



Alan Shields

The Lack of Honesty and Integrity in Quantum Computing



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There is a truth almost nobody in the quantum world will say out loud. Quantum computing does not have a technology problem. It has an honesty problem.

For forty years, the field has lived on a simple script:

- next year the qubits will get better
- next year error correction will scale
- next year the million-qubit machine will be in sight
- next year we will cross the magic threshold

But "next year" has been promised for decades, and the fundamentals have not changed.

- The physics is still the physics.
- There is still no stable universal qubit.
- There is still no functioning error corrected logical qubit.
- There is still no end to end useful computation.
- There is still no path to scalability that survives contact with coherence limits.

Everyone inside the field knows this. Almost none of them will say it.

Why?

Because the entire quantum ecosystem is held together by financial incentives.

- The grants.
- The startup valuations.
- The national security budgets.
- The consulting firms.
- The "quantum readiness" training packages.
- The conferences.
- The press releases.
- The seeds and Series A and Series B rounds that depend on hype, not hardware.

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Right ! And well written .

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Istiyak Amin S. · 3rd+

Graduate Research Assistant

19h ...

Thank you for your thought. I'm learning quantum computer, thinking to do my phd in Quantum Computer. Do you think its a bad decision?

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Alan Shields **Author**

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14h ...

Istiyak Amin S. It depends on what your motivation is. If you want to make money and take advantage of the hype, then yes, persue quantum computing. If you want a real career where you w ...more

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The result is predictable.

- A culture where exaggeration becomes normal.
- A culture where any criticism is treated as ignorance or heresy.
- A culture where insiders say one thing in private and another in public.
- A culture where researchers are punished for admitting the obvious: the architecture does not work.

It works like this:

- Universities exaggerate results to protect grant pipelines.
- Startups inflate capabilities because honesty kills fundraising.
- Journalists repeat claims they do not understand.
- Investors pretend to believe it because everyone else pretends too.
- Students get pulled into a field with no clear future.
- And the public is told that quantum is always five years away.

This is not science. This is an industry built on avoiding the truth.

The uncomfortable fact is simple.

If quantum computing were on track, we would have seen one single verified logical qubit by now.

Just one.

After four decades and hundreds of billions spent, that number is still zero.

That is not progress. That is evidence.

Yet the hype continues because the alternative is unthinkable for the people who rely on the illusion to survive. If governments cut funding, the labs go dark. If investors stop believing, the startups collapse. If the public understands the reality, the bubble bursts.

So instead of honesty, we get marketing. We get words like pre advantage, utility scale, pathfinding era, emergent capability, error tolerant mode, quantum ready. Not one of these terms corresponds to a real machine doing a real computation that classical hardware cannot do.

We get declarations that “breakthroughs” are happening every quarter. A qubit lasting a little longer. A chip with more noise suppression. A lab demo of coherence at rest that does not survive a single gate sequence. Every announcement framed as world changing while everyone in the field knows that none of it solves the physics.

The tragedy is that this dishonesty hurts everyone.

It hurts students who waste their brightest years chasing a dead architecture. It hurts governments who pour money into fantasies instead of real technologies. It hurts investors who never receive a return. It hurts the credibility of science. And it hurts the researchers forced to support a narrative they know is false.

This is not a call to abandon quantum physics. Quantum physics is real. Quantum algorithms are fascinating. Quantum theory is one of the greatest intellectual achievements in human history.

But none of that requires pretending that quantum computing, as currently envisioned, is viable. Honesty would free the field, not destroy it.

The world deserves better than another decade of promises. If quantum computing ever had a chance, it would have produced something by now. Instead, it produces press releases and elaborate justifications for why the hardware never seems to catch up with the theory.

The real crisis is not decoherence. **The real crisis is integrity.**

The quantum world does not need more optimism. It needs truth.

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