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Nikhef Jamboree 2020

# Quantum Computing both ready and not ready for us all at the very same time

David Groep Physics Data Processing NEWS QUANTUM PHYSICS

# Google officially lays claim to quantum supremacy

A quantum computer reportedly beat the most power type of calculation



Google researchers report that their quantum computer, Sycamore, has performed a calculation that c chip (shown) must be cooled to near absolute zero to function.

F. ARUTE ET AL/NATURE 2019

NEWS QUANTUM PHYSICS

### The new light-based quantum computer Jiuzhang has achieved quantum supremacy

A second type of quantum device performed a calculation impossible for a traditional computer



The quantum computer Jiuzhang works by sending particles of light (illustrated in red) into a network of channels and then measuring the photons at the other end. YIHAN LUO

#### Screen captures: sciencenews.org

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## What's in it ... for the machine ...



 $|\psi\rangle = \alpha |0\rangle + \beta |1\rangle$ 

 $|\alpha|^2 + |\beta|^2 = 1$ and a rotation over  $\pi$ is immaterial

### a classical bit can be either 0 or 1 typical implementation: a charge in a MOS capacitor

a 'qubit' does have two basis states |0> typically a ground state and also |1> (maybe higher-energy) state typical implementations: Josephson junction, spin, photon polarization, a hole, ...



and you can manipulate a qubit through unitary transformation of its state ('gates') although in fact there are only 2 free parameters

image E<sub>1</sub>: Anton Frisk Kockum & Franco Nor



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## Things to do with a qubit when you're bored

## you can make it a superposition



### you can entangle it



## you can interfere with it

Image credits Bloch sphere: https://prateekvjoshi.com/ Quantum Computing - both there and not there for us at the same time gates: wikipedia.org



## More fun with more qubits ... and a bunch of gates



## 'a general purpose Quantum Computer feels a bit like programming an FPGA ... that has a bad hair day'

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images: https://qiskit.org/textbook/ch-algorithms/grover.htm

## What's in it ... for us?

#### Published: 19 October 2017

# Solving a Higgs optimization problem with quantum annealing for machine learning

Alex Mott, Joshua Job, Jean-Roch Vlimant, Daniel Lidar & Maria Spiropulu 🖂

 Nature
 550, 375–379(2017)
 Cite this article

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### Abstract

The discovery of Higgs-boson decays in a background of standard-model processes was assisted by machine learning methods<sup>1,2</sup>. The classifiers used to separate signals such as these from background are trained using highly unerring but not completely perfect simulations of the physical processes involved, often resulting in incorrect labelling of background processes or signals (label noise) and systematic errors. Here we use



## 'an annealing Quantum Computer can do one thing (minimization) well, with *lots* of qubits, but is more like an ASIC ...'

so can we also scale a general purpose QC like IBM's to our problem sizes?

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## What's in it ... for us



now if we could only obtain quantum supremacy ... ... to make sense of this, for example

### 'just a few steps to take?'

- work on potential algorithms
- it's a minimization challenge with many inputs
  - ... but you need a lot of qubits
- and a way to boost the desired result, and suppress fake news
- quantify its efficiency in finding the right tracks

and it would be jolly nice if

- our quantum computer did not suffer from amnesia all the time
- not suffer that many errors

**so:** don't hold your breath, it may take quite a while yet!



# So now, be both convinced and confused ... ... at the same time

### David Groep

go and watch the CERN QC lecture series by Elías F. Combarro at https://indico.cern.ch/event/970903/

Nik hef

## Nature always interferes slightly with our desires ...



create superposition  $\frac{|0\rangle+|1\rangle}{\sqrt{2}}$  ("H") and have it control a  $|0\rangle$  qubit

what you expect:

(and what the simulator gives)

### what you really get is:



### example gate: a "controlled NOT"



rotates  $|y\rangle$  over  $\pi$ around x-axis if  $|x\rangle = |1\rangle$ 





result graphics from: Elías F. Combarro, CERN QC lecture #3, https://indico.cern.ch/event/970903



Image source: https://www.sciencenews.org/article/new-light-based-quantum-computer-jiuzhang-supremacy



