# QWIRE

A Core Language for Quantum Circuits

## Contents

- **Context**: interaction between classical and quantum computers
- Qwire introduction with **examples**
- **Type System** for well-formed circuits
- **Operational Semantics** for circuit normalization
- **Denotational Semantics** based on density matrices
- **Extensions** and **Applications** (Quantum Oracles)

## QRAM model of quantum computing



Host Language

- Circuits as host types
- Guarantee that circuits are well-formed
- Still allowing abstractions and high level features

## A Minimal Core

Host Language is **parametric** 

- Could be instantiated with a wide range of programming languages
   High-level functional programming languages
  - Theorem provers (e.g. Coq)
- Only the **interaction** between classical and quantum computer is formalized

### **Guarantee Circuits Safety**

Using a **strong type system** 

- We need **linear types** (qubits cannot be duplicated)
- But in the host language we also need **non-linear types**
- Integrating linear types in existing languages is (very) difficult
   Linear types for the circuit language
  - Non-linear types for the host language
- Runtime errors arise only from host language!

## Box and Unboxing

#### **Boxed circuits**

- In the host language
- Non-linear types
- Can be used inside the host language

#### **Unboxed circuits**

- In the circuit language
- Linear types
- Can be reused inside other circuits

Box and Unbox rules link the type systems of Host and Qwire

# Some Examples

## A First Example

```
hadamard-measure : Circ(qubit,bit) =
    box w =>
    w' <- gate H w;
    b <- gate meas w';
    output b</pre>
```



Circ(W, W) is the (Host) type of circuits

- W is a wire type (bit/qubit wire and their composition)
- w is a wire name, it is not a regular variable (it is linear)

## A Wrong Example

```
absurd = box w =>
    x <- gate meas w;
    w' <- gate H w;
    output (x,w')</pre>
```

- w cannot be used two times
- Similar property: qubits cannot be discarded implicitly
   You have to explicitly discard them (after a measure)
  - You have to explicitly discard them (after a measurement)

## **Composing Gates**

Gates act on wires, not on circuits

- gate meas (gate H w) is ill-formed
- Gates can be composed by connecting wires

Same for circuits

But they must be unboxed (connecting a wire to the input)
 e.g. w2 <- unbox c1 w1;</li>
 unbox c2 w2

#### Sequential and Parallel Composition of Circuits



In both cases the type system guarantees that the wire types match

#### Dynamic Lifting - example with Quantum Teleportation



#### Bob with Dynamic Lifting

```
bob : Circ(bit⊗bit⊗qubit, qubit) =
  box (x,y,b) =>
  (y,b) <- gate (bit-control X) (y,b);
  (x,b) <- gate (bit-control Z) (x,b);
  () <- gate discard y;
  () <- gate discard x;
  output b</pre>
```



#### Bob with Dynamic Lifting

```
bob : Circ(bit⊗bit⊗qubit, qubit) =
box (x,y,b) =>
  (y,b) <- gate (bit-control X) (y,b);
  (x,b) <- gate (bit-control Z) (x,b);
  () <- gate discard y;
  () <- gate discard x;
  output b</pre>
```

```
bob-dyn : Circ(bit⊗bit⊗qubit, qubit) =
    box (w1,w2,q) =>
      (x1,x2) <= lift (w1,w2);
    q <- unbox (if x2 then X_gate else id) q;
    unbox (if x1 then Z_gate else id) q</pre>
```



## Running a Circuit



run operation

- Take a circuit with no input (wire of type 1, with only value ())
- Returns a host value

# Qwire Type System

## **Basic Ingredients**

Wire types  $W ::= 1 \mid \mathsf{bit} \mid \mathsf{qubit} \mid W_1 \otimes W_2$ 

Gates have input and output wire type, and we assume

• If a unitary 
$$u \in \mathcal{G}(W, W)$$
 then  
 $u^{\dagger} \in \mathcal{G}(W, W)$   
control  $u \in \mathcal{G}(\text{qubit} \otimes W, \text{qubit} \otimes W)$   
bit-control  $u \in \mathcal{G}(\text{bit} \otimes W, \text{bit} \otimes W)$ 

- Initialization new0, new1  $\in \mathcal{G}(1, bit)$ , init0, init1  $\in \mathcal{G}(1, qubit)$
- Measurement and discard meas  $\in \mathcal{G}(qubit, bit)$  discard  $\in \mathcal{G}(bit, 1)$

## Typing Judgements for well-formed circuits

Judgement  $\Gamma; \Omega \vdash C: W$  with

- $\Gamma = x_1 : A_1, \ldots, x_n : A_n$  context of **host** variables with host types
- $\Omega = w_1 : W_1, \ldots, w_n : W_n$  context of **wire** variables with wire types
- C a circuit
- W the output wire type



#### **Auxiliary Judgement**

Judgement  $\Omega \Rightarrow p: W$  defined as

$$\overline{\cdot \Rightarrow ():1} \qquad \overline{w:W \Rightarrow w:W}$$

$$\begin{array}{c}
\Omega_1 \Rightarrow p_1 \colon W_1 \quad \Omega_2 \Rightarrow p_2 \colon W_2 \\
\hline
\Omega_1, \Omega_2 \Rightarrow (p_1, p_2) \colon W_1 \otimes W_2
\end{array}$$

## **Auxiliary Judgement**

Note that  $\Omega \Rightarrow p: W$  is linear

E.g. the following judgements do not hold

• 
$$w: W, w': W' \Rightarrow w: W$$

• 
$$w: W \Rightarrow (w, w): W \otimes W$$

## Assumptions on the Host Language

We will assume types A are such that there is **at least**:

- a corresponding type that is the **lifting** of each wire type
  - bit and qubits (booleans)
  - tensor product (pairs)

$$|\mathsf{bit}| = \mathsf{Bool}$$
  $|1| = \mathsf{Unit}$   
 $|\mathsf{qubit}| = \mathsf{Bool}$   $|W_1 \otimes W_2| = |W_1| \times |W_2|$ 

• a type for circuits with typed input and output  $Circ(W_1, W_2)$ 

#### Output

• Build a pattern of its input wires

$$\frac{\varOmega \Rightarrow p: W}{\Gamma; \Omega \vdash \mathsf{output} \ p: W} \quad \text{OUTPUT}$$



#### Gates

- Are applied to a pattern of wires
- The output defines another pattern



• Unused wires and output wires are used in the continuation

$$\begin{array}{c} g \in \mathcal{G}(W_1, W_2) \\ \Omega_1 \Rightarrow p_1 \colon W_1 \quad \Omega_2 \Rightarrow p_2 \colon W_2 \quad \Gamma; \Omega_2, \Omega \vdash C \colon W \\ \hline \Gamma; \Omega_1, \Omega \vdash p_2 \leftarrow \mathsf{gate} \; g \; p_1; C \colon W \end{array} \quad \mathsf{GATE} \end{array}$$

#### Composition

. . .

• Same as gates application

- $\begin{array}{c|c}
  \Omega_1 & & & & \\
  \hline C & \Omega_1 & & & & \\
  \hline C & & C' & & & \\
  \hline \Omega_2 & & & & \\
  \end{array}$
- But the correctness of the input types is defined recursively

$$\frac{\Gamma; \Omega_1 \vdash C: W \quad \Omega \Rightarrow p: W \quad \Gamma; \Omega, \Omega_2 \vdash C': W'}{\Gamma; \Omega_1, \Omega_2 \vdash p \leftarrow C; C': W'} \quad \text{COMPOSE}$$

#### Boxing

- Bridge from Qwire circuits to Host terms
  - Qwire type above
  - Host type below



$$\frac{\Omega \Rightarrow p: W_1 \quad \Gamma; \Omega \vdash C: W_2}{\Gamma \vdash \mathsf{box} (p: W_1) \Rightarrow C: \mathsf{Circ}(W_1, W_2)} \quad \mathsf{BOX}$$

## Unboxing

- Bridge from Host terms to Qwire circuits
  - Host type above
  - Qwire type below



$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash t : \mathsf{Circ}(W_1, W_2) \quad \Omega \Rightarrow p : W_1}{\Gamma; \Omega \vdash \mathsf{unbox} \ t \ p : W_2} \quad \mathsf{UNBOX}$$

#### **Running a circuit**

- Host can run Qwire circuits
  - When the circuit has no input wires
  - Qwire type above
  - Host type below

 $|\mathsf{bit}| = \mathsf{Bool}$  $|\mathsf{qubit}| = \mathsf{Bool}$  $|1| = \mathsf{Unit}$  $|W_1 \otimes W_2| = |W_1| imes |W_2|$ 

$$\frac{\Gamma; \cdot \vdash C : W}{\Gamma \vdash \mathsf{run} \ C : |W|} \quad \mathsf{RUN}$$

### Lifting a wire

- Qwire can measure a wire and use the result in Host
  - We update the host context
  - And we continue with the judgement

$$\frac{\Omega \Rightarrow p: W \quad \Gamma, x: |W|; \Omega' \vdash C: W'}{\Gamma; \Omega, \Omega' \vdash x \Leftarrow \mathsf{lift} \; p; C: W'} \quad \mathsf{LIFT}$$

## Static VS Dynamic Lifting

- Run is a **static lifting** operator
  - All the wires are measured (or discarded)
  - No residual state is left on the quantum computer
- Lift is a dynamic lifting operator
  - Only a subset of the wires are measured
  - The classical computer uses the result to compute the rest of the circuit
  - The state of the quantum computer must be preserved

## **Circuit Normalization**

- Circuits represents instructions for the quantum computer
- Composition and unbox are meta-operations
- The (small-step) operational semantics normalizes circuits

$$C \implies C'$$

- Eliminates unboxing and composition
- Concretizes patterns (no tuples of wires)

$$; \mathcal{Q} \vdash C : W$$
 where  $\mathcal{Q} ::= \cdot \mid \mathcal{Q}, w : \mathsf{bit} \mid \mathcal{Q}, w : \mathsf{qubit}$ 

N ::=output  $p \mid p_2 \leftarrow$ gate  $g p_1; N \mid x \leftarrow$ lift p; C

#### **Operational Semantics - ingredients**

- Pattern generalization  $p' \preccurlyeq p$  (e.g.  $p \preccurlyeq w$ )
- Concrete patterns p for W, i.e. s.t. for all  $\Omega \Rightarrow p' : W$  it is  $\neg (p' \prec p)$ 
  - example of concretization:

from  $w: bit \otimes bit \Rightarrow w: bit \otimes bit$ 

to  $w': bit, w: bit \Rightarrow (w', w): bit \otimes bit$ 

- Host terms evaluation  $t \longrightarrow t'$  is the union of
  - Host language alone  $\longrightarrow_{\mathrm{H}}$
  - Boxed circuits  $\longrightarrow_b$

#### Box

- Concretizes the pattern first
- Then normalizes the circuit

$$\begin{array}{l} p \text{ is concrete for } W \quad C \Longrightarrow C' \\ \hline box \left(p:W\right) \Rightarrow C \longrightarrow_b box \left(p:W\right) \Rightarrow C' \end{array} \text{ STRUCT} \\ \\ \frac{p' \prec p \quad p' \text{ is concrete for } W}{\left(box \left(p:W\right) \Rightarrow C\right) \longrightarrow_b \left(box p' \Rightarrow C\left\{p'/p\right\}\right)} \eta \end{array}$$

#### Unbox

- Just reduces to the terms evaluation
- And eliminates unbox-box pairs

$$\frac{t \longrightarrow t'}{\text{unbox } t \ p \Longrightarrow \text{unbox } t' \ p} \text{ STRUCT}$$

 $\overline{\mathsf{unbox}\,(\mathsf{box}\,(p\,{:}\,W)\Rightarrow N)\;p'\Longrightarrow N\;\{p'/p\}} \;\;\beta$ 

#### Gate

- Concretizes the pattern first
- Then proceeds with the continuation

$$\begin{array}{ll} g \in \mathcal{G}(W_1, W_2) & p_2 \text{ is concrete for } W_2 & C \Longrightarrow C' \\ \hline p_2 \leftarrow \mathsf{gate } g \ p_1; C \Longrightarrow p_2 \leftarrow \mathsf{gate } g \ p_1; C' \end{array} \quad \text{STRUCT} \\ \hline \frac{g \in \mathcal{G}(W_1, W_2) & p_2' \prec p_2 & p_2' \text{ is concrete for } W_2}{p_2 \leftarrow \mathsf{gate } g \ p_1; C \Longrightarrow p_2' \leftarrow \mathsf{gate } g \ p_1; C \ \{p_2'/p_2\}} \ \eta \end{array}$$

#### Composition

. . .

- Normalizes the circuits in order
- Substitutes patterns when associated with outputs

$$\frac{C_1 \Longrightarrow C'_1}{p \leftarrow C_1; C_2 \Longrightarrow p \leftarrow C'_1; C_2} \text{ STRUCT}$$
$$\frac{p \leftarrow \text{output } p'; C \Longrightarrow C \{p'/p\}}{p \leftarrow \text{output } p'; C \Longrightarrow C \{p'/p\}} \beta$$

#### Composition

- ...
- Postpones the connection of wires after gate and lifting operations (Commuting Conversion)

$$\overline{p \leftarrow (p_2 \leftarrow \text{gate } g \ p_1; N); C \Longrightarrow p_2 \leftarrow \text{gate } g \ p_1; p \leftarrow N; C} \quad \text{CC}$$
$$\overline{p' \leftarrow (x \leftarrow \text{lift } p; C'); C \Longrightarrow x \leftarrow \text{lift } p; p' \leftarrow C'; C} \quad \text{CC}$$

## **Operational Semantics Properties**

The normalization satisfies

- Preservation
  - Same type before and after reduction
- Progress
  - If not in normal form then a next step exists
- Normalization
  - Normal form is always reachable

... assuming that also  $\longrightarrow_{H}$  satisfies them

## Why a Denotational Semantics?

Because we want to

- Specify the actual **physical meaning** of the language
  - Nothing unexpected

- Prove **soundness** of the operational semantics
  - The denotational semantics of a circuit is the same of its normalization

- We have to deal with ordering and permutations
  - Qwire contexts are unordered
  - Elements of an Hilbert space are ordered
  - We will consider ordered contexts with explicit permutations
  - Then we can simply use

$$[\cdot] = \mathcal{H}_1 \qquad [w:W] = [W] \qquad [\Omega_1, \Omega_2] = [\Omega_1] \otimes [\Omega_2]$$

with: 
$$[bit] = \mathcal{H}_2$$
  $[1] = \mathcal{H}_1$   
 $[qubit] = \mathcal{H}_2$   $[W_1 \otimes W_2] = [W_1] \otimes [W_2]$ 

• Semantics of values is as expected

for  $\left[\!\left[v:|W|\right]\!\right]$  we have an elemento of  $\left[W\right]$ 

$$[\![*: Unit]\!] = |*\rangle$$
  

$$[\![false : Bool]\!] = |0\rangle$$
  

$$[\![true : Bool]\!] = |1\rangle$$
  

$$[\![(v_1, v_2) : |W_1| \times |W_2|]\!] = [\![v_1 : |W_1|]\!] \otimes [\![v_2 : |W_2|]\!]$$

• Gates and circuits are represented as super-operators

for  $g \in \mathcal{G}(W_1, W_2)$  we have  $\llbracket g \rrbracket$  is a super operator from  $W_1$  to  $W_2$ 

$$[[new0]], [[init0]] = (|0\rangle \langle 0|)^*$$
$$[[new1]], [[init1]] = (|1\rangle \langle 1|)^*$$
$$[[meas]] = (|0\rangle \langle 0|)^* + (|1\rangle \langle 1|)^*$$
$$[[discard]] = \langle 0|^* + \langle 1|^*$$

where 
$$f^*\,
ho\,=\,f\,
ho\,f^\dagger$$

$\llbracket \varOmega \vdash output \ p  :  W  rbracket = \mathbf{I}^*$
$\llbracket \Omega \vdash C : W \rrbracket = \llbracket \Omega' \vdash C : W \rrbracket \circ [\pi]^*$
$\llbracket \Omega \vdash unbox \ t \ p : W' \rrbracket = \llbracket t : Circ(W, W') \rrbracket$
$\llbracket \Omega_1, \Omega \vdash p_2 \leftarrow gate \ g \ p_1; C : W \rrbracket = \llbracket \Omega_2, \Omega \vdash C : W \rrbracket \circ (\llbracket g \rrbracket \otimes \mathbf{I}^*)$
$\llbracket \Omega, \Omega' \vdash x \Leftarrow lift \ p; C: W' \rrbracket = \sum_{\cdot \vdash v \models W \mid} \llbracket \Omega' \vdash C\{v/x\} : W' \rrbracket \circ ([v: W ]^{\dagger} \otimes \mathbf{I})^{*}$
$\llbracket \Omega_1, \Omega_2 \vdash p \leftarrow C; C': W' \rrbracket = \llbracket \Omega_0, \Omega_2 \vdash C': W' \rrbracket \circ (\llbracket \Omega_1 \vdash C: W \rrbracket \otimes \mathbf{I}^*)$

# Using Qwires

## Extensions

- Qwire is a minimal **core** language
- Its strength is that it allows extensions
- We will see a pair of them
  - Pattern Matching on Circuits
  - Dependent Types
  - ReQwire for reasoning about reversible circuits

### Pattern Matching

- We can write a host-level representation of patterns and gates
- Inductive data structure equivalent to  $Circ(W_1, W_2)$

- Functions from ICirc to Circ and vice-versa
- With this we can do pattern matching on circuits inside Host!

#### Pattern Matching

• We can write a function that safely revert circuits

```
reverse (c : Circ(W1,W2)) : Option (Circ(W2,W1)) =
  case toICirc c of
  | Output p -> fromICirc (Output (reverse_pat p))
  | Gate pg c' ->
    case reverse (toICirc c'), reverse_gate g of
    | Some c_rev, Some g_rev ->
      let p_rev = reverse_pat p in
      let i_rev = Gate id_pat g_rev (Output p_rev) in
      inSeq c_rev (fromICirc i_rev)
    | _, _ -> None
    end
  Lift ___-> None
  end
```

## **Dependent Types**

Note that the number of wires of a circuit is part of its type

• We would like to have functions that generate circuits with a number of wires that depends on the input, i.e. dependent types

Combining dependent and linear types is active research

- But Qwire keeps linear and non-linear types **separated**
- Types will depend only on non-linear terms

## **Dependent Types**

E.g., the following function returns a circuit with wire types that depends on the inputs

```
rotations (m:Nat) : \Pi (n:Nat).
  CIRC(\bigotimes (n+1) \text{ qubit}, \bigotimes (n+1) \text{ qubit}) =
  fun n \Rightarrow case n of
  | 0 -> id
  | 1 -> id
  | S n' -> box (c,(q,qs)) =>
     (c,qs) <- unbox rotations m n' (c,qs);</pre>
     (c,q) <- gate (control (RGate (2+m-n'))) (c,q);</pre>
    output (c,(q,w))
  end
```

Quantum algorithms commonly use quantum oracles

- Reversible logic circuits require ancillae
- After usage, we want to discard them
- We must be sure of their state to do that
  - Measuring an entangled qubit affects the result!

**ReQwire** allows to recognise syntactically valid ancillae

• Allowing the definition of a compiler for oracles

E.g., the following circuit does not make a correct use of ancillae



We add assertion gates that discard a qubit in the given state

```
g := U | init_0 | init_1 | meas | discard | assert_0 | assert_1
```

We give a pair of denotational semantics:

- Safe semantics (measures the qubit before discarding)
- **Unsafe semantics** (trusts the assertion and just discards) producing an illegal matrix if the assertion is wrong Ο

A circuit is **valid** (all the assertions are correct) if the two **agree** 

Based on the denotational precise definition of validity

- A syntactic property called **source symmetry** is defined for circuits with classical gates
- It is proved to be a **sufficient condition** for validity
- Source symmetric circuits are characterized inductively
- (A compiler for source symmetric (thus valid) oracles is given)

### **Classical Gates:**

- Initialization gates
- Assertion gates
- Not gate
- Controlled not gate
- Toffoli gate



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Definition of **Source symmetric circuits** 

The input wires of a circuit are divided in

- N source qubits input of the boolean function
- 1 target qubit output of the boolean function

Source symmetric circuits behaves as the **identity on source qubits** 

**Idea for the characterization**: they must **uncompute** the value obtained for the source qubits (using the inverse)

(Note that the inverse of a classical gate is itself)

## Roughly

- The identity is source symmetric
- if **g** classical and **c** source symmetric then
  - **g** ;; **c** ;; **g** is source symmetric
- if **g** classical only acts on target and **c** is source symmetric
  - **g** ;; **c** and **c** ;; **g** are source symmetric
- if **c** is source symmetric and **i** is in its source then
  - o (init\_b at i);; c;; (assert\_b at i) is source symmetric

## **Compiling Oracles**

• Given a boolean expression

$$b ::= x | t | f | \neg b | b_1 \land b_2 | b_1 \oplus b_2$$

- and a map  $\,\Gamma\,$  from variables to wire indices
- Returns a circuit with
  - $\circ$   $\,$  a wire for each source variable  $\,$
  - a target wire for the result

**Compiling Oracles** 



Compiling a variable, true and false

$$b ::= x | t | f | \neg b | b_1 \land b_2 | b_1 \oplus b_2$$



Compiling a negation

$$b ::= x | t | f | \neg b | b_1 \land b_2 | b_1 \oplus b_2$$



Compiling a conjunction

$$b ::= x | t | f | \neg b | b_1 \land b_2 | b_1 \oplus b_2$$



Compiling an exclusive disjunction

$$b ::= x | t | f | \neg b | b_1 \land b_2 | b_1 \oplus b_2$$



Correctness of the compilation (in Coq)

```
Theorem compile_correct :

\forall (b : bexp) (\Gamma : Ctx) (f : Var \rightarrow bool) (z : bool),

vars b \subseteq domain \Gamma \rightarrow

[compile b \Gamma] (bool_to_matrix z \otimes basis_state \Gamma f) =

bool_to_matrix (z \oplus [b]<sub>f</sub>) \otimes basis_state \Gamma f.
```

## Conclusion

Qwire gives a **simple**, **parametric** description of the **minimal** core for a system in which **classical and quantum computations** interact

#### Has good properties

- Normalization
- Static typing guarantee runtime errors only due to Host
- Formal denotational semantics

Allows for interesting extensions and applications

• Pattern matching, dependent types, valid oracles

## Bibliography

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