

Basis-Sensitive Quantum Typing via Realizability

arXiv:2510.18542

Alejandro Díaz-Caro Octavio Malherbe Rafael Romero

July 1, 2026

FunLeP

Demistifying Quantum Computation

A classical computer, makes use of physical phenomena (for example voltage on a wire) to represent information (bits) and perform computations.

Demistifying Quantum Computation

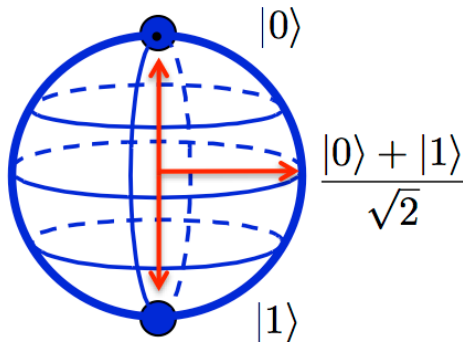
A *quantum* computer, makes use of *quantum* physical phenomena (for example *polarization on a photon*) to represent information (*quantum* bits or *qubits* for short) and perform computations.

How do we represent qubits?

● 0

● 1

Classical Bit



Qubit

Remistifying Quantum Computation

- No-cloning theorem
- No-deletion theorem
- Unitary operations

Remistifying Quantum Computation

- No-cloning theorem

 $\lambda x.(x, x)$ 

- No-deletion theorem

- Unitary operations

Remistifying Quantum Computation

- No-cloning theorem

! $\lambda x.(x, x)$!

- No-deletion theorem

! $\lambda x.y$!

- Unitary operations

Remistifying Quantum Computation

- No-cloning theorem

 $\lambda x.(x, x)$ 

- No-deletion theorem

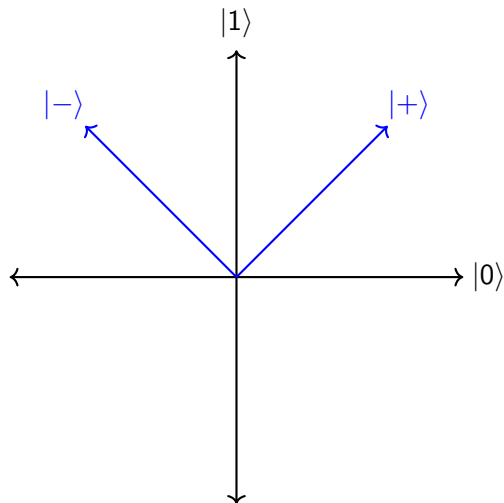
 $\lambda x.y$ 

- Unitary operations

 $\lambda x.\lambda y.x \text{ XOR } y$ 

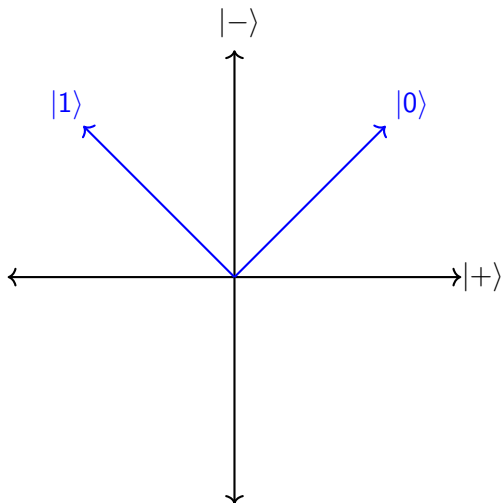
Shift the frame of reference

No cloning theorem states that we cannot copy *arbitrary* qubits.



Shift the frame of reference

No cloning theorem states that we cannot copy *arbitrary* qubits.



Realizability technique

- 1 Define a machine (calculus w/reduction strategy)
- 2 Types are sets of values in the language
- 3 $\Gamma \vdash t : A$ is valid when $t\langle\sigma\rangle \rightarrow^* v \in A$.

Typing rules become theorems we must prove

$$\frac{\Delta \vdash r : B}{\Gamma \vdash t : A}$$

Realizability technique

- 1 Define a machine (calculus w/reduction strategy)
- 2 Types are sets of values in the language
- 3 $\Gamma \vdash t : A$ is valid when $t\langle\sigma\rangle \rightarrow^* v \in A$.

Typing rules become theorems we must prove

$$\frac{\Delta \vdash r : B}{\Gamma \vdash t : A}$$

Safety properties now become trivial. The work is in proving the validity of the rules

The λ_B machine¹

Pure values	$v ::= x \mid \lambda x^B. \vec{t} \mid (v, v) \mid 0\rangle \mid 1\rangle$
Pure terms	$t ::= w \mid t \, t \mid \text{let } (x^B, y^B) = \vec{t} \text{ in } \vec{t} \mid (t, t) \mid \text{case } \vec{t} \text{ of } \{ \vec{v} \mapsto \vec{t} \mid \dots \mid \vec{v} \mapsto \vec{t} \}$
Value distributions	$\vec{v} ::= v \mid \vec{v} + \vec{v} \mid \alpha \cdot \vec{v} \quad (\alpha \in \mathbb{C})$
Term distributions	$\vec{t} ::= t \mid \vec{t} + \vec{t} \mid \alpha \cdot \vec{t} \quad (\alpha \in \mathbb{C})$

¹Based on “Realizability in the unitary sphere” A. Díaz-Caro, M. Guillermo, A. Miquel, B. Valiron. LICS 2019

Reduction strategy: call-by-basis

Let $B = \{\vec{b}_1, \dots, \vec{b}_n\}$ and $\vec{w} \equiv \sum_{i=1}^n \alpha_i \vec{b}_i$. Then:

$$(\lambda x^B . \vec{t}_i) \vec{w} \rightarrow \sum_{i=1}^n \alpha_i \vec{t}_i [\vec{b}_i/x]$$

Examples

$$(\lambda x^B . \vec{t}_i) \vec{w} \rightarrow \sum_{i=1}^n \alpha_i \vec{t}_i [\vec{b}_i/x]$$

Let $\mathbb{Z} = \{|0\rangle, |1\rangle\}$ and $\mathbb{X} = \{\overbrace{\frac{|0\rangle + |1\rangle}{\sqrt{2}}}^{ |+ \rangle }, \overbrace{\frac{|0\rangle - |1\rangle}{\sqrt{2}}}^{ |- \rangle }\}$:

$$(\lambda x^{\mathbb{Z}} . (x, x)) |0\rangle \rightarrow$$

$$(\lambda x^{\mathbb{Z}} . (x, x)) |+ \rangle \rightarrow$$

Examples

$$(\lambda x^B \cdot \vec{t}_i) \vec{w} \rightarrow \sum_{i=1}^n \alpha_i \vec{t}_i [\vec{b}_i/x]$$

Let $\mathbb{Z} = \{|0\rangle, |1\rangle\}$ and $\mathbb{X} = \{\frac{\overbrace{|0\rangle + |1\rangle}^{|+\rangle}}{\sqrt{2}}, \frac{\overbrace{|0\rangle - |1\rangle}^{|-\rangle}}{\sqrt{2}}\}$:

$$(\lambda x^{\mathbb{Z}} \cdot (x, x)) |0\rangle \rightarrow |00\rangle$$

$$(\lambda x^{\mathbb{Z}} \cdot (x, x)) |+\rangle \rightarrow$$

Examples

$$(\lambda x^B \cdot \vec{t}_i) \vec{w} \rightarrow \sum_{i=1}^n \alpha_i \vec{t}_i [\vec{b}_i/x]$$

Let $\mathbb{Z} = \{|0\rangle, |1\rangle\}$ and $\mathbb{X} = \left\{ \frac{\overbrace{|0\rangle + |1\rangle}^{|+\rangle}}{\sqrt{2}}, \frac{\overbrace{|0\rangle - |1\rangle}^{|-\rangle}}{\sqrt{2}} \right\}$:

$$(\lambda x^{\mathbb{Z}} \cdot (x, x)) |0\rangle \rightarrow |00\rangle$$

$$(\lambda x^{\mathbb{Z}} \cdot (x, x)) |+\rangle \rightarrow \frac{|00\rangle + |11\rangle}{\sqrt{2}}$$

Examples

$$(\lambda x^B \cdot \vec{t}_i) \vec{w} \rightarrow \sum_{i=1}^n \alpha_i \vec{t}_i [\vec{b}_i/x]$$

Let $\mathbb{Z} = \{|0\rangle, |1\rangle\}$ and $\mathbb{X} = \left\{ \frac{\overbrace{|0\rangle + |1\rangle}^{|+\rangle}}{\sqrt{2}}, \frac{\overbrace{|0\rangle - |1\rangle}^{|-\rangle}}{\sqrt{2}} \right\}$:

$$(\lambda x^{\mathbb{Z}} \cdot (x, x)) |0\rangle \rightarrow |00\rangle$$

$$(\lambda x^{\mathbb{X}} \cdot (x, x)) |+\rangle \rightarrow |++\rangle$$

$$(\lambda x^{\mathbb{Z}} \cdot (x, x)) |+\rangle \rightarrow \frac{|00\rangle + |11\rangle}{\sqrt{2}}$$

$$(\lambda x^{\mathbb{X}} \cdot (x, x)) |0\rangle \rightarrow \frac{|00\rangle + |11\rangle}{\sqrt{2}}$$

Types defined as sets

$$\llbracket b_X \rrbracket := X \quad (\text{Where: } X \text{ is an orthonormal basis})$$

$$\llbracket A \times B \rrbracket := \{(\vec{v}, \vec{w}) : \vec{v} \in \llbracket A \rrbracket, \vec{w} \in \llbracket B \rrbracket\}$$

$$\llbracket A \Rightarrow B \rrbracket := \left\{ \sum_{i=1}^n \alpha_i (\lambda x^B . \vec{t}_i) \in \mathcal{S}_1 : \forall \vec{w} \in \llbracket A \rrbracket, \right. \\ \left. \left(\sum_{i=1}^n \alpha_i (\lambda x^B . \vec{t}_i) \right) \vec{w} \Vdash B \right\}$$

$$\llbracket \sharp A \rrbracket := (\llbracket A \rrbracket^\perp)^\perp$$

$$\text{Where: } A^\perp = \{ \vec{v} \in \mathcal{S}_1 \mid \langle \vec{v} \mid a \rangle = 0, \forall a \in A \}$$

Types defined as sets

$$\llbracket b_X \rrbracket := X \quad (\text{Where: } X \text{ is an orthonormal basis})$$

$$\llbracket A \times B \rrbracket := \{(\vec{v}, \vec{w}) : \vec{v} \in \llbracket A \rrbracket, \vec{w} \in \llbracket B \rrbracket\}$$

$$\llbracket A \Rightarrow B \rrbracket := \left\{ \sum_{i=1}^n \alpha_i (\lambda x^B . \vec{t}_i) \in \mathcal{S}_1 : \forall \vec{w} \in \llbracket A \rrbracket, \right. \\ \left. \left(\sum_{i=1}^n \alpha_i (\lambda x^B . \vec{t}_i) \right) \vec{w} \Vdash B \right\}$$

$$\llbracket \#A \rrbracket := (\llbracket A \rrbracket^\perp)^\perp (= \text{Span}[\llbracket A \rrbracket] \cap \mathcal{S}_1)$$

$$\text{Where: } A^\perp = \{ \vec{v} \in \mathcal{S}_1 \mid \langle \vec{v} \mid a \rangle = 0, \forall a \in A \}$$

$$A \leq B \iff \llbracket A \rrbracket \subseteq \llbracket B \rrbracket$$

$$A \leq B \iff \llbracket A \rrbracket \subseteq \llbracket B \rrbracket$$

$$\frac{\text{size}(X) = \text{size}(Y)}{\#(b_X) \cong \#(b_Y)} \qquad \overline{b_{X \times Y} \cong b_X \times b_Y}$$

$$\frac{A \leq B}{\#A \leq \#B} \qquad \overline{(\#A) \times (\#B) \leq \#(A \times B)}$$

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash \vec{s} : A \Rightarrow B \quad \Delta \vdash \vec{t} : A}{\Gamma, \Delta \vdash \vec{s} \vec{t} : B} \text{ (App)}$$

$$\frac{\Gamma, x : A \vdash \sum_{i=1}^n \alpha_i \vec{t}_i : B \quad A \leq \#b_x}{\Gamma \vdash \sum_{i=1}^n \alpha_i \lambda x^{b_x} . \vec{t}_i : A \Rightarrow B} \text{ (UnitLam)}$$

Characterization of unitary operators

Lemma

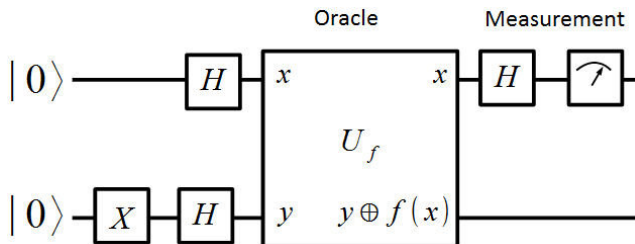
$\lambda x^X . \vec{t} \in \llbracket \sharp b_X \Rightarrow \sharp b_Y \rrbracket$ iff exists $\vec{w}_i \in \llbracket \sharp b_Y \rrbracket$ such that $\forall \vec{v}_i \in \llbracket b_X \rrbracket$:

$$\vec{t} [\vec{v}_i / x] \twoheadrightarrow \vec{w}_i \perp \vec{w}_j \leftarrow \vec{t} [\vec{v}_j / x] \quad \text{if } i \neq j$$

Theorem

$\vdash (\lambda x^X . \vec{t}) : \sharp b_X \Rightarrow \sharp b_Y$ iff it represents a unitary operator $F : \mathbb{C}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{C}^n$.

Use case: Deutsch's algorithm



Use case: Deutsch's algorithm

$$\text{Deutsch}_{\mathbb{Z}} :: (\#b_{\mathbb{Z}} \Rightarrow \#b_{\mathbb{Z}} \Rightarrow \#b_{\mathbb{Z}} \times \#b_{\mathbb{Z}}) \Rightarrow \#b_{\mathbb{Z}} \times \#b_{\mathbb{Z}}$$

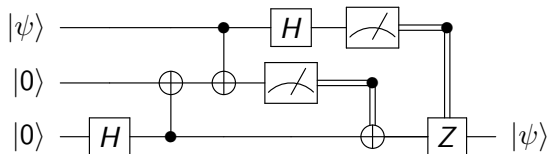
$$\text{Deutsch}_{\mathbb{Z}} := \lambda f . \text{let } (x, y) = (f(\mathbb{H} |0\rangle)(\mathbb{H} |1\rangle)) \text{ in } (\mathbb{H} x, y).$$

Use case: Deutsch's algorithm

$$\text{Deutsch}_{\mathbb{X}} :: (b_{\mathbb{X}} \Rightarrow b_{\mathbb{X}} \Rightarrow b_{\mathbb{X}} \times b_{\mathbb{X}}) \Rightarrow b_{\mathbb{Z}}$$

$$\text{Deutsch}_{\mathbb{X}} := \lambda f . \text{let } (x^{\mathbb{X}}, y^{\mathbb{X}}) = (f(\mathbb{H}_{\mathbb{Z}} |0\rangle)(\mathbb{H}_{\mathbb{Z}} |1\rangle)) \text{ in } \mathbb{H}_{\mathbb{X}} x.$$

Use case: Teleportation protocol



$$\text{Bell} = \left\{ \frac{|00\rangle + |11\rangle}{\sqrt{2}}, \frac{|00\rangle - |11\rangle}{\sqrt{2}}, \frac{|01\rangle + |10\rangle}{\sqrt{2}}, \frac{|01\rangle - |10\rangle}{\sqrt{2}} \right\}$$

Use case: Teleportation protocol

$\text{Teleport}_{\Phi^+} := \lambda x^{\mathbb{Z}}. \text{let } (y_1^{\mathbb{Z}}, y_2^{\mathbb{Z}}) = \Phi^+ \text{ in case } (x, y_1) \text{ of } \{$
 $\Phi^+ \mapsto (\Phi^+, y_2),$
 $\Phi^- \mapsto (\Phi^-, Z y_2),$
 $\Psi^+ \mapsto (\Psi^+, X y_2),$
 $\Psi^- \mapsto (\Psi^-, Z X y_2)\}.$

Use case: Teleportation protocol

Teleport := $\lambda b^{\text{Bell}} . \lambda x^{\mathbb{Z}} . \text{let } (y_1^{\mathbb{Z}}, y_2^{\mathbb{Z}}) = b \text{ in}$
 $\text{let } (c_1, c_2, c_3, c_4) = (\text{corrections } b) \text{ in}$
 $\text{case } (x, y_1) \text{ of } \{$
 $\Phi^+ \mapsto (\Phi^+, c_1 \ y_2),$
 $\Phi^- \mapsto (\Phi^-, c_2 \ y_2),$
 $\Psi^+ \mapsto (\Psi^+, c_3 \ y_2),$
 $\Psi^- \mapsto (\Psi^-, c_4 \ y_2)\}.$

- Extend an existing calculus to work with multiple bases
- Realizability gives a flexible framework to define typing rules with different bases
- These new typing rules assist in the characterization of unitary operators
- The extended syntax allow for more versatile representations of algorithms.

Bonus Track

Limits of this system: Entanglement

Definition

An entangled quantum system is a system which cannot be written as the tensor product of two sub-systems. In short, the behaviour of a particle cannot be independently described from the others.

Limits of this system: Entanglement

Definition

An entangled quantum system is a system which cannot be written as the tensor product of two sub-systems. In short, the behaviour of a particle cannot be independently described from the others.

$$\vdash \frac{|00\rangle + |11\rangle}{\sqrt{2}} : \mathfrak{b}_{\text{Bell}}$$

Limits of this system: Entanglement

Definition

An entangled quantum system is a system which cannot be written as the tensor product of two sub-systems. In short, the behaviour of a particle cannot be independently described from the others.

$$\vdash \frac{|00\rangle + |11\rangle}{\sqrt{2}} : \mathfrak{b}_{\text{Bell}}$$

$$\vdash \text{let } (x^{\mathbb{Z}}, y^{\mathbb{Z}}) = \frac{|00\rangle + |11\rangle}{\sqrt{2}} \text{ in } (x, y) :$$

Limits of this system: Entanglement

Definition

An entangled quantum system is a system which cannot be written as the tensor product of two sub-systems. In short, the behaviour of a particle cannot be independently described from the others.

$$\vdash \frac{|00\rangle + |11\rangle}{\sqrt{2}} : \mathfrak{b}_{\text{Bell}}$$

$$\vdash \text{let } (x^{\mathbb{Z}}, y^{\mathbb{Z}}) = \frac{|00\rangle + |11\rangle}{\sqrt{2}} \text{ in } (x, y) : \sharp(\mathbb{Z} \times \mathbb{Z})$$

Specification system

$$\begin{array}{c}
 \frac{}{x : |+\rangle \vdash x : |+\rangle} \text{ (Ax)} \quad \frac{}{y : |+\rangle \vdash y : |+\rangle} \text{ (Ax)} \\
 \hline
 \frac{}{x : |+\rangle, y : |+\rangle \vdash (x, y) : |+\rangle \times |+\rangle} \text{ (Pair)} \\
 \hline
 \frac{}{x : |+\rangle \vdash (x, x) : |+\rangle \times |+\rangle} \text{ (Contr)} \\
 \hline
 \frac{}{\vdash \lambda x^{|+\rangle}. (x, x) : |+\rangle \rightarrow (|+\rangle \times |+\rangle)} \text{ (Lam)} \quad \frac{}{\vdash |+\rangle : |+\rangle} \text{ (Ax)} \\
 \hline
 \vdash (\lambda x^{|+\rangle}. (x, x)) |+\rangle : |+\rangle \times |+\rangle \text{ (App)}
 \end{array}$$