



# quantum computing roadmaps *towards fault-tolerance*



**Olivier Ezratty**

⟨ ... | author | quantum engineer | QEI cofounder | ... ⟩

**olivier@oezratty.net www.oezratty.net @olivez**

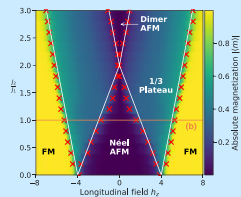
CERN QT4HEP Conference, Geneva, January 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2025

# what is this talk about?

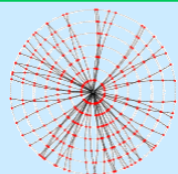
1. defining **practical quantum advantage**.
2. **segmenting** quantum computing use cases and algorithms.
3. providing quantum algorithms **resource estimates**.
4. uncovering hardware **scalability challenges**.
5. updating **qubit modalities** advances and vendor roadmaps.

# from science to industry applications

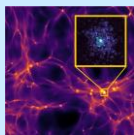
## fundamental research



condensed matter physics

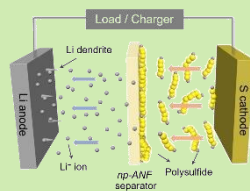


high-energy particle physics

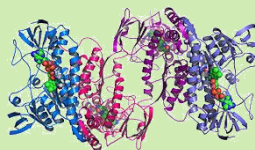


astrophysics

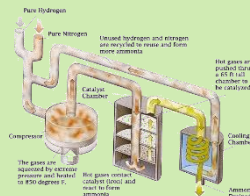
## applied research



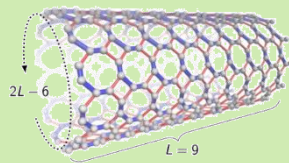
batteries



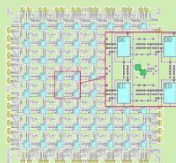
drugs



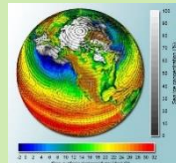
fertilizer production



material design

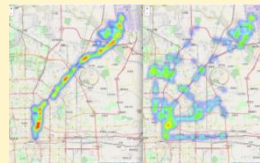


semiconductors

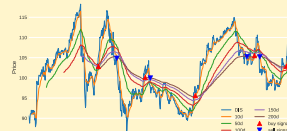


climate modeling

## business operations



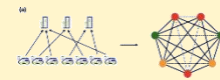
transportation



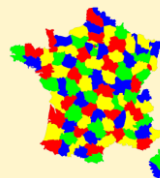
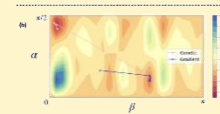
financial services



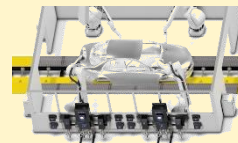
logistics and retail



energy utilities



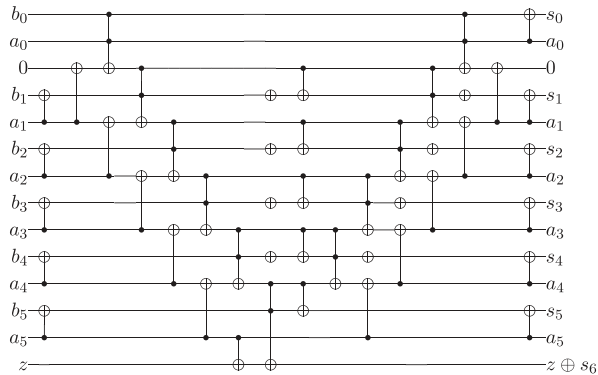
telecoms



manufacturing

# main quantum computing paradigms

## gates-based quantum computers



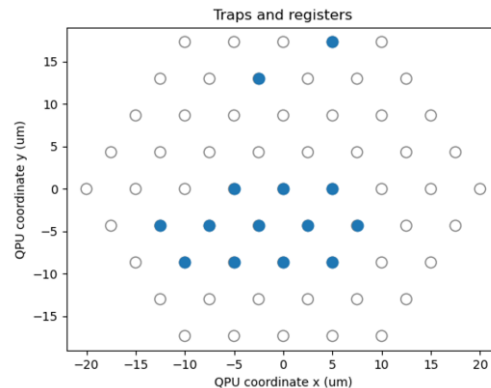
The ripple-carry adder for  $n = 6$ .

problem solved with an algorithm containing a series of quantum gates, implementing any unitary transformation



QUANDELA

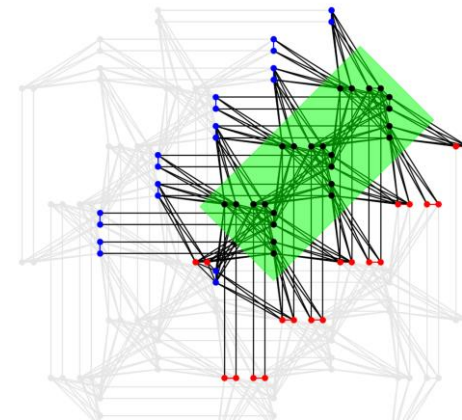
## analog quantum simulators



problem embedded in a graph to solve Ising or QUBO problems, using **dynamic qubit positioning** but **no or poor local qubit control**



## quantum annealers



problem embedded in a BQM model to solve Ising or QUBO problems, using **static qubit connectivity** and **local control**



# typical target Hamiltonians per paradigm

## gates-based quantum computing

### Heisenberg model (VQE)

spin dynamics, quantum magnetism, superconductivity.

$$H = \sum_{\langle i,j \rangle} (J_x S_i^x S_j^x + J_y S_i^y S_j^y + J_z S_i^z S_j^z) + \sum_i h_i S_i^z$$

### electronic structure model (VQE, QPE)

encoded into qubit gates using Jordan–Wigner and Bravyi–Kitaev transforms, also applicable with HEP.

$$H = \sum_{p,q} h_{pq} a_p^\dagger a_q + \frac{1}{2} \sum_{p,q,r,s} g_{pqrs} a_p^\dagger a_q^\dagger a_r a_s$$

### Fermi-Hubbard model (VQE, QPE)

strongly correlated systems in condensed matter physics, magnetism, Mott insulators, high  $T_c$  superc.

$$H = -t \sum_{\langle i,j \rangle, \sigma} \left( \hat{c}_{i,\sigma}^\dagger \hat{c}_{j,\sigma} + \text{h.c.} \right) + U \sum_i \hat{n}_{i,\uparrow} \hat{n}_{i,\downarrow}$$

create unitary  $U$  based on  $H$  so that  $\|U - e^{-iHt}\| < \epsilon$  (error rate), and find eigenvalue or eigenstate of  $H$  of interest

## analog quantum simulation

### XX Ising models

quantum transport, superfluid-Mott insulator transitions, topological phases...

$$H = \sum_{i < j}^N J_{ij} \hat{\sigma}_i^x \hat{\sigma}_j^x$$

### XY Ising models

non-trivial topological effects, real-time quench dynamics...

$$H = \sum_{i < j}^N J_{ij} (\hat{\sigma}_i^x \hat{\sigma}_j^x + \hat{\sigma}_i^y \hat{\sigma}_j^y)$$

### XXZ Ising models

ferromagnetic, antiferromagnetic, spin-liquid states, U(1) LGT simulations...

$$H = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i \neq j} J_{ij}^x (\sigma_i^x \sigma_j^x + \sigma_i^y \sigma_j^y) + J_{ij}^z \sigma_i^z \sigma_j^z$$

find  $\sigma_i^x, \sigma_i^y$ , and/or  $\sigma_i^z$  minimizing a cost function that is the minimum eigenvalue of  $H$

## quantum annealing

### Ising Hamiltonian

spin-spin interactions, quantum magnetism,  $\mathbb{Z}_2$  and  $U(1)$  lattice models.

$$H = \sum_i h_i \sigma_i^z + \sum_{i < j} J_{ij} \sigma_i^z \sigma_j^z$$

### QUBO formulation

optimization problems, graph partitioning, route planning

$$H = \sum_i a_i x_i + \sum_{i,j} b_{ij} x_i x_j$$

### MaxCut problems

solving various graph problems.

$$H = \sum_{\langle i,j \rangle} w_{ij} \left( \frac{1 - \sigma_i^z \sigma_j^z}{2} \right)$$

find  $\sigma_i^z$  minimizing a cost function that is the minimum eigenvalue of  $H$



# what is a valuable quantum algorithm?

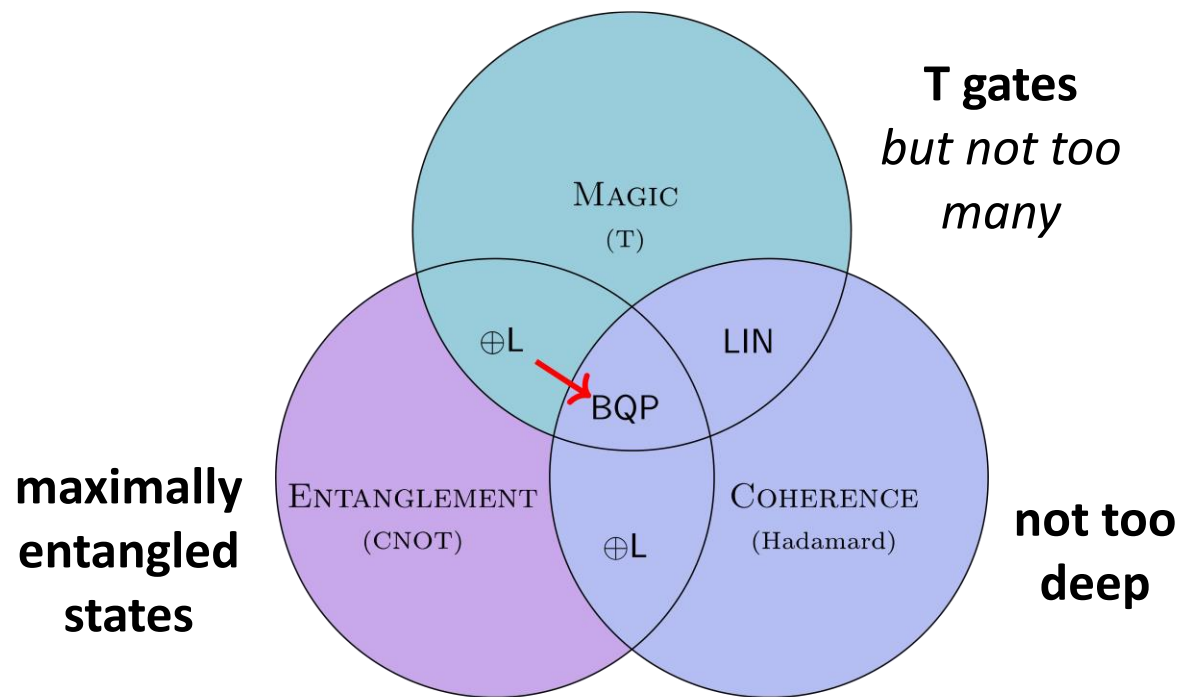
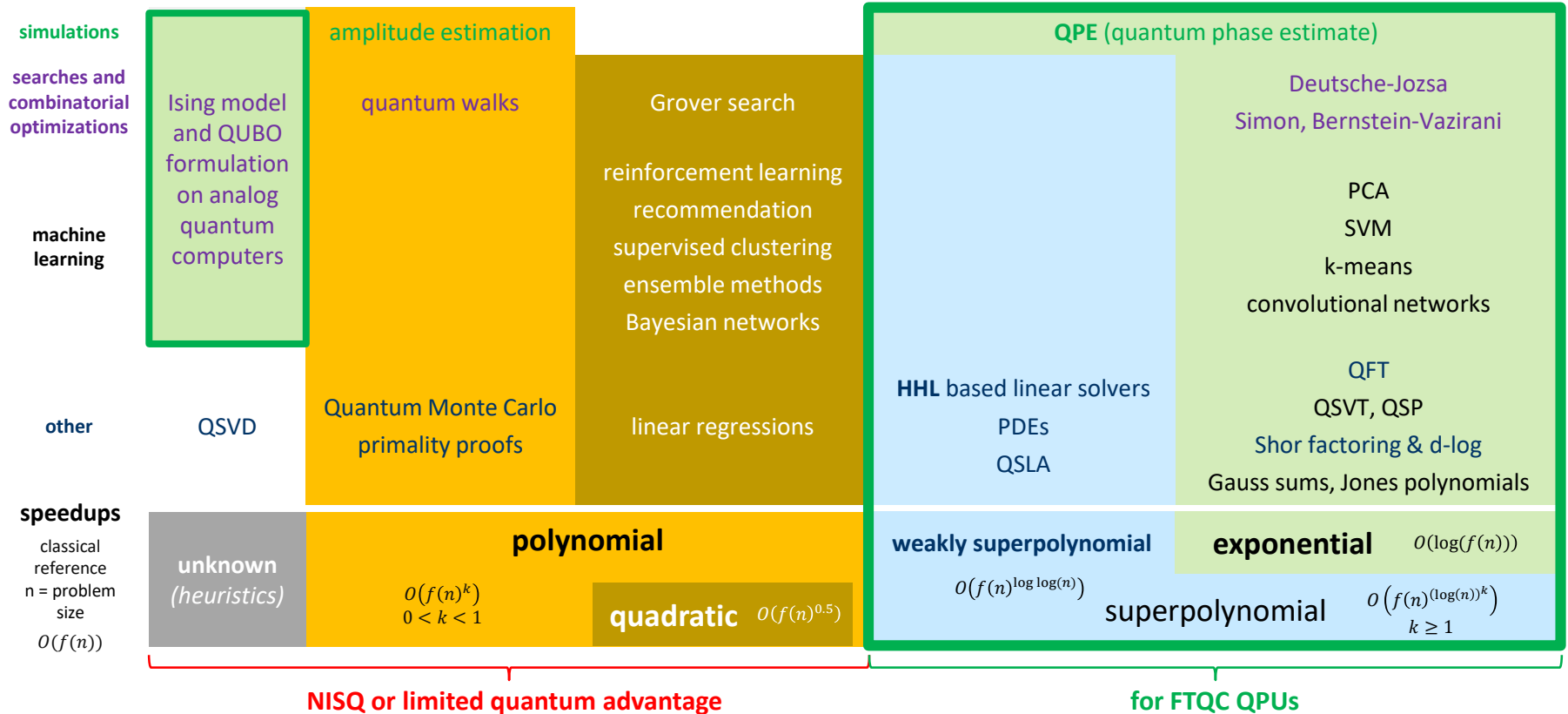


chart source: [On the role of coherence for quantum computational advantage](#) by Hugo Thomas, Pierre-Emmanuel Emeriau, Elham Kashefi, Harold Ollivier, and Ulysse Chabaud, Quandela, LIP6, Inria, University of Edinburgh, arXiv, October 2024 (20 pages).

and...

- **usefulness:** bringing some scientific or business value and genericity.
- **speedup:** practical vs best-in-class classical algorithms on reasonable time scales.
- **quality:** better accuracy or heuristics.
- **data:** not too much data in, not too many samplings out, avoid use of classical oracle.

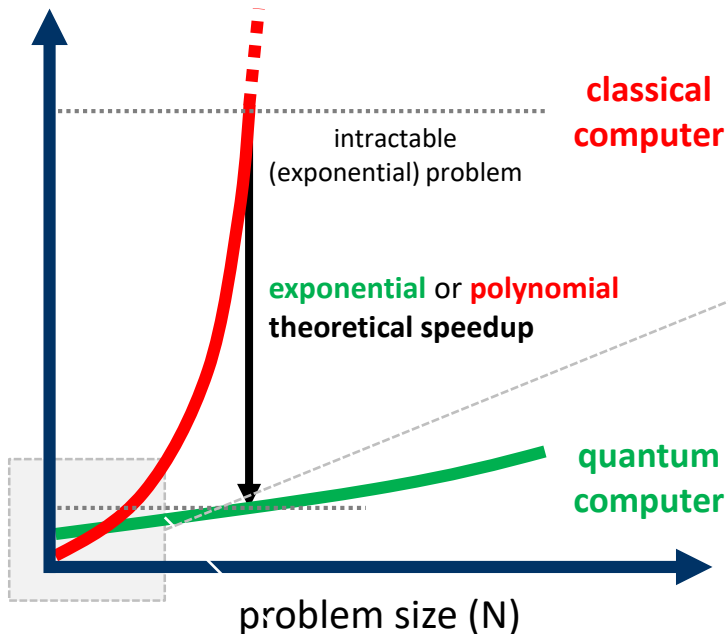
# potential quantum speedups





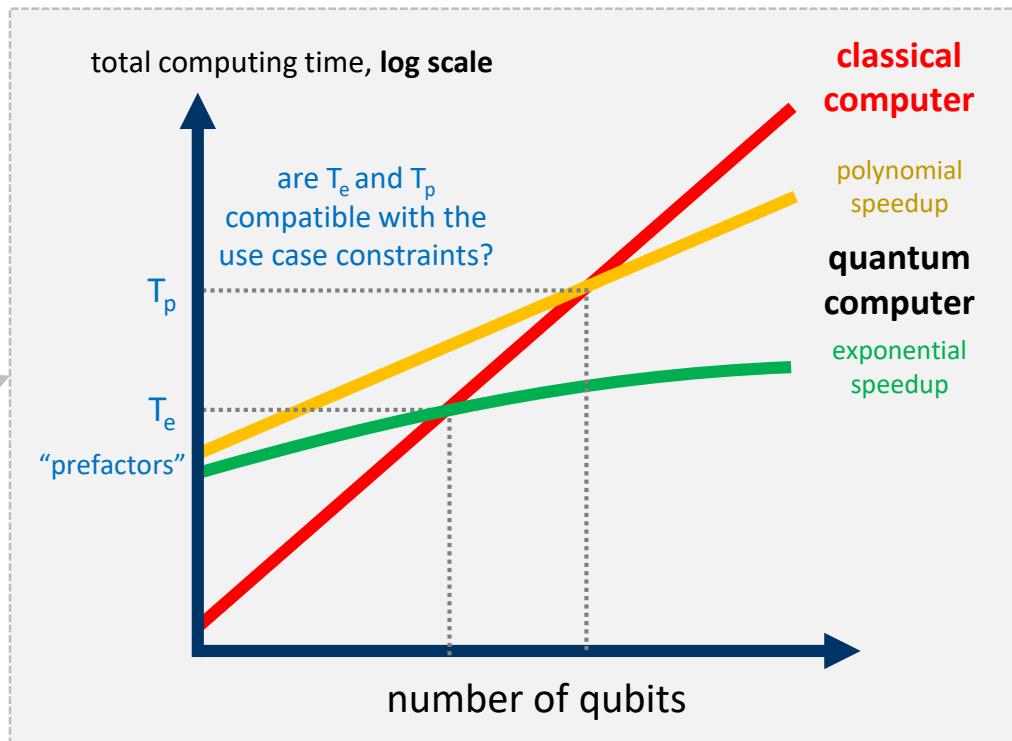
# theoretical vs practical speedup

total computing time, linear scale



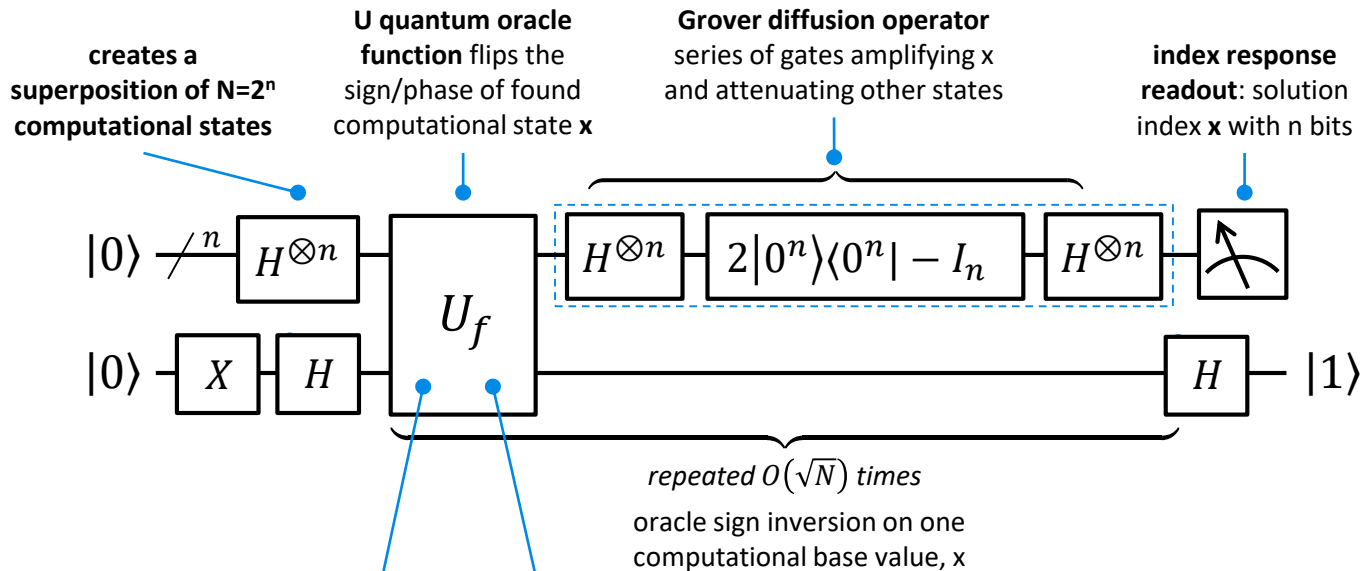
the typical way to illustrate quantum computing theoretical speedsups.

total computing time, log scale



[Opening the Black Box inside Grover's Algorithm](#), E. Miles Stoudenmire and Xavier Waintal, PRX, November 2024.

# how oracle based algorithms work



classical preparation of a quantum circuit

or

qRAM accessing classical data

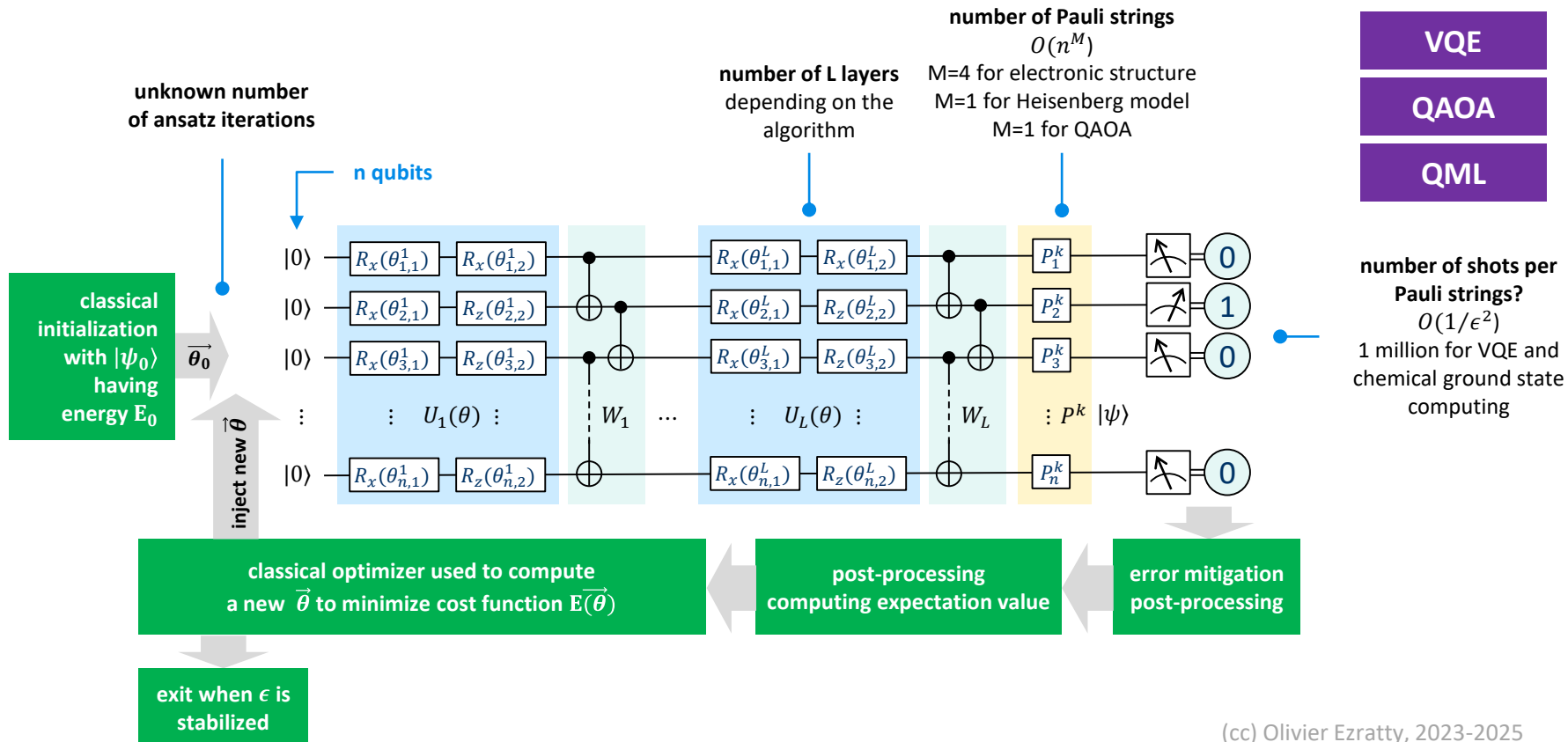
example with the Grover algorithm

Grover

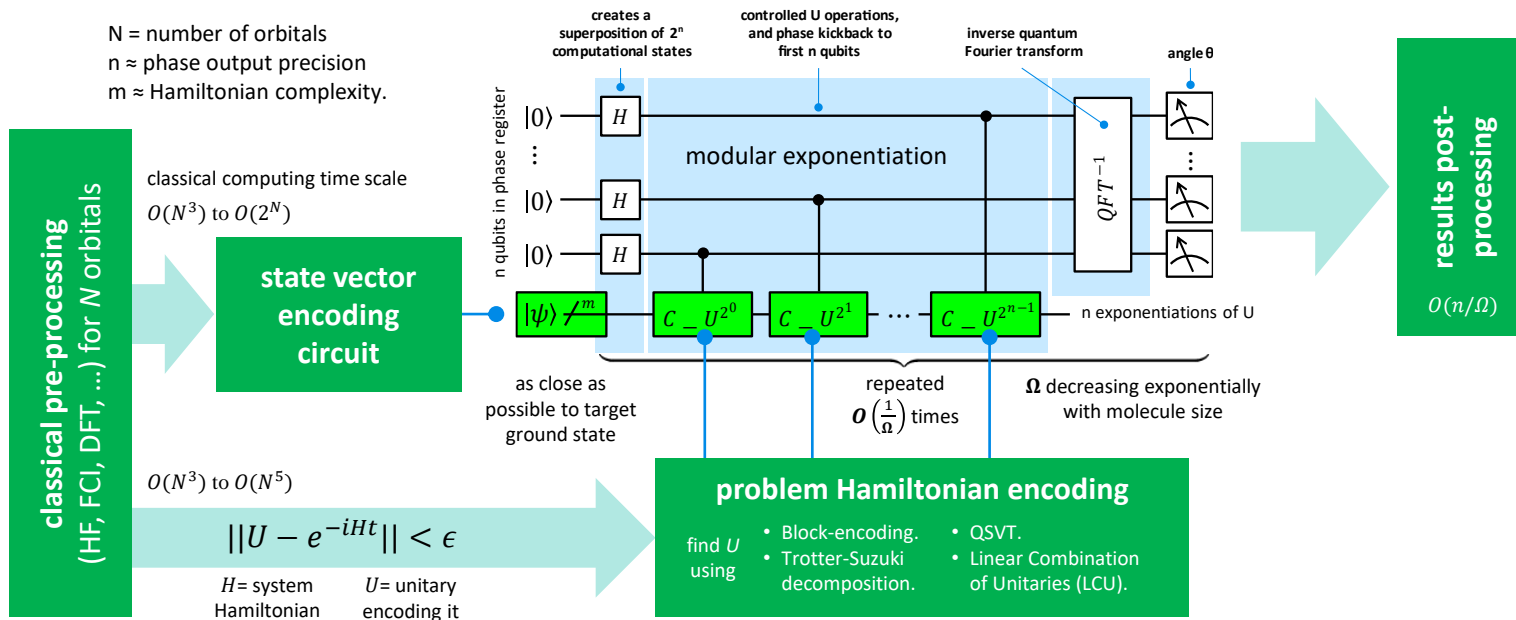
Simon

Bernstein-Vazirani

# how variational algorithms work

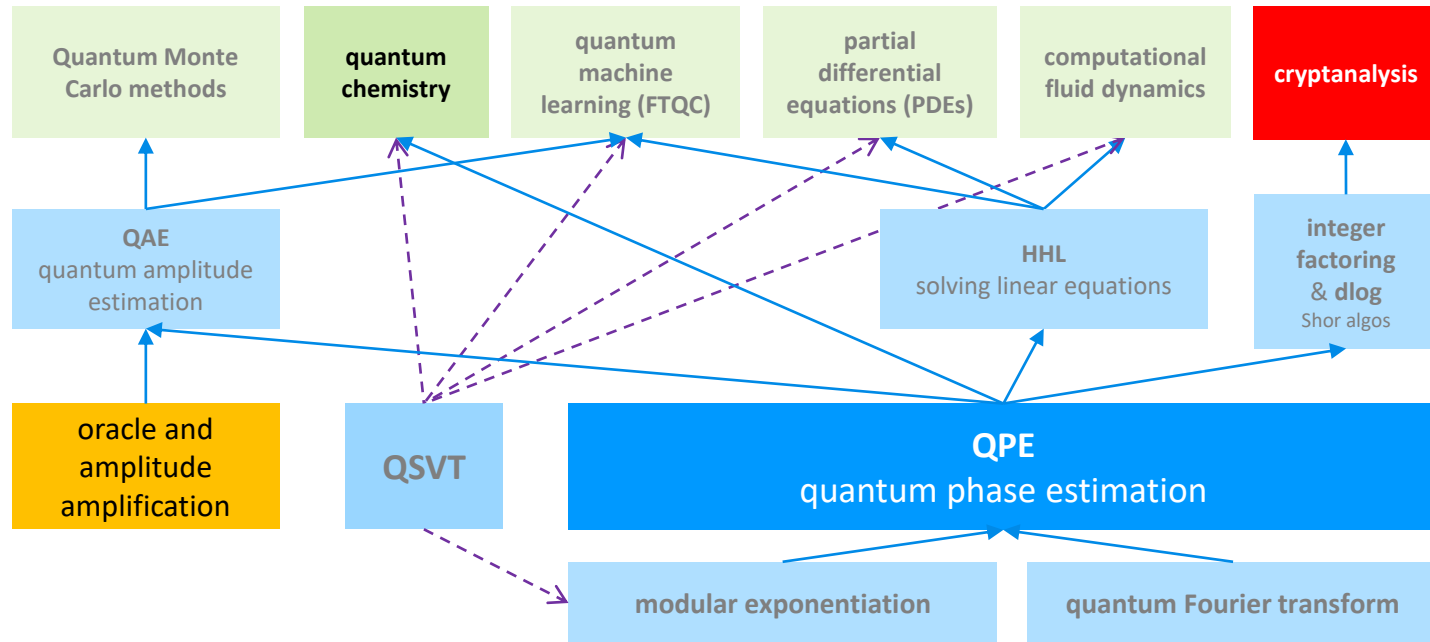


# how Quantum Phase Estimation works



inspired by [Quantum chemistry, classical heuristics, and quantum advantage](#) by Garnet Kin-Lic Chan, arXiv, July 2024 & [On the feasibility of performing quantum chemistry calculations on quantum computers](#) by Thibaud Louvet, Thomas Ayril, and Xavier Waintal, arXiv, June 2023–October 2024.

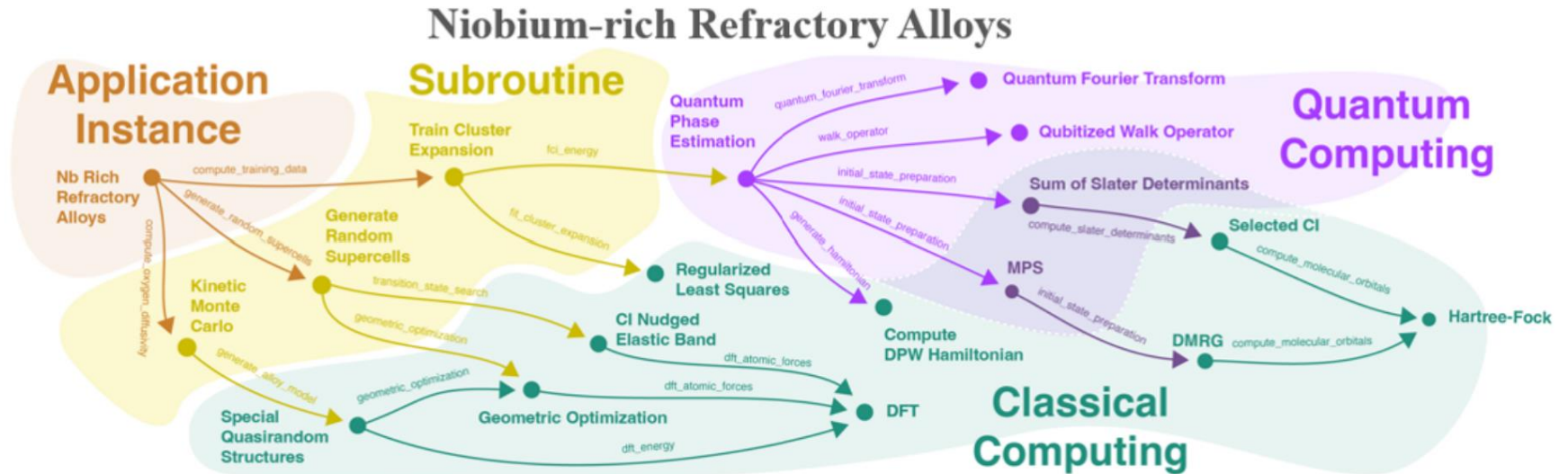
# key FTQC quantum algorithms food chain



[Why Haven't More Quantum Algorithms Been Found?](#) by Peter Shor, 2003 (4 pages).

[Quantum algorithms: A survey of applications and end-to-end complexities](#) by Alexander M. Dalzell, Fernando G. S. L. Brandão et al, AWS, RWTH Aachen University, Imperial College London, Caltech, October 2023 (337 pages).

# hybrid software architecture



this chart describes not an hybrid classical-quantum algorithm but an hybrid classical-quantum whole architecture, to simulate digitally how niobium-rich refractory alloys could reduce corrosion. Source: [Quantum computing for corrosion-resistant materials and anti-corrosive coatings](#) design by Nam Nguyen et al, arXiv, June 2024 (52 pages).

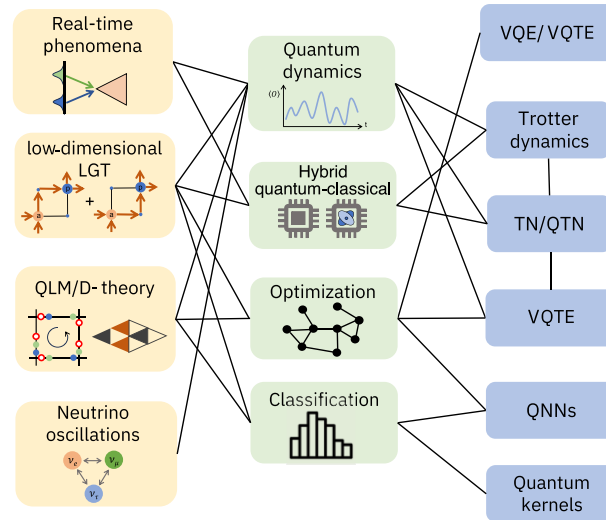
# HEP quantum algorithms

typical problems:

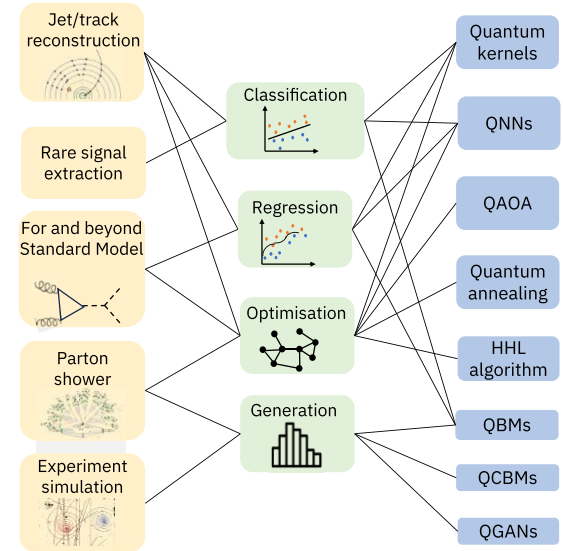
- low-dimensional lattice gauge theory (LGT).
- anomaly detection in collider experiments.
- detector operation algorithms.
- identification and reconstruction algorithms.
- simulation and inference tools.

**mix of analog, NISQ and FTQC algorithms.**

## theoretical physical models



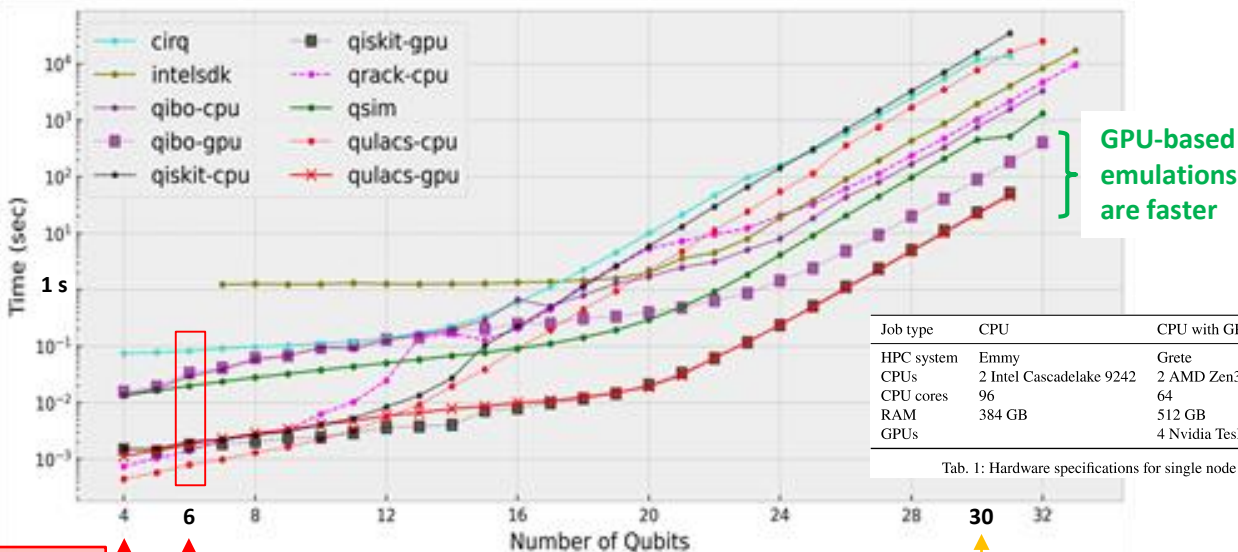
## experimental challenges



[Quantum Computing for High-Energy Physics: State of the Art and Challenges](#) by Alberto Di Meglio et al., PRX Quantum, July 2023-August 2024 (49 pages) focuses on utility-scale NISQ algorithms.

# NISQ cases

log times in seconds  
for simulating a single quantum volume of the given qubit number for tested emulator on a single classical cluster node



GPU-based emulations are faster

QUANTUM ATTENTION FOR VISION TRANSFORMERS IN HIGH ENERGY PHYSICS  
<https://arxiv.org/abs/2411.13520> 11/2024

Quantum algorithms for the simulation of QCD processes in the perturbative regime  
<https://arxiv.org/abs/2412.21177> 12/2024

Application of Quantum Machine Learning in a Higgs Physics Study at the CEPC  
Abdualazem Fadol<sup>1,5</sup>, Qiyu Sha<sup>1,2</sup>, Yaquan Fang<sup>1,2</sup>, Zhan Li<sup>1,2</sup>, Sitian Qian<sup>3</sup>, Yuyang Xiao<sup>3</sup>, Yu Zhang<sup>4</sup>, Chen Zhou<sup>3\*\*</sup>  
<sup>1</sup>Institute of High Energy Physics, 19B Yuquan Road, Shijingshan District, Beijing 100049, China  
<sup>2</sup>University of Chinese Academy of Sciences, 19A Yuquan Road, Shijingshan District, Beijing 100049, China  
<sup>3</sup>State Key Laboratory of Nuclear Physics and Technology, School of Physics, Peking University, 209 Chengfu Road, Haidian District, Beijing 100871, China  
<sup>4</sup>Qijing Normal University, 222 Sanjiang Road, Qilin District, Qijing 655011, Yunnan Province, China  
<sup>5</sup>Spallation Neutron Source Science centre, Dongguan 523803, China  
E-mail: \*czhouphy@pku.edu.cn 5/2024  
<https://www.worldscientific.com/doi/full/10.1142/S0217751X24500076>

Quantum Simulations of Hadron Dynamics in the Schwinger Model using 112 Qubits  
Roland C. Farrell<sup>1,\*</sup>, Marc Illa<sup>2,1,†</sup>, Anthony N. Ciavarella<sup>1,2,3</sup> and Martin J. Savage<sup>1,§</sup>  
<sup>1</sup>InQubator for Quantum Simulation (IQoS), Department of Physics, University of Washington, Seattle, WA 98195, USA  
<sup>2</sup>Physics Division, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, Berkeley, California 94720, USA (Dated: June 12, 2024)  
<https://arxiv.org/abs/2401.08044> 6/2024

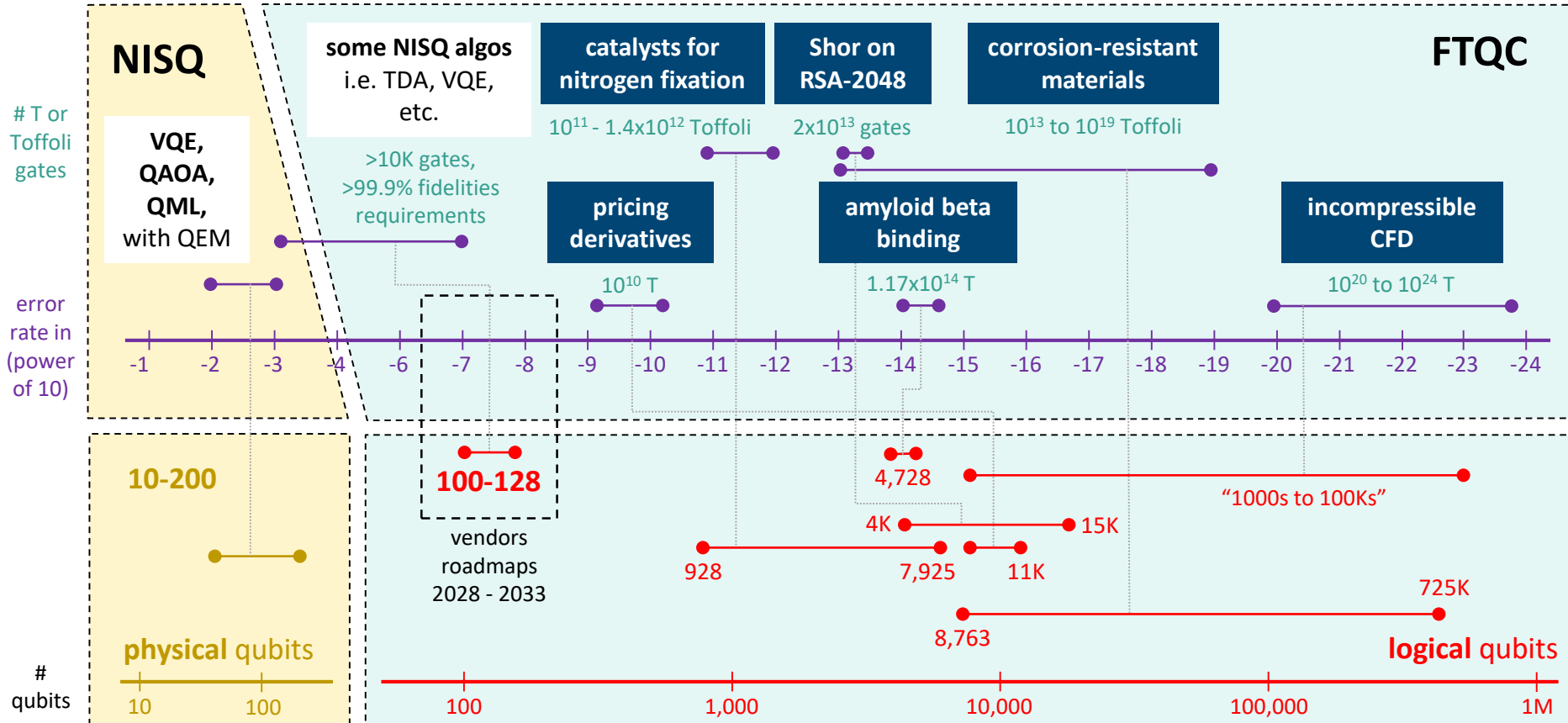
Scalable Quantum Simulations of Scattering in Scalar Field Theory on 120 Qubits  
Nikita A. Zemlevskiy<sup>1\*</sup>  
InQubator for Quantum Simulation (IQoS), Department of Physics, University of Washington, Seattle, WA 98195, USA. (Dated: November 6, 2024)  
<https://www.arxiv.org/abs/2411.02486> 11/2024

A comparison of HPC-based quantum computing simulators using Quantum Volume by Lourens van Niekerk, Christian Boehme et al, arXiv, December 2024.





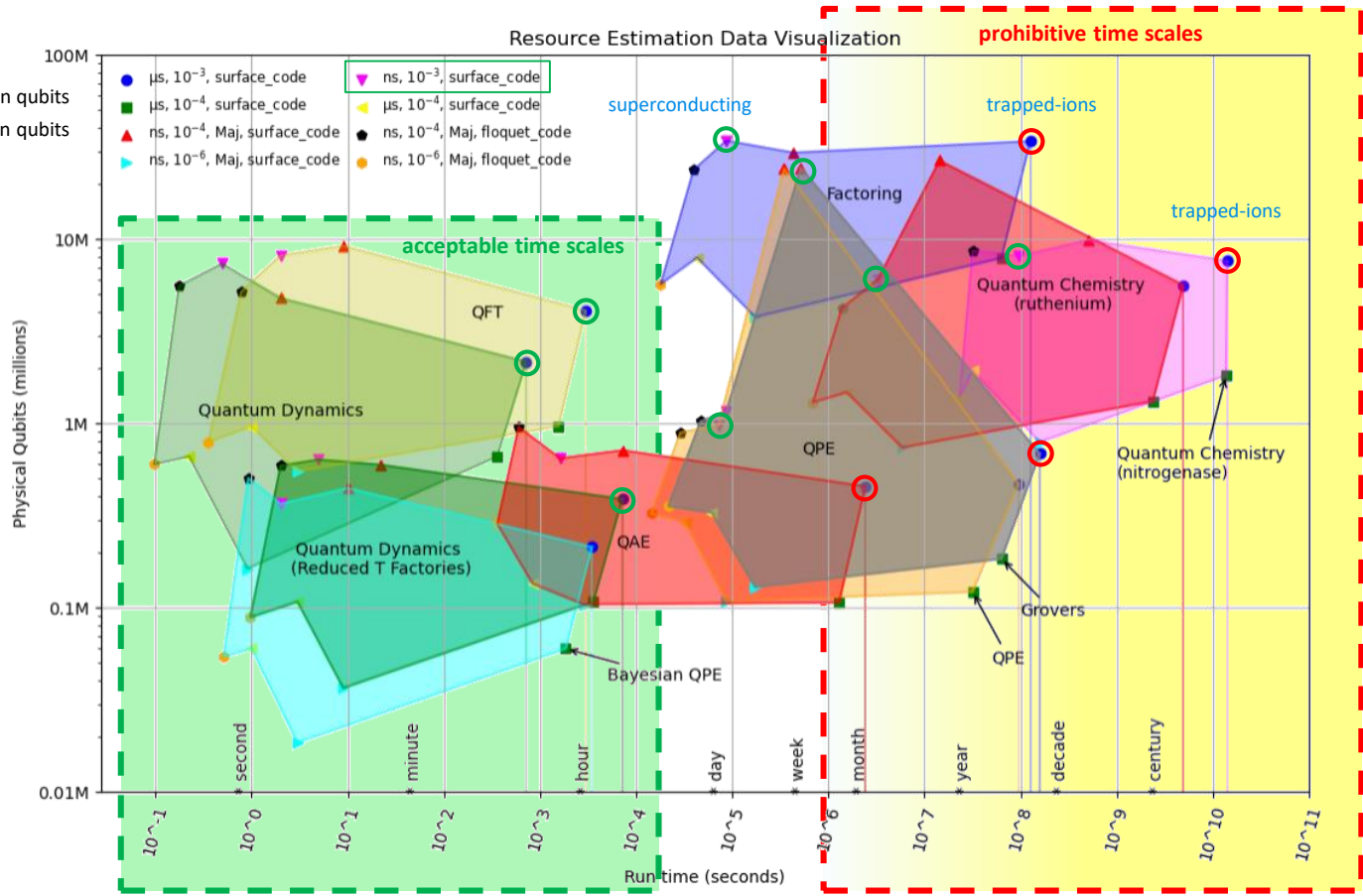
most of these solutions are based on variations of QPE



physical qubits and logical qubits are on a similar log scale. What determines the characteristics of logical qubits like the physical per logical qubit count is their target error rate itself dependent on the number of algorithms gates.

### Resource Estimation Data Visualization

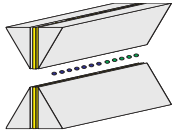
**μs gate times:** trapped ion qubits  
**ns gate times:** superconducting and silicon qubits



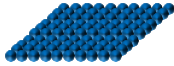
several scenarios are used with different physical qubit error rates and gate times. The realistic ones are with 99.9% fidelities and  $\mu$ s readout cycle times.

# QPUs vendors per qubit type

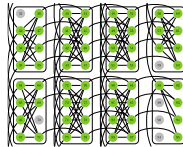
## atoms



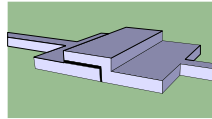
trapped ions



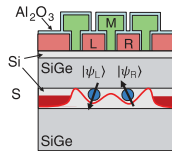
cold atoms



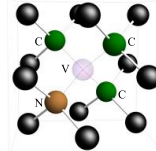
annealing



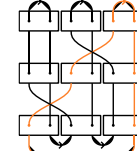
superconducting



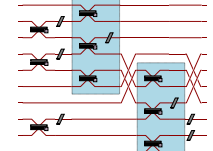
silicon



vacancies



topological



photons



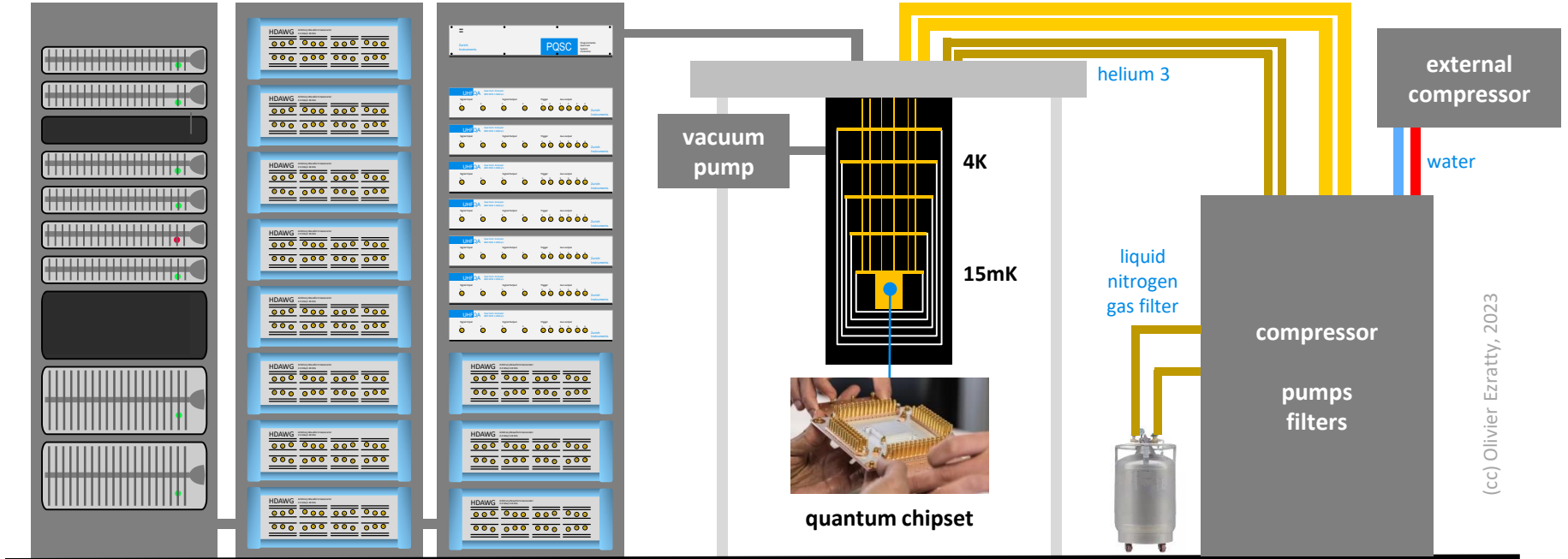
# inside a typical quantum computer

**computing**  
servers, network,  
software, data

**qubits control electronics**  
microwave generators, readout  
systems and various electronics

« chandelier » in cryostat  
where quantum stuff happens!

**cryogenic installation**  
helium 3 & 4  
gas pumps and compressor

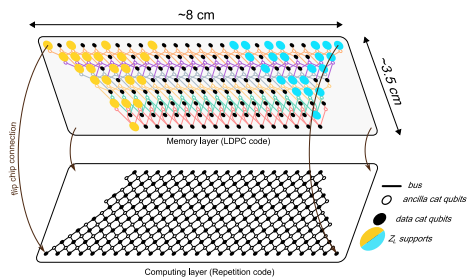


for superconducting or electron spin qubits

(cc) Olivier Ezratty, 2023

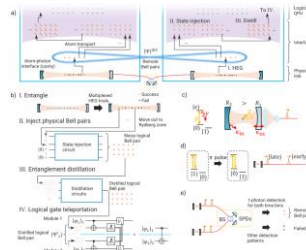


# original QPU ideas



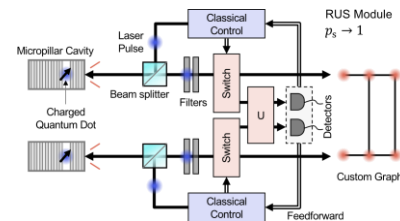
## bosonic qubits

engineered dissipation at qubit level, lower QEC overhead than transmons, could reach 100 logical qubits without interconnect.



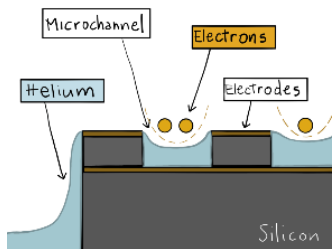
## cold atoms and nanofiber connectivity

scaling cold atoms through photonic interconnectivity and routing.



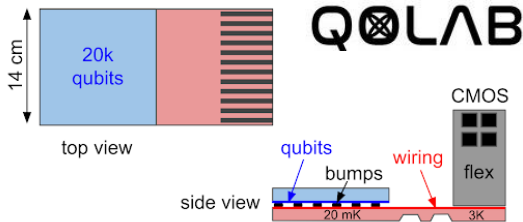
## deterministic photonic cluster states

for scaling with FBQC.



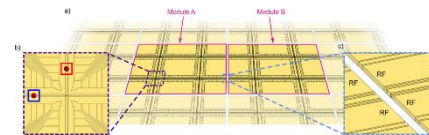
## electron spin on superfluid helium

better isolation.



## CPW wafer for cryoelectronics control

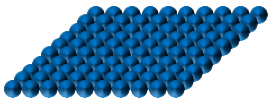
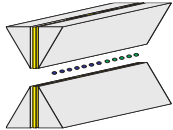
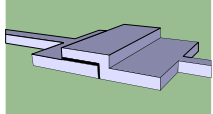
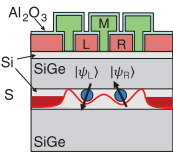
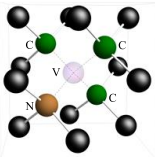
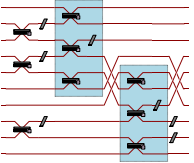
scaling cabling, optimizing connectivity.



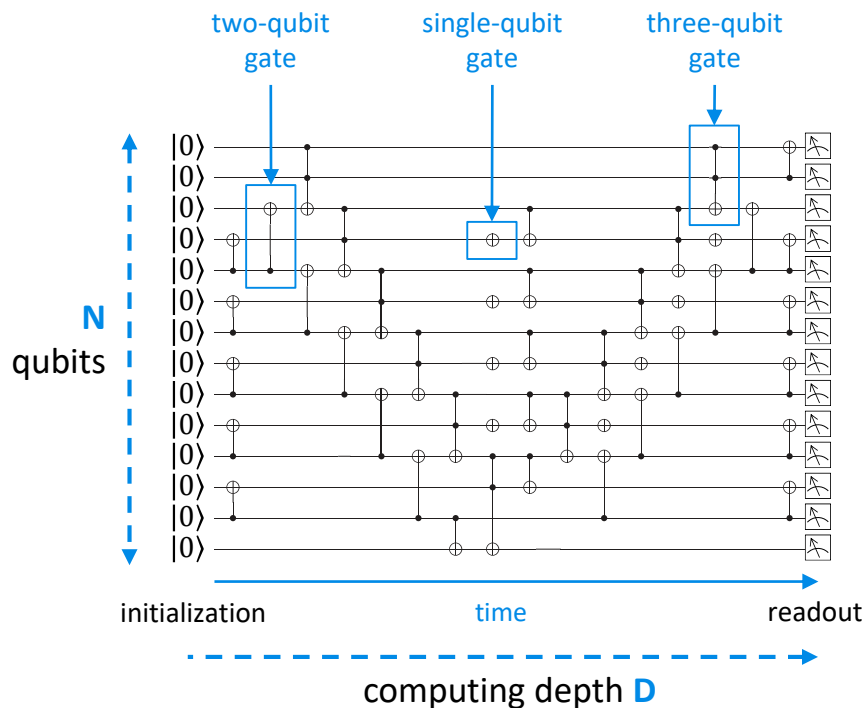
## tiled ion traps & microwave drive

better scaling, excellent ions shuttling fidelities.

# rough qubit modalities comparison

	atoms		electrons <i>controlled spin and microwave cavities</i>			photons
						
	cold atoms	trapped ions	superconducting	silicon	NV centers	photons
operations fidelities	Yellow	Green	Yellow	Orange	Orange	Yellow
gate times	with no shuttling Yellow	Orange	Green	Green	Yellow	Green
qubit connectivity	with shuttling Orange	Green	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow
cooling needed	4K	4K	15 mK	≈500 mK	TBD	1.8 to 4K
qubit size	Yellow	Yellow	Orange	Green	Yellow	Yellow
scalability	Green	with tiled chips Yellow	Yellow	Green	Red	Yellow

# raw algorithm fidelities requirements



$$\text{desired error rate} < \frac{1}{N \times D}$$

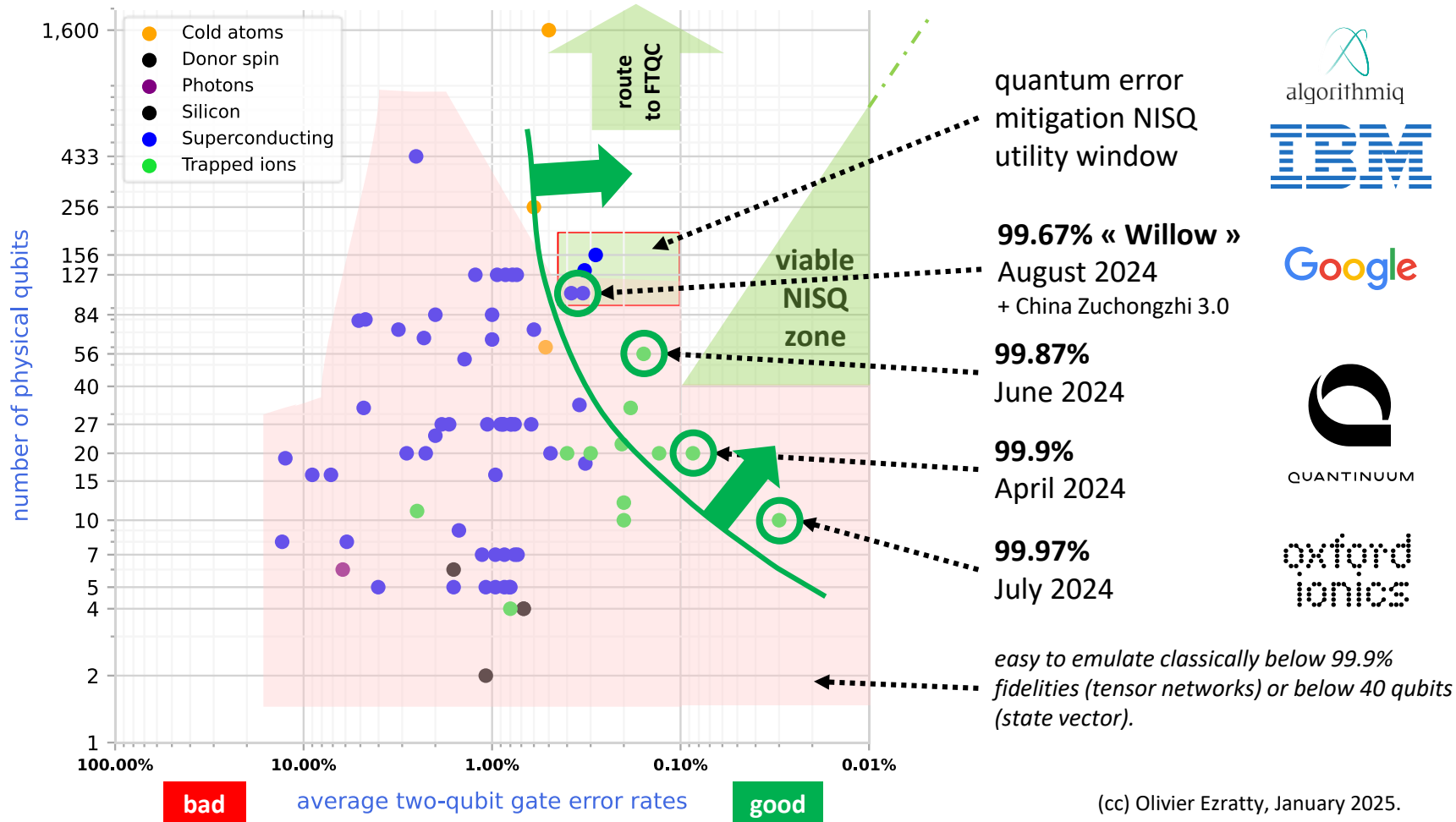
N qubits	D depth	required error rate (%)	required fidelity (%)	available fidelity (%)
50	100	0.02000%	99.98%	<b>99.30%</b>
133	300	0.00251%	99.9975%	<b>99.6%</b>
433	1000	0.00023%	99.9998%	<b>98%</b>
1121	2000	0.00004%	99.99996%	N/A

**qubit operations accumulated errors quickly kills algorithms accuracy**

**possible solutions:**

- use shallow circuits on a few qubits (NISQ).
- quantum error mitigation (NISQ).
- quantum error correction (FTQC).





(cc) Olivier Ezratty, January 2025.

# logical qubits and FTQC

## physical qubit

error rates  $\approx 0.1\%$

+

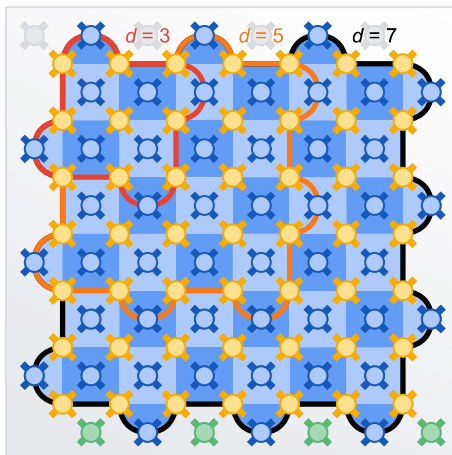
## error correction code

threshold, physical qubits overhead, connectivity requirements, syndrome decoding and scale



## logical qubits

error rate  $\approx 10^{-4}$  to  $\approx 10^{-18}$



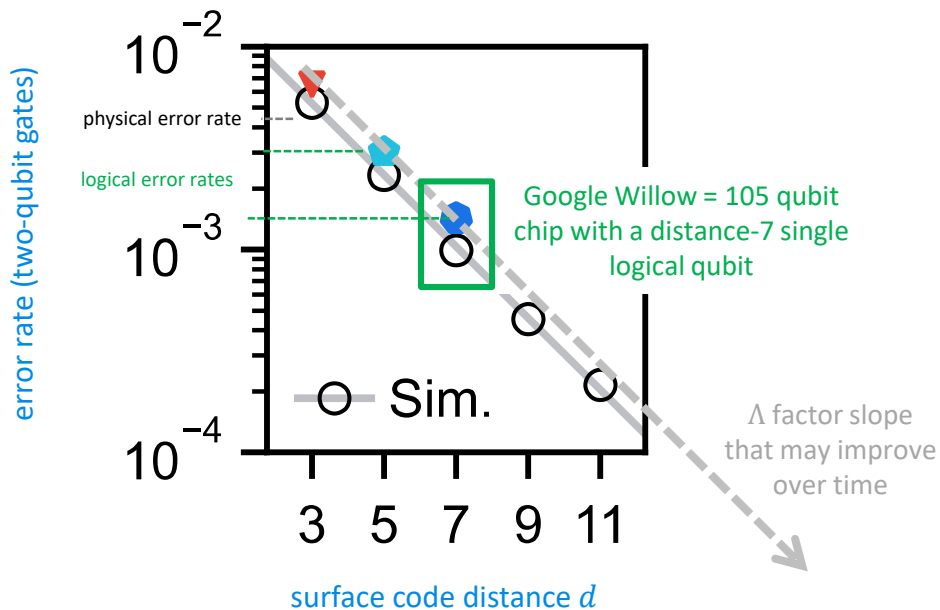
tens to thousands physical qubits per logical qubits



## fault tolerance

- avoid error propagation and amplification.
- implement a universal gate set.
- fault-tolerant results readout.

# beyond the first breakeven logical qubits



number  $n_q$  of physical qubits per logical qubit

$$n_q = 2d^2 - 1$$

$10^{-6}$  logical error rates would require 1,457 physical qubits per logical qubits and a distance-27 surface code with existing qubit fidelities.

+

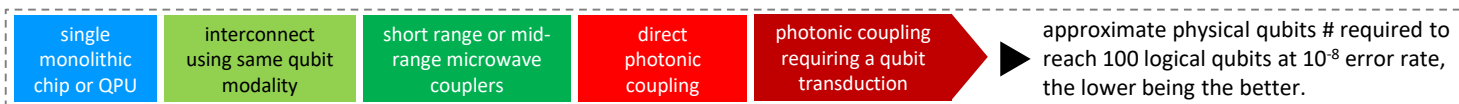
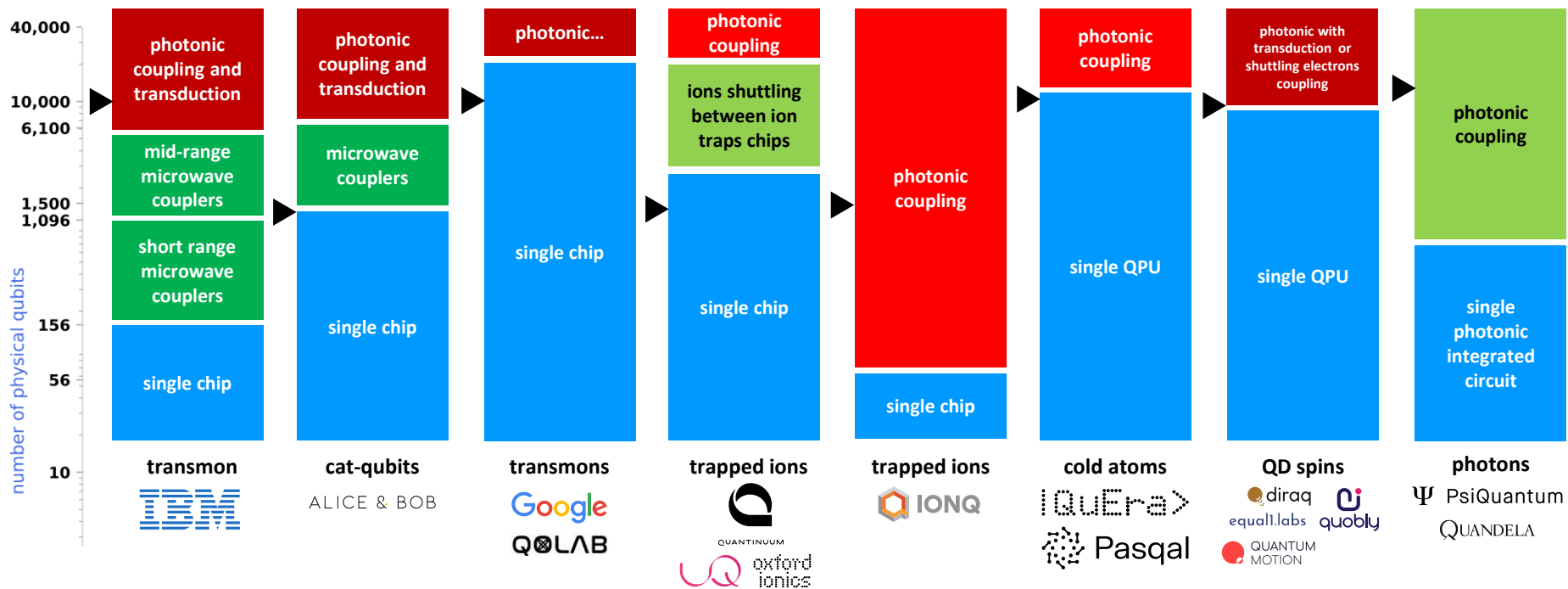
plan for 10K qubits chips



QPU interconnect

[Quantum error correction below the surface code threshold](#) by Rajeev Acharya, Frank Arute, Michel Devoret, Edward Farhi, Craig Gidney, William D. Oliver, Pedram Roushan et al, Google, arXiv, August 2024.

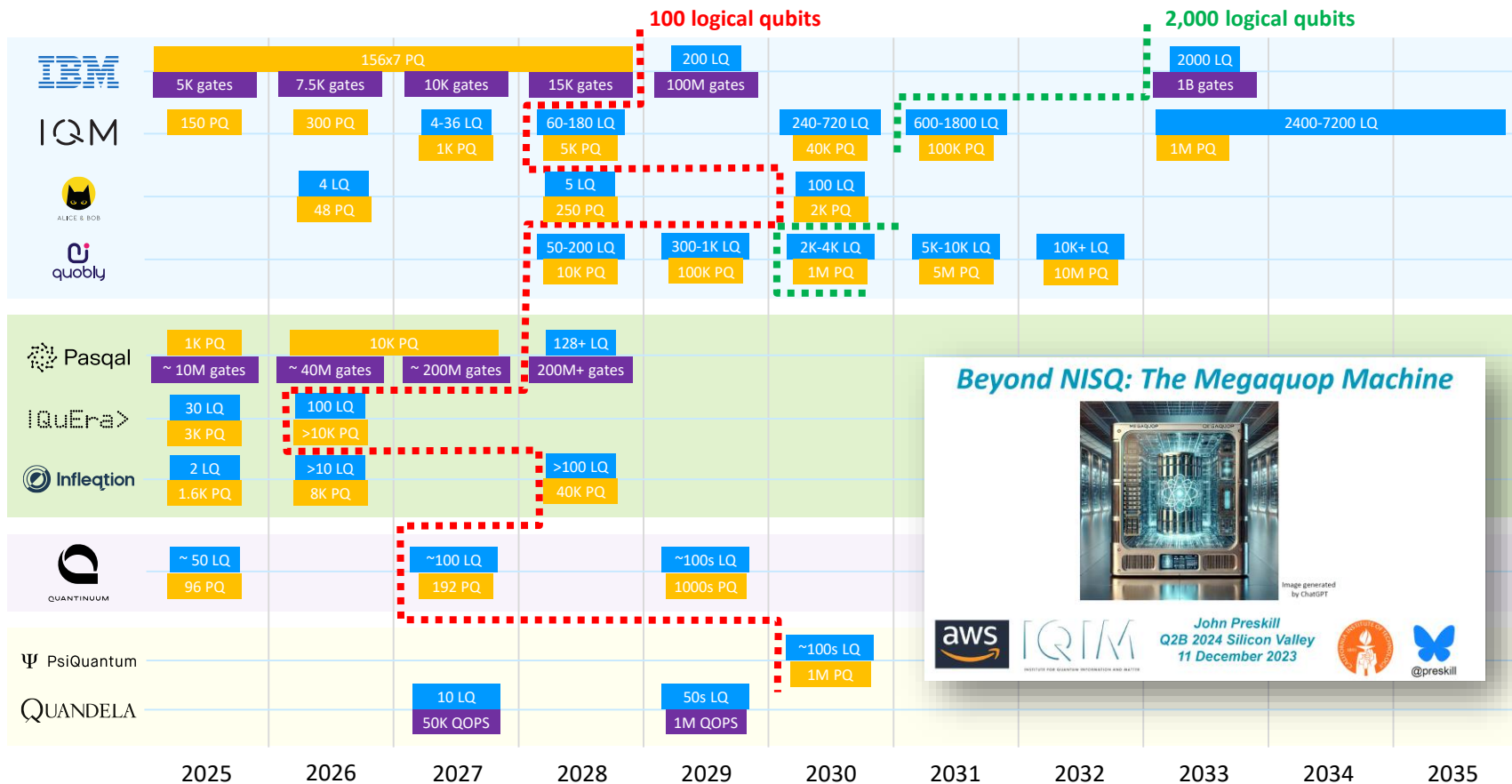
# multiple QPUs interconnect options



[Understanding Quantum Technologies](#)  
by Olivier Ezratty, as of November 2024.

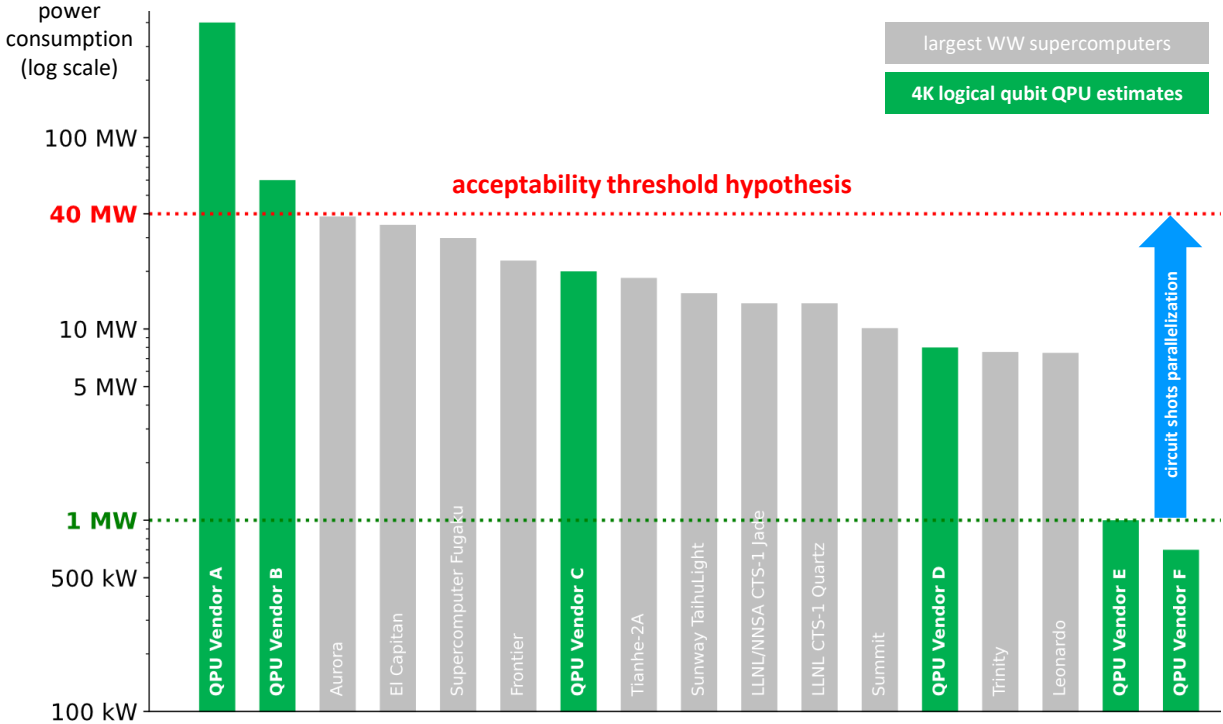
# QPUs roadmaps consolidation

logical qubits  
physical qubits  
gates / QOPS



(cc) Olivier Ezratty, December 2024.

# QPU vs HPC power scale guesstimates



estimate base power for various QPUs and actual for existing largest HPCs WW.  
 HPC source: <https://www.top500.org/lists/top500/2024/06/>.

