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ISSN : 2348 - 5612 | Volume : 07 , Issue : 10 | November - December 2020

Quantum Computing in 2020: A Systematic Review of Algorithms, Hardware Development, and Practical Applications

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DOI: https://doi.org/10.36676/urr.v7.i10.1427 Published: 30/12/2020

Abstract

Quantum computing is the developing field at the intersection of computer science and physics with quantum mechanics principles to solve complex problems far outside the abilities of traditional computers. This systematic review analyzes key progress in quantum developments, hardware development, and practical applications in 2020. In terms of algorithms, significant progress was made in cross-quantum conventional methods such as the Variation-Quantum-Eigen solver (VQE) and Quantum-Approximate-Upgrading-Algorithms (QAOA) and alongside breakthroughs in quantum machine-learnings. The hardware front and improvements in qubit stability, error correction, and portability marked the pivotal year for quantum processors, with companies like IBM and Google in charge. Practical applications in cryptography, drug discovery, and optimization remain largely experimental, and industries are increasingly exploring quantum potential. The review also identifies ongoing challenges, including qubit coherence, error rates, and scalability, while outlining future research directions. These challenges in 2020 laid the strong foundation for quantum computing's transition from theoretical promise to practical reality.

***Keywords**: Quantum Computing, Hardware Development, Practical Applications 2020*

1. Introduction

Quantum computing is the evolving arena of computer science and physics that controls the values of quantum mechanics to course the info in ways that traditional computers cannot [1]. The old-style computer uses bits, the rudimentary unit of info (also representing 0 or 1), and quantum computers use quantum small or qubits, which can be in numerous conditions concurrently due to the occurrence of superpositions. The qubits can be entangled, enabling complex computational processes to occur at an exponentially closer rate than traditional computers [2]. These unique properties allow the quantum computer to challenge difficulties presently intractable for even the most powerful supercomputers, which are simulating

molecular interactions for drug discovery, solving optimization problems, and breaking classical encryption methods [3]. Quantum computing holds immense promise in various scientific and technological fields. In the world of cryptography and quantum algorithms, Shor's algorithm poses a potential threat to old-style encryption systems and highlights the need for quantum-safe cryptographic techniques [4]. Material science chemistry and quantum computers could revolutionize the simulation of complex molecules and chemical reactions, which are breakthroughs in drug development, clean energy solutions, and advanced materials [5-6]. This quantum computing could significantly impact artificial intelligence, machine learning, and data science in solving optimization problems and speeding up training times for machine-learning models. It is possible to develop industries like finance, logistics, and cybersecurity, which makes quantum computing one of the most critical technological developments of the 21st century [7].
2020 marked significant progress in quantum computing, with several major milestones achieved in algorithm development and hardware improvements [8]. These researchers have developed new quantum algorithms that are more efficient and scalable; the advances in quantum hardware are improvements in qubit stability and error correction, bringing quantum computers closer to practical and large-scale implementation. Companies like Google, IBM, and Microsoft, along with academic institutions, have made notable strides, including demonstrating quantum advantage where the quantum computer outperforms classical ones on a specific task [9-10]. The field moves from theoretical exploration to practical applications; it is critical to assess the progress made in 2020 to understand the trajectory of quantum computing and identify the remaining challenges and opportunities [11]. In conducting a systematic review of the developments in algorithms, hardware, and applications, we can gain insight into the present condition of the field and set a foundation for upcoming studies and growth.

1.1 Objective of Review

This review aims to deliver an inclusive study of the advancements in quantum computing during 2020 with three key areas: algorithms, hardware, and practical applications. It aims to examine the progress in quantum algorithms, including new developments and improvements in hybrid quantum-classical techniques, and evaluate hardware advancements, mainly in the qubit coherence, error correction, and scalability in different quantum architectures [3]. The review also explores the practical requests of quantum computing with trades in finance, crypto graph, and pharmaceuticals and measures their potential for real-world impact. The identified key challenges are hardware limitations and algorithmic complexity while offering future directions for research and development. The review will highlight the collaborative efforts among academia, industry, and governments to outline the evolving quantum computing ecosystem [5].

1.2 Structure of paper

This review is organized into several key sections. It begins with an introduction to quantum computing and the motivation for the review. The following sections explore advancements in quantum algorithms, hardware developments, and practical applications in 2020 [4]. The review also addresses key challenges and future directions for the field. The paper settles with a summary of results and a discussion of the future outlook of quantum computing, along with a comprehensive list of references for further reading [6].

2. Quantum Algorithms: State of the Art

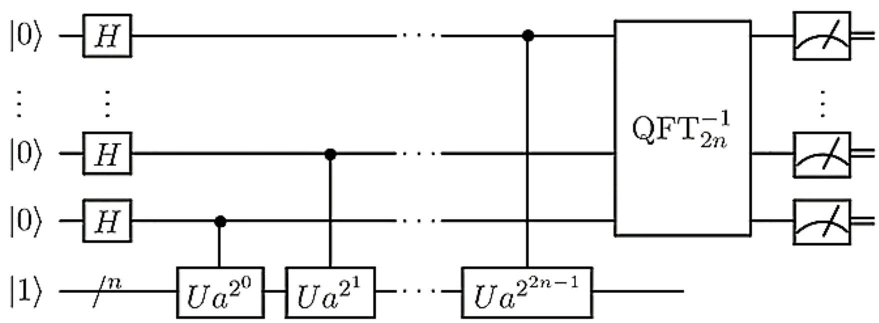
2.1 Basic Quantum Algorithms 2020

Quantum algorithms control quantum computing's values like superpositions, entanglement, and interference to resolve specific difficulties more competently than classical procedures [12].

1. **Shor's Algorithm**:

- **Purpose**: Efficiently factorizes large integers; the problem is difficult for standard computers.
- **Significance**: The procedure that threatens the classical cryptographic system is RSA, which relies on the trouble of factoring in big numbers [13]. Below, equation 1 shows Shor's algorithm.

Equation 1: Shor's Algorithm [13]

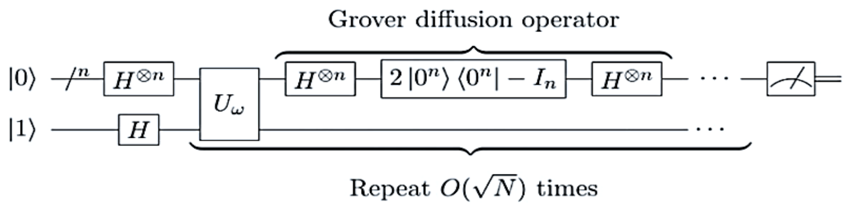


- **Top Qubits (Register for Quantum Fourier Transform - QFT):** The top three horizontal lines represent qubits that are initialized in the state |0⟩. These are used to hold the results of the quantum phase estimation step, which helps find the retro of the functions used in factoring. The qubits are passed through Hadamard gates and put into the superposition state where each qubit can be together |0⟩ and |1⟩| concurrently. This superposition is necessary for quantum parallelism [14].
- **Bottom Qubit:** The bottom horizontal line represents the qubit register that holds the value of the modular exponentiation result. It begins in the state |1⟩. This operation is performed on the bottom register where ***UaU_aUa*** corresponds to raising a chosen integer ***a*** (for which we are factoring) to successive powers modulo *N*, the integer we are trying to factor. These exponentiations involve controlled operations from the top register [15]. Each controlled gate (*Ua2kU*) applies the unitary transformation corresponding to modular exponentiation, which is crucial for finding the period.
- **Controlled Operations:** The vertical lines with black dots represent controlled operations. The top qubits (control qubits) decide whether the modular exponentiation should be applied to the bottom qubit register or not based on their state (0 or 1).
- **Quantum Fourier Transform (QFT):** After the controlled operations, the top register undergoes an **opposite Quantum Fourier Convert (QFT^{-1})**. This step is used to excerpt the periodicity of the function. The QFT is an essential part of quantum phase estimation, which allows the period to be computed efficiently. The QFT takes the superposition national of the top qubit and transforms it into the state that encodes the period of the modular function in the measurement [16].
- **Measurement:** The final step involves measuring the top qubits. These measurements yield info about the period of the modular functions used in a classical post-processing step (via the continued fractions algorithm) to find the factor of the number N [15-16]. The measurement result is the set of binary outcomes used to deduce the period to the factorization of N.

2. **Grover's Algorithm**:

- **Purpose**: Delivers the quadratic speedup for unstructured search problems.
- **Significance**: While the conventional search algorithm requires ***O(N)*** time to find an exact item in an unsorted list of sizes, ***N*** Grover's algorithm realizes this in ***O(N)*** time [17].

Equation 2:Grover's Algorithm



- **Process**:
  - Grover's procedure uses quantum largeness intensification to increase the possibility of the correct answer appearing after measurement.
  - Though not exponential, this speedup is significant for large datasets [17-18].

2.2 Quantum Supremacy and Variational Algorithms

1. **Quantum Supremacy**:
   - **Definition**: The point where the quantum computer performs the infeasible calculation for even the most powerful classical computers [19].
   - **Example**: In 2019, Google's Sycamores computer claimed quantum reign in executing a computation in 200 seconds, which would take a conventional supercomputer 10,000 years.
   - **Challenges**: Quantum supremacy is still mostly symbolic, with practical applications remaining under exploration, and significant debate exists about whether quantum supremacy has truly been achieved [20].
2. **Variational Algorithms**:
   - **Overview**: These are hybrid quantum-classical algorithms designed to work within the limits of present Noisy-Intermediate-Scale-Suantum (NISQ) devices [21].
   - **Process**:
     - A quantum computer prepares quantum states, while a classical computer optimizes parameters to minimize or maximize a certain function.
     - One of the most notable variational procedures is the Variation-Quantum-Eigen solver (VQE), which finds the ground condition energy of particles and is important for quantum chemistry [22].
     - Another is the Quantum Approximate-enhancing -Procedure (QAOA), applied to combinatorial optimization difficulties.

Variational algorithms are essential in harnessing quantum computing power for practical use cases today while waiting for more fault-tolerant quantum devices [23].

2.3 New Algorithms developed

In 2020, quantum computing witnessed notable advances in theoretical and practical algorithm development. Some of the key developments include:

- **Quantum Machine Learning (QML)**: Quantum procedures for machine learning continued to evolve in 2020 with novel approaches in **quantum neural networks** (QNNs) and **quantum-support-vector machines** (QSVMs). These algorithms promise to enhance the data processing efficiency and provide speedups over classical counterparts in optimization and data classification tasks [24].
- **Quantum Chemistry**: Algorithms like the **Variational-Quantum-Eigensolver (VQE)** saw significant progress. VQE aims to solve quantum chemistry problems by finding molecular ground states that are highly complex for classical systems. Quantum computers can pretend quantum systems directly; this is an active area of research [25].
- **Quantum Approximate Optimization Algorithm (QAOA)**: This algorithm has gained traction for resolving combinatorial optimization difficulties and saw improvements in 2020. QAOA is relevant for real-world applications in logistics, finance, and scheduling problems.
- **Variational Quantum Algorithms**: Hybrid quantum-classical algorithms rely on variational methods, which were the focus of 2020 [25]. These algorithms combine quantum computations with classical optimization techniques to mitigate the limitations of Noisy-Quantum-Device (Noisy-Intermediate-Scale-Quantum NISQ).
- **Quantum-Classical Hybrid Networks**: The Researchers are progressively working on hybrid architectures where quantum subroutines complement classical systems. This hybridization helps take advantage of quantum speedups where possible while relying on classical systems for tasks not yet achievable on quantum computers [26]. These include solving linear algebra problems and large-scale optimization challenges from Table 1.

Table 1: Challenges and Limitations

Challenge/ Limitation	Description
Scalability	Current quantum devices (NISQ era) have limited qubits, restricting the size and difficulty of problems that can be resolved efficiently [25].
Quantum Error Correction	High susceptibility to noise and decoherence requires significant advancements in error correction techniques to achieve reliable, fault-tolerant computations.
Algorithmic Complexity	While theoretically efficient, some quantum algorithms require many qubits and complex processes, making them impractical for near-term devices [27].
Error Rates	Imperfect gate operations and environmental noise lead to high error rates, reducing the accuracy of quantum computations.
Resource Requirements	Certain algorithms, like Shor's, require millions of qubits for large-scale implementation, far beyond the capabilities of current quantum hardware [28].

There is a growing need to optimize quantum algorithms to make NISQ devices more efficient and error-tolerant. Techniques like noise-aware optimization and circuit compression will be critical in enhancing the algorithm's performance on near-term quantum hardware [29]. Researchers are heuristic quantum algorithms that provide approximate solutions for hard problems. These algorithms are useful in optimization, machine learning, and quantum chemistry. QAOA and VQE are examples of this approach. The applications continue to grow, and quantum machine learning holds great promise. QML algorithms, if successfully optimized, could potentially revolutionize fields like artificial intelligence, financial modeling, and big data analytics [29].

The accurate simulation of chemical reactions and material properties remains one of the most talented requests of quantum algorithms. Research in this area is expected to expand and aim for breakthroughs in drug discovery, battery development, and materials engineering [29-30]. Quantum algorithms are crucial for breaking classical cryptographic systems (e.g., using Shor's algorithm) and evolving new quantum-resistant cryptographic procedures such as lattice-based crypto graphics and quantum key distribution (QKD).

3. Quantum Hardware Development

3.1 Quantum Hardware Architecture

Quantum-hardware architectures, as shown in Figure 1, are the basis of quantum computing in many kinds of quantum computers being developed to bind the control of quantum mechanics to solve multifaceted problems. These approaches include superconducting qubits, stuck ions, and topological qubits, each with unique coherence, scalability, and error resistance strengths. Main-skill companies like Google, IBM, and Microsoft are key players, driving innovation in hardware and quantum software integration. These advances are critical in overcoming the challenges of building practical, scalable, and fault-tolerant quantum systems [30].

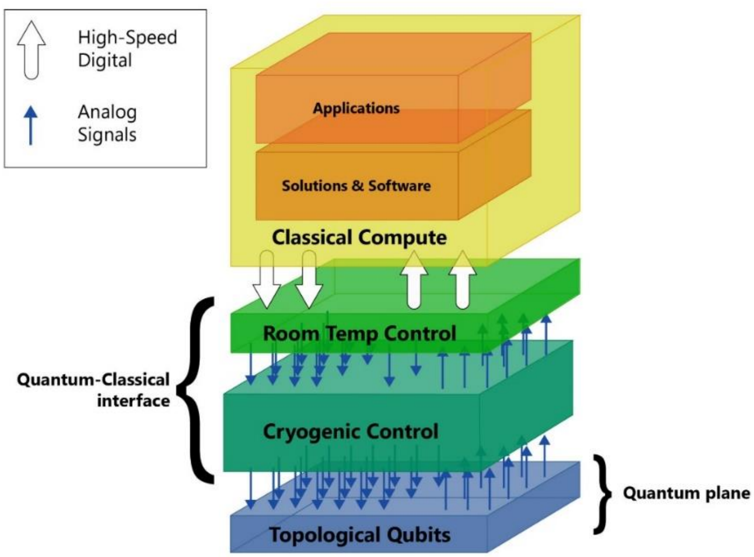


Figure 1: Quantum Hardware Architecture [30]

- **Superconducting Qubits**: These qubits are made from superconducting circuits cooled to cryogenic temperatures. They utilize Josephson junctions to create the quantum state and manipulate qubits using microwave pulses. It is highly scalable, relatively well developed, and one of the approaches for building quantum computers. IBM's Quantum Experience and Google's Sycamore use superconducting qubits [31].
- **Trapped Ions**: Individual ions (charged atoms) are trapped using an electromagnetic field. Laser pulses operate the quantum states of the ions to perform processes: longer consistency times and very high-fidelity qubit actions. IonQ and Honeywell are companies that use this technology.
- **Topological Qubits**: A theoretical model of qubits that relies on braiding anyons (quasi-particles) in the two-dimensional space. Due to their topology-based structure, these qubits are expected to

be extra stable and less prone to errors [32]—high potential for error-resilient qubits and scalable, fault-tolerant quantum computing. Microsoft is actively working on topological qubits through its StationQ initiative.

- **Photonic Qubits**: These qubits use photons (particles of light) to encode and transmit quantum information and are usually manipulated via beam splitters and phase shifters. It operates at room temperature, is naturally suited for quantum communication, and is less affected by environmental noise. Xanadu and PsiQuantum are pioneers in photonic quantum computing.

Above this quantum plane sits the Quantum Classical Interface, which manages communication within the quantum computing environment and classical systems. This interface is critical because quantum computers must interact with classical computers for control, measurement, and data interpretation [32]. Microsoft has developed a specialized hardware setup for this purpose, which involves two key components: The Gooseberry chip and the cryo compute core. The cryo-compute core performs classical computations but operates at extremely low temperatures to be compatible with the quantum environment [33]. The Gooseberry chip is unique to Microsoft's design and operates alongside the qubits at the same cryogenic temperatures. This proximity allows the Gooseberry chip to convert classical computing instructions from the cryo compute core into precise voltage signals that can control the qubits. This seamless and low-temperature communication among the classical and quantum systems is a distinct innovation in Microsoft's quantum architecture and is designed to minimize errors and improve the overall efficiency of quantum operations.

3.2 Milestone Achieved in 2020

In 2020, quantum computing saw several key milestones that significantly advanced technology [34]. Below is an in-depth explanation of the major milestones achieved during that year:

1. Quantum Volume Improvements

Quantum volume (QV) is the metric used to assess the presentation and capability of a quantum computer. It considers several aspects, such as the number of qubits, their mistake rates, and connectivity, and the well quantum processor can handle the complex algorithms. The larger the quantum volume, the better the system solves more sophisticated problems. In 2020, IBM announced significant improvements in quantum volume, with their quantum processors reaching a QV of 64. This was a major leap from previous years, where QV numbers were much lower (e.g., a QV of 32). These advancements were achieved through refinements in both hardware and software, improving the fidelity of quantum gates, increasing the qubit coherence times, and optimizing error correction techniques [35]. This progress in quantum volume demonstrated that quantum computers are getting closer to handling more practical and computationally heavy tasks, and we're still far from large-scale and fault-tolerant quantum computing.

2. Qubit Coherence Times and Error Rates

Qubit consistency time denotes the period a qubit can preserve its quantum state before it decoheres and loses its quantum information. Longer coherence times are crucial for performing more operations on the qubit before errors creep in. Error rates measure the frequent errors that occur during quantum computations [36]. In 2020, notable improvements were made in qubit consistency times and error rates. Some of the quantum computing companies, such as IBM and Google, have worked on reducing the noise and decoherence in their quantum processors. Techniques like improved qubit design, advanced cooling systems, and coherence times were extended to several hundred microseconds compared to tens of microseconds just a few years prior [37]. Error rates related to quantum gates also reduced, and quantum processors became more reliable. These improvements brought us closer to achieving fault-tolerant quantum computing, where errors can be corrected in real-time for more complex quantum algorithms to be run effectively [12-38].

3. Significant Breakthroughs in Hardware Scalability

One of the biggest tasks in quantum computing has been climbing the number of qubits without losing the performance of the systems. The numbers of qubits increase, and so does the complexity of managing them due to issues like cross-talk between qubits, noise, and error accumulation. In 2020, companies such as Google, IBM, and Rigetti made strides in developing scalable architectures for quantum computers. Google's Sycamore processor, which had previously achieved "quantum supremacy" in 2019, continued to evolve with enhanced control systems and more stable qubits. IBM also made strides toward creating larger quantum systems while maintaining manageable error rates. New techniques for connecting qubits are modular quantum processors and improved qubit connectivity, which have placed the basis for the next generation of scalable quantum computers [39].

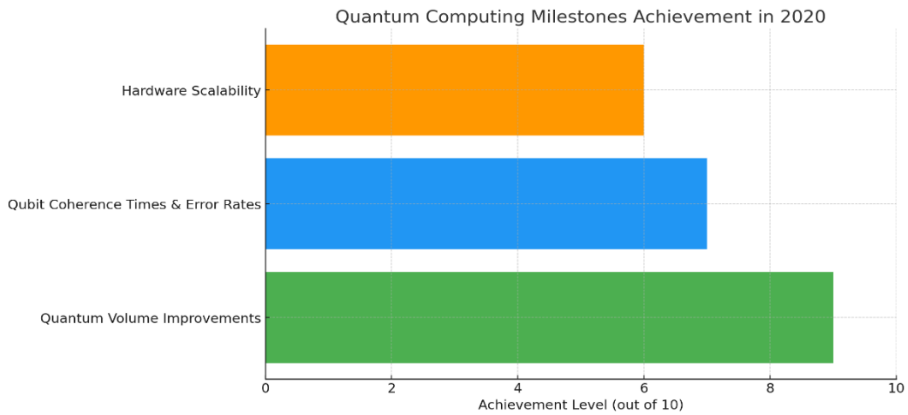


Figure 2: Achievement Levels

The above figure 2 bar graph visually represents the achievement levels of the three major milestones in quantum computing during 2020. Each milestone is rated based on the progress made, with "Quantum Volume Improvements" showing the highest achievement level, followed by improvements in "Qubit Coherence Times & Error Rates" and breakthroughs in "Hardware Scalability." These advancements collectively indicate significant forward momentum in the quantum computing landscape.

3.3 Future Trends in the hardware of quantum

In the coming decade, quantum hardware will evolve toward more integrated and specialized architectures, allowing quantum systems to coexist seamlessly with classical computing environments [39-40]. One key trend will be the development of quantum processors with improved scalability and addressing one of the main bottlenecks in quantum computing today: the ability to scale up to thousands, if not lots of qubits, while preserving consistency and minimizing errors. Advanced quantum control systems will enable qubits to work together with higher precision, and quantum software will evolve to harness these improvements effectively. This will be essential for machine learning, optimization, and cryptography applications, where quantum speedup could provide dramatic advantages over classical solutions. The miniaturization of quantum hardware and quantum processors to be more compact and easier to integrate into classical computing systems will drive adoption in industries that require high-performance computing at scale [41]. Quantum computing continues to evolve, and many key tendencies and novelties are predictable to form the upcoming quantum hardware:

- **Quantum-Classical Hybrid Systems**: The future of quantum hardware will likely involve deeper integration among the quantum and classical computing systems. Quantum classical hybrid computing systems will be essential for the unique strengths of both paradigms. Classical computers will handle routine computational tasks while quantum processors tackle specific and complex problems like optimization and simulation that benefit from quantum speedup [9-42].
- **Quantum Accelerators**: Quantum accelerators will be developed to integrate into classical computing infrastructure and act as specialized processors that accelerate quantum-specific computations. These could enhance existing supercomputers to tackle a wider range of complex problems using quantum algorithms for optimizations, cryptography, and machine learning [43].
- **Quantum Networking**: Future hardware innovations will also focus on creating quantum networks where quantum computers and classical systems work together over vast distances. This will enable the formation of global quantum communication systems, enabling secure data transmission using quantum key distribution and entanglement techniques.
- **Quantum Cloud Platforms**: Quantum hardware will become more powerful, and quantum computing services via the Cloud will become more prevalent. This will allow classical systems to seamlessly access quantum computing resources without owning and maintaining the expensive quantum hardware [43].

These trends highlight the growing importance of integrating quantum computing with classical systems and the ongoing innovation in qubit technologies to drive future quantum hardware advancements. Another exciting growth area will be the expansion of quantum-cloud computing platforms, which are predicted to become more prevalent and reachable. These platforms allow classical systems to offload computationally intensive tasks to quantum processors through the Cloud and democratize admittance to quantum computing possessions [7-44]. The advanced quantum error correction, quantum networking technologies, and remote quantum computing will enable global collaboration to solve the most pressing computational challenges: climate modeling, drug discovery, and financial modeling.

4. Practical Applications of Quantum Computing

4.1 Theoretical vs Practical Applications of Quantum Computing (2020)

Table 2:Theoretical vs Practical Applications of Quantum Computing (2020)

Aspect	**Theoretical Applications**	**Practical Applications in 2020**	**Author(s)**	**Year**
Chemistry	Quantum computing could revolutionize molecular simulations and drug discovery.	Researchers have begun to use quantum computers for small-scale molecular simulations and quantum [51].	Arute et al. (Google)	2019

Cryptography	Quantum algorithms like Shor's algorithm can theoretically break classical encryption methods like RSA [52].	In 2020, practical progress in quantum cryptography was demonstrated through quantum key distribution (QKD).	Pirandola et al. (University of York)	2020
Optimization Problems	Quantum computing has the potential to solve complex optimization problems.	Companies like D-Wave and IBM experimented with quantum annealing for solving combinatorial optimization [53].	Bausch et al. (D-Wave)	2018
Artificial Intelligence (AI)	Quantum computing could enhance machine learning algorithms and AI [54].	Early implementations of quantum machine learning algorithms.	Schuld et al. (University of Toronto)	2019
Financial Modeling	Quantum computers can help simulate financial markets and model risk [55].	Quantum computing was still in the experimental stages for financial modeling, with companies exploring.	Orús et al. (IQM Quantum Computers)	2019
Material Science	Quantum simulation could qualify the detection of new resources with tailored properties [6].	Material science research was primarily theoretical, but limited proof-of-concept studies.	Boixo et al. (Google)	2020

Table 2 compares the theoretical and applied application of quantum computing as observed in 2020, citing significant contributions from authors in the respective fields. The advancements made in quantum computing, while impressive, show that many applications are still in their theoretical or experimental stages, with broader practical implementation expected soon [43].

4.2 Quantum Computing in Industry

There is a growing interest from companies and industries across a wide spectrum, with applications ranging from pharmaceuticals and financial services to energy and logistics. Though quantum computing was motionless in the initial stages of growth, industries recognized that it could deliver inventive results for some of the most complex tasks. Companies were keen to explore how quantum computing could enhance optimization processes, improve data analysis, and speed up research and development efforts. The hype and many quantum computing applications in the industry were still in the experimental phase in 2020; the technology was not yet mature enough to deliver large-scale and practical solutions [44].

- In the pharmaceutical and healthcare industry, quantum computing's ability to convert drug findings and molecular modeling was the primary focus of 2020.
- Quantum computers could offer exponential speedups in detecting new drugs and supplies by accurately simulating molecular interactions.
- Quantum algorithms like Grover's and Shor's could provide more efficient ways to simulate chemical reactions and biological systems, speeding up drug discovery and personalized medicine [45].

- The financial services sector also discovered the possibility of quantum computing in 2020 in areas like portfolio optimization, risk management, and fraud detection.
- Quantum algorithms could, in theory, outperform classical algorithms in simulating financial markets, improving asset pricing models, and optimizing investment strategies.
- Applying quantum computing has also been a topic of active exploration in energy and reserve organizations.
- The logistics and manufacturing sectors also explored how quantum computing could improve efficiency in operations, management, inventory optimization, and transportation logistics [46].

Quantum algorithms could potentially resolve multifaceted optimization difficulties faster than computers, as well as cost reductions and efficiency gains in areas such as route planning and warehouse management. Companies like Volkswagen, DHL, and BMW have been working with quantum computing firms to investigate these applications. Volkswagen experimented with quantum computing for traffic flow optimization, while DHL tested quantum approaches to supply chain management [47]. The efforts are in the early stages, and they marked a crucial step toward integrating quantum computing into practical industrial applications. The overarching goal was to utilize quantum algorithms to produce more resilient and responsive supply chains in a progressively composite worldwide market.

5. Challenges and Roadblocks

Quantum computing, while promising revolutionary advancements in computing power and problem-solving, faces several significant challenges and roadblocks. The researchers push the boundaries of quantum technology and encounter technical limitations related to qubit-stability, error correction, and system scalabilities. This technical hurdle, the high costs of developing quantum hardware, and the limited availability of specific resources present economic constraints. The possibility of quantum computers compromising present cryptographic systems raises serious safety fears, while ethical considerations surrounding its use in critical areas are artificial intelligence and defense, which demand thoughtful regulation and foresight [47]. These challenges must be addressed for quantum computing to comprehend its full potential.

5.1 Technical Limitations

Quantum computing faces many technical tasks that delay its extensive development and application. One of the most significant limitations is qubit coherence, the aptitude of qubits to conserve their quantum state for sufficient time without decoherence, which causes loss of information. The quantum error rates remain high, and the correction is complex and resource-intensive. Scaling quantum systems also presents a major challenge, and adding more qubits increases the risk of noise and errors, making it difficult to maintain stable and reliable operations. The design of better qubits, error correction protocols, and robust quantum algorithms still need substantial advancement [48].

5.2 Economic and Resource Constraints

Building and maintaining quantum computers require enormous financial investment and specialized resources. The hardware needed is extra low-temperature refrigerators (for superconducting qubits), and specialized materials are costly and difficult to manufacture at scale. There is an absence of trained personnel in the field, and quantum-computing expertise is still relatively niche. Significant barriers remain to developing the quantum workforce and overcoming the high research, development, and fabrication costs. Without proper funding and global collaboration, the road to practical quantum computing could slow down significantly.

5.3 Security and Ethical Concerns

Quantum computing introduces profound security risks regarding cryptography. Quantum computers take the possible disruption of extensively used encryption methods, such as RSA and ECC, posing risks to data privacy and secure communications. On the ethical front, there are concerns about the unequal distribution of quantum technology, where only a few entities or countries monopolize its capabilities and exacerbate global inequality [49]. There are fears about the principled use of quantum computers in fields like AI and military applications. These issues will require the growth of quantum-resilient encryption and ethical structures for the accountable use of quantum skills [50].

6. Conclusion

6.1 Summary of Key Developments in 2020

2020 was a pivotal period for quantum computing and marked notable advancements in algorithm development, hardware innovation, and practical applications. Quantum procedures are Quantum-Approximate-enhancing -Algorithm (QAOA) and Variation-Quantum-Eigen solver (VQE), and progress in quantum machine-learning has been at the forefront and demonstrating potential in solving complex problems like molecular simulations, optimization challenges, and data classification. Significant milestones in hardware were also achieved, including enhancements in qubit coherence times, error reduction, and scalability of quantum systems. Companies like IBM and Google advanced their quantum processors, increasing quantum volume and pushing the boundaries of quantum supremacy. While still nascent in practical deployment, these breakthroughs signal a growing readiness to integrate quantum computing into real-world scenarios in pharmaceuticals, finance, and material science industries.

6.2 The Future of Quantum Computing

The tremendous progress in 2020 and several key challenges continue to hinder the extensive acceptance of quantum computing. Technical limitations are qubit stability, error correction, and scalability, which remain significant problems. While showing improved error rates and coherence times, current quantum systems are still prone to decoherence, and the warning of these reliabilities for large-scale computations is sound. Economic constraints, including the high costs of quantum hardware and the shortage of quantum experts, also present barriers to rapid development. The next decade will likely see progressions in quantum mistake correction, the growth of more robust qubits, and the move closer to fault-tolerant quantum computing. Incorporating quantum systems with classical computing through hybrid architectures will accelerate the practical use of quantum technology in optimization, cryptography, and machine learning. The Cloud-based quantum-computing social platforms are also expected to expand and democratize access to quantum resources and foster greater collaboration.

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