Quantum Software Lab

THE UNIVERSITY of EDINBURGH

Quantum Circuits are Just a Phase

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Overview

- Quantum circuit model of quantum computation
- A quantum “if let”.
- The quantum phase language.

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if let |1⟩ = a {
  if let |−⟩ = b {
    Ph(π)
  }
}
```

Qubits and Unitaries

Classical Bits	Quantum Qubits
$\{\text{false}, \text{true}\}$	unit vectors in $\mathbb{C}^2$
false	$\|0\rangle = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$
true	$\|1\rangle = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$
N/A	$\|+\rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(\|0\rangle + \|1\rangle)$

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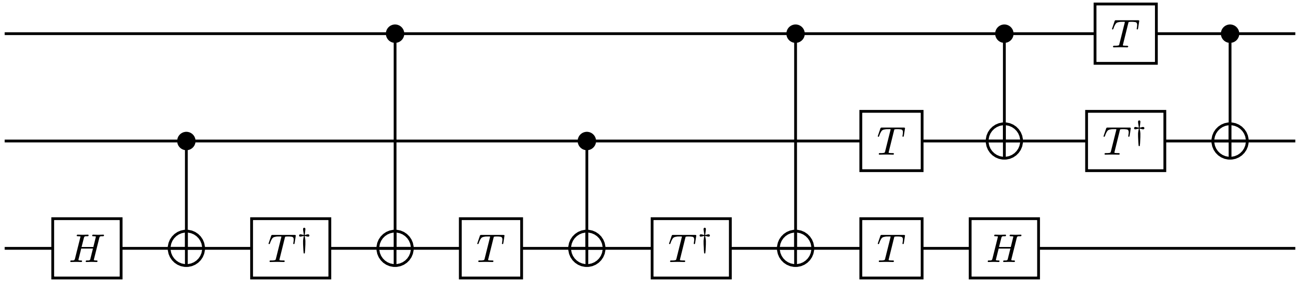
(Measurement-free) quantum computations correspond to *unitary maps*.

$$U \text{ is unitary} \Leftrightarrow UU^\dagger = U^\dagger U = I$$

What programming constructions can we use for unitary maps?

Quantum circuits

Quantum computations are often graphically represented as circuits.



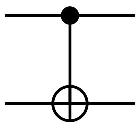
- Wires represent qubits
- Each symbol is a primitive *gate*
- Gates are composed in sequence and parallel

Quantum gates

Each gate is a “black boxed” unitary.

$$X = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \quad Y = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & -i \\ i & 0 \end{pmatrix} \quad H = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 1 & -1 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$Z = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 \end{pmatrix} \quad S = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & i \end{pmatrix} \quad T = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & e^{\frac{i\pi}{4}} \end{pmatrix}$$

$\mathrm{CX} =$  $= \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$

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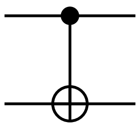


$$= \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

Claim: Quantum gates sit at an awkward level of abstraction

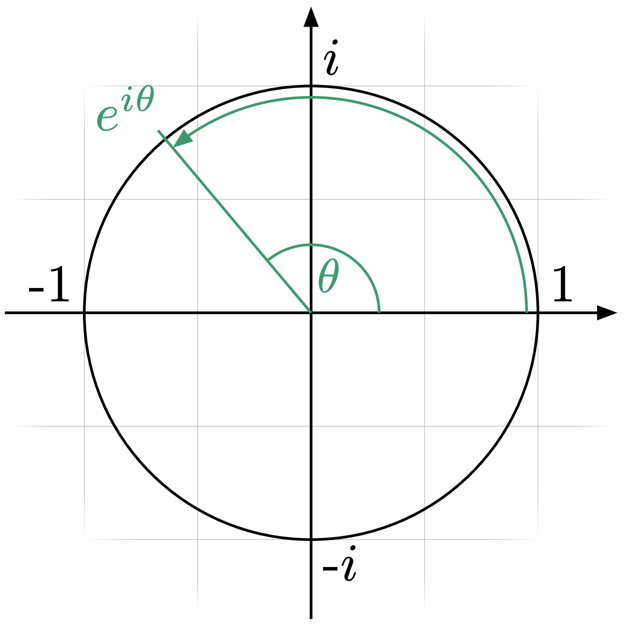
Just a phase

Perhaps the simplest unitary map takes the following form:

$$v \mapsto e^{i\theta} v$$

We call such a map a *phase* and represent it by the term:

```
Ph(θ)
```



Our language consists of just:
- this phase operator
- a quantum pattern matching construction

Pattern matching for unitary maps.

Maps from classical data can be specified by pattern matching:

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match x {
  false => { /* Do something */ }
  true => { /* Do something else */ }
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Linear maps only need to be specified on a basis.

```
match x {
  |0⟩ => { /* Do something */ }
  |1⟩ => { /* Do something else */ }
}
```

Z gate

We can already define the Z gate. Recall:

$$Z = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 \end{pmatrix} \quad Z|0\rangle = |0\rangle \quad Z|1\rangle = -|1\rangle$$

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match q {
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“if let” construction

To simplify the syntax, we borrow Rust’s “if let” expression.

```
match q {
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⇝

```
if let |1⟩ = q {
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if let |1⟩ = q {
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```

```
Z(q) = if let |1⟩ = q { Ph(π) }
S(q) = if let |1⟩ = q { Ph(0.5π) }
T(q) = if let |1⟩ = q { Ph(0.25π) }
```

X as an “if let”

$$X = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \quad X|0\rangle = |1\rangle \quad X|1\rangle = |0\rangle$$

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$$X|+\rangle = X\left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(|0\rangle + |1\rangle)\right) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(X|0\rangle + X|1\rangle) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(|1\rangle + |0\rangle) = |+\rangle$$

$$X|-\rangle = X\left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(|0\rangle - |1\rangle)\right) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(X|0\rangle - X|1\rangle) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(|1\rangle - |0\rangle) = -|-\rangle$$

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```
X(q) = if let |−⟩ = q { Ph(π) }
```

Quantum phase language

These two constructions form our universal quantum phase language.

Terms represent unitary maps:

```
s, t ::= Ph(θ) | s ; t | s ⊗ t | if let P = q { s }
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P, Q ::= |0⟩ | |1⟩ | |+⟩ | |−⟩ | s . P | P ⊗ Q
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Patterns represent isometries, allowing subspace selection:

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P, Q ::= |0⟩ | |1⟩ | |+⟩ | |−⟩ | s . P | P ⊗ Q
```

From just these we can derive a universal gate set.

```
if let |1⟩ = a {
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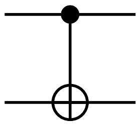
$\mathrm{CX} =$  $= \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$

Metaoperations

Our language admits two interesting metaoperations:

Inverses

Can be defined inductively:

- `(s ; t)`† `=` `t`† `;` `s`†
- `(s ⊗ t)`† `=` `s`† `⊗` `t`†
- `Ph(θ)`† `= Ph(-θ)`
- `(if let P = q { e })`†
  `= if let P = q { e`† `}`

Exponentiation

“Composition-free” terms can be exponentiated:

- `(s ⊗ t)`^{x} `=` `s`^{x} `⊗` `t`^{x}
- `Ph(θ)`^{x} `= Ph(x*θ)`
- `(if let P = q { e })`^{x}
  `= if let P = q { e`^{x} `}`

Summary

In the paper

- Defined a type system.
- Gave a categorical semantics.
- Defined an evaluation to circuits.
- Proved semantic equalities on terms.
- Defined well-known algorithms.

In the future

- Measurement.
- Equational theory.
- Operational semantics.
- Optimisations.

Implementation (https://github.com/alexarice/phase-rs)

- Parsing
- Typechecking
- Compiling to circuits
- Evaluating to unitary matrix