

Types for Quantum Computing

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Why Quantum Programming Languages?

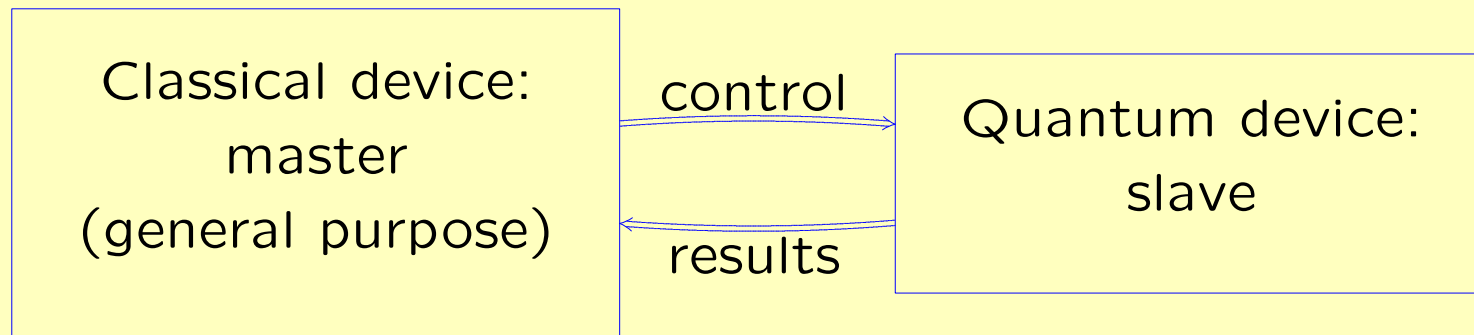
- For certain problems, quantum algorithms have an exponential speedup over best known classical algorithms.
- Most research in quantum computing has focused on algorithms and complexity theory.
- Quantum algorithms are traditionally described in terms of hardware: quantum circuits or quantum Turing machines.
- Want compositionality. Also, how do quantum features interact with other language features such as structured data, recursion, i/o, higher-order.

Part I: Quantum Computation

Linear Algebra Review

- Scalars $\lambda \in \mathbb{C}$, column vectors $\mathbf{u} \in \mathbb{C}^n$, matrices $\mathbf{A} \in \mathbb{C}^{n \times m}$.
- Adjoint $\mathbf{A}^* = (\overline{a_{ji}})_{ij}$, trace $\text{tr } \mathbf{A} = \sum_i a_{ii}$, norm $\|\mathbf{A}\|^2 = \sum_{ij} |a_{ij}|^2$.
- Unitary matrix $\mathbf{S} \in \mathbb{C}^{n \times n}$ if $\mathbf{S}^* \mathbf{S} = \mathbf{I}$.
Change of basis: $\mathbf{B} = \mathbf{S} \mathbf{A} \mathbf{S}^* \Rightarrow \text{tr } \mathbf{B} = \text{tr } \mathbf{A}$, $\|\mathbf{B}\| = \|\mathbf{A}\|$.
- Hermitian matrix $\mathbf{A} \in \mathbb{C}^{n \times n}$: if $\mathbf{A} = \mathbf{A}^*$.
Hermitian positive: $\mathbf{u}^* \mathbf{A} \mathbf{u} \geq 0$ for all $\mathbf{u} \in \mathbb{C}^n$.
Diagonalization: $\mathbf{A} = \mathbf{S} \mathbf{D} \mathbf{S}^*$, \mathbf{S} unitary, \mathbf{D} real diagonal.
- Tensor product $\mathbf{A} \otimes \mathbf{B}$, e.g. $\begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ -1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \otimes \mathbf{B} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & \mathbf{B} \\ -\mathbf{B} & 0 \end{pmatrix}$.

The QRAM abstract machine [Knill96]



- General-purpose classical computer controls a special quantum hardware device
- Quantum device provides a bank of individually addressable qubits.
- Left-to-right: instructions.
- Right-to-left: results.

Quantum computation: States

- state of one qubit: $\alpha|0\rangle + \beta|1\rangle$ (*superposition* of $|0\rangle$ and $|1\rangle$).
- state of two qubits: $\alpha|00\rangle + \beta|01\rangle + \gamma|10\rangle + \delta|11\rangle$.
- *independent*: $(a|0\rangle + b|1\rangle) \otimes (c|0\rangle + d|1\rangle) = ac|00\rangle + ad|01\rangle + bc|10\rangle + bd|11\rangle$.
- otherwise *entangled*.

Lexicographic convention

Identify the basis states $|00\rangle$, $|01\rangle$, $|10\rangle$, $|11\rangle$ with the standard basis vectors

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix},$$

in the *lexicographic* order.

Note: we use *column vectors* for states.

$$\begin{pmatrix} \alpha \\ \beta \\ \gamma \\ \delta \end{pmatrix} = \alpha|00\rangle + \beta|01\rangle + \gamma|10\rangle + \delta|11\rangle.$$

Quantum computation: Operations

- unitary transformation
- measurement

Some standard unitary gates

Unary:

$$N = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix},$$

$$H = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 1 & -1 \end{pmatrix},$$

$$V = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & i \end{pmatrix},$$

$$W = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & \sqrt{i} \end{pmatrix},$$

Binary:

$$N_c = \left(\begin{array}{c|c} I & 0 \\ \hline 0 & N \end{array} \right),$$

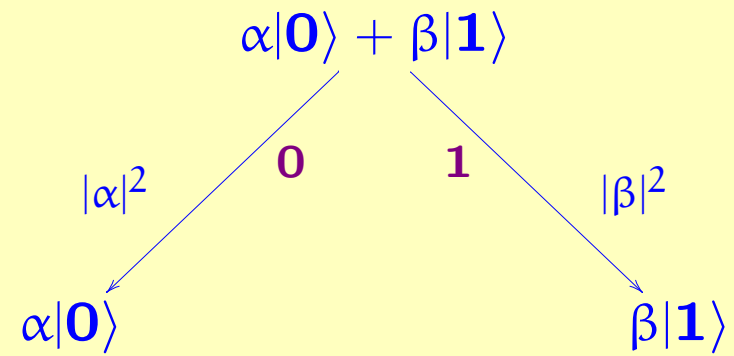
$$H_c = \left(\begin{array}{c|c} I & 0 \\ \hline 0 & H \end{array} \right),$$

$$V_c = \left(\begin{array}{c|c} I & 0 \\ \hline 0 & V \end{array} \right),$$

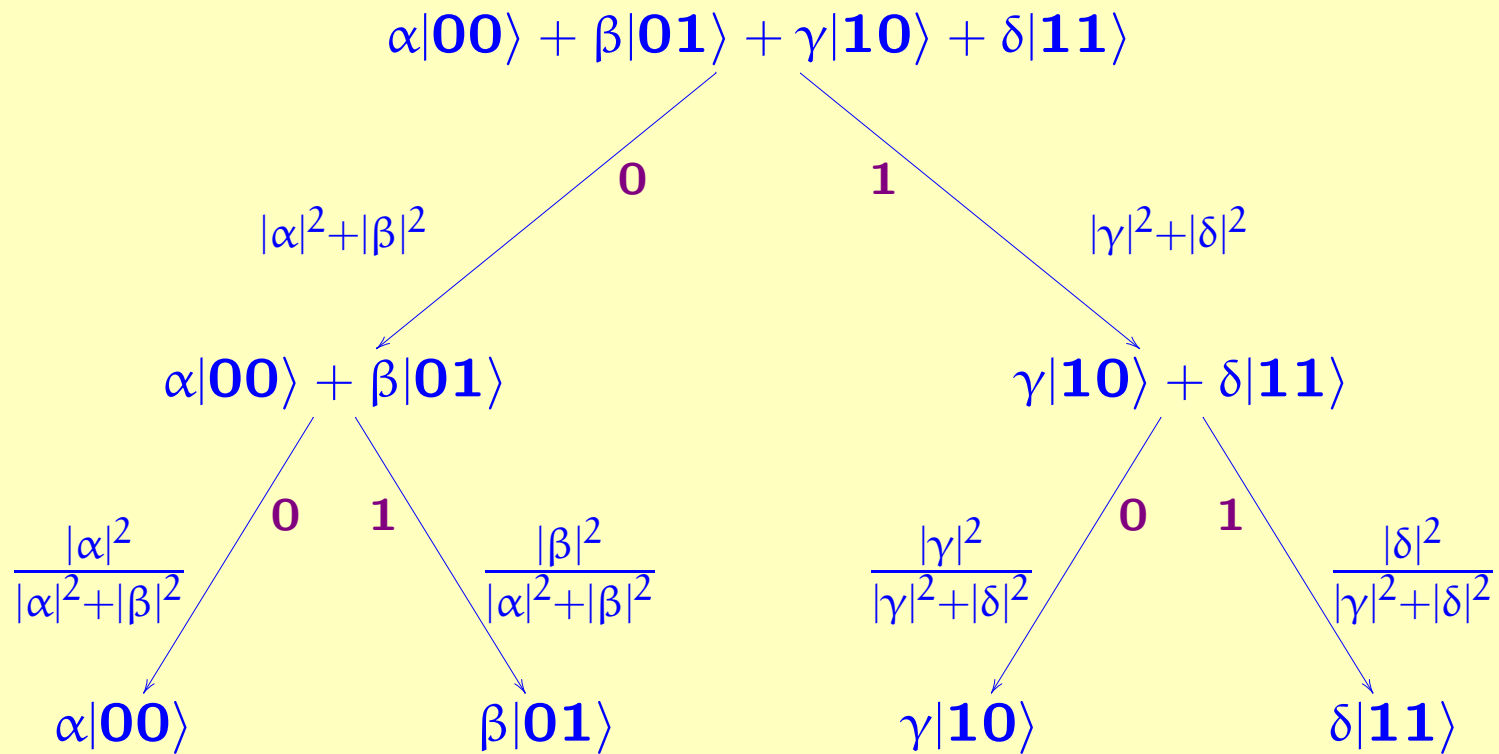
$$W_c = \left(\begin{array}{c|c} I & 0 \\ \hline 0 & W \end{array} \right),$$

$$X = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}.$$

Measurement



Two Measurements



Note: Normalization convention.

Pure vs. mixed states

A mixed state is a (classical) probability distribution on quantum states.

Ad hoc notation:

$$\frac{1}{2} \left\{ \left(\begin{array}{c} \alpha \\ \beta \end{array} \right) \right\} + \frac{1}{2} \left\{ \left(\begin{array}{c} \alpha' \\ \beta' \end{array} \right) \right\}$$

Note: A mixed state is a description of our *knowledge* of a state. An actual closed quantum system is always in a (possibly unknown) pure state.

Density matrices (von Neumann)

Represent the pure state $v = \begin{pmatrix} \alpha \\ \beta \end{pmatrix} \in \mathbb{C}^2$ by the matrix

$$vv^* = \begin{pmatrix} \alpha\bar{\alpha} & \alpha\bar{\beta} \\ \beta\bar{\alpha} & \beta\bar{\beta} \end{pmatrix} \in \mathbb{C}^{2 \times 2}.$$

Represent the mixed state $\lambda_1 \{v_1\} + \dots + \lambda_n \{v_n\}$ by

$$\lambda_1 v_1 v_1^* + \dots + \lambda_n v_n v_n^*.$$

This representation is not one-to-one, e.g.

$$\frac{1}{2} \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \right\} + \frac{1}{2} \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} \right\} = \frac{1}{2} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} + \frac{1}{2} \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} .5 & 0 \\ 0 & .5 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\frac{1}{2} \left\{ \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} \right\} + \frac{1}{2} \left\{ \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix} \right\} = \frac{1}{2} \begin{pmatrix} .5 & .5 \\ .5 & .5 \end{pmatrix} + \frac{1}{2} \begin{pmatrix} .5 & -.5 \\ -.5 & .5 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} .5 & 0 \\ 0 & .5 \end{pmatrix}$$

But these two mixed states are indistinguishable.

Quantum operations on density matrices

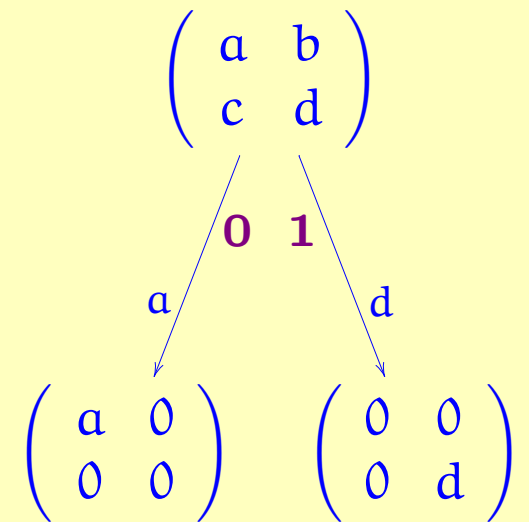
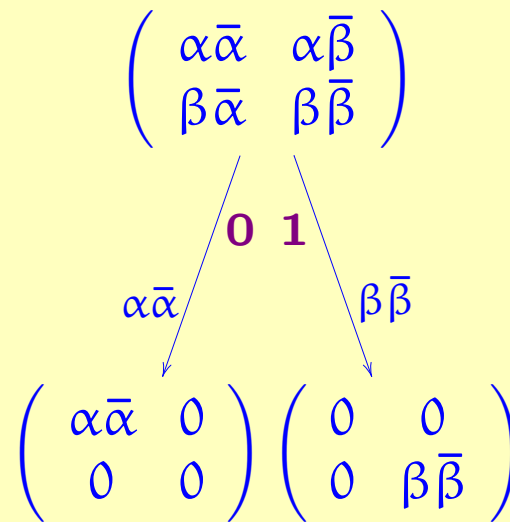
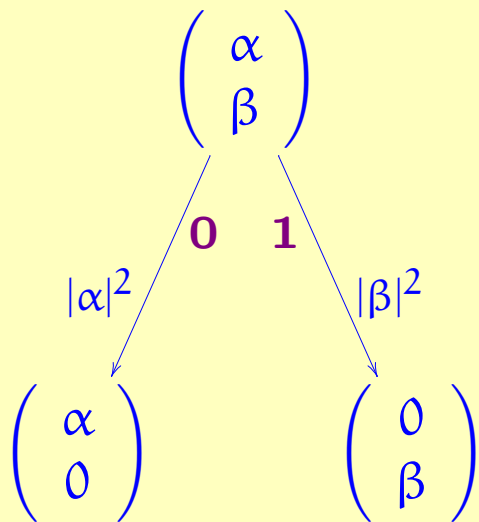
Unitary:

$$v \mapsto Uv$$

$$vv^* \mapsto Uvv^*U^*$$

$$A \mapsto UAU^*$$

Measurement:



A complete partial order of density matrices

Let $D_n = \{A \in \mathbb{C}^{n \times n} \mid A \text{ is positive hermitian and } \text{tr} A \leq 1\}$.

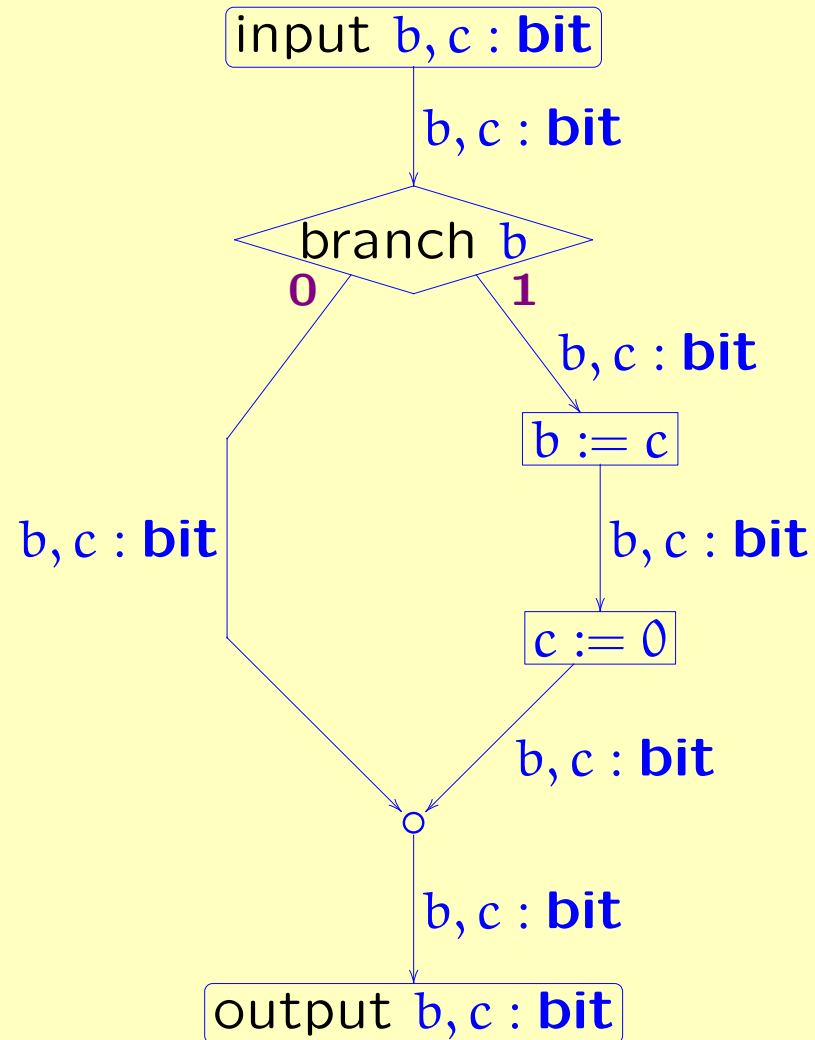
Definition. We write $A \sqsubseteq B$ if $B - A$ is positive.

Theorem. The density matrices form a *complete partial order* under \sqsubseteq .

- $A \sqsubseteq A$
- $A \sqsubseteq B$ and $B \sqsubseteq A \Rightarrow A = B$
- $A \sqsubseteq B$ and $B \sqsubseteq C \Rightarrow A \sqsubseteq C$
- every increasing sequence $A_1 \sqsubseteq A_2 \sqsubseteq \dots$ has a least upper bound

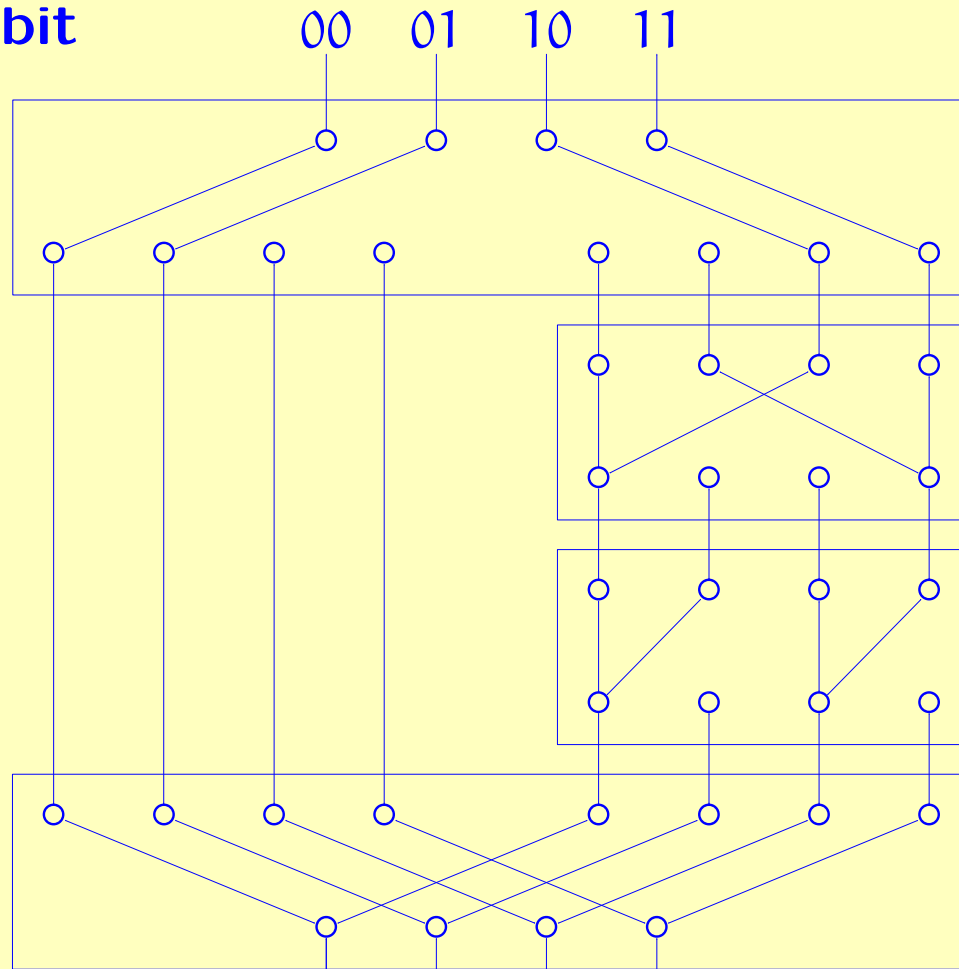
Part II: The Flow Chart Language

First: the classical case. A simple classical flow chart



Classical flow chart, with boolean variables expanded

input b, c : **bit**



(* branch b *)

(* $b := c$ *)

(* $c := 0$ *)

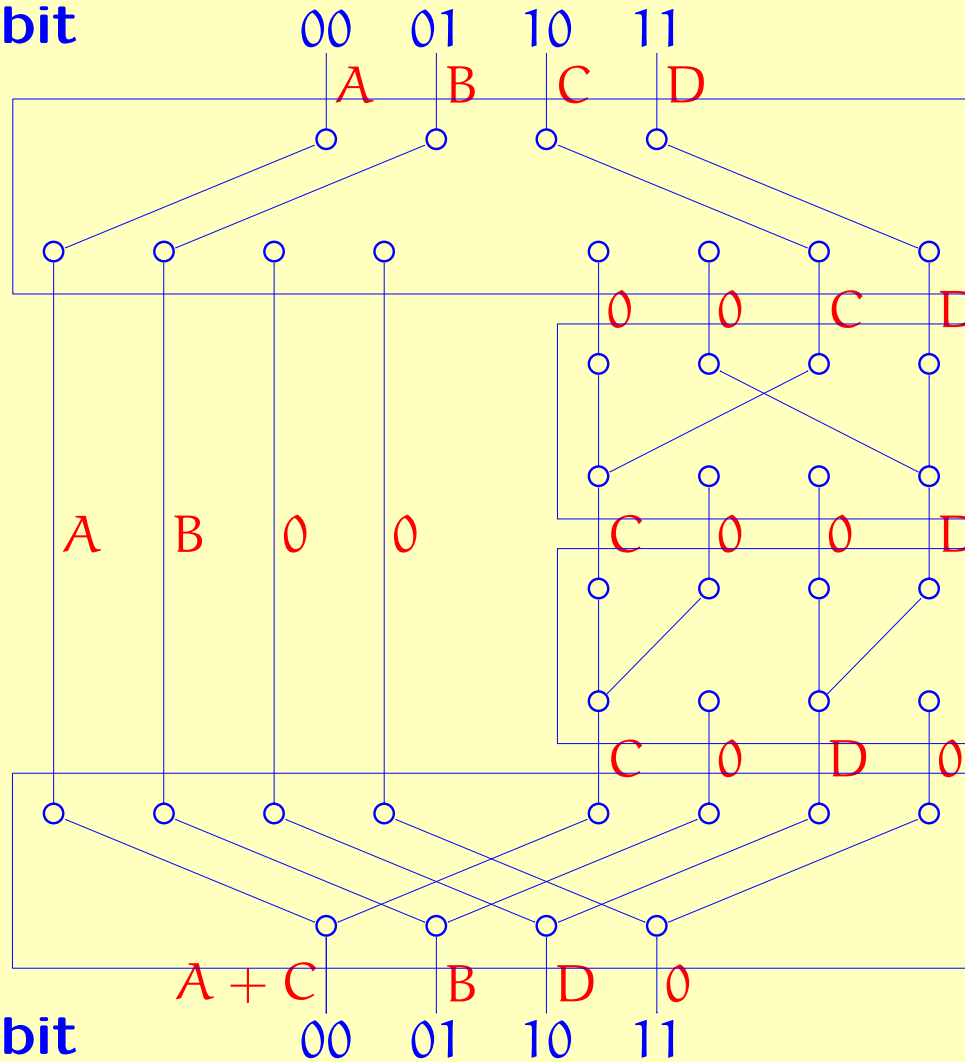
(* merge *)

output b, c : **bit**

00 01 10 11

Classical flow chart, with boolean variables expanded

input b, c : bit



(* branch b *)

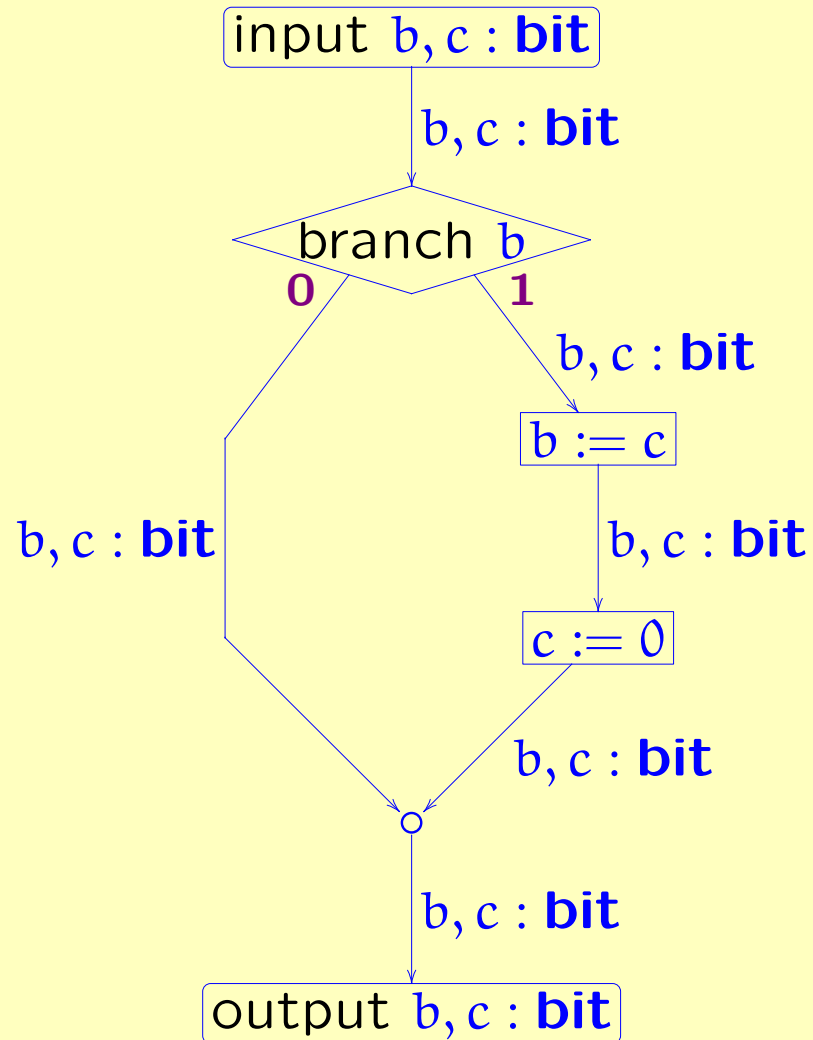
(* $b := c$ *)

(* $c := 0$ *)

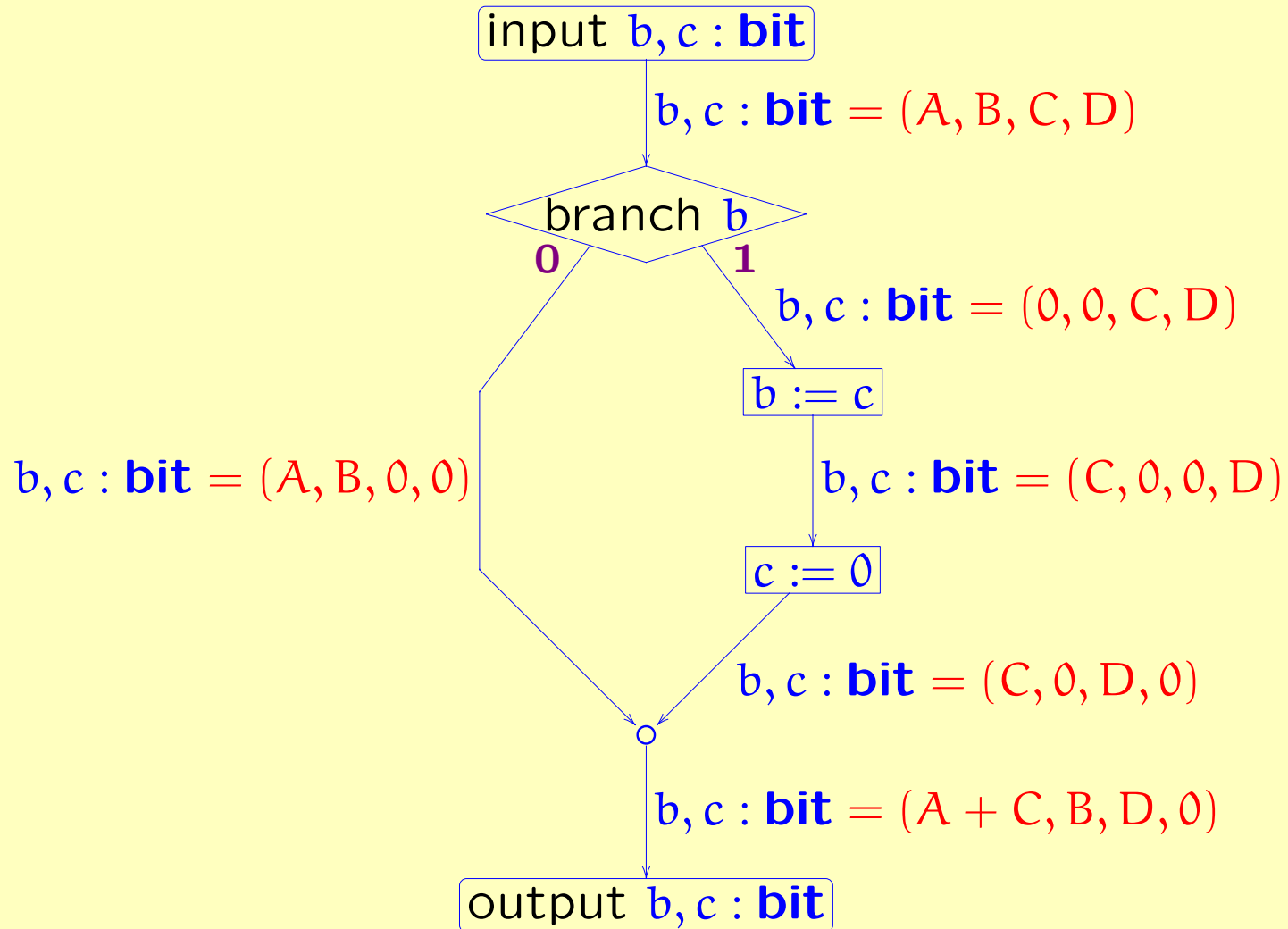
(* merge *)

output b, c : bit

A simple classical flow chart

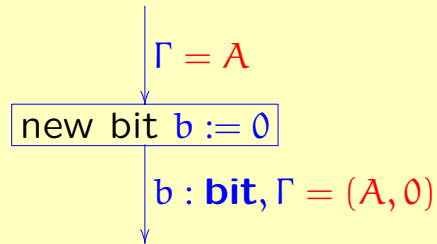


A simple classical flow chart

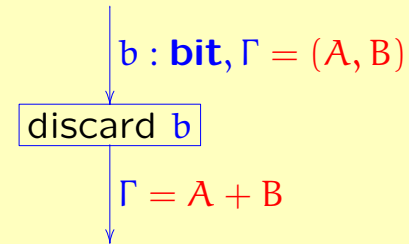


Summary of classical flow chart components

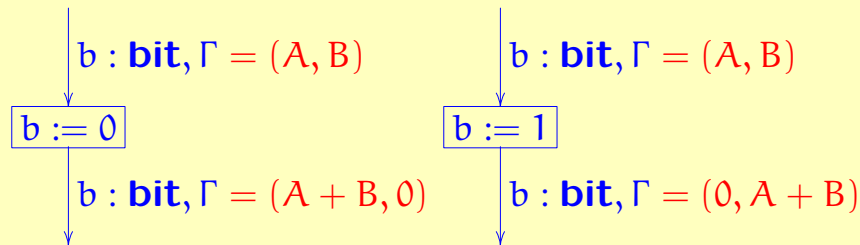
Allocate bit:



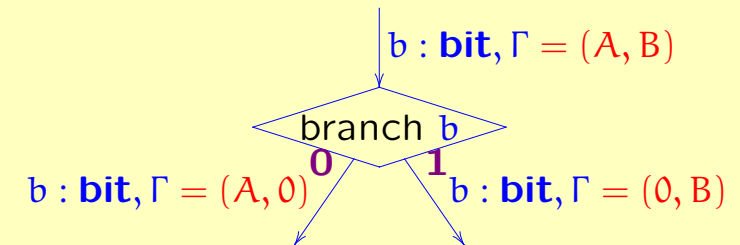
Discard bit:



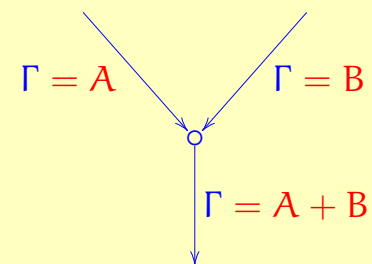
Assignment:



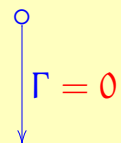
Branching:



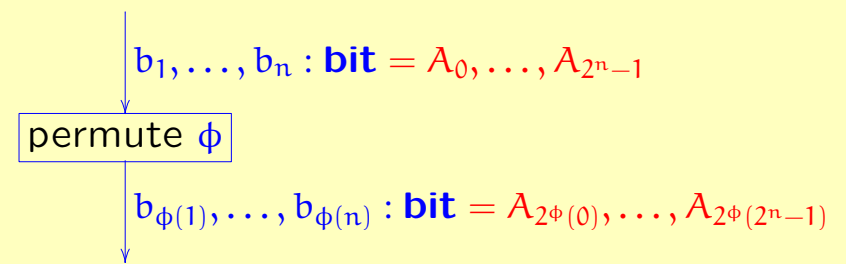
Merge:



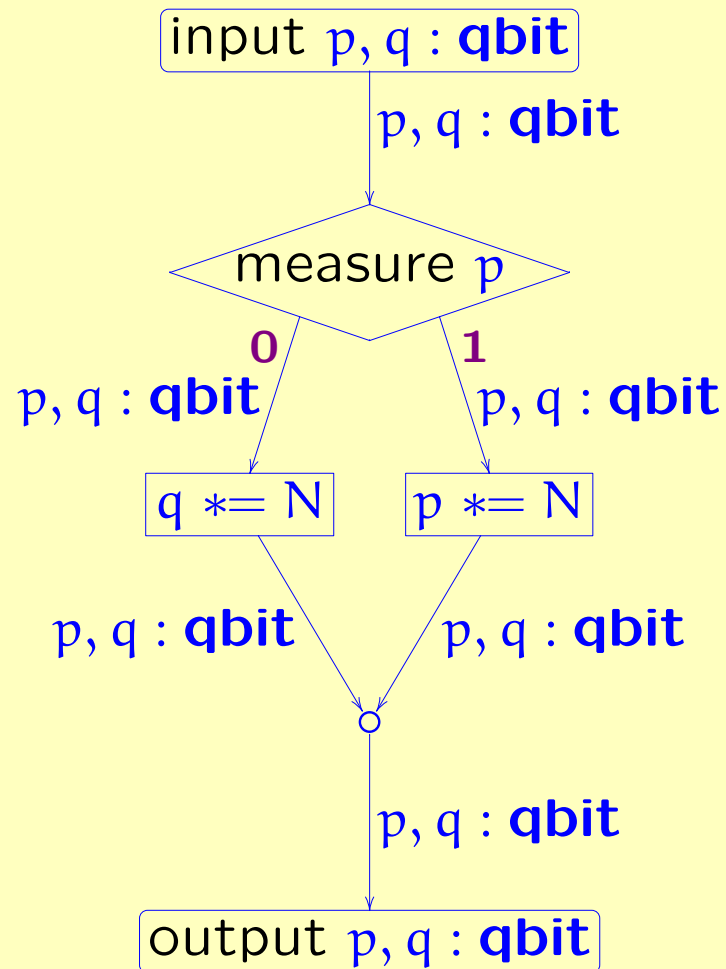
Initial:



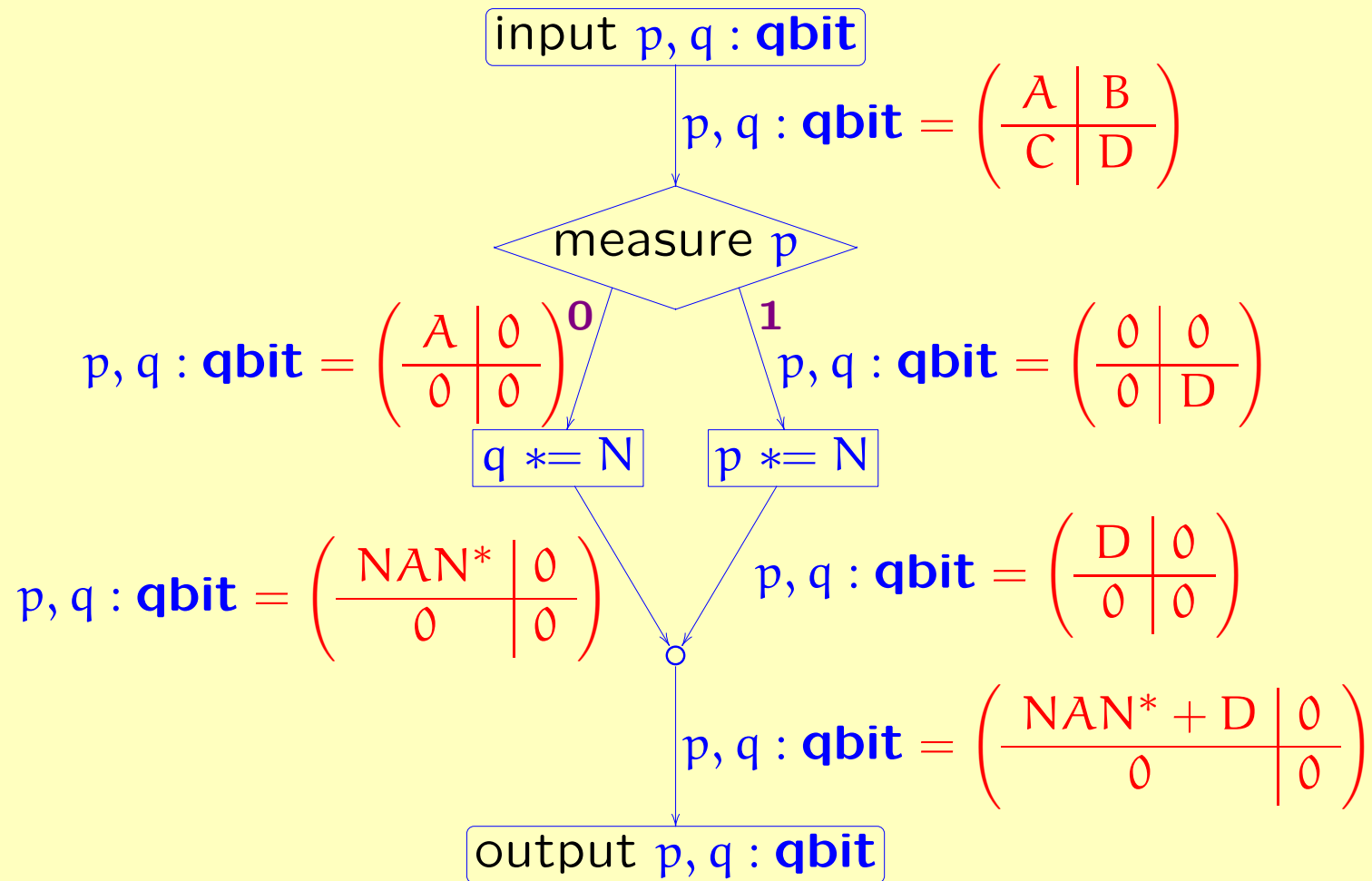
Permutation:



The quantum case: A simple quantum flow chart

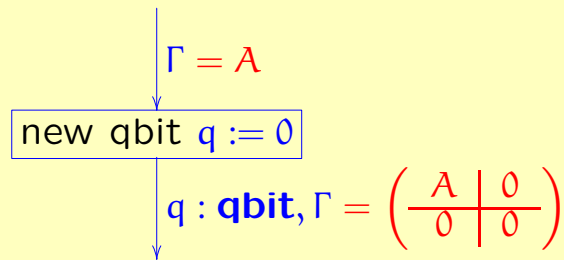


A simple quantum flow chart

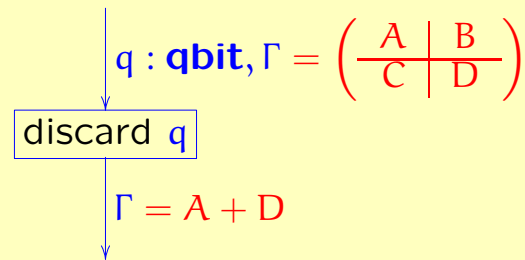


Summary of quantum flow chart components

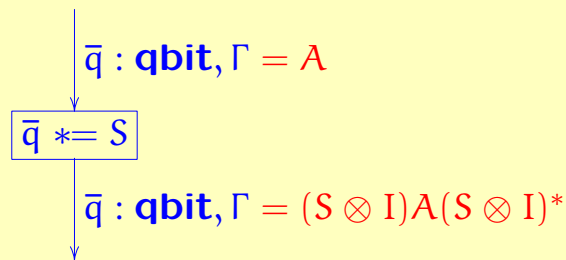
Allocate qbit:



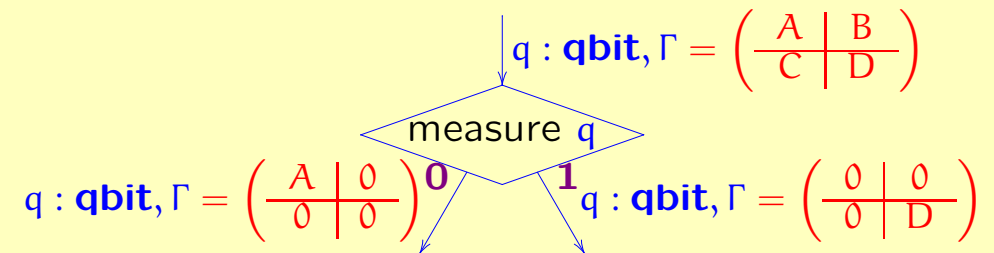
Discard qbit:



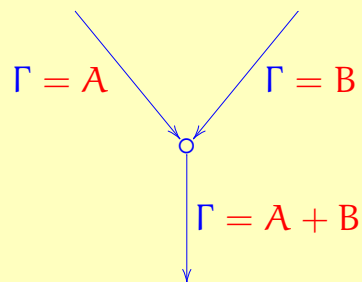
Unitary transformation:



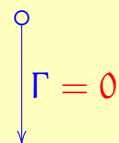
Measurement:



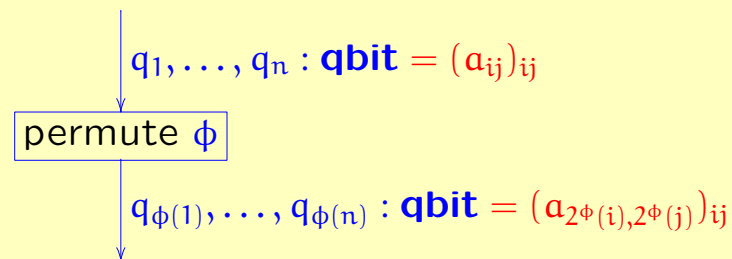
Merge:



Initial:



Permutation:



Part III: Quantum Lambda Calculus

With Benoît Valiron.

A quantum lambda calculus [Selinger, Valiron04]

- Quantum data is subject to *linearity constraints*. Need to avoid terms that lead to runtime errors such as

let $q = \text{new_qbit}()$ in $(\lambda x. H(x, x)) q$.

- Bits are always duplicable, qubits are never duplicable. What about functions?

- Consider

$q:\mathbf{qbit} \vdash \lambda p.p : \mathbf{qbit} \rightarrow \mathbf{qbit}$
 $q:\mathbf{qbit} \vdash \lambda p.q : \mathbf{qbit} \rightarrow \mathbf{qbit}$

Both closures have type $\mathbf{qbit} \rightarrow \mathbf{qbit}$, but only the first one is duplicable.

- Solution: type system based on linear logic.

Linear type system [Selinger, Valiron04]

Types: $A, B ::= \mathbf{qbit} \mid !A \mid A \multimap B \mid 1 \mid A \otimes B \mid A \oplus B.$

Convention $\mathbf{bit} := 1 \oplus 1.$

Subtyping: $!A <: A.$

Main typing rules:

$$\frac{\Delta, x:A \triangleright M : B}{\Delta \triangleright \lambda x.M : A \multimap B}$$

$$\frac{!\Delta, x:A \triangleright M : B}{!\Delta \triangleright \lambda x.M : !(A \multimap B)}$$

Complete typing rules:

$$\begin{array}{c}
 \frac{A <: B}{\Delta, x:A \triangleright x : B} (ax_1) \quad \frac{!A_c <: B}{\Delta \triangleright c : B} (ax_2) \\
 \\
 \frac{\Delta \triangleright M : !^n A}{\Delta \triangleright inj_l(M) : !^n(A \oplus B)} (\oplus.I_1) \quad \frac{\Delta \triangleright N : !^n B}{\Delta \triangleright inj_r(N) : !^n(A \oplus B)} (\oplus.I_2) \\
 \\
 \frac{! \Delta, \Gamma_1 \triangleright P : !^n(A \oplus B) \quad ! \Delta, \Gamma_2, x : !^n A \triangleright M : C \quad ! \Delta, \Gamma_2, y : !^n B \triangleright N : C}{\Gamma_1, \Gamma_2, ! \Delta \triangleright match\ P\ with\ (x \mapsto M \mid y \mapsto N) : C} (\oplus.E) \\
 \\
 \frac{\Gamma_1, ! \Delta \triangleright M : A \multimap B \quad \Gamma_2, ! \Delta \triangleright N : A}{\Gamma_1, \Gamma_2, ! \Delta \triangleright MN : B} (app) \\
 \\
 \begin{array}{c}
 \text{If } FV(M) \cap |\Gamma| = \emptyset: \\
 \Gamma, ! \Delta, x:A \triangleright M : B
 \end{array} \\
 \frac{x:A, \Delta \triangleright M : B}{\Delta \triangleright \lambda x.M : A \multimap B} (\lambda_1) \quad \frac{\Gamma, ! \Delta, x:A \triangleright M : B}{\Gamma, ! \Delta \triangleright \lambda x.M : !^{n+1}(A \multimap B)} (\lambda_2) \\
 \\
 \frac{! \Delta, \Gamma_1 \triangleright M_1 : !^n A_1 \quad ! \Delta, \Gamma_2 \triangleright M_2 : !^n A_2}{! \Delta, \Gamma_1, \Gamma_2 \triangleright \langle M_1, M_2 \rangle : !^n(A_1 \otimes A_2)} (\otimes.I) \quad \frac{}{\Delta \triangleright * : !^n 1} (1) \\
 \\
 \frac{! \Delta, \Gamma_1 \triangleright M : !^n(A_1 \otimes A_2) \quad ! \Delta, \Gamma_2, x_1 : !^n A_1, x_2 : !^n A_2 \triangleright N : A}{! \Delta, \Gamma_1, \Gamma_2 \triangleright let\ \langle x_1, x_2 \rangle = M\ in\ N : A} (\otimes.E) \\
 \\
 \frac{! \Delta, f : !(A \multimap B), x : A \triangleright M : B \quad ! \Delta, \Gamma, f : !(A \multimap B) \triangleright N : C}{! \Delta, \Gamma \triangleright let\ rec\ f\ x = M\ in\ N : C} (rec)
 \end{array}$$

Properties of the type system

All the rules of intuitionistic linear logic are valid, except for the general promotion rule:

$$\frac{!\Delta \triangleright M : A}{!\Delta \triangleright M : !A.}$$

We do have the promotion rule for *values*:

$$\frac{!\Delta \triangleright V : A}{!\Delta \triangleright V : !A.}$$

Type inference: first do “intuitionistic” type inference, then find a “linear decoration”.

Completeness

Quantum lambda calculus (with list types and recursion) is complete for quantum computation. Every algorithm can be expressed *in principle*.

Part IV: Quipper

Quipper developers: Richard Eisenberg, Alexander S. Green, Peter LeFanu Lumsdaine, Neil J. Ross, Peter Selinger, Benoît Valiron.

Design goals

Quantum lambda calculus is *too low-level*. Algorithms in the quantum literature are described in terms of *meta-operations*:

- Start with a classical function;
- turn it into a circuit;
- make it reversible;
- apply a transformation (e.g. amplitude amplification);
- etc.

Quipper: extend quantum lambda calculus with the ability to *build and manipulate quantum circuits as first-class objects*.

Quipper's initial implementation

Implemented as a deeply embedded EDSL in Haskell.

Reasons:

- Haskell provides very good support for *higher-order*, *polymorphic*, and *overloaded* functions.
- Both Haskell and Quipper are strongly typed, functional programming languages, and as such, are a relatively good fit for each other.

Trade-offs:

- Haskell lacks two features that would be useful to Quipper: *linear types* and *dependent types*. We must live with checking certain properties at run-time that could be checked by the type-checker in a dedicated language.

Quipper contains a powerful circuit description language

- In our experience, 99 percent of the quantum programmer's task is *“constructing the circuit”*, and 1 percent is *“running the circuit”*.
- Quipper separates the *description* of quantum operations from *what to do with them*. E.g.: a given quantum function could be:
 - executed right away;
 - stored for later execution; or
 - stored to be transformed or analyzed.
- Many tasks in algorithm construction require manipulations at the *circuit level*, rather than the *gate level*. For example:
 - reversing;
 - iteration (e.g. Trotterization; amplitude amplification);
 - construction of classical oracles and ancilla management;
 - whole-circuit optimization

The two run-times

As a circuit description language, Quipper shares many features with *hardware description languages*. In particular, it has *three distinct phases of execution*:

1. Compile time.

Subject to: *compile time parameters*

Error detection: most programming errors detected.

2. Circuit generation time (“synthesizer”).

Subject to: *circuit parameters*

Error detection: ideally none (or some run-time errors).

3. Circuit execution time.

Subject to: *circuit inputs*

Error detection: decoherence errors, physical errors.

The two run-times, continued

The distinction between *parameters* and *inputs* requires special support in the type system. **Circuit inputs are not known at circuit generation time!**

In Quipper, this is done by having 3 basic types instead of the usual 2:

- **Bool**: a boolean *parameter*, known at circuit generation time;
- **Bit**: a boolean *input*, i.e., a boolean wire in a circuit;
- **Qubit**: a qubit *input*, i.e., a qubit wire in a circuit.

Moreover, circuit generation and execution may be interleaved (“*dynamic lifting*”).

The Quipper idiom

The basic idiom for writing a circuit in Quipper is:

```
example :: (Qubit, Qubit, Qubit) -> Circ (Qubit, Qubit, Qubit)
example (a, b, c) = do
  <<gate1>>
  <<gate2>>
  <<gate3>>
  return (a, b, c)
```

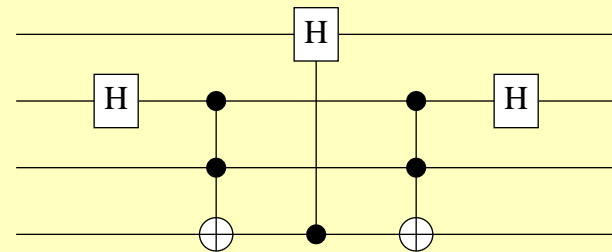
Note: in Quipper, as in Quantum Lambda Calculus, quantum operations are viewed as functions. However, the *Circ* monad is used to assemble a data structure.

A first example

The code on the left is a small, but complete, Quipper program. When it is compiled and run, it outputs the circuit shown on the right.

```
import Quipper

example1 (q, a, b, c) = do
  hadamard a
  qnot_at c 'controlled' [a, b]
  hadamard q 'controlled' [c]
  qnot_at c 'controlled' [a, b]
  hadamard a
  return (q, a, b, c)
```

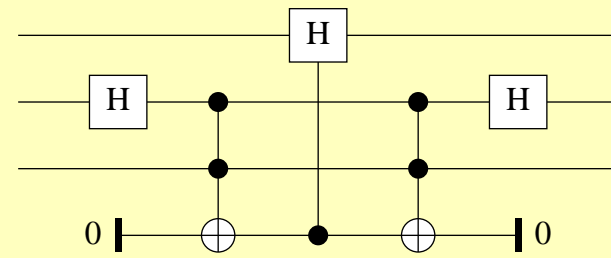


Scoped ancillas

Let us modify the previous example so that the qubit `c` is a local ancilla. This is done with the `with_ancilla` operator. This operator is followed by a nested “do” block. Note that Quipper uses indentation to figure out the end of a “do” block.

```
import Quipper

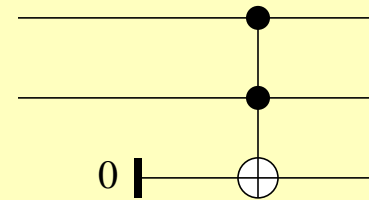
example2 (q, a, b) = do
  hadamard a
  with_ancilla $ \c -> do
    qnot_at c 'controlled' [a, b]
    hadamard q 'controlled' [c]
    qnot_at c 'controlled' [a, b]
  hadamard a
  return (q, a, b)
```



Recursion

Let us consider an implementation of a classical “and” gate. It inputs two qubits, and returns a new ancilla qubit initialized to the “and” of the two input qubits:

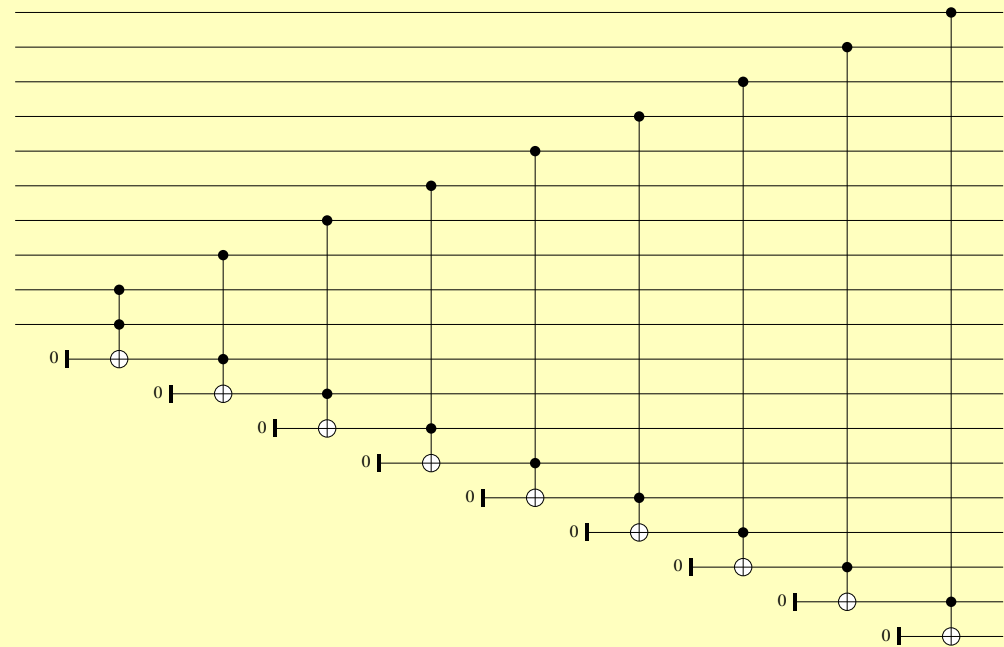
```
and_gate :: (Qubit, Qubit) -> Circ (Qubit)
and_gate (a, b) = do
  c <- qinit False
  qnot_at c 'controlled' [a, b]
  return c
```



Recursion, continued

We now program a function that computes the “and” of a list of qubits. Note that the length of the list is a *parameter*, but the qubits themselves are *inputs*.

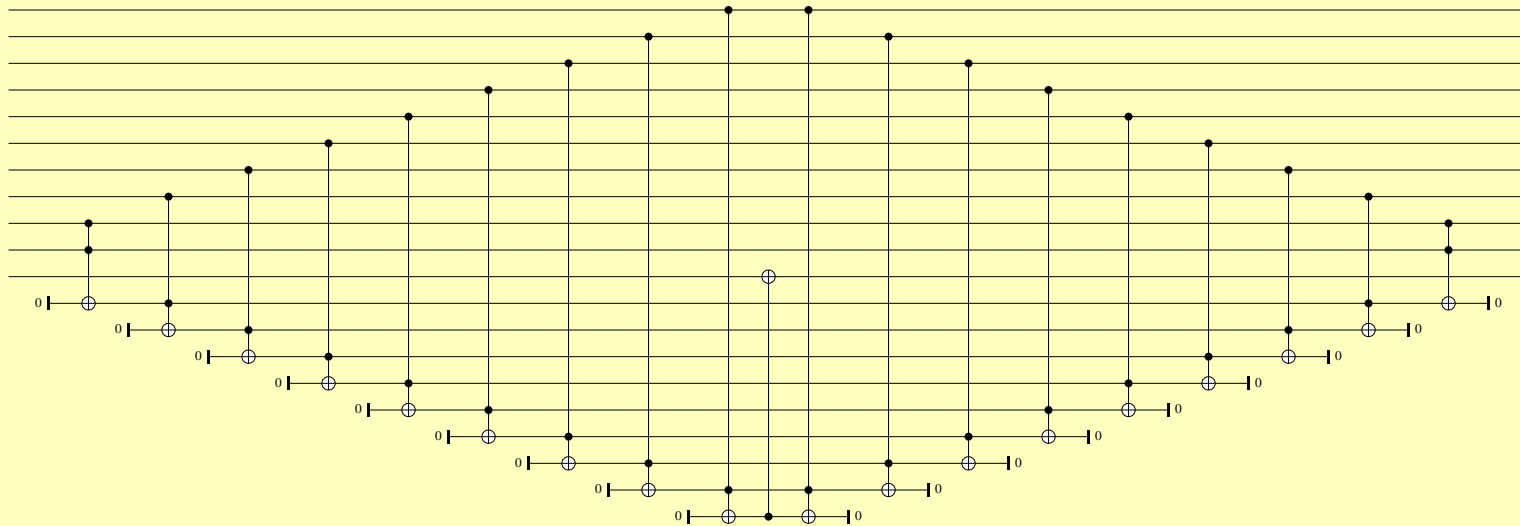
```
and_list :: [Qubit] -> Circ Qubit
and_list [] = do
  c <- qinit True
  return c
and_list [q] = do
  return q
and_list (q:t) = do
  d <- and_list t
  e <- and_gate (d, q)
  return e
```



Generic classical-to-reversible operator with ancilla uncomputation

Quipper provides a general operator `classical_to_reversible`, which turns any classical circuit into a reversible circuit by uncomputing all the “garbage” ancillas. When applying this to the function from the previous slide, we get:

```
and_rev :: ([Qubit], Qubit) -> Circ ([Qubit], Qubit)
and_rev = classical_to_reversible and_list
```



Automatic oracle generation from classical code

Quipper can generate circuits from ordinary classical functional programs, via *Template Haskell* and a preprocessor.

```
build_circuit
v_function :: BoolParam -> BoolParam -> Boollist -> Boollist -> Node -> (Bool, Node)
v_function c_hi c_lo f g a =
  let aa = snd a in
  let cbc_hi = newBool c_hi 'bool_xor' level_parity aa in
  let cbc_lo = newBool c_lo in
  if (not (is_root aa) && cbc_hi && not (cbc_lo 'bool_xor' (last aa)))
  then (False, parent a)
  else
    let res = child f g a cbc_lo in
    (is_zero aa || cbc_hi, res)
```

Part V: Issues for type system design

Inadequacy of host language

- Haskell has no *linear types*. Therefore, errors like

```
(a,b) <- controlled_not (c,c)
```

can only be caught at runtime.

- Haskell has no *dependent types*. Variable size circuits can be represented as

```
circuit :: [Qubit] -> Circ [Qubit]
```

However, when *reversing* such a circuit, the type system cannot know the number of inputs of the reversed circuit. That is because the length of the list is a *parameter* but here treated as an *input*. Dependent types would solve this problem easily.

Some issues for type system design

- Reversibility tracking (not all circuits are reversible).
- Support for imperative syntax. Writing gates in purely functional style is okay:

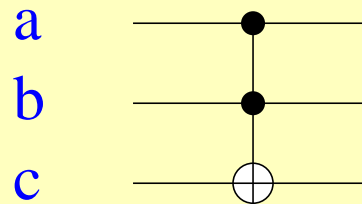
```
(a,b) <- gate (a,b).
```

However, for higher-order combinators, this turns very ugly:

```
(a,b) <- (while <<condition>> do \(a,b) ->  
  <<body>>  
  return (a,b)  
) (a,b)
```

Some issues for type system design, continued

- Weak linearity. Consider the classical Toffoli gate



Linearity requires that $a \neq c$ and $b \neq c$.

On the other hand, it can be perfectly reasonable (and desirable) to allow $a = b$.

Moreover, a and b are immutable.

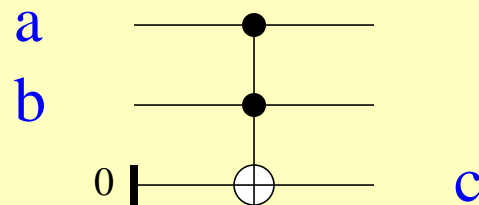
In classical circuit synthesis, to ensure well-formed circuits, one should keep track of all of these properties.

Some issues for type system design, continued

- Automatic garbage management. A classical boolean function such as

```
let c = and a b
```

will be synthesized to a circuit such as this:



Note that **a** and **b** are outputs of the circuit, but not of the function. They are “garbage”, and must potentially be uncomputed later. We need a type system to automatically track such garbage.

The end.