



Chapter 7

Unraveling the Quantum Computing Frontier: Advancements, Challenges, and Future Prospects

D. Ravindran

 <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-1672-9552>
Kristu Jayanti College, India

S. Revathi

 <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-4131-0497>
SRM Institute of Science and Technology, India

V. Sowndharya

*Sathyabama Institute of Science and Technology,
India*


I. Farzhana

*Vel Tech Rangarajan Dr. Sagunthala R&D
Institute of Science and Technology, India*


V. Sathya

*Vel Tech Rangarajan Dr. Sagunthala R&D
Institute of Science and Technology, India*

P. Girija

 <https://orcid.org/0009-0000-1691-8180>
*Vel Tech Rangarajan Dr. Sagunthala R&D
Institute of Science and Technology, India*

Siva Subramanian

 <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-7509-9223>
*R.M.K. College of Engineering and Technology,
India*

ABSTRACT

Quantum computing, based on the theory of quantum mechanics, revolutionizes information processing with amazing computational power. This article addresses quantum computing and discusses its current and future advances. First, it defines quantum computing and explains qubits, quantum entanglement, and quantum gates. Next, it discusses the recent decade's technical advances in qubits, quantum supremacy, and key experiments. It also examines quantum algorithm's applications in cryptography, drug and gene discovery, material design, optimisation, and ML to demonstrate its potential to advance development. However, practical quantum computing confronts significant error rates, scalability limitations, and ethical concerns. This study examines these challenges and their solutions and preventives. It predicts quantum computing technology's growth, impact on many industries, and societal effects. This study seeks to improve knowledge of quantum computing and understanding quantum computing's limitations and prospects may improve it and create a new information processing method.

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1. INTRODUCTION:

1.1 Definition of Quantum Computing:

Quantum computing is a relatively novel discipline in computing that uses concepts from quantum mechanics in order to perform calculations in a manner that is fundamentally distinct from conventional computing. Quantum computing is based on quantum bits or qubits which are different from classical bits as they can exist in more than one state at the same time due to superposition. Additionally, the qubits also offer the feature of entanglement, a phenomenon where the state of a certain qubit is interdependent with the state of the other, even if they maybe physically separated by quite an extensive amount of space(Horowitz, M., & Grumbling, E. 2019). These quantum characteristics allow for quantum computation of calculations and processing information that cannot be accomplished through existing methods by classical computers.

1.2 Importance and Potential Impact:

It is quite significant to draw the potential of quantum computing since it is capable of changing various fields through offering massive computational power for efficient solution of hit hard problems. One of the most popular areas of application, for instance, is the field of cryptography(Kumar, A., & Garhwal, S. 2021). Techniques such as RSA, which is being used in present day digital security, can be easily cracked by code breaking mechanisms like Shor's algorithm. This is quite important for security of information, mainly because new methods of encryption which would be inapplicable in the quantum world need to be created to protect classified information in the age of quantum computers. Not only cryptography sectors, but quantum computing also stands ready to revolutionize drug discovery and material science. The phenomenon occurring at the molecular and atomic level is very complex, which makes it very difficult for classical computer to capture and model them well. Solutions to these issues, however, can be easily produced by quantum computers, allowing for the faster development of new drugs and the development of materials with higher performance characteristics. This capability can thus speed up the development of pharmaceuticals, chemicals, and material sciences that enhance the quality of health care, technology, and manufacturing industries to mention but a few. Quantum computing could benefit in optimization issues, which are common in industries like logistics, finances and energy production. The conventional methods for optimization are often slow and impractical in handling data and intermediate and final variables. Such computation procedures as the Quantum Search Algorithm or the Quantum Approximate Optimization Algorithm (QAOA) can address these tasks with superior precision and in drastically less time than classic approaches. Thus it can be seen that this efficiency can lead to tangible benefits such as cost saving and better decision making across all sectors. Furthermore, quantum computing is extremely useful in improving the depth of machine learning. Quantum machine learning algorithms take advantage of the parallelism, which is inherent in the quantum calculations and hypothesize patterns that traditional machine learning algorithms cannot within negligible time. This capability will contribute to the advancement in development of artificial intelligence by improving the kind of models and related applications within such fields as; predictive analysis, natural language processing, and automation.

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