# Counting Qubits and Gates: Resource Analysis in Quantum Programming Languages

Ugo Dal Lago

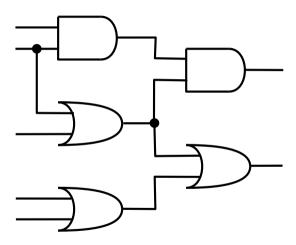


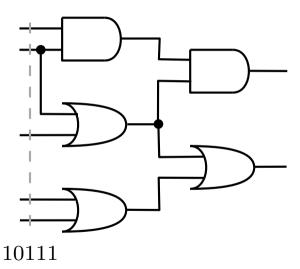


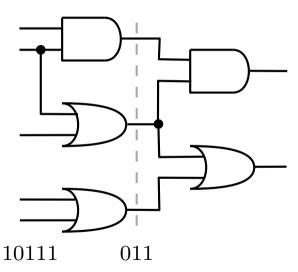
IFIP WG 2.2 Meeting, September 26h 2025

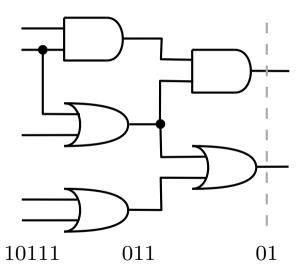
#### Part I

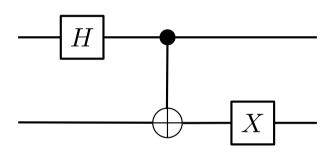
# Quantum Computing

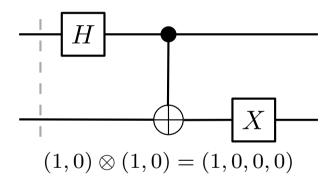


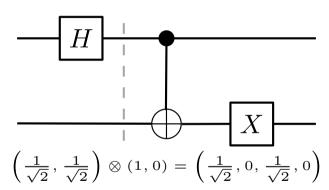


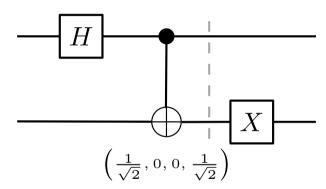


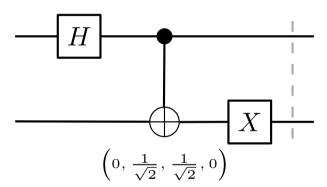












Superposition

with uncertainty.

► The number of coefficients is **exponential** in the number of wires.

 ${\bf Superposition}$ 

Superposition

Entanglement

States like

$$\left(0, \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}, \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}, 0\right)$$

cannot be decomposed through the tensor product. Superposition

Entanglement

Superposition

Entanglement

Negative Interference

Superposition

Entanglement

Negative Interference

- ► Coefficients can be **negative**.
- ► There is a phenomenon of cancellation which is not there in probabilistic computing.

## Quantum Computing is Nice



Cryptography



Optimization Problems



Grover (1996)



HHL (2008)

Unstructured Search

Chemistry



Finance



VQE (2014)

# Quantum Computing is Hard

# Quantum Computing is Hard

- Current quantum architectures can handle only a very limited number of qubits.
- ${}^{\blacktriangleright}$  We are still in the so-called  ${\bf NISQ}$  era.
- ► Quantum advantage is not there yet, despite the breakthrough theoretical advances.

# Quantum Computing is Hard

#### News in focus

algorithms that harness these indicators to estimate a person's 'biological age', which can be higher or lower than their chronological age<sup>3</sup>.

Another hallmark of ageing is a shift in the proteins that the body produces. To explore how organs age, Oh and his colleagues first analysed nearly 5,000 proteins his Diod samples from 1,398 healthy adults. They identified about 850 proteins that originated mainly from a single organ and trained a machine-learning algorithm to predict a person's age on the basis of the levels of these profices. They validated their model using blood

samples from more than 4,000 other people. The results showed that an organ's biological age is linked to disease risk. For example, coughly 28 of participants had accelerated heart ageing — that is, their levels of blood proteins relating to heart ageing differed substantially from those of other people of the same age. Having a prematurely od heart was linked to a 250% increased risk of heart failure the authors found.

#### **Marking time**

Researchers have used epigenetic markers to show that the pace of organ ageing varies between individuals<sup>1</sup>. But the link between epigenetic changes and ageing is unclear, says Matt Kaeberlein, a specialist in the biology of ageing and chief executive of Optispan, a biotechnology company in Seattle, Washington. Proteins are "much closer to the downstream

#### IBM RELEASES FIRST-EVER 1,000-QUBIT OUANTUM CHIP

The company will now focus on developing smaller, more reliable processors.

#### By Davide Castelyecchi

BM has unveiled the first quantum computer with more than 1,000 qubits — the equivalent of the digital bits in an ordinary computer. But the company says that it will now shift gears and focus on making its machines more error-resistant rather than larger.

For years, IBM has been following a quantum-computing road map that roughly doubled the number of qubits every year. The chip unveiled on 4 becember, called Condor, has 1,12 superconducting qubits arranged in a honeycomb pattern, it follows on from IBM's other record-setting, bird-named machines, including a 127-qubit chip called Eagle, released in 2021 and a 433-qubit one called Osprev, amonunced last year.

Quantum computers promise to perform certain computations that are beyond the reach of classical computers. They will do so



IBM's Heron quantum processor.

2023). The company says that it will now focus on building chips designed to hold a few qLDPC-corrected qubits in just 400 or so

SCARCE QUBITS

# A DREAM

## Quantum Computing is Hard

# How to factor 2048 bit RSA integers in 8 hours using 20 million noisy qubits

Craig Gidney<sup>1</sup> and Martin Ekerå<sup>2</sup>

 <sup>1</sup>Google Inc., Santa Barbara, California 93117, USA
 <sup>2</sup>KTH Royal Institute of Technology, SE-100 44 Stockholm, Sweden Swedish NCSA, Swedish Armed Forces, SE-107 85 Stockholm, Sweden

We significantly reduce the cost of factoring integers and computing discrete logarithms in finite fields on a quantum computer by combining techniques from Shor 1994, Griffiths-Niu 1996, Zalka 2006, Fowler 2012, Ekerå-Håstad 2017, Ekerå 2017, Ekerå 2018, Gidney-Fowler 2019, Gidney 2019. We estimate the approximate cost of

#### Part II

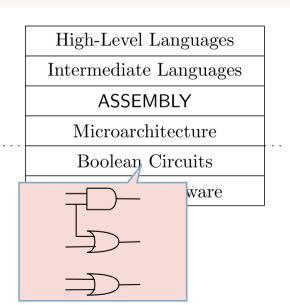
# Quantum Programming Languages

High-Level Languages	
Intermediate Languages	
ASSEMBLY	
Microarchitecture	
Boolean Circuits	
Classical Hardware	

- -

#### PYTHON, JAVA, C, HASKELL, SCALA, JAVASCRIPT, ...

	High-Level Languages	
	Intermediate Languages	
	ASSEMBLY	
	Microarchitecture	
Boolean Circuits		
	Classical Hardware	



High-Level Languages	
Intermediate Languages	ion on
ASSEMBLY	etat ilati
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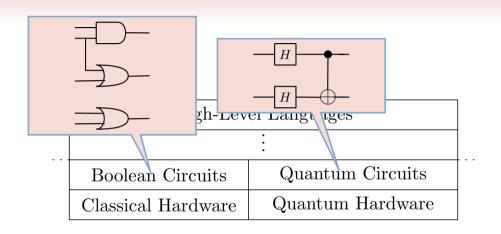
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	High-Level Languages :				

Tilgii-Devel Daliguages		
 Boolean Circuits	Quantum Circuits	

Classical Hardware

Quantum Hardware



#### High-Level Languages

- ► How could we *construct* quantum high-level programs?
- How could we compile an high-level program down to a
- ► How to take advantage of the presence of quantum circuits, and of the computation power they provide?

mixed architecture?

ircuits

rdware

# QRAM MODEI

#### Conventions for Quantum Pseudocode

LANL report LAUR-96-2724

E. Knill

knill@lanl.gov, Mail Stop B265 Los Alamos National Laboratory Los Alamos, NM 87545

June 1996

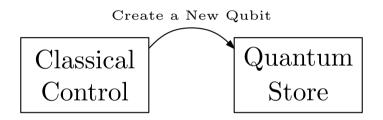
#### Abstract

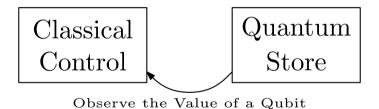
A few conventions for thinking about and writing quantum pseudode are proposed. The conventions can be used for presenting any quantum algorithm down to the lowest level and are consistent with a quantum random access machine (QRAM) model for quantum computing. In principle a formal version of quantum pseudocode could be used in a future extension of a conventional language.

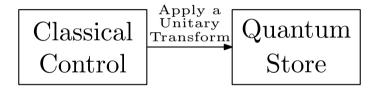
**Note:** This report is preliminary. Please let me know of any suggestions, omissions or errors so that I can correct them before distributing this work more widely.

Classical Control

Quantum Store







# A SURVEY

### A Brief Survey of Quantum Programming Languages

Peter Selinger

Department of Mathematics, University of Ottawa Ottawa, Ontario, Canada K1N 6N5 selinger@mathstat.uottawa.ca

**Abstract.** This article is a brief and subjective survey of quantum programming language research.

### 1 Quantum Computation

Quantum computing is a relatively young subject. It has its beginnings in 1982, when Paul Benioff and Richard Feynman independently pointed out that a quantum mechanical system can be used to perform computations [II] p.12]. Feynman's interest in quantum computation was motivated by the fact that it is computationally very expensive to simulate quantum physical systems on classical computers. This is due to the fact that such simulation involves the manipulation is extremely large matrices (whose dimension is exponential in the size of the quantum system being simulated). Feynman conceived of quantum computers as a means of simulating nature much more efficiently.

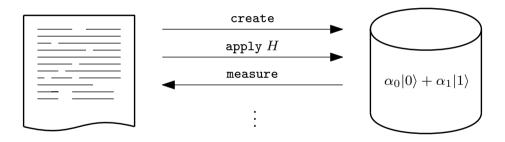
The evidence to this day is that quantum computers can indeed perform

### A Multitude of Idioms

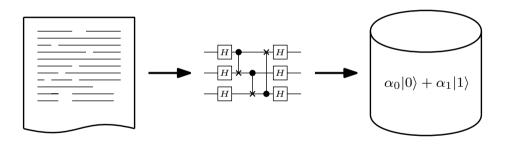
- ► Functional Languages
- ► Imperative Languages
- ► Logic Programming Languages
- ► Quantum Constraint Programming Languages

▶ ...

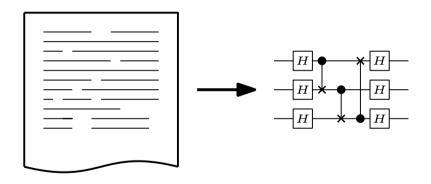
# From QRAM...



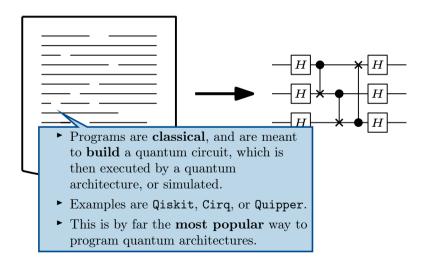
# ... to Reality



# Quantum Circuit Description Languages



# Quantum Circuit Description Languages



### Part III

# Quantum Program Verification

### QPV: Why and How

### Rewards

- ► Testing quantum programs can be very **expensive**!
- ► Certain properties are arguably of **paramount importance**, like resource consumption.

# QPV: Why and How

### Rewards

- ► Testing quantum programs can be very **expensive**!
- ► Certain properties are arguably of **paramount importance**, like resource consumption.

### Challenges

- ► The underlying computational model is simply **different**, and arguably more complicated.
- Besides the usual exponential blowup (there are  $\Theta(2^n)$  states of size n), there is another one coming from **superposition**.
- ► Most quantum algorithms are only **approximately** correct, and many of them are meant to be run on **noisy** hardware.

### QPV: Some Techniques



### An Applied Quantum Hoare Logic

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and Technology
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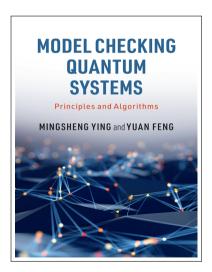
### Abstract

We derive a variant of quantum Hoare logic (QHL), called applied quantum Hoare logic (aQHL for short), by: (1) restricting QHL to a special class of preconditions and postconditions, namely projections, which can significantly simplify verification of quantum programs and are much more convenient when used in debugging and testing; and (2) adding several rules for reasoning about robustness of quantum programs, i.e. error bounds of outputs. The effectiveness of aQHL is shown by its applications to verify two sophisticated quantum algorithms: HHL (Harrow-Hassidim-Lloyd)

stimulated by rapid progress in the implementation of quantum computing hardware. Now people start to consider how to warrant correctness of quantum programs: debugging, testing or verification?

Quantum Hoare Logic: Indeed, attempts of developing Hoare-like logic for verification of quantum programs have been made in a series of papers [2, 6, 7, 9, 10, 14, 21, 29]. In particular, D'Hondt and Panangaden [13] proposed the notion of quantum weakest precondition, and Ying [37] established quantum Hoare logic (QHL for short) for both partial correctness and total correctness with (relative) completeness. More

# QPV: Some Techniques



# MODEL CHECKING

# QPV: Some Techniques



### Sized Types for Low-Level Quantum Metaprogramming

Matthew Amy<sup>(⊠)</sup>©

University of Waterloo, Waterloo, Canada meamy@uwaterloo.ca

Abstract. One of the most fundamental aspects of quantum circuit design is the concept of families of circuits parametrized by an instance size. As in classical programming, metaprogramming allows the programmer to write entire families of circuits simultaneously, an ability which is of particular importance in the context of quantum computing as algorithms frequently use arithmetic over non-standard word lengths. In this work, we introduce metaQASM, a typed extension of the openQASM language supporting the metaprogramming of circuit families. Our language and type system, built around a lightweight implementation of sized types, supports subtyping over register sizes and is moreover typesafe. In particular, we prove that our system is strongly normalizing, and

FYPE SYSTEMS

### Part IV

# Quantum Resource Analysis

### Part IV

# Quantum Resource Analysis

- ► Deriving bounds on the **amount of resources** a quantum program needs.
- ► Given the **limitations** of current quantum hardware, this makes a lot of sense.
- ► This is an active research area, still in its infancy.

- ► This refers to machine-free characterizations of complexity classes which are based on logic or programming languages.
- ► In classical computing, this gave rise to characterizations of many complexity classes, like P, NP, PSPACE, etc.

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### Quantum implicit computational complexity\*

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#### ARTICLE INFO

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Keywords: Quantum computation Implicit computational complexity Lambda calculus

#### $A\;B\;S\;T\;R\;A\;C\;T$

We introduce a quantum lambda calculus inspired by Lafont's Soft Linear Logic and capturing the polynomial quantum complexity classes GPB, BGP and CQP. The calculus is based on the "classical control and quantum data" paradigm. This is the first example of a formal system capturing quantum complexity classes in the spirit of implicit computational complexity — it is machine-free and no explicit bound (e.g., polynomials) appears in its syntax.

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# **A-CALCULUS**

THE JOURNAL OF SYMBOLIC LOGIC Volume 85. Number 4. December 2020

### A SCHEMATIC DEFINITION OF QUANTUM POLYNOMIAL TIME COMPUTABILITY

#### TOMOYUKI YAMAKAMI

Abstract. In the past four decades, the notion of quantum polynomial-time computability has been mathematically modeled by quantum Turing machines as well as quantum circuits. This paper seeks the third model, which is a quantum analogue of the schematic (inductive or constructive) definition of (primitive) recursive functions. For quantum functions mapping finite-dimensional Hilbert spaces to themselves, we present such a schematic definition, composed of a small set of initial quantum function and a few construction rules that dictate how to build a new quantum function from the existing ones. We prove that our schematic definition precisely characterizes all functions that can be computable with high success probabilities on well-formed quantum Turing machines in polynomial time, or equivalently uniform families of polynomial-size quantum circuits. Our new, schematic definition is quite simple and intuitive and, more importantly, it avoids the cumbersome introduction of the well-formedness condition imposed on a quantum Turing machine model as well as of the uniformity condition necessary for a quantum circuits model. Our new approach can further oven a door to the descriptional commelicity of quantum functions to



### A Programming Language Characterizing Quantum Polynomial Time

Emmanuel Hainry, Romain Péchoux, and Mário Silva (☑)

Université de Lorraine, CNRS, Inria, LORIA, 54000 Nancy, France {hainry,pechoux,mmachado}@loria.fr

Abstract. We introduce a first-order quantum programming language, named FOQ, whose terminating programs are reversible. We restrict FOQ to a strict and tractable subset, named PFOQ, of terminating programs with bounded width, that provides a first programming language-based characterization of the quantum complexity class FBQP. We finally present a tractable semantics-preserving algorithm compiling a PFOQ program to a quantum circuit of size polynomial in the number of input qubits.

# CONTROI **QUANTUM**

# Expectation Transformers

## Expectation Transformers

- A well-studied generalization of Dijkstra's predicate transformers.
- ► It enables **quantitative reasoning** about the expectated value of random variables (e.g., the cost) of randomized programs.

### Expectation Transformers



### Quantum Expectation Transformers for Cost Analysis

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Simon Perdrix Université de Lorraine, CNRS, Inria, LORIA, F-54000 Nancy France simon.perdrix@loria.fr Vladimir Zamdzhiev Université de Lorraine, CNRS, Inria, LORIA, F-54000 Nancy France vladimir.zamdzhiev@inria.fr

### ABSTRACT

We introduce a new kind of expectation transformer for a mixed classical-quantum programming language. Our semantic approach relies on a new notion of a cost structure, which we introduce and which can be seen as a specialisation of the Kegelspitzen of Keimel and Plotkin. We show that our weakest precondition analysis is both sound and adequate with respect to the operational semantics of the language. Using the induced expectation transformer, we provide formal analysis methods for the expected cost analysis and expected value analysis of classical-quantum programs. We illustrate the

### 1 INTRODUCTION

Quantum computation is a promising and emerging computational paradigm which can efficiently solve problems considered to be intractable on classical computers (Harrow et al. 2009; Shor 1999]. However, the unintuitive nature of quantum mechanics poses interesting and challenging questions for the design and analysis of quantum programming languages. Indeed, the quantum program dynamics are considerably more complicated compared to the behaviour of classical probabilistic programs. Therefore, formal reasoning about quantum programs requires the development of

Deriving Bounds on the Size of the Produced Circuits

Deriving Bounds on the Size of the Produced Circuits

Bounds Should be Parametric on the Input

# Deriving Bounds on the Size of the Produced Circuits

### Bounds Should be Parametric on the Input

- Deriving size bounds on just one circuit is a trivial problem.
- ► Parametric bounds, instead, allows us to derive, e.g., the maximal problem size achievable with a given amount of qubits.

Deriving Bounds on the Size of the Produced Circuits

Bounds Should be Parametric on the Input

How are Circuits Actually Built?

### contributed articles



DOI:10.1145/2699415

The Quipper language offers a unified general-purpose programming framework for quantum computation.

BY BENOÎT VALIRON, NEIL J. ROSS, PETER SELINGER, D. SCOTT ALEXANDER, AND JONATHAN M. SMITH

### Programming the Quantum Future

Quantum computation is a computing paradigm where data is encoded in the state of objects governed by the laws of quantum physics. Using quantum techniques, it is possible to design algorithms that outperform their best-known conventional, or classical, counterparts.

While quantum computers were envisioned in the 20th century, it is likely they will become real in the 21st century, moving from laboratories to commercial availability. This provides an opportunity to apply the many lessons learned from programming classical computing devices to emerging quantum computing canabilities.

### **Quantum Coprocessor Model**

How would programmers interact with a device capable of performing quantum operations? Our purpose here is not to provide engineering blueprints Quipper

### contributed articles



The Quipper language general-purpose progr for quantum computat

BY BENOÎT VALIRON, NEIL J. RO D. SCOTT ALEXANDER, AND JO

- ► A QCDL embedded in Haskell.
- ► Circuits can be **manipulated** from within the language, but also **produced** as an effect of any computation.
- Functions can be reified as circuits through a boxing operator.

# Programming the Quantum Future

they will become real in the 21stury, moving from laboratories to comercial availability. This provides an opportunity to apply the many lessons learned from programming classical computing devices to emerging quantum computing capabilities.

### **Quantum Coprocessor Model**

How would programmers interact with a device capable of performing quantum operations? Our purpose here is not to provide engineering blueprints Quipper

### From Proto-Quipper ...

```
\begin{array}{ll} \textit{Terms} & M,N ::= \lambda x_A.M \mid \ell \mid \mathsf{box}_T \; M \mid (\vec{\ell},C,\vec{r}) \mid \mathsf{apply}(M,N) \mid \cdots \\ \textit{Types} & A,B ::= \mathsf{Bit} \mid \mathsf{Qubit} \mid A \multimap B \mid \mathsf{Circ}(T,U) \mid \mathsf{List} \; A \mid \cdots \end{array}
```

From  $\begin{bmatrix} \text{A value encapsulating} \\ \text{a circuit } C \end{bmatrix}$  r . . .

Terms  $M, N ::= \lambda x_A.M \mid \ell \mid \mathsf{box}_T M \mid (\vec{\ell}, C, \vec{r}) \mid \mathsf{apply}(M, N) \mid \cdots$ Types  $A, B ::= \mathsf{Bit} \mid \mathsf{Qubit} \mid A \multimap B \mid \mathsf{Circ}(T, U) \mid \mathsf{List} A \mid \cdots$ 

From

A value encapsulating a circuit C

Extends the current circuit with some new gates

Terms  $M, N ::= \lambda x_A.M \mid \ell \mid \mathsf{box}_T M \mid (\vec{\ell}, C, \vec{r}) \mid \mathsf{apply}(M, N) \mid \cdots$ Types  $A, B ::= \mathsf{Bit} \mid \mathsf{Qubit} \mid A \multimap B \mid \mathsf{Circ}(T, U) \mid \mathsf{List} A \mid \cdots$ 

### From

A value encapsulating a circuit C

Extends the current circuit with some new gates

Terms 
$$M, N ::= \lambda x_A.M \mid \ell \mid \mathsf{box}_T M \mid (\vec{\ell}, C, \vec{r}) \mid \mathsf{apply}(M, N) \mid \cdots$$
  
Types  $A, B ::= \mathsf{Bit} \mid \mathsf{Qubit} \mid A \multimap B \mid \mathsf{Circ}(T, U) \mid \mathsf{List} A \mid \cdots$ 

Type of circuits with input T and output U

### From Proto-Quipper ...

```
 \begin{array}{ll} \textit{Terms} & M,N ::= \lambda x_A.M \mid \ell \mid \mathsf{box}_T \; M \mid (\vec{\ell},C,\vec{r}) \mid \mathsf{apply}(M,N) \mid \cdots \\ \textit{Types} & A,B ::= \mathsf{Bit} \mid \mathsf{Qubit} \mid A \multimap B \mid \mathsf{Circ}(T,U) \mid \mathsf{List} \; A \mid \cdots \\ \end{array}
```

... to Proto-Quipper-RA

```
Terms M, N ::= \lambda x_A.M \mid \ell \mid \mathsf{box}_T M \mid (\vec{\ell}, C, \vec{r}) \mid \mathsf{apply}(M, N) \mid \cdots
Types A, B ::= \mathsf{Bit} \mid \mathsf{Qubit} \mid A \multimap_T^I B \mid \mathsf{Circ}^I(T, U) \mid \mathsf{List}_{i \leq I} A \mid \cdots
```

### From Proto-Quipper ...

```
 \begin{array}{ll} \textit{Terms} & M, N ::= \lambda x_A.M \mid \ell \mid \mathsf{box}_T \ M \mid (\vec{\ell}, C, \vec{r}) \mid \mathsf{apply}(M, N) \mid \cdots \\ \textit{Types} & A, B ::= \mathsf{Bit} \mid \mathsf{Qubit} \mid A \multimap B \mid \mathsf{Circ}(T, U) \mid \mathsf{List} \ A \mid \cdots \\ \end{array}
```

... to Proto-Quipper-RA

Terms 
$$M, N ::= \lambda x_A . M \mid \ell \mid \mathsf{box}_T \ M \mid (\vec{\ell}, C, \vec{r}) \mid \mathsf{apply}(M, N) \mid \cdots$$

Types  $A, B ::= \mathsf{Bit} \mid \mathsf{Qubit} \mid A \multimap_T^I B \mid \mathsf{Circ}^I(T, U) \mid \mathsf{List}_{i \leq I} A \mid \cdots$ 

Circuits have a size.

### From Proto-Quipper ...

```
 \begin{array}{ll} \textit{Terms} & M, N ::= \lambda x_A.M \mid \ell \mid \mathsf{box}_T \; M \mid (\vec{\ell}, C, \vec{r}) \mid \mathsf{apply}(M, N) \mid \cdots \\ \textit{Types} & A, B ::= \mathsf{Bit} \mid \mathsf{Qubit} \mid A \multimap B \mid \mathsf{Circ}(T, U) \mid \mathsf{List} \; A \mid \cdots \\ \end{array}
```

### ... to Proto-Quipper-RA

Terms 
$$M, N ::= \lambda x_A . M \mid \ell \mid \mathsf{box}_T \ M \mid (\vec{\ell}, C, \vec{r}) \mid \mathsf{apply}(M, N) \mid \cdots$$

Types  $A, B ::= \mathsf{Bit} \mid \mathsf{Qubit} \mid A \multimap_T^I B \mid \mathsf{Circ}^I(T, U) \mid \mathsf{List}_{i \leq I} A \mid \cdots$ 

Functions produce effects.

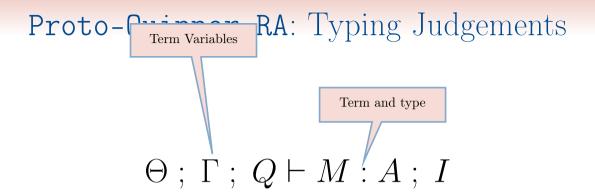
Circuits have a size.

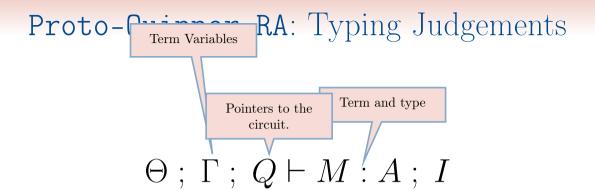
# Proto-Quipper-RA: Typing Judgements

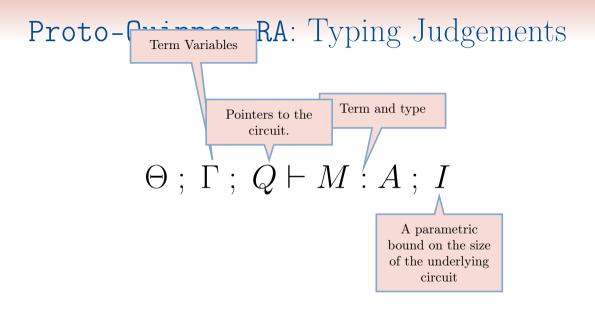
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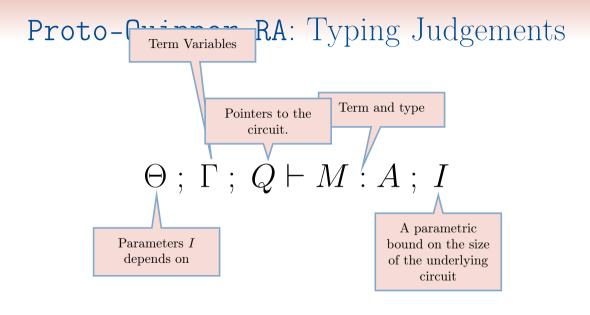
# Proto-Quipper-RA: Typing Judgements

$$\Theta\;;\;\Gamma\;;\;Q dash M:A\;;\;I$$







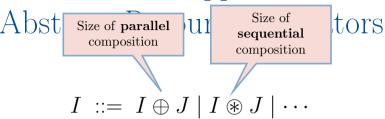


# Proto-Quipper-RA: Abstract Resource Operators

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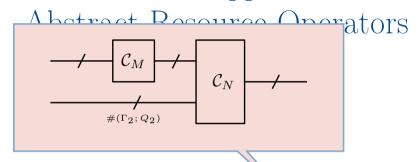


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$$\frac{\Theta; \Gamma_1; Q_1 \vdash M: A; I \quad \Theta; \Gamma_2, x: A; Q_2 \vdash N: B; J}{\Theta; \Gamma_1, \Gamma_2; Q_1, Q_2 \vdash \mathtt{let} \ x = M \ \mathtt{in} \ N: A; (I \oplus \#(\Gamma_2; Q_2)) \circledast J}$$

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Gate Count

#### Clobal va Local Matrice

- ► The total number of gates in the underlying circuit.
- ► Sometimes, you are interested in counting only **certain** gates (like binary gates, or swaps).

#### Gate Count

Gate Count
Width

- ► The maximum amount of wires active along the evaluation of the circuit.
- ► Variations thereof (e.g., only counting qubits).

Gate Count

-Width

Gate Count

Width

Depth

#### Gate Count

Width

#### Depth

- ► The number of **parallel** evaluation steps.
- ► This is inherently **local**, and requires base types to be **labeled** with an index term *I*.

#### Main Result

#### **Key Definitions**

- ► A resource metric is a function from circuits to natural numbers capturing a given notion of size.
- ▶ A resource metric interpretation provides an interpretation of to the operators  $\oplus$ ,  $\circledast$ , e, . . .
- A resource metric interpretation t is **coherent** with a resource metric  $\mu$  if it satisfies a mild set of inequalities involving both t and  $\mu$ .

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#### Correctness

Any instance of Proto-Quipper-RA induced by a resource metric interpretation which is coherent with  $\mu$  derives judgments which are semantically sound with respect to  $\mu$ .

#### A Tool





#### A Tool

```
. . .
```

#### A Tool

```
$ qura examples/qft.pqr -g width -l depth

* Inferred type:
    !(forall n. forall d. List[i<n] Qubit{d} -o[n,0] List[i<n] Qubit{d+n+i})

* Inferred width upper bound: 0</pre>
```

# Wrapping-Up

#### Take Home Messages

- Quantum computing shows great promise but faces challenges like decoherence, noise, and limited qubits.
- ► The task of deriving **resource bounds** for Quantum Circuit Description Languages (QCDLs) and for Quipper in particular turns out to be feasible, with the help of types.

# Wrapping-Up

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#### Ongoing Work

► We can give an adequate **monadic** denotational semantics to the introduced type system, which systematizes the task of dealing with circuit metrics, and suggests **new ones**.

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# Thank you! Questions?