

The Origins of Quantum Computing

Who came up with the idea of quantum computing? Well, it's difficult to pinpoint one single person. In 1980, Russian mathematician Yuri Manin was the first to suggest that a computer could run on quantum behavior instead of classical behavior, in a mathematics book about computable functions. The following year, American physicist Richard Feynman independently suggested a similar idea, stating in a famous lecture: "If you want to make a simulation of nature, you'd better make it quantum mechanical, and by golly it's a wonderful problem, because it doesn't look so easy." These were the first instances of this idea of **quantum simulation**, which paved the way for quantum computing as we know it today.