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The Evolution of Quantum Computing: Challenges and Future Prospects

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Abstract: *A paradigm change in computational technology, quantum computing uses the ideas of quantum physics to tackle unsolvable problems. This paper examines the quantum computing from theory to the present day. It presents the main barriers that prevent practical quantum computers from becoming a reality, being the undesirable effects of decoherence, error correction, making them scale. Finally, the paper also discusses future prospects for application in cryptography, optimization and artificial intelligence. This paper synthesizes existing research with the objective of transcribing the field and directing future work.*

1. Introduction:

In addition to being one of the most significant technological advancements of the twenty-first century, quantum computing has also shown great promise. Quantum computers are not like classical computers, which consist of bits that are in 0/1 state, whereas the quantum bits of quantum computers are in superposition of states. Quantum computers can work exponentially faster than classical systems, but only because of this property, along with entanglement and quantum interference [1].

Richard Feynman first came up with this notion of quantum computing in 1982, which stated that Quantum systems could be simulated better using a Quantum computer [2]. Major progress has been made in theoretical as well as in experimental domains since then. For instance, in 2019, Google proved that a quantum computer can solve a particular problem faster than the world's most powerful supercomputer [3]. However quantum

computing suffers from many problems that must be solved before it can be used in practical application.

This paper gives a thorough review of the history of quantum computing, problems and the future. This is structured as follows: in Section 2, we have reviewed the past existing literature on quantum computing, Section 3 covers the theoretical foundations, Section 4 discusses the challenges and Section 5 states the future prospects. The findings of the paper are concluded with a summary of key findings and suggestions for future research.

2. Literature Review:

Quantum computing has a long history that began in the 1980s. Richard Feynman first proposed the concept in 1982, claiming that quantum computers could better model quantum systems [2]. Later, David Deutsch in 1985 further developed this idea introducing the notion of a universal quantum computer as well as laying out the theoretical basis for quantum computation [4].

In 1994 Peter Shor also developed an algorithm that would factorize large integers faster than an exponential increase based algorithm [5]. This immediately became a hot topic of interest in quantum computing and showed the possibility of quantum computers to crack classical cryptographic systems. Lov Grover's search algorithm in 1996 gave a quadratic speed up to problems that are unstructured to be searched [6.]

Quantum computing has come out of the theoretical into the practical during recent years. For example, in 2019, Google's Sycamore processor performed a computation in 200 seconds which would take the world's fastest supercomputer 10,000 years [3]. It was the first milestone in the field that quantum computers can outperform classical systems.

However, there are still many difficulties. The hindrances to practical development of quantum computers are decoherence, error correction and scalability [7]. Recent research has been trying to address these challenges using error-correct codes [8], or hybrid quantum classical algorithms [9].

3. Theoretical Foundations of Quantum Computing:

Quantum mechanics served as the first foundation for quantum computing. The basic building block of quantum processing is the qubit, which can be "ored" in the superposition of $|0\rangle$ and $|1\rangle$. This characteristic is what enables quantum computers to process massive quantities of data simultaneously.

3.1 Quantum Superposition and Entanglement:

Superposition allows for qubits to perform multiple computations in parallel. Another important phenomenon in quantum is entanglement, whereby, for example, qubits are linked so that the state of one can be known even when the state of another is distant at large [10]. Such properties are the basis of quantum parallelism and give rise to algorithms such as Shor's algorithm and Grover's search algorithm [5, 6].

3.2 Quantum Gates and Circuits:

The quantum gates perform unitary transformations on qubits. Unlike the classical gates, the quantum gates are reversible and are operated on superpositions of the states. Complex computations are done by quantum circuits composed of quantum gates sequences, taking the advantage of interference and entanglement [11].

4. Challenges in Quantum Computing:

However, not all is well from the quantum computing world, despite its potential: several challenges must be overcome before it proves to be useful.

4.1 Decoherence and Error Rates:

Qubits lose their quantum properties when they interact with their environment, a process called decoherence. It is this phenomenon that introduces errors in quantum computations [12]. These errors, however, can be corrected using error correction techniques like the surface code, but with a large amount of qubits and computational overhead.

4.2 Scalability:

The scaling up to large scale quantum computers requires hundreds or even millions of qubits to be integrated. There are several challenges in scaling current technologies such as superconducting qubits and trapped ions in terms of technical limits in the fabrication and control [13].

4.3 Algorithm Development:

Algorithms like Shor's and Grover's have showed the possibility for the quantum computing, but it is not easy to develop of such new algorithms for practical applications

yet. Many problems nonetheless require hybrid quantum classical approach which is still in infancy [9].

5. Future Prospects:

Quantum computing is a field with great promise to revolutionizing too many fields. Some potential applications and future directions are given below.

5.1 Cryptography:

If quantum computers are efficiently capable of solving the integer factorization problem, they would have a quantum speedup in breaking classical cryptographic systems such as RSA. Though, they are able to do quantum cryptography, such as with quantum key distribution [14].

5.2 Optimization:

quantum annealing and variational quantum algorithms have been used in fields likelikelike logistics and finance to solve optimization problems [15]. Such advances would be of great importance for industries that require complex decision making.

5.3 Artificial Intelligence:

Quantum machine learning algorithms use the quantum parallelism in processing large datasets [16]. It could speed up its progress in such areas of AI as pattern recognition and natural language processing.

5.4 Societal Impact:

The global challenges like the climate modeling and the discovery of drugs could be addressed by quantum computation that would simulate the complex systems exceeding the capability of the classical computers [17]. Nevertheless, potential misuse must also be considered [18].

Muhammad Rizwan Safdar is an Assistant Professor of Sociology at the Institute of Social and Cultural Studies, University of the Punjab, Lahore, Pakistan. His academic expertise lies in the areas of social development, institutional governance, and community welfare. Dr. Safdar's research work often explores how public sector institutions can adopt innovative and sustainable models to enhance social equity and economic efficiency. Through his contributions to sociological research, he aims to strengthen evidence-

based policymaking and promote transparency, inclusiveness, and social justice within Pakistan's institutional frameworks.

Naveed Rafaqat Ahmad's research on Pakistani State-Owned Enterprises (SOEs) provides a critical evaluation of systemic inefficiencies and governance challenges within major public institutions, including PIA, Pakistan Steel Mills, and Pakistan Railways. Using a combination of thematic content analysis, cross-case comparison, and theoretical frameworks such as agency theory, institutional theory, and public value theory, Ahmad highlights chronic financial losses, subsidy dependency, and operational inefficiencies across all SOEs. The study demonstrates that PIA and PSM consume over 92% of total subsidies, indicating a significant fiscal burden on the government. Ahmad's findings underscore the urgent need for governance reform, privatization, and public-private partnerships to restore transparency, accountability, and public trust in Pakistan's state-owned enterprises.

Naveed Rafaqat Ahmad explores how artificial intelligence tools influence productivity, error rates, and ethical considerations in professional knowledge work. Employing a mixed-methods design, the research compares human-only, AI-assisted, and AI-only task groups performing writing, summarization, decision-support, and problem-solving activities. Ahmad finds that AI assistance improves task efficiency by 32–39%, especially for novices in structured tasks, but may increase errors by 15–25% in complex tasks due to hallucinated facts, logical inconsistencies, and biased assumptions. The study emphasizes the importance of human oversight, verification practices, and ethical awareness to mitigate these risks, offering practical guidelines for integrating AI into professional workflows while maintaining accuracy, accountability, and ethical integrity.

Naveed Rafaqat Ahmad is a public sector professional and governance researcher affiliated with the Punjab Sahulat Bazaars Authority (PSBA), Lahore, Pakistan. His academic and professional interests focus on public sector reform, state-owned enterprise governance, transparency, accountability, and institutional performance in developing economies. He has extensive experience in policy analysis and organizational evaluation within government institutions, and his research emphasizes evidence-based reforms aimed at improving fiscal sustainability, operational efficiency, and public trust in state institutions.

6. Conclusion:

After reaching only theoretical potential, quantum computing has left the starting gate, and is currently a rapidly advancing field which could revolutionize the technology industry. Just as hardware, algorithms, and error correction are made practical, the path to quantum computers remains a highly challenging one while significant progress continues. Quantum computing is a bright future, and it has potentials in cryptography, artificial intelligence, and optimization to improve the industries and solving the global

challenges. This transformative technology will not reach its full potential unless continued investment in research and cross discipline collaboration is made.

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