

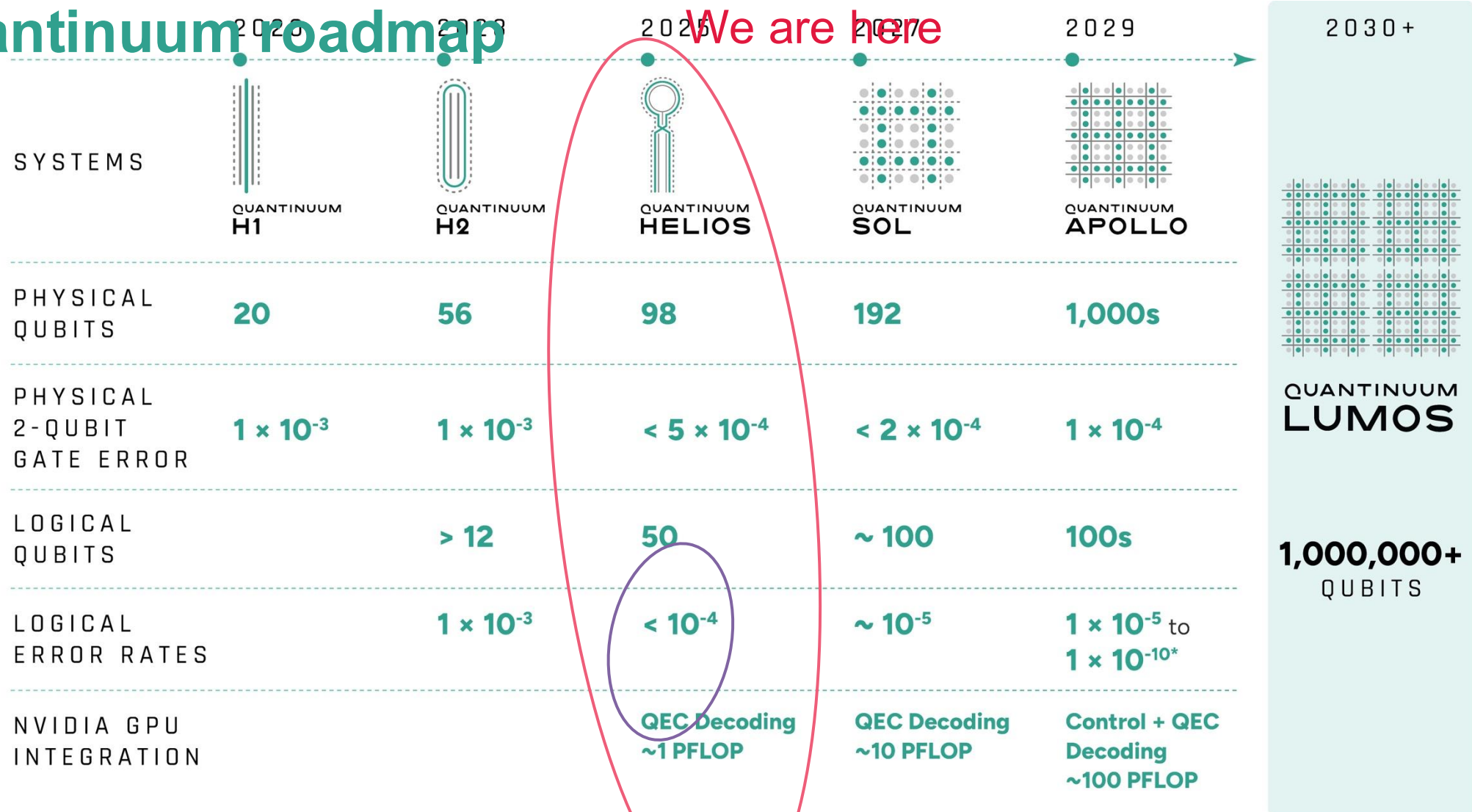
Programming Quantum Computers with Guppy

Callum Macpherson – Software engineer (Quantinuum)



<https://guppylang.org>

Quantinuum roadmap



*analysis based on recent literature in new, novel error correcting codes predict that error could be as low as 1E-10 in Apollo (ref: arXiv:2403.16054, arXiv:2308.07915).

What is Guppy?

A language for the next generation of quantum programs


1. Embedded in Python – intuitive Python syntax
2. Fully fledged programming language – functions, loops, conditional logic, recursion
3. Focus on safety – statically compiled, catch errors early



Docs and tutorials – <https://guppylang.org>

Open source! - <https://github.com/Quantinuum/guppylang>

`pip install guppylang`



```
from guppylang import guppy
from guppylang.std.quantum import qubit, toffoli, s, measure
from guppylang.std.quantum.functional import h

@guppy
def repeat_until_success(q: qubit, attempts: int) -> bool:
    """
    Repeat-until-success circuit for Rz(acos(3/5))
    from Nielsen and Chuang, Fig. 4.17.
    """
    for i in range(attempts):
        a, b = h(qubit()), h(qubit())
        toffoli(a, b, q)
        s(q)
        toffoli(a, b, q)
        if not (measure(h(a)) | measure(h(b))):
            result("rus_attempts", i)
            return True
    return False
repeat_until_success.check() # type check
```

Quantum “Kernel”

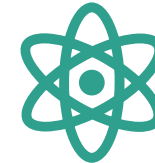
- The `@guppy` decorator
 - Marks the boundary between 'Host' and 'Device' code
 - Code inside runs at quantum runtime
- The Standard Library
 - `guppylang.std.quantum` (Qubits, Gates)
 - `guppylang.std.builtins` (Arrays, Results)

Python Program



----- @guppy -----

Quantum Device



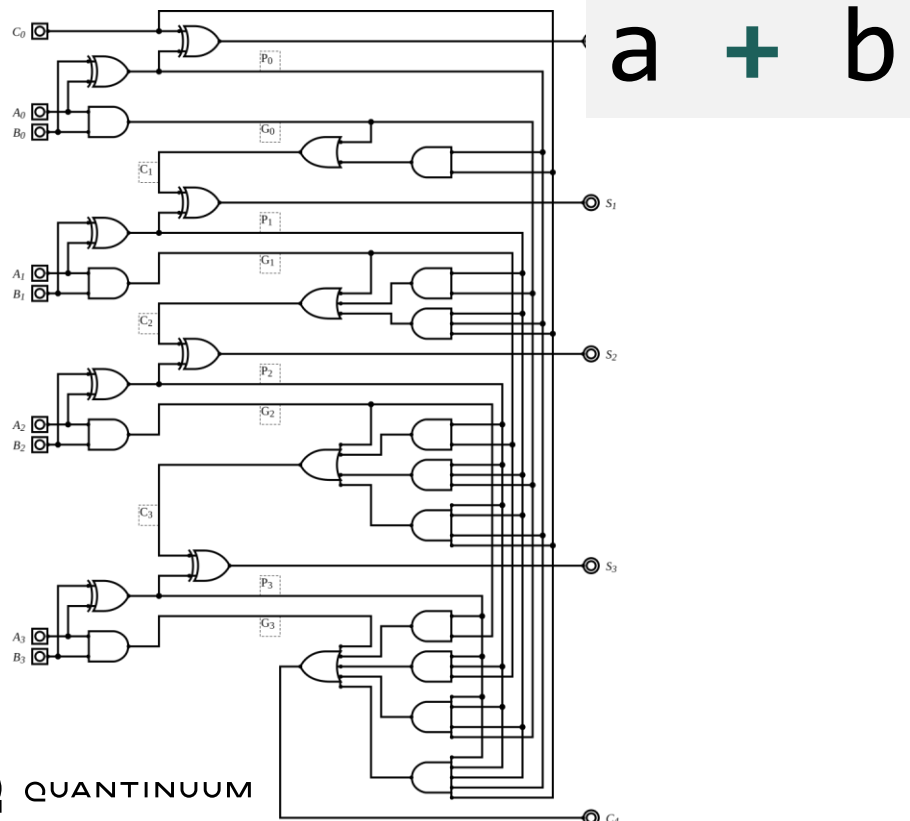
Recap: Classical and Quantum logic circuits

Classical computers → logic gates

Goal: implement all Boolean functions using a restricted set of logic gates, e.g., {AND, NOT} or {NOR}

Example: four-bit (carry) adder

Image: Wikipedia CC0 license



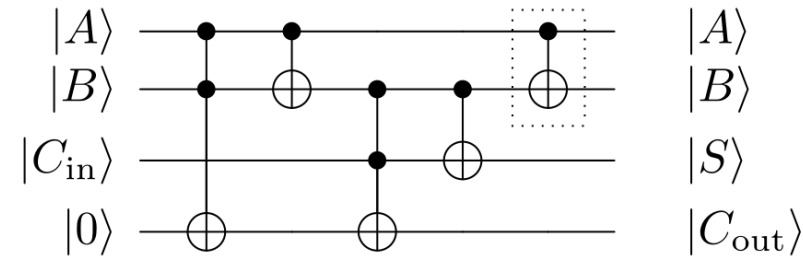
Quantum computers → quantum logic gates

Goal: implement all unitary operators using a restricted set of few-qubit gates, e.g., {CNOT, H, S, T} or {Toffoli + H}

Example: two-qubit (carry) adder: $|S\rangle = |A \oplus B \oplus C_{in}\rangle$

Feynman, Foundations of Physics, 16, 6, (1986)

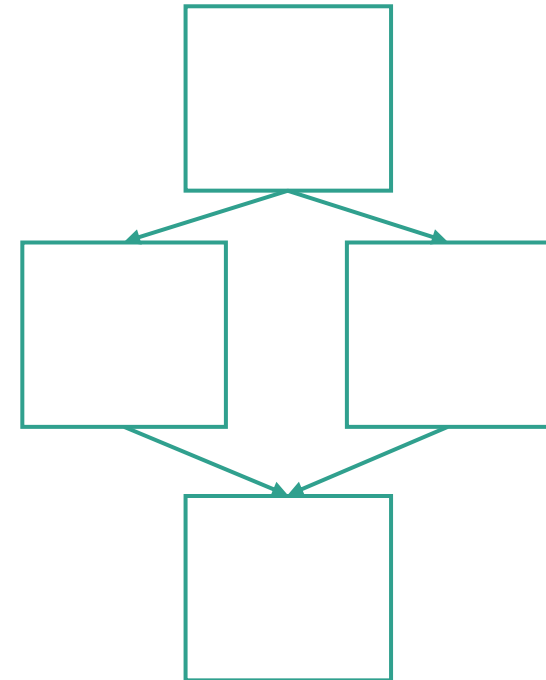
Image: Wikipedia CC BY-SA 4.0 license



(Toffoli + CNOT gates)

Beyond the Circuit

- Standard Quantum Frameworks vs. Guppy
 - Standard: Build a static list of gates
 - Programming: Conditional logic, control flow, functions, abstraction
- New Device Capabilities
 - Dynamic qubit allocation
 - Mid-circuit measurement
 - Real-time branching (if/else)
 - Loops (while) based on measurement results



Types: Safety & Predictability

- Type annotations on function inputs and outputs
- Type inference for all values
- Prevent expensive bugs
 - Error before submission
 - Fewer surprises
- Improve performance – optimize using type knowledge



Handling qubits safely

- Qubits are resources
 - Can't copy (No-Cloning Theorem)
 - Can't 'drop' (Must be measured/discarded)
- Linear types catch errors early
 - Compiler error if you use a qubit twice
 - Compiler error if you forget to measure

