$105M** to quantum information science

- National Labs = primary recipients of this spend
- Exascale Computing Initiative \$1.8 billion, some small portion of which will go to quantum

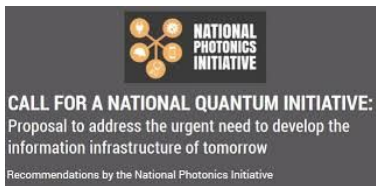


NSF's "Quantum Leap" initiative allocates **\$30M** to quantum computing research initiatives, and another \$30M to innovative HPC research

- Possible compute distribution to researchers via NSF grants



DARPA and the Army Research Lab have known spending of around **\$30M** in quantum initiatives



Proposal requiring legislative action by Congress

- **\$800M** over 5ys for civilian work + more on defense
- 3-6 QILabs to be built out, focused on hardware innovation
- QCAP (QC Access Program) is envisioned to allow gov't purchase of commercial quantum compute resources → at least **\$100m** over 5ys

How to get involved as a scientist or programmer?

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> Join a company! Lots of roles for non-quantum non-PhD's!

[will@rigetti.com](mailto:will@rigetti.com)



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> Join a company! Lots of roles for non-quantum non-PhD's!

[will@rigetti.com](mailto:will@rigetti.com)

> Do some programming and join the community!



[github.com/rigetticomputing](https://github.com/rigetticomputing)

[IBM] [github.com/QISKit](https://github.com/QISKit)

<http://forest.rigetti.com>

<http://www.qiskit.org>



Bay Area Quantum  
Computing Meetup

[meetup.com/Bay-Area-Quantum-Computing-Meetup](https://meetup.com/Bay-Area-Quantum-Computing-Meetup)



Quantum programming discussions

[slack.rigetti.com](https://slack.rigetti.com)



[quantumcomputing.stackexchange.com](https://quantumcomputing.stackexchange.com)

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## **Will Zeng's unsolicited call for quantum startups in:**

- > Developer tools including optimizing compilers
- > Application specific algorithms and software
- > Other areas of the quantum industry stack

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Challenges:

- fragmented teams with hard to diligence taxonomy of technologies
- need more algorithms and applications focus towards advantage

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- fragmented teams with hard to diligence taxonomy of technologies
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How to find & get focused teams out of academia and other fields and in position to invent the technologies that will take quantum through the chasm?



How to get involved as an entrepreneur or investor?

Have an idea? Come talk to me. I want to help.

Rampant Discussion #2

How can we help this new industry change the world?

@wizeng